

B4B4HS2

THE EASTSIDE GRID PROJECT | 2020

THE EASTSIDE GRID PROJECT | 2020 | DAVE ALLEN

CONTENTS

Page 6	List of participating photographers
Page 7	Introduction
Page 9	Locations map
Page 10	The complete grid photographs : colour
Page 35	The complete grid photographs : monochrome
Page 61	Gallery of selected images

All photographs are © the participating photographers.
Project dates 1st January 2020 - 31st December 2020.
Book printed April 2021 © Dave Allen.
Comments in the *Gallery of selected images* were provided by the photographers, but may have been edited or expanded by others.
www.thegridproject.org.uk



THE PHOTOGRAPHERS

Abbas Hameer	John Hill
Abigail Wills	John Sheehan
Afraa Din	John Timmins
Alasdair Tew	Jon Jones
Alex Waldron	Karen Allen
Barry Whitehead	Kay Emblen-Perry
Brian Burnett	Malcolm Veitch
Bruce Sabin	Marina Brodie
Christine Wright	Mark Jackson
Darren Campbell	Maxine Watts
Dave Allen	Michael Bell
David Moore	Nayson Ratcliffe
Derek Robbins	Paul Bartlett
Ed Brown	Pete Davies
Eugene Farrell	Peter Allen
Faraz Merchant	Phil Lumby
Georgie Evans	Prue Evans
Graham Evans	Robyn Allen
Greg Mason	Ron Carter
Helen Lewis	Simon Felton
Ian Bone	Simon McCreery
Jackie Hodgson	Steve Cooper
James Allen	Teresa Dolan
James Tew	Trevor Beattie
Jay Mason-Burns	Wali Taylor
Jerry Tew	(51 photographers)

THE EASTSIDE GRID PROJECT | 2020

This is the second Grid Project about the Eastside area of Birmingham, a decade after the first one.

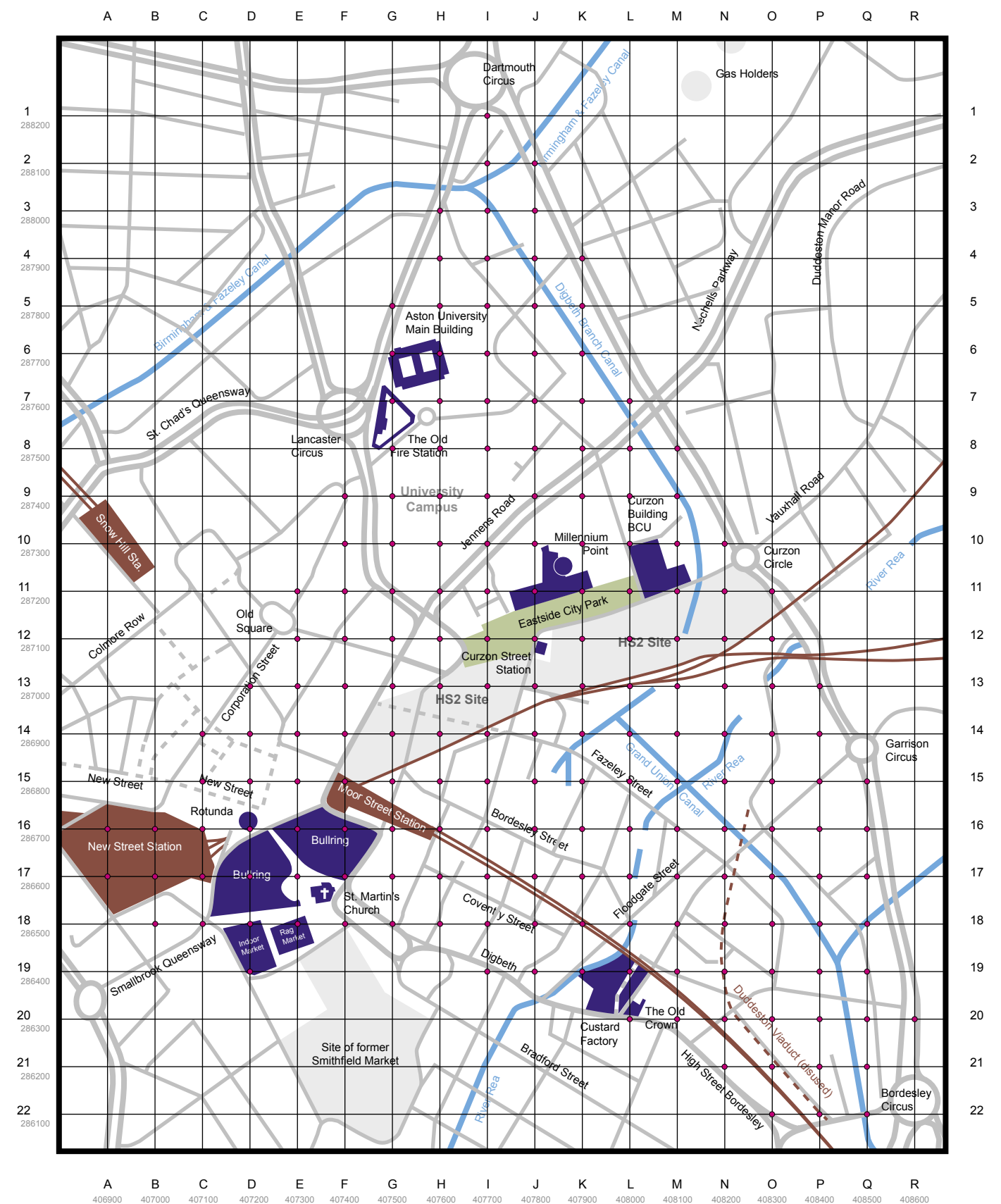
The area's demeanour has been shaped by its long history of waterways, railways, industry and housing. Eastside has a visually rich mix of the historic and the new. It was already in a state of flux in 2010 and that pattern has continued: the last ten years have seen an increased social vibrance to the area along with recent changes brought about by the emergence of work on the new railway station.

The site for the latter had been cleared in 2019 and in February 2020 a press release from Downing Street confirmed that HS2 would go ahead. Consequently much of year has seen shifting patterns of road closures and inaccessible areas in Eastside: this has shaped the way the photographers worked. What they saw and felt as they took their photographs was tinted also by the recently elected Prime Minister, Brexit, Covid-19 and lockdowns.

In a previous project we had seen how Phyllis Nicklin focused on changes in the city: this project continued that tradition and the photographers recorded the area throughout 2020.

Dave Allen

LOCATIONS OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS



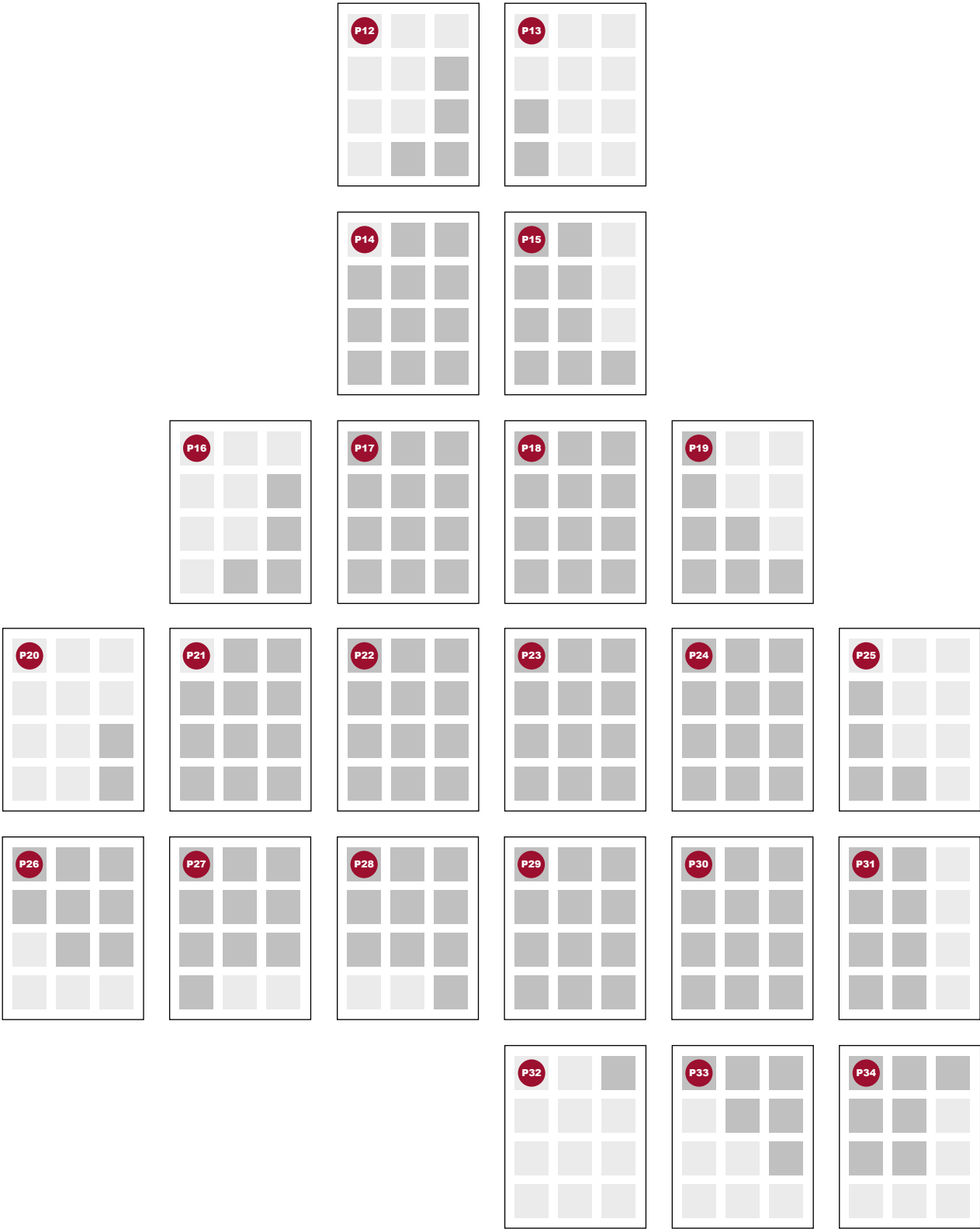
A photographic grid is a collaborative venture which aims to make a meaningful visual statement about an environment by adopting a systematic approach. What does this place look like? What does this place feel like?

The grid imposes a system that may sometimes locate the picturesque but is just as likely to find the industrial, the rugged, the new, old, boring, threatening or just ugly.

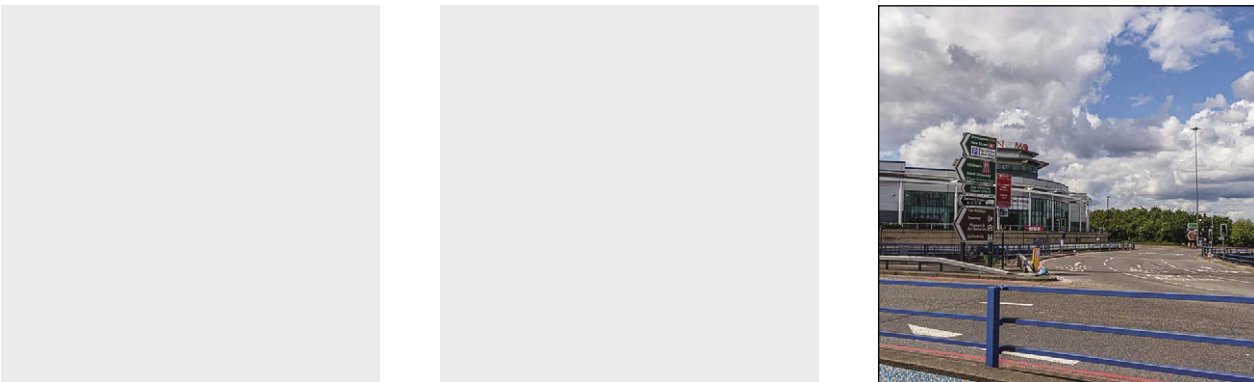
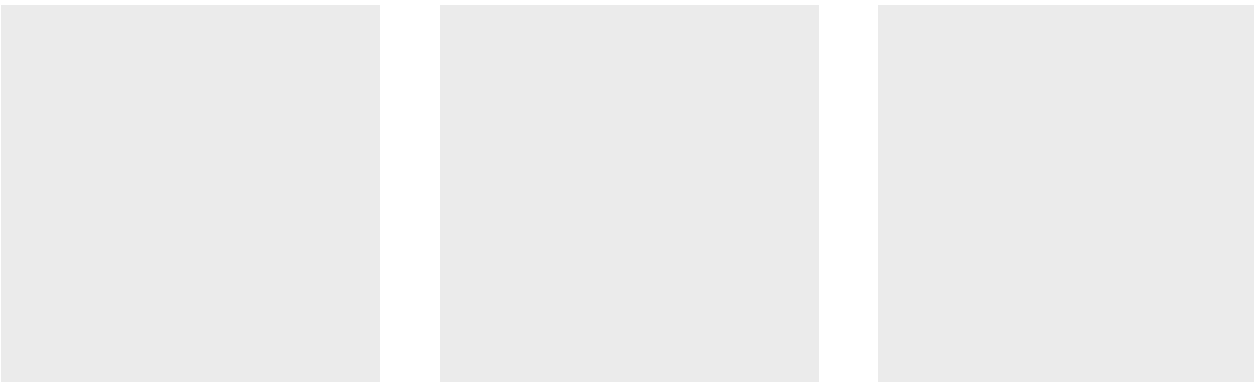
LAYOUT OF THE PAGES : COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHS

Page 12	Dartmouth Circus, Grand Union Canal
Page 13	Dartmouth Middleway
Page 14	Aston University, Gosta Green
Page 15	Aston University, Dartmouth Middleway Area
Page 16	Corporation Street Area
Page 17	Aston University, Jennens Road
Page 18	Jennens Road, Millennium Point, Eastside City Park
Page 19	Lawley Middleway, Curzon Street
Page 20	City Centre, Corporation Street / New Street Area
Page 21	City Centre, Priory Queensway, Dale End
Page 22	Park Street Area, HS2 Site
Page 23	Curzon Street, Fazeley Street, HS2 Site
Page 24	HS2 Site, Waste Depots, Montague Street Area
Page 25	Lawley Middleway Area
Page 26	New Street Station Area
Page 27	The Bullring Area
Page 28	Coventry Street, Digbeth Area
Page 29	Chiltern Line Viaduct Area
Page 30	Duddeston Viaduct (disused) Area, Liverpool Street
Page 31	Glover Street, Watery Lane Area
Page 32	Deritend
Page 33	Deritend, High Street Bordesley
Page 34	Bordesley Area, Coventry Road

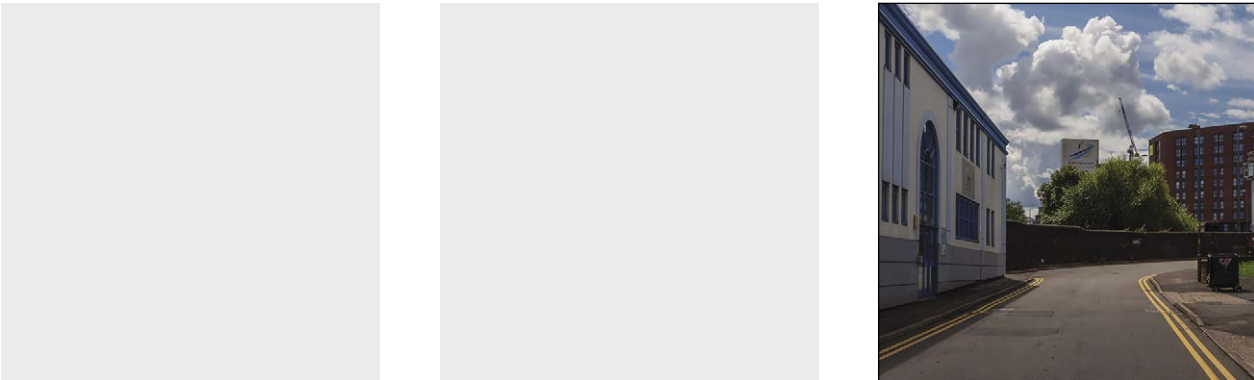
LAYOUT OF THE PAGES : COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHS



DARTMOUTH CIRCUS, GRAND UNION CANAL



1I: Dartmouth Circus © John Timmins



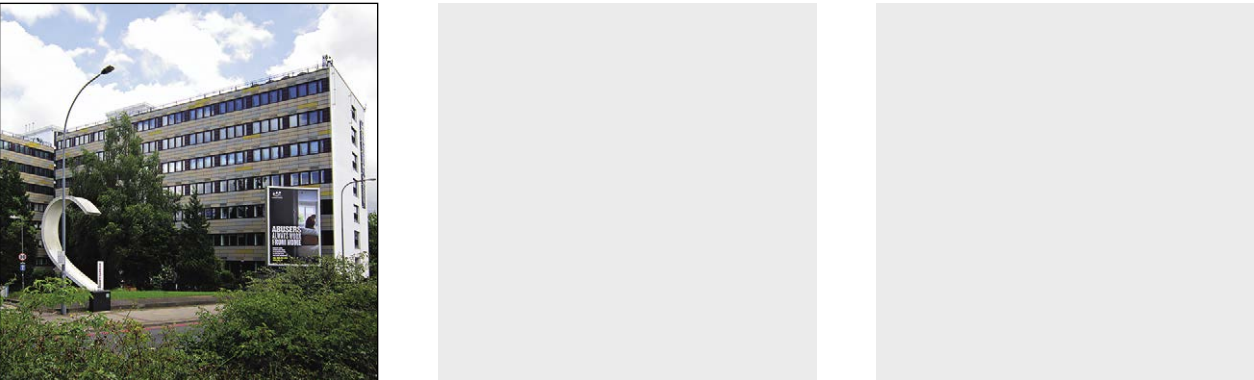
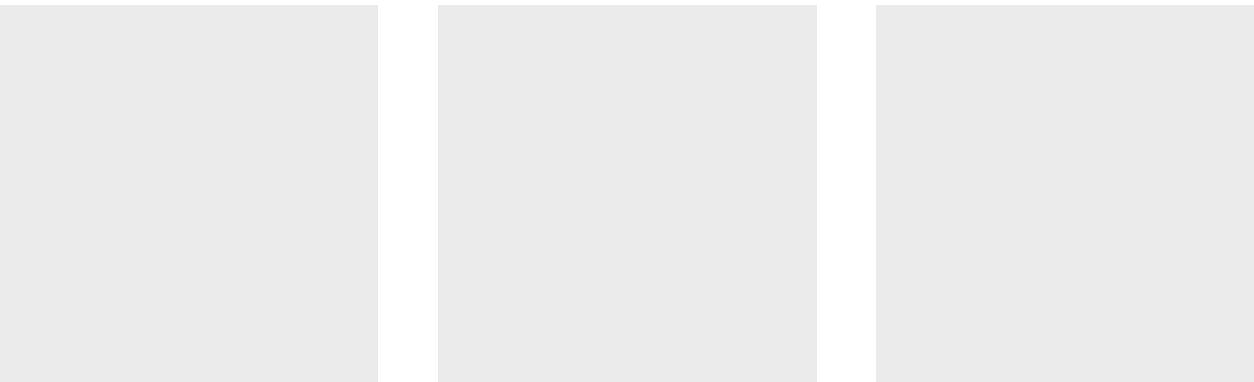
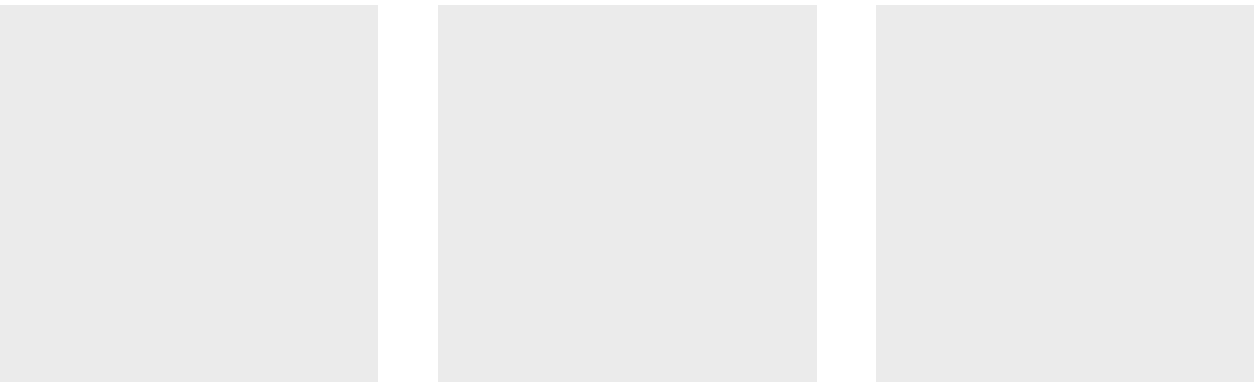
2I: Mill Street © John Timmins



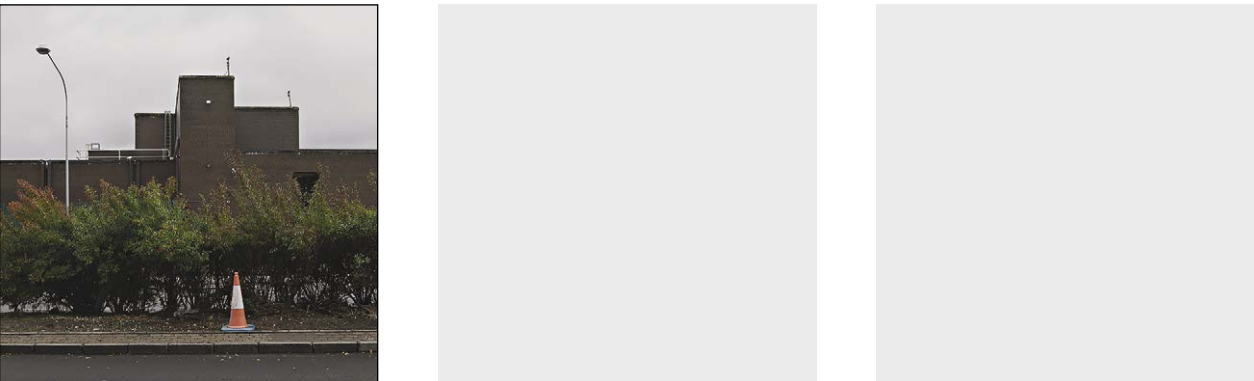
3H: Corporation Street © John Timmins

3I: Grand Union Canal © John Timmins

DARTMOUTH MIDDLEWAY

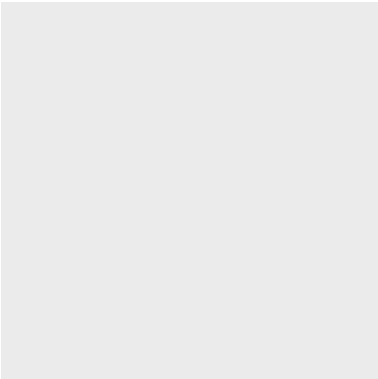


2J: Dartmouth Middleway © Ian Bone



3J: Premier Trading Estate © Dave Allen

ASTON UNIVERSITY, GOSTA GREEN



4H: Aston University © Prue Evans



4I: Love Lane © Nayson Ratcliffe



5G: Corporation Street © James Tew



5H: Aston University © Prue Evans



5I: Aston University © Prue Evans



6G: Aston University © Prue Evans



6H: Aston University © Darren Campbell



6I: Woodcock Street, Gosta Green © Ed Brown



7G: Fire Station, Corporation St. © Darren Campbell

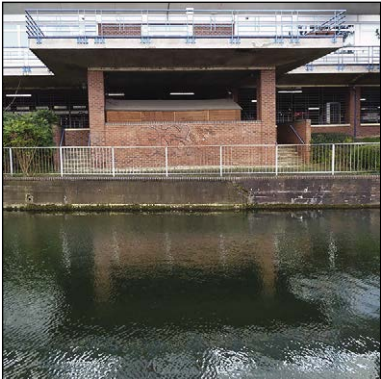


7H: Off Aston Street © Kay Emblen-Perry



7I: Aston Business School © Kay Emblen-Perry

ASTON UNIVERSITY, DARTMOUTH MIDDLEWAY AREA



4J: Aston University, Lister Street © Jerry Tew



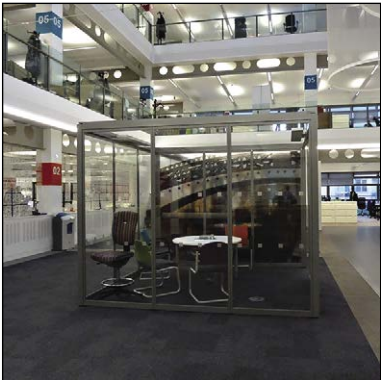
4K: Dartmouth Middleway © Ian Bone



5J: Lister Street, Gosta Green © Wali Taylor



5K: College of High Speed Rail © Wali Taylor



6J: Off Holt Street © Jerry Tew



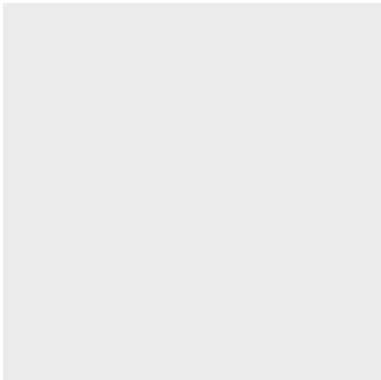
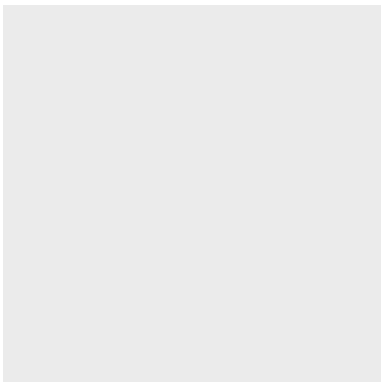
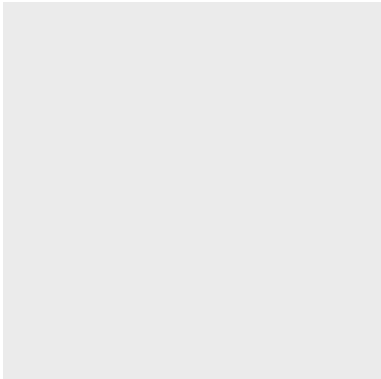
6K: Digbeth Branch Canal © David Moore



7J: Woodcock Street © Christine Wright

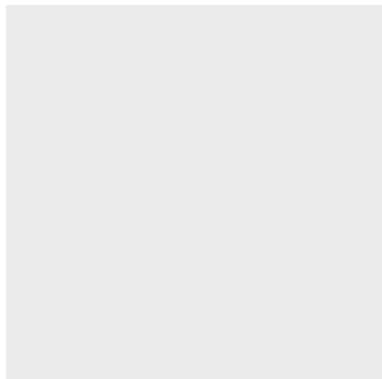
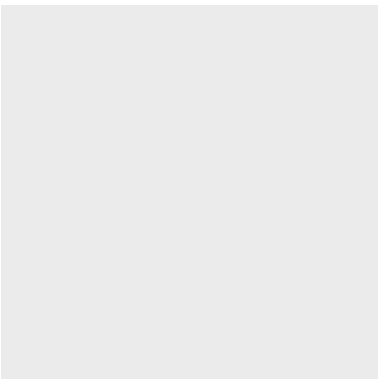
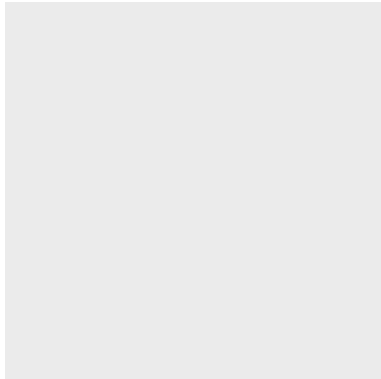
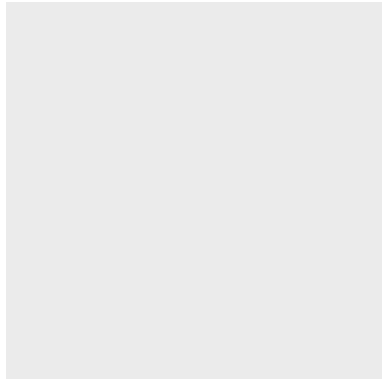
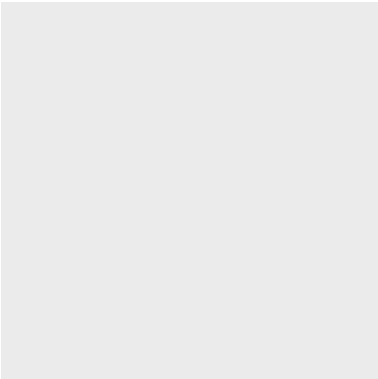


7K: Off Woodcock Street © Wali Taylor

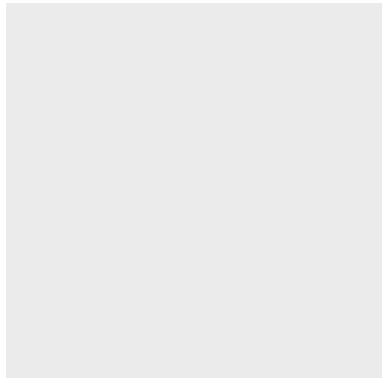
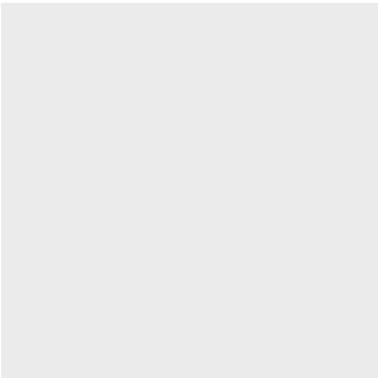


7L: Off Ashted Circus © Wali Taylor

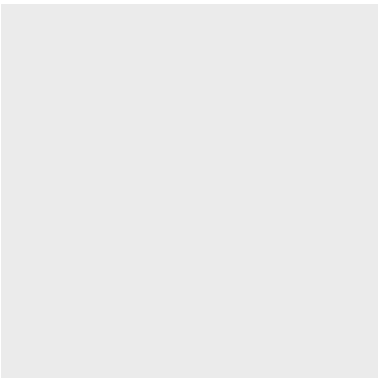
CORPORATION STREET AREA



9F: Corporation Street © Christine Wright



10F: Dalton Street © Greg Mason



11E: Corporation Street © Karen Allen



11F: Courts, Newton Street © Max Watts

ASTON UNIVERSITY, JENNENS ROAD



8G: Aston Street © Max Watts



8H: Aston University © Kay Emblen-Perry



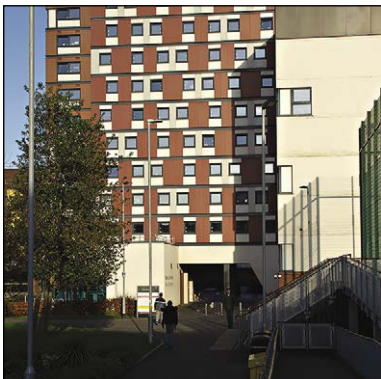
8I: Aston University © Kay Emblen-Perry



9G: Aston University © Christine Wright



9H: Aston University © Greg Mason



9I: Aston University Car Park © Greg Mason



10G: Aston Student Village © Greg Mason



10H: Coleshill Street © Abigail Wills



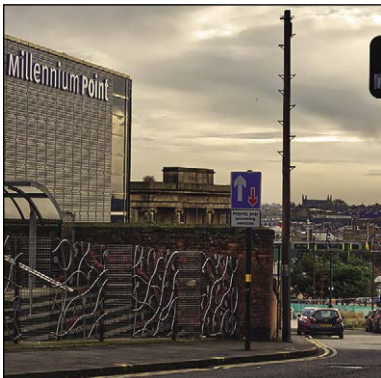
10I: Jennens Road © Peter Allen



11G: James Watt Queensway © Barry Whitehead



11H: Jennens Road © Darren Campbell



11I: Grosvenor Street © Wali Taylor

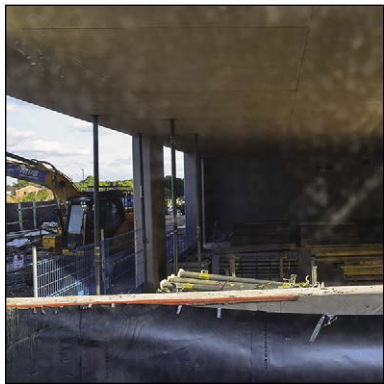
JENNENS ROAD, MILLENNIUM POINT, EASTSIDE CITY PARK



8J: Aston University © Wali Taylor



8K: Jennens Road © Helen Lewis



8L: Off Jennens Road © Peter Allen



9J: Jennens Road © Dave Allen



9K: Howe Street © Wali Taylor



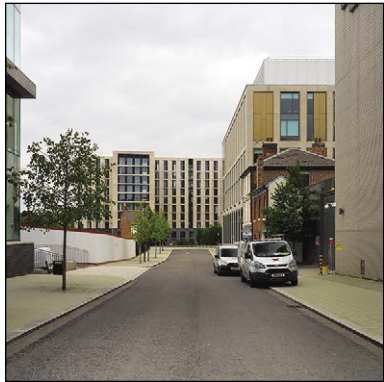
9L: Off Belmont Row © Karen Allen



10J: Thinktank, Prince's Street © Peter Allen



10K: Thinktank, car park © Karen Allen



10L: Cardigan Street © Ed Brown



11J: Millennium Point © Prue Evans



11K: Millennium Point © Malcolm Veitch

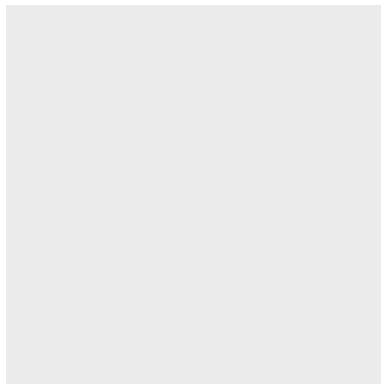
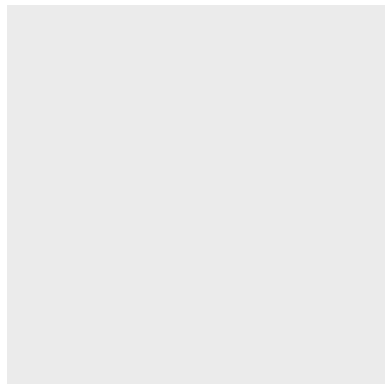


11L: Eastside City Park © Ed Brown

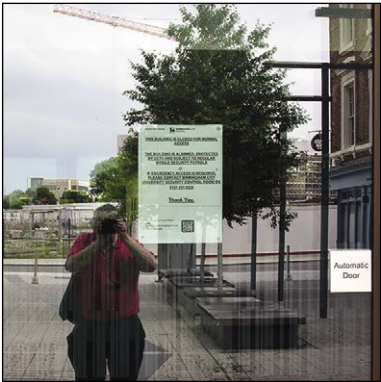
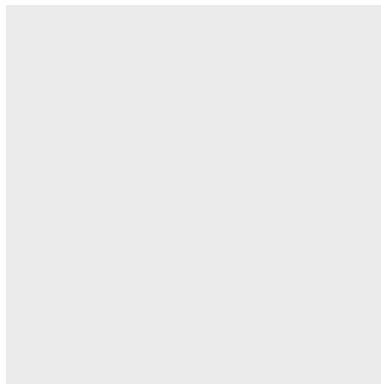
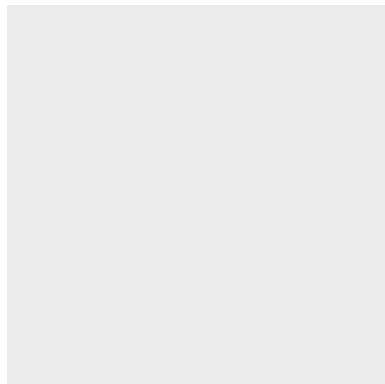
LAWLEY MIDDLEWAY, CURZON STREET



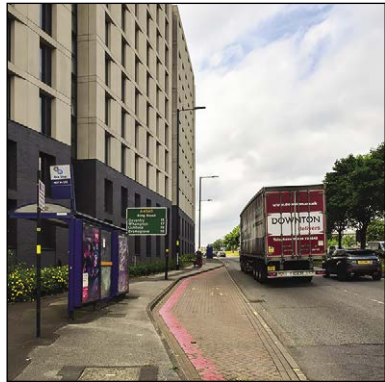
8M: Lawley Middleway © Peter Allen



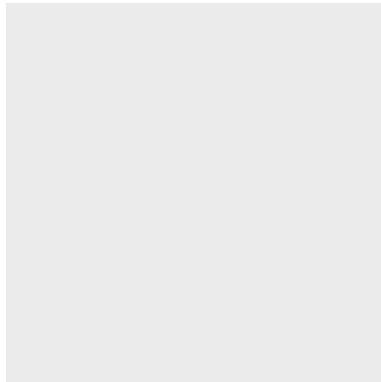
9M: Grand Union Canal © Ian Bone



10M: Birmingham City University © Peter Allen



10N: Lawley Middleway © Peter Allen



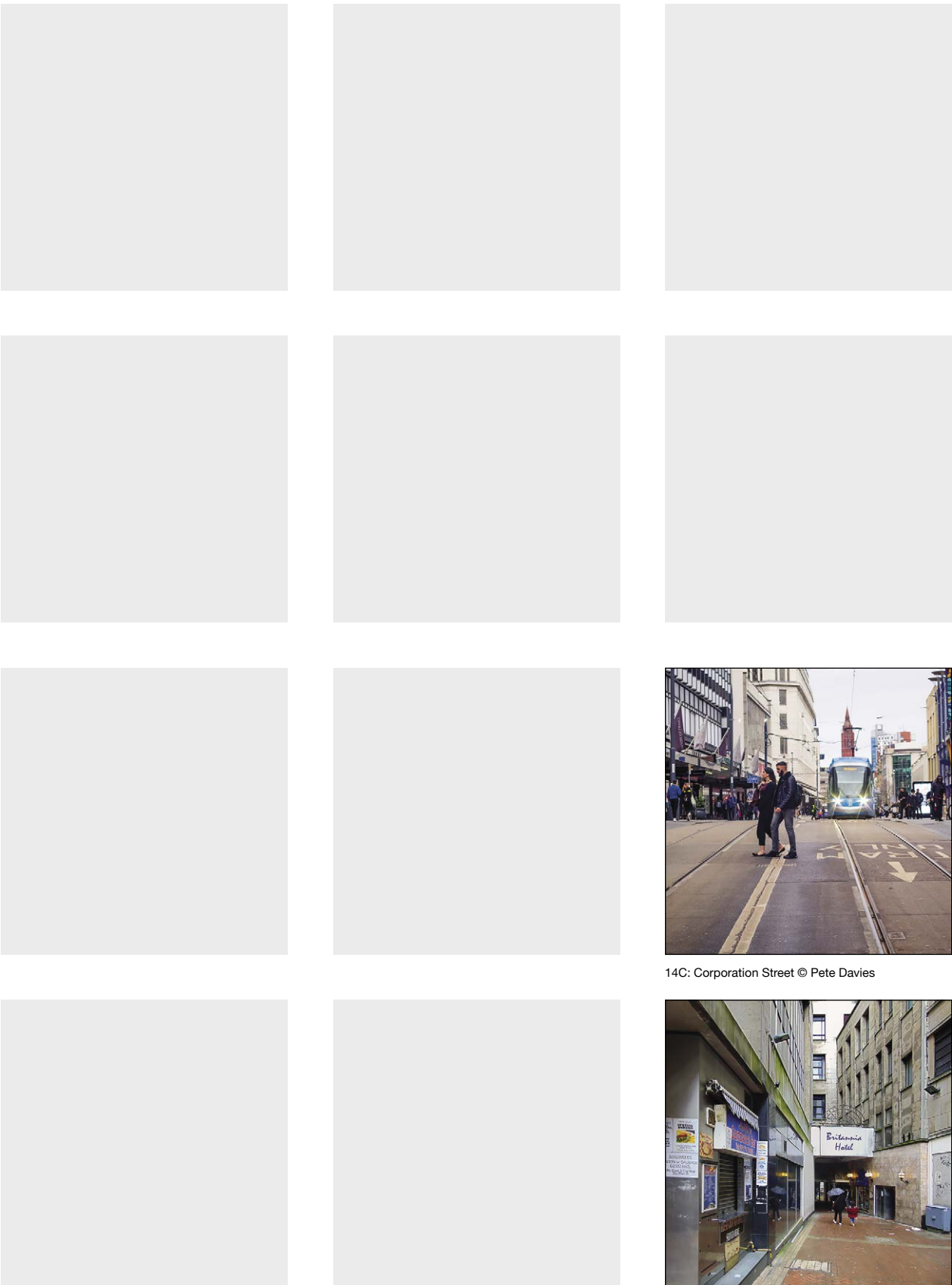
11M: Curzon Street, near canal © Max Watts



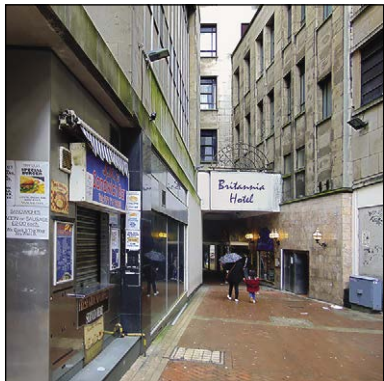
11N: Off Curzon Street © Wali Taylor



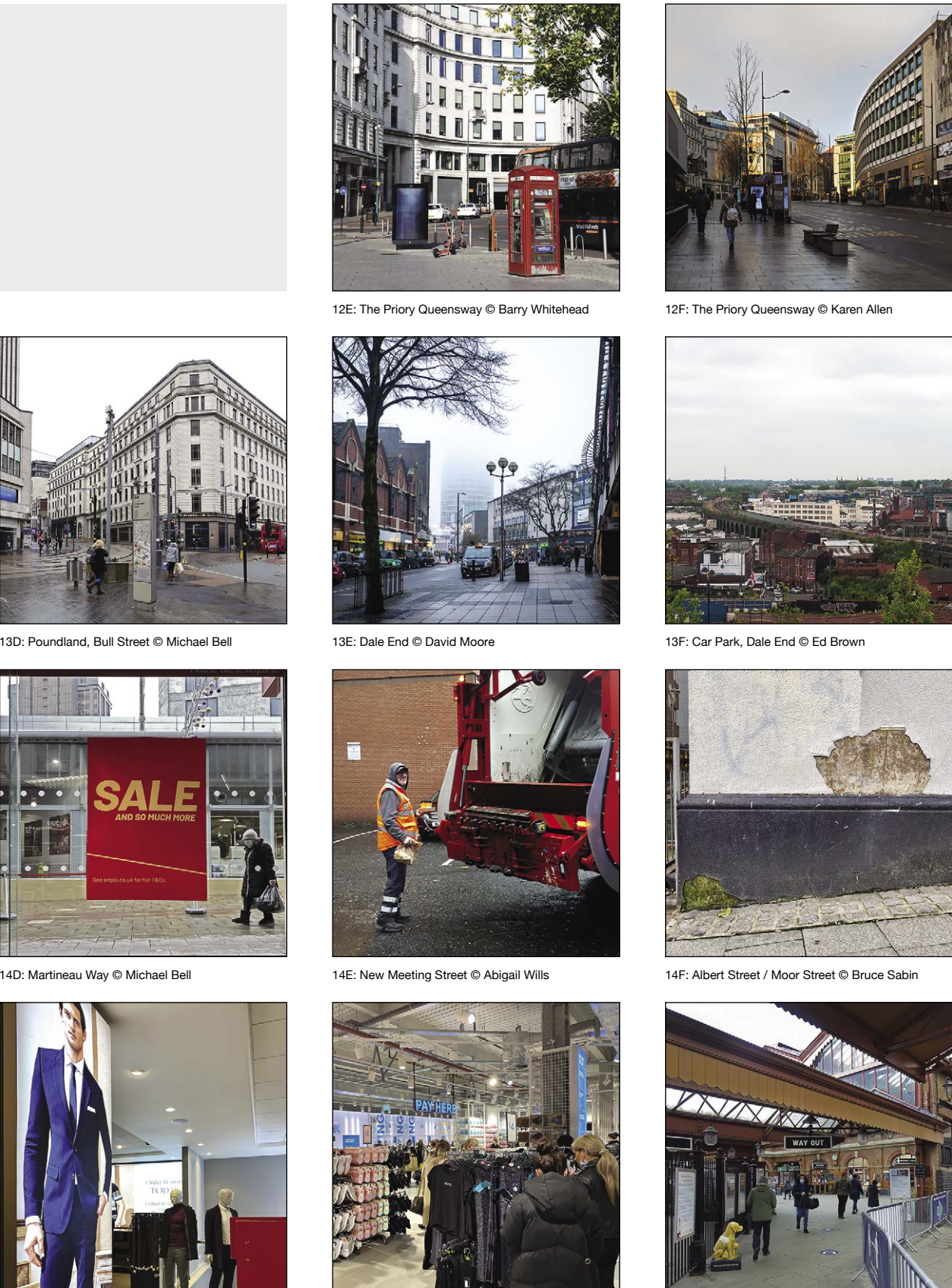
11O: Lawley Middleway © John Hill



14C: Corporation Street © Pete Davies



15C: Union Passage © Graham Evans



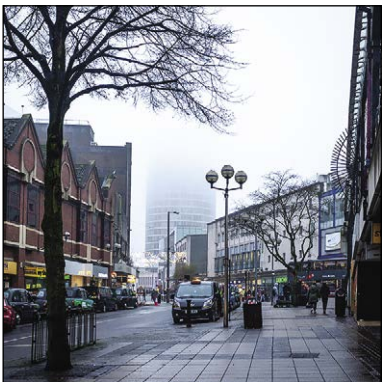
12E: The Priory Queensway © Barry Whitehead



12F: The Priory Queensway © Karen Allen



13D: Poundland, Bull Street © Michael Bell



13E: Dale End © David Moore



13F: Car Park, Dale End © Ed Brown



14D: Martineau Way © Michael Bell



14E: New Meeting Street © Abigail Wills



14F: Albert Street / Moor Street © Bruce Sabin



15D: Off High Street © Michael Bell



15E: Primark, High Street © Robyn Allen



15F: Moor Street Station © James Allen

PARK STREET AREA, HS2 SITE



12G: Moor Street Queensway © Wali Taylor



12H: Near Hive, Park Street © Abbas Hameer



12I: Eastside City Park © Abbas Hameer



13G: Moor Street Queensway © Barry Whitehead



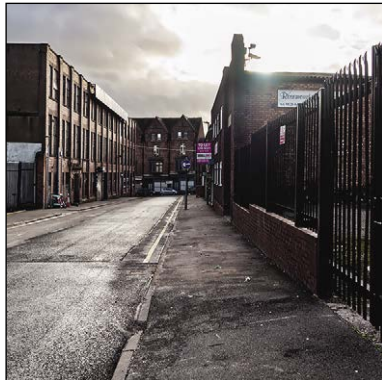
13H: HS2, Park Street © Dave Allen



13I: HS2, off New Canal Street © Simon McCreery



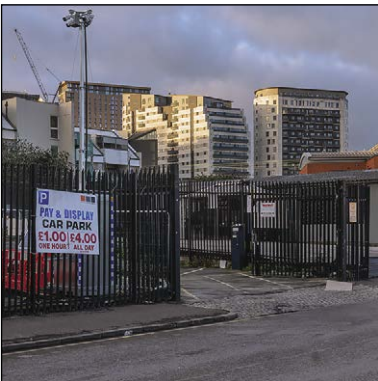
14G: HS2, off Park Street © Ron Carter



14H: HS2, off Fazeley Street © Wali Taylor



14I: New Bartholomew Street © Karen Allen



15G: Park Street © Malcolm Veitch



15H: New Bartholomew Street © Wali Taylor

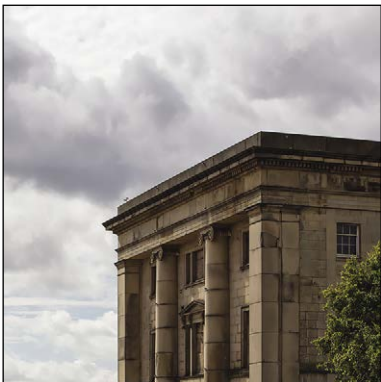


15I: Latif's car park © Ed Brown

CURZON STREET, FAZELEY STREET, HS2 SITE



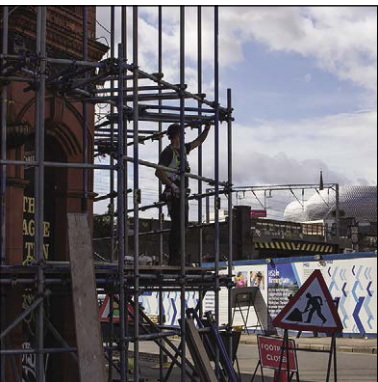
12J: Curzon Street Station © Ed Brown



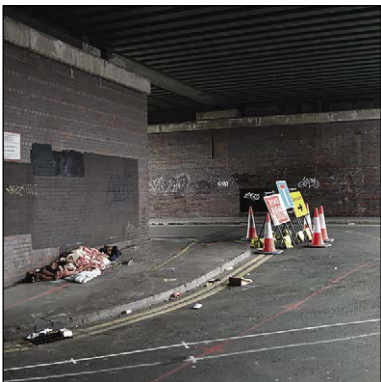
12K: HS2 Site, off Curzon Street © Karen Allen



12L: HS2 Site, off Curzon Street © Karen Allen



13J: Banbury Street © Dave Allen



13K: HS2, off Banbury Street © Dave Allen



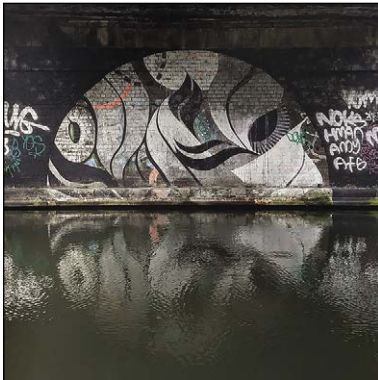
13L: Railway, near HS2 Site © Jerry Tew



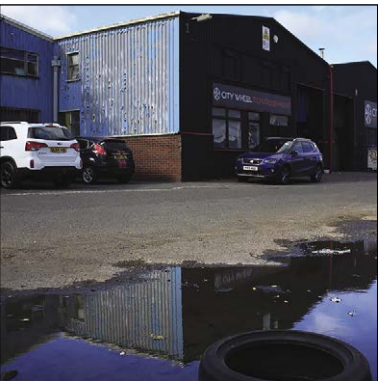
14J: Fazeley Street © Pete Davies



14K: Fazeley Street, near canal © John Hill



14L: Grand Union Canal © Teresa Dolan



15J: Benacre Drive © Alasdair Tew

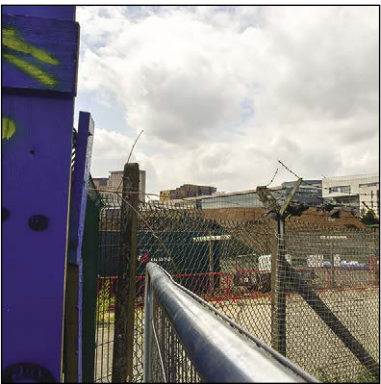


15K: Pickford Street © Barry Whitehead



15L: Fazeley Street © Karen Allen

HS2 SITE, WASTE DEPOTS, MONTAGUE STREET AREA



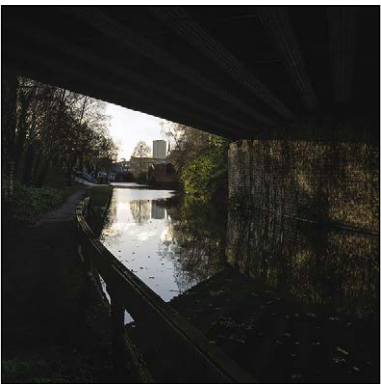
12M: HS2 Site, off Curzon Street © Peter Allen



12N: HS2 Site, off Curzon Street © James Tew



12O: City Clean Gas, Montague Street © John Hill



13M: SITA depot, near canal © Malcolm Veitch



13N: Waste depot Montague Street © Wali Taylor



13O: Montague Street © Peter Allen



14M: SITA Depot, Montague Street © Alasdair Tew



14N: River Rea, in waste depot © Wali Taylor



14O: Montague Street © Jon Jones



15M: Grand Union Canal © Helen Lewis

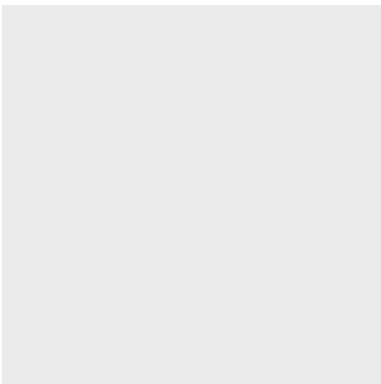


15N: Waste depot, Montague Street © Steve Cooper



15O: Works, Montague Street © Simon Felton

LAWLEY MIDDLEWAY AREA



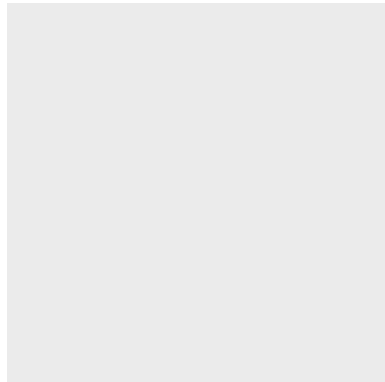
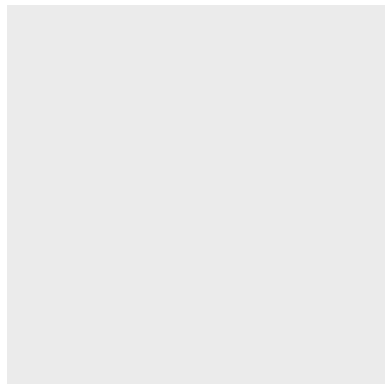
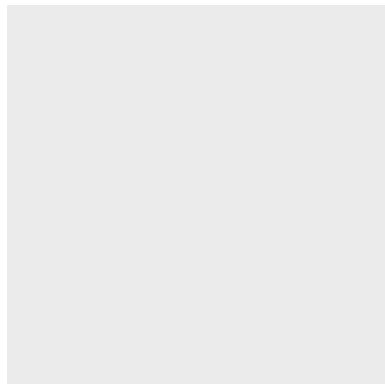
13P: Lawley Middleway © Peter Allen



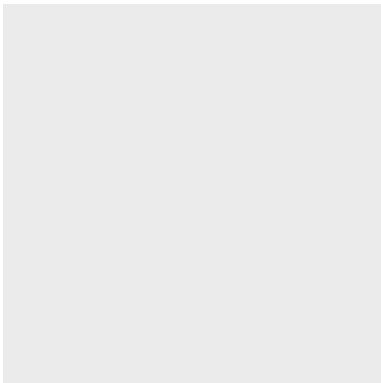
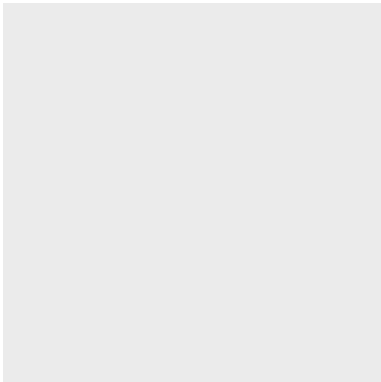
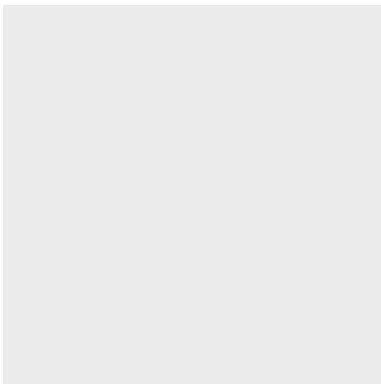
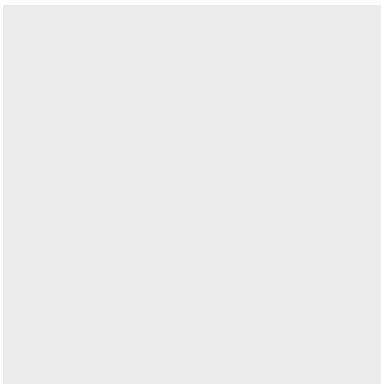
14P: Mercedes, Lawley Middleway © Karen Allen



15P: Great Barr Street © Helen Lewis



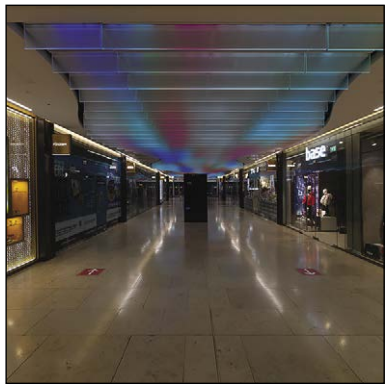
15Q: Watery Lane Middleway © Peter Allen



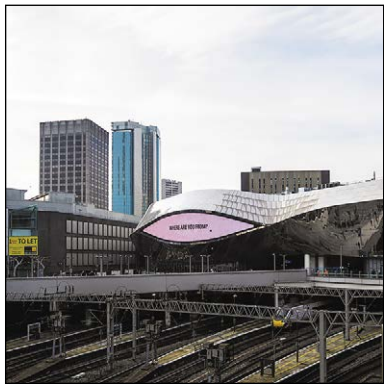
NEW STREET STATION AREA



16A: New Street Station © Graham Evans



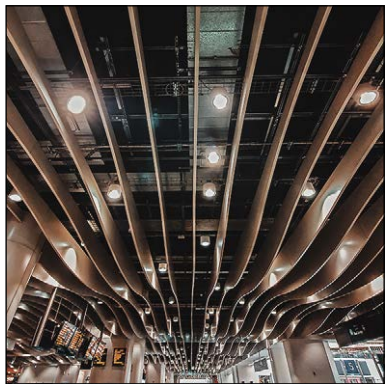
16B: New Street Station © Dave Allen



16C: New Street Station © Ed Brown



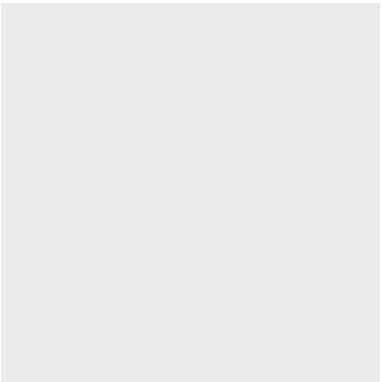
17A: New Street Station © Dave Allen



17B: New Street Station © Faraz Merchant



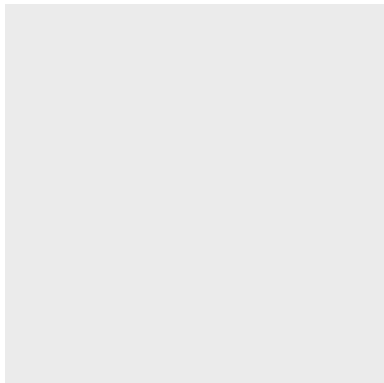
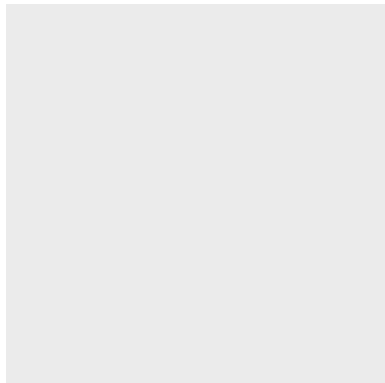
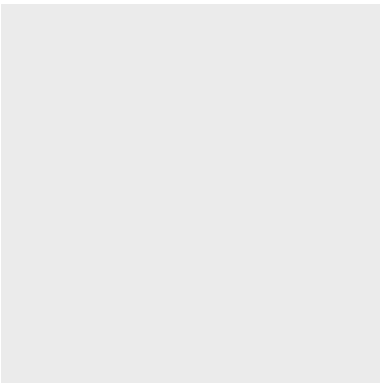
17C: Off Smallbrook Queensway © James Allen



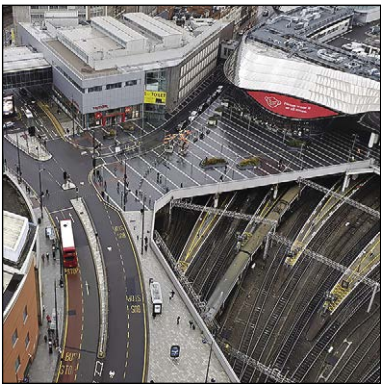
18B: Hinckley Street © Graham Evans



18C: Smallbrook Queensway © Robyn Allen



THE BULLRING AREA



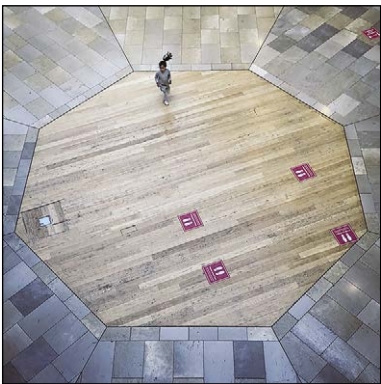
16D: The Rotunda © Trevor Beattie



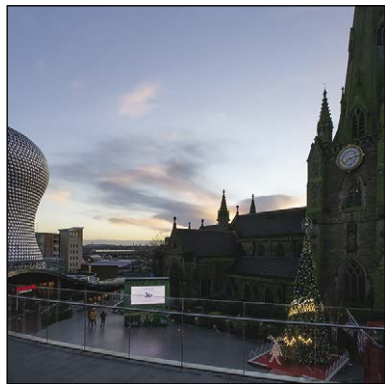
16E: The Bullring © Simon McCreery



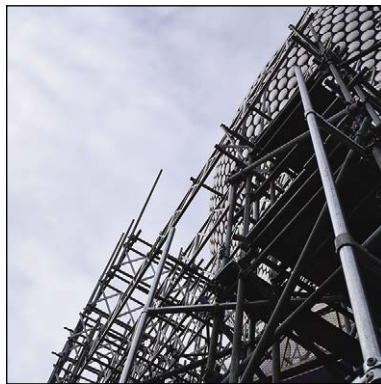
16F: The Bullring © Paul Bartlett



17D: The Bullring © Nayson Ratcliffe



17E: The Bullring © Dave Allen



17F: Bullring car park entrance © Georgie Evans



18D: Birmingham Indoor Market © Dave Allen



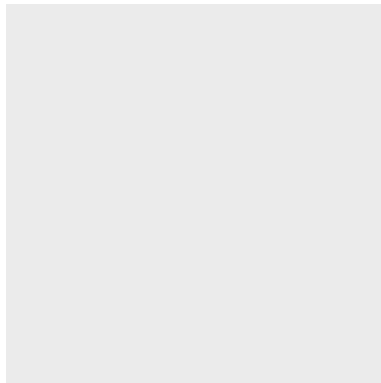
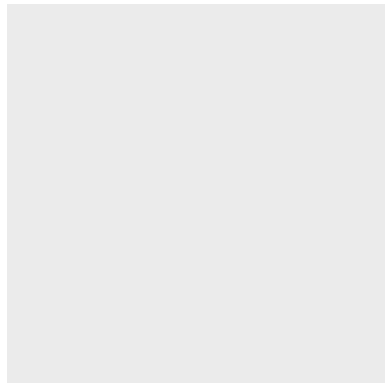
18E: Birmingham Rag Market © Karen Allen



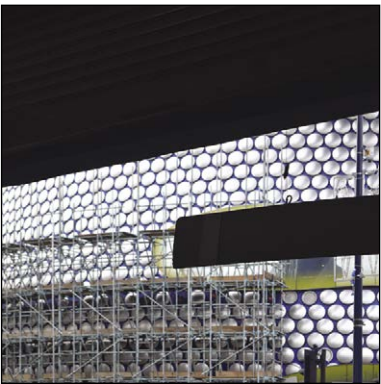
18F: Moat Lane, Upper Dean Street © Afraa Din



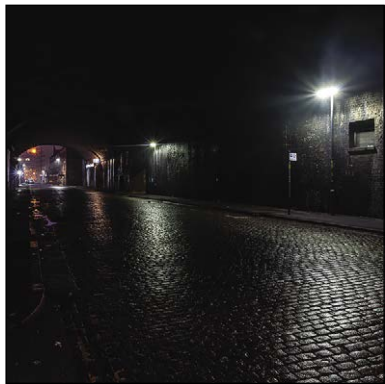
19D: Market, Upper Dean Street © Graham Evans



COVENTRY STREET, DIGBETH AREA



16G: Moor Street / Park Street © Georgie Evans



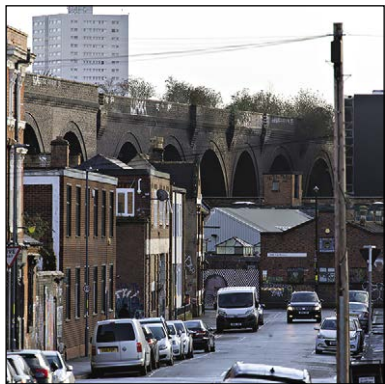
16H: Shaw's Passage © David Moore



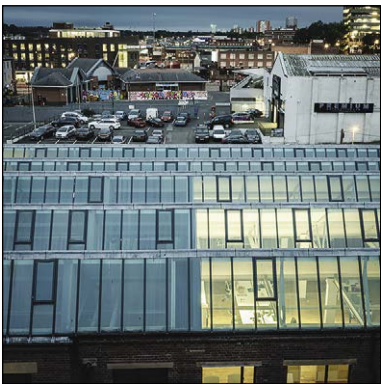
16I: Meriden Street / Bordesley Street © Dave Allen



17G: Well Lane, car park © Teresa Dolan



17H: Coventry Street © Karen Allen



17I: Coventry Street © Nayson Ratcliffe



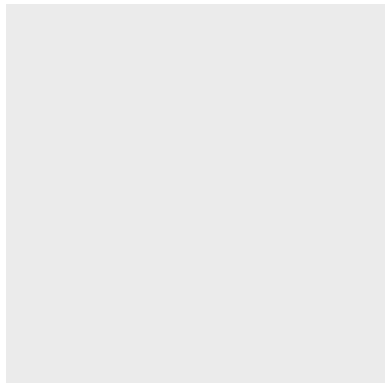
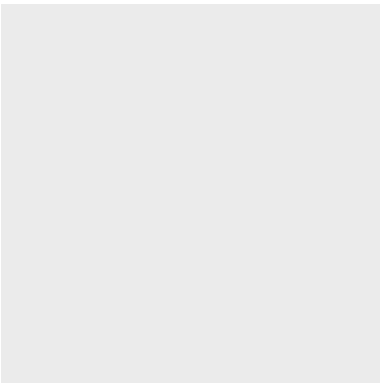
18G: Digbeth © Teresa Dolan



18H: Meriden Street © Karen Allen



18I: Oxford Street © Simon McCreery



19I: Digbeth, near Rea Street © Peter Allen

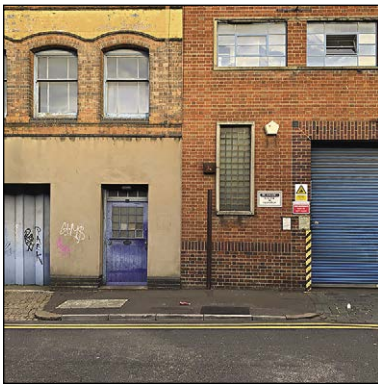
CHILTERN LINE VIADUCT AREA



16J: Bordesley Street © Alasdair Tew



16K: Off Pickford Street © Wali Taylor



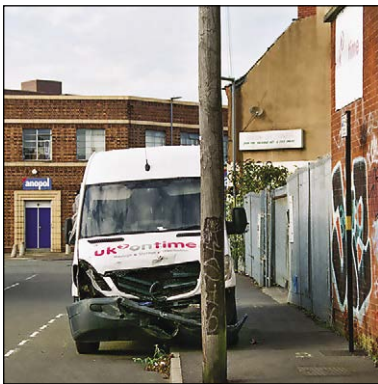
16L: Barn Street © Simon Felton



17J: Trent Street © Nayson Ratcliffe



17K: Car park, Milk Street © Simon Felton



17L: Little Ann Street © Faraz Merchant



18J: Coventry Street © Helen Lewis



18K: Milk Street © Afraa Din



18L: Floodgate Street © John Hill



19J: College, Milk Street © Peter Allen



19K: Floodgate Street © Paul Bartlett

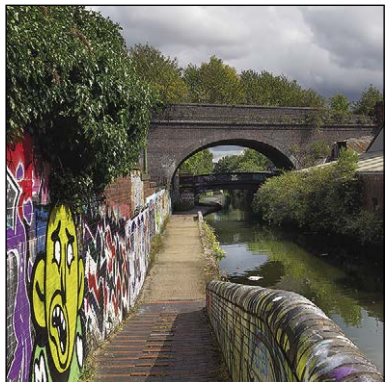


19L: Gibb Street © John Hill

DISUSED VIADUCT AREA, LIVERPOOL STREET



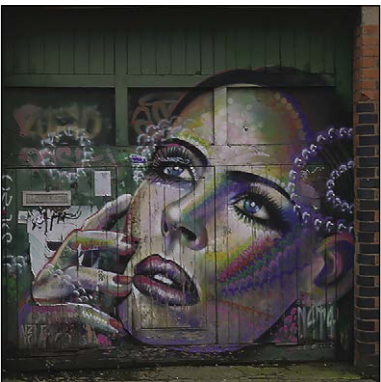
16M: Fazeley Street © Phil Lumby



16N: Digbeth Branch Canal © Dave Allen



16O: Great Barr Street © Wali Taylor



17M: Floodgate Street © Malcolm Veitch



17N: Heath Mill Lane © Phil Lumby



17O: Liverpool Street © John Sheehan



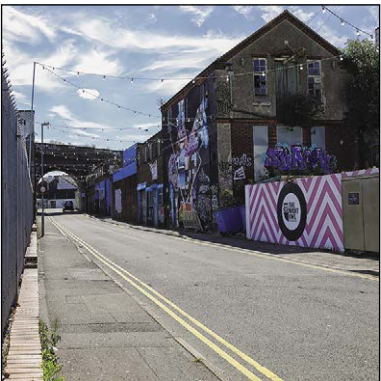
18M: Heath Mill Lane © Phil Lumby



18N: Disused viaduct, Allcock Street © Jerry Tew



18O: Bus garage, Liverpool Street © Karen Allen



19M: Lower Trinity Street © Jon Jones



19N: Bromley Street © Jerry Tew



19O: Liverpool Street / Allcock Street © Pete Davies

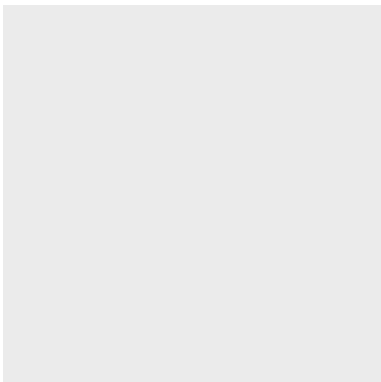
GLOVER STREET, WATERY LANE AREA



16P: Palmer Street, by works yard © Alasdair Tew



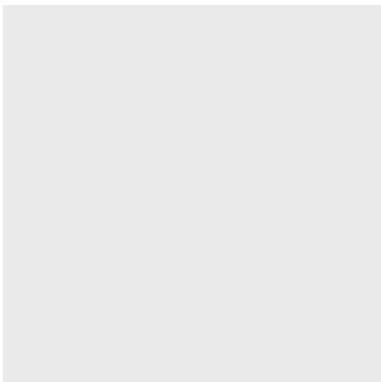
16Q: Watery Lane Middleway © Peter Allen



17P: Glover Street © Phil Lumby



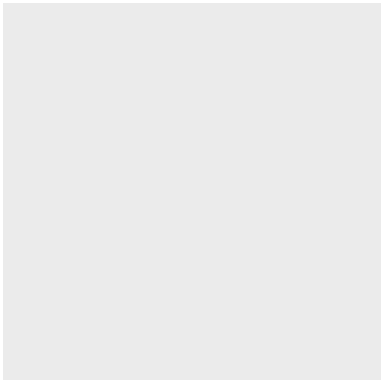
17Q: Westley Street © Jon Jones



18P: Grand Union Canal © Wali Taylor



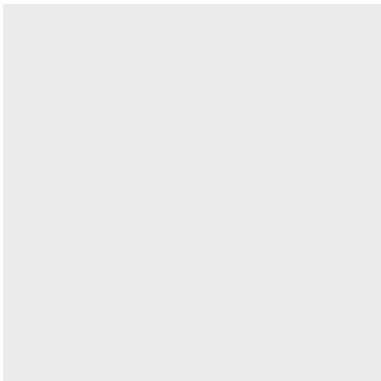
18Q: Grand Union Canal © Jerry Tew



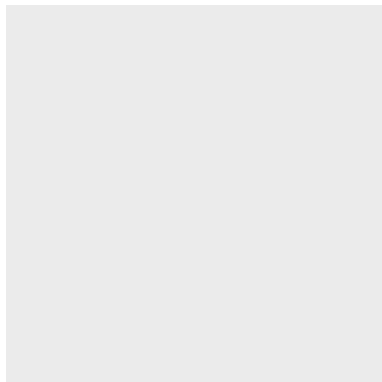
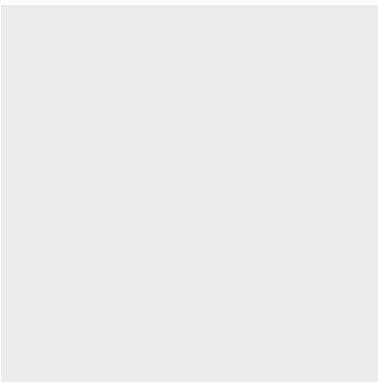
19P: Bus depot, Adderley Street © Phil Lumby



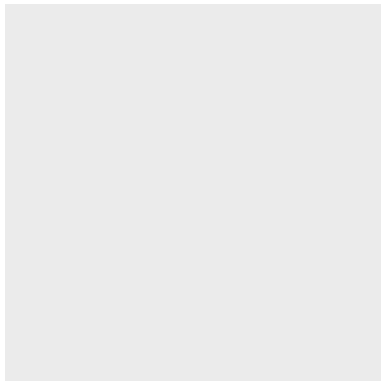
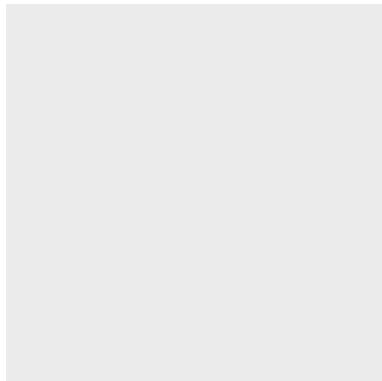
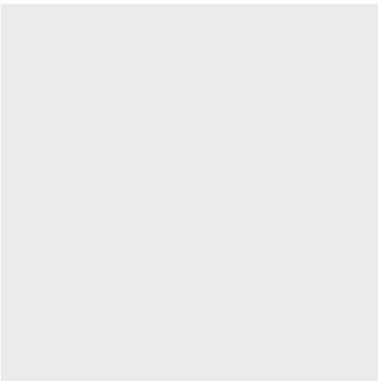
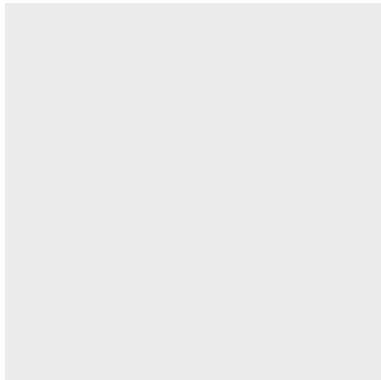
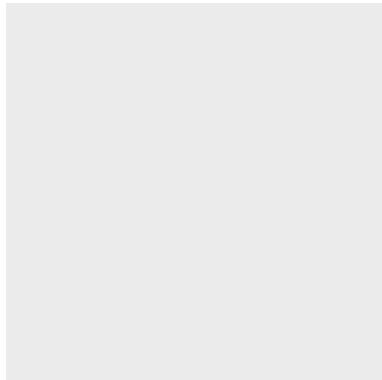
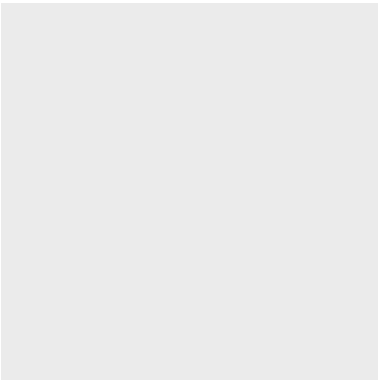
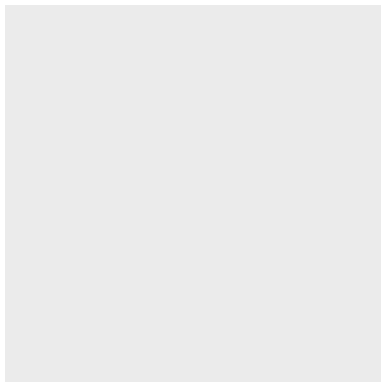
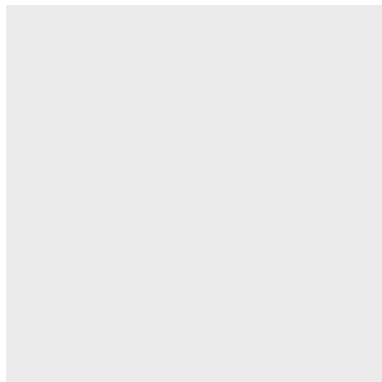
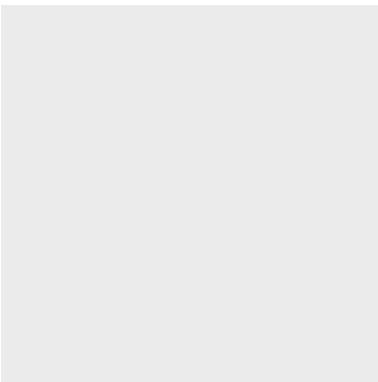
19Q: Glover Street © Jon Jones



DERITEND



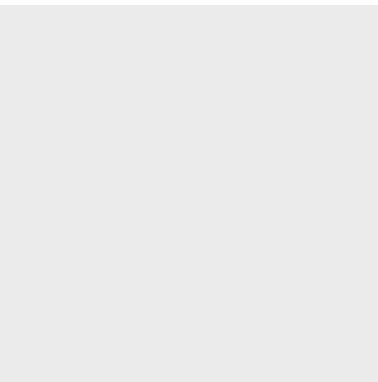
20L: High Street Deritend © Darren Campbell



DERITEND, HIGH STREET BORDESLEY



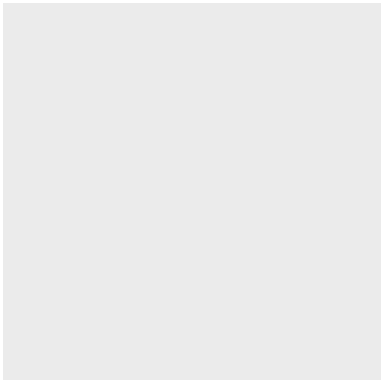
20M: High Street Deritend © Peter Allen



20N: Adderley Street © Peter Allen



21N: High Street Bordesley © John Sheehan



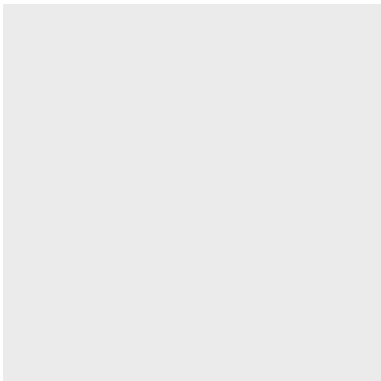
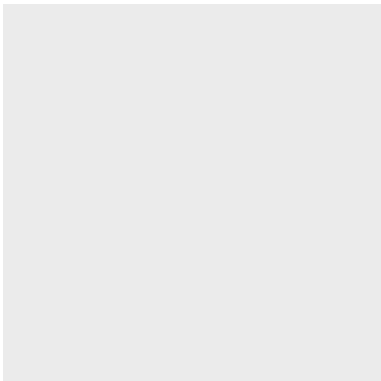
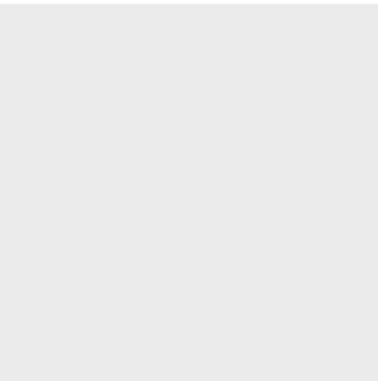
20O: Aston House, Adderley Street © Teresa Dolan



21O: Upper Trinity Street © Teresa Dolan



22O: High Street Bordesley © Teresa Dolan





20P: Bus depot, Adderley Street © Simon Felton



20Q: New Bond Street © Jon Jones



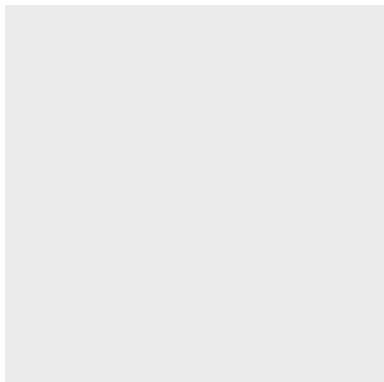
20R: Watery Lane Middleway © John Sheehan



21P: Bowyer Street © Mark Jackson



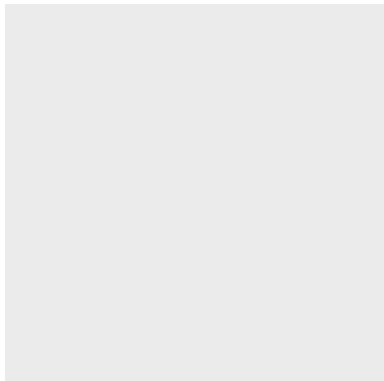
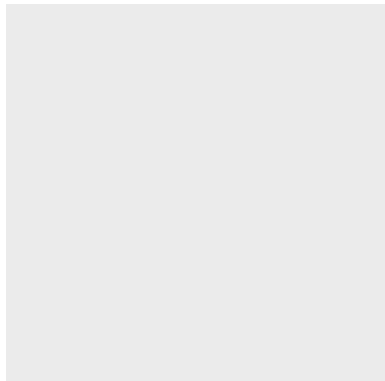
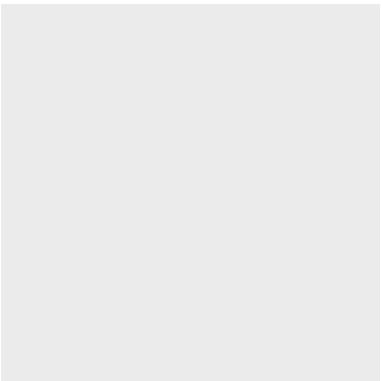
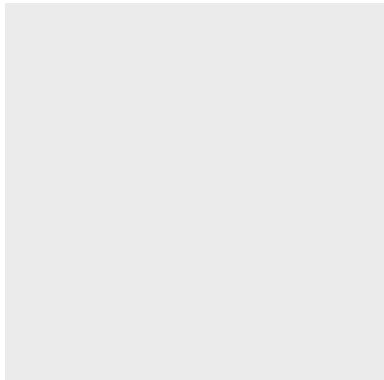
21Q: Grand Union Canal © Ron Carter



22P: Off Upper Trinity Street © Abigail Wills



22Q: GU Canal / Coventry Road © John Sheehan

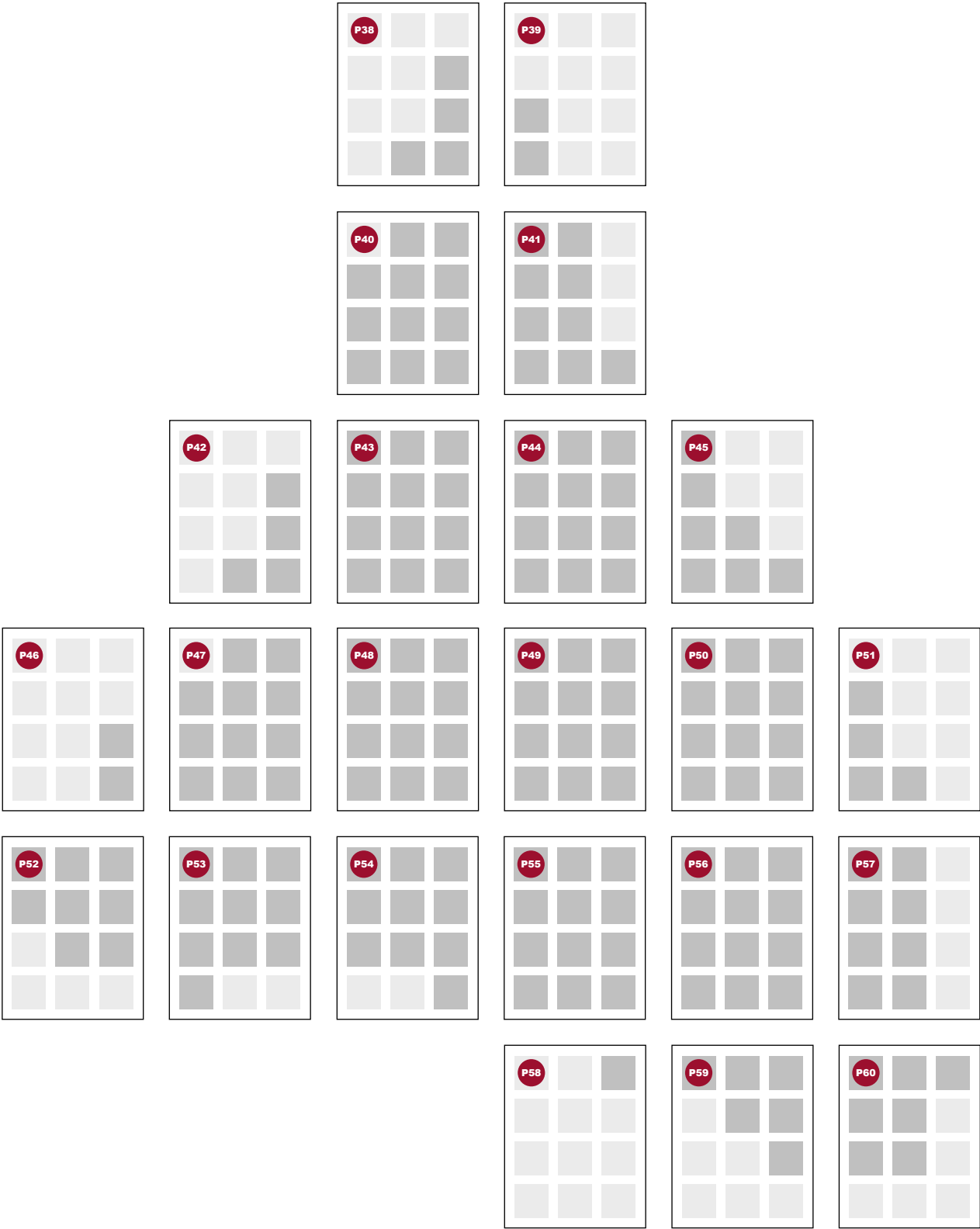


MONOCHROME PHOTOGRAPHS

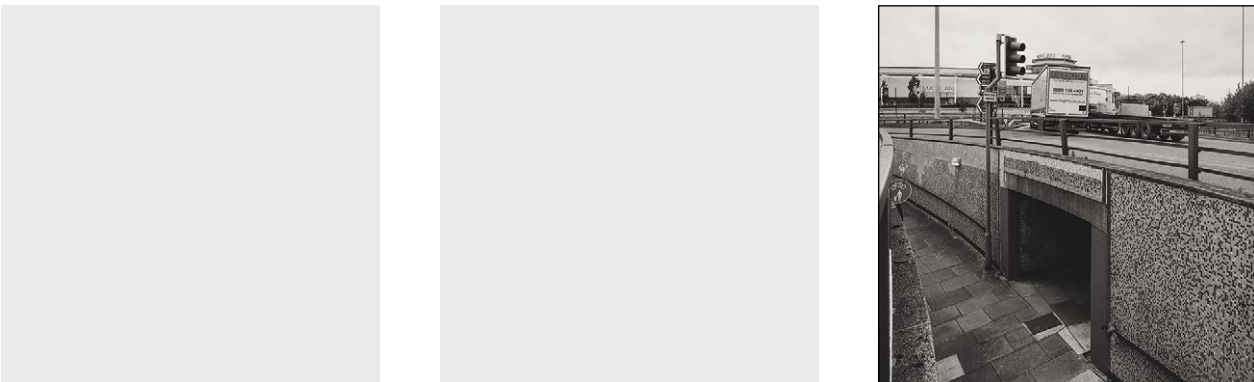
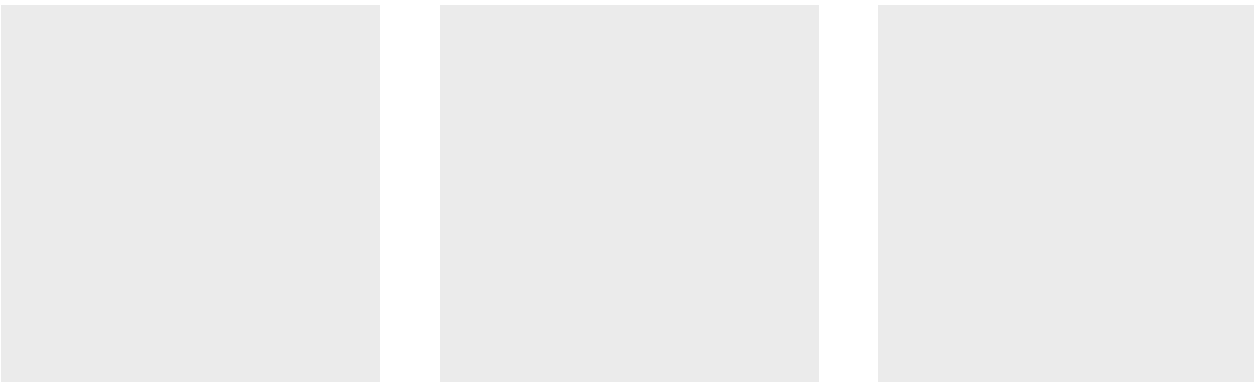
LAYOUT OF THE PAGES : MONOCHROME PHOTOGRAPHS

Page 38	Dartmouth Circus, Grand Union Canal
Page 39	Dartmouth Middleway
Page 40	Aston University, Gosta Green
Page 41	Aston University, Dartmouth Middleway Area
Page 42	Corporation Street Area
Page 43	Aston University, Jennens Road
Page 44	Jennens Road, Millennium Point, Eastside City Park
Page 45	Lawley Middleway, Curzon Street
Page 46	City Centre, Corporation Street / New Street Area
Page 47	City Centre, Priory Queensway, Dale End
Page 48	Park Street Area, HS2 Site
Page 49	Curzon Street, Fazeley Street, HS2 Site
Page 50	HS2 Site, Waste Depots, Montague Street Area
Page 51	Lawley Middleway Area
Page 52	New Street Station Area
Page 53	The Bullring Area
Page 54	Coventry Street, Digbeth Area
Page 55	Chiltern Line Viaduct Area
Page 56	Duddeston Viaduct (disused) Area, Liverpool Street
Page 57	Glover Street, Watery Lane Area
Page 58	Deritend
Page 59	Deritend, High Street Bordesley
Page 60	Bordesley Area, Coventry Road

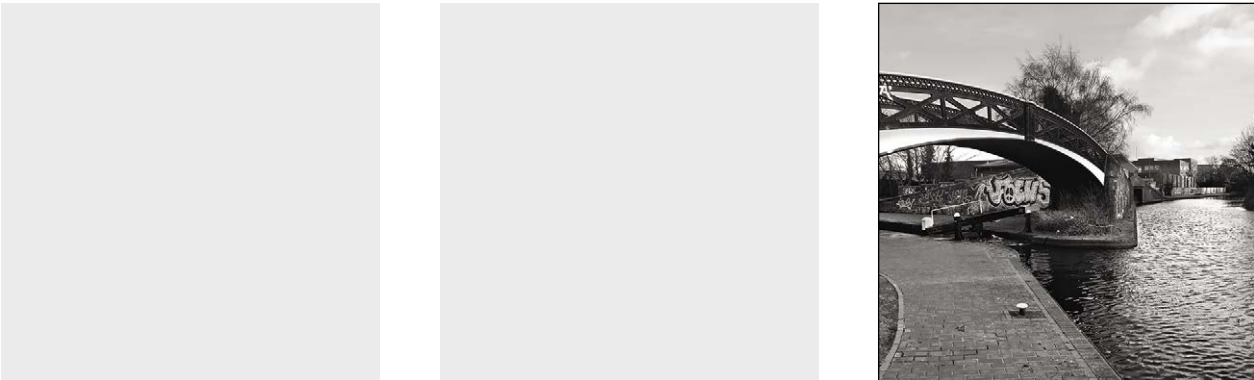
LAYOUT OF THE PAGES : MONOCHROME PHOTOGRAPHS



DARTMOUTH CIRCUS, GRAND UNION CANAL



1I: Dartmouth Circus © Ed Brown



2I: Mill Street © Ron Carter

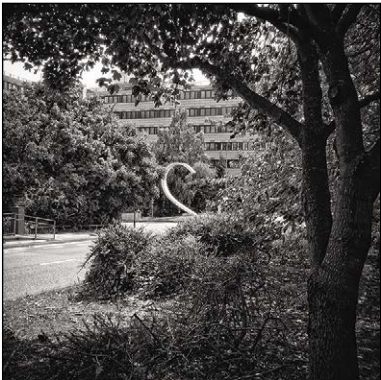
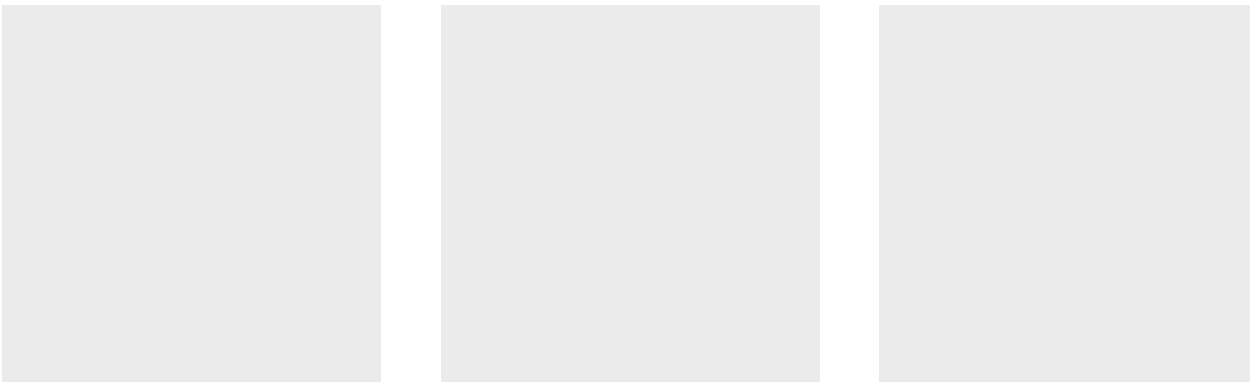
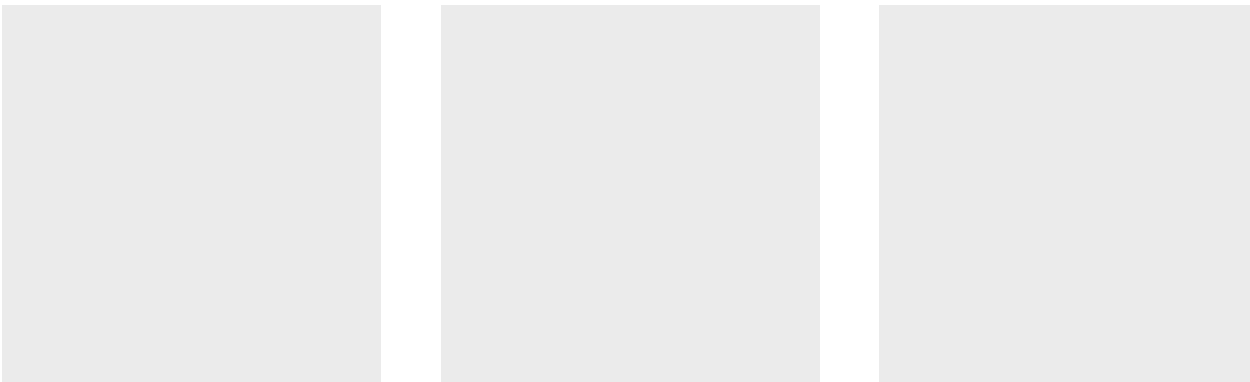


3H: Corporation Street © Prue Evan

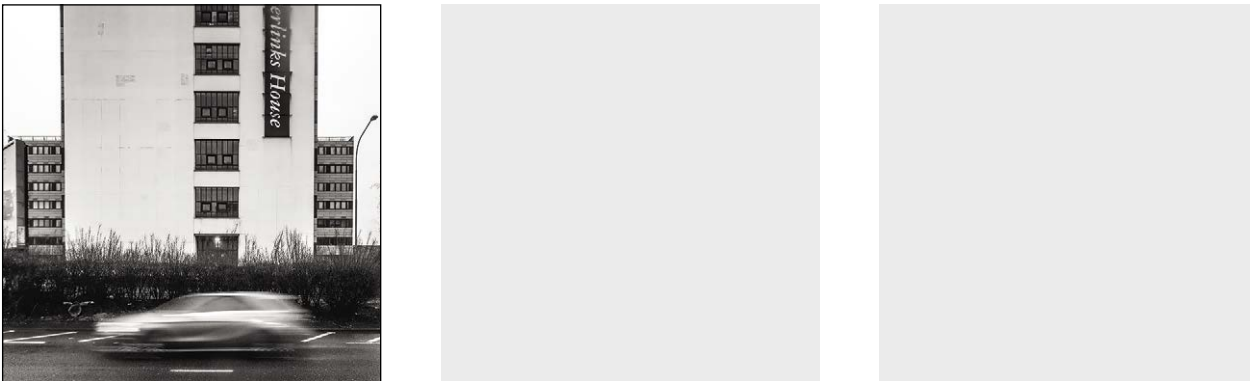


3I: Grand Union Canal © Ron Carter

DARTMOUTH MIDDLEWAY

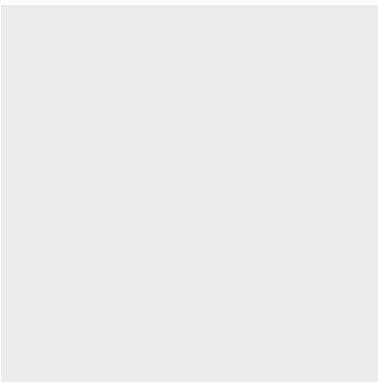


2J: Dartmouth Middleway © Brian Burnett



3J: Premier Trading Estate © Ed Brown

ASTON UNIVERSITY, GOSTA GREEN



4H: Aston University © Brian Burnett



4I: Love Lane © Ron Carter



5G: Corporation Street © Alex Waldron



5H: Aston University © Ed Brown



5I: Aston University © Jay Mason-Burns



6G: Aston University © Jay Mason-Burns



6H: Aston University © Prue Evans



6I: Woodcock Street, Gosta Green © Prue Evans



7G: Fire Station, Corporation St. © Marina Brodie



7H: Off Aston Street © Wali Taylor



7I: Aston Business School © Prue Evans

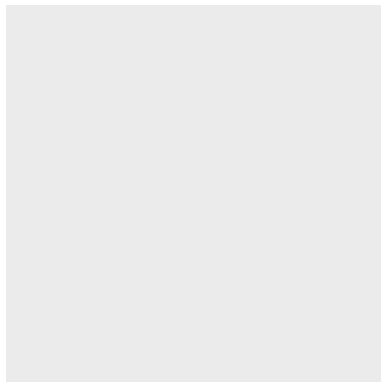
ASTON UNIVERSITY, DARTMOUTH MIDDLEWAY AREA



4J: Aston University, Lister Street © Alex Waldron



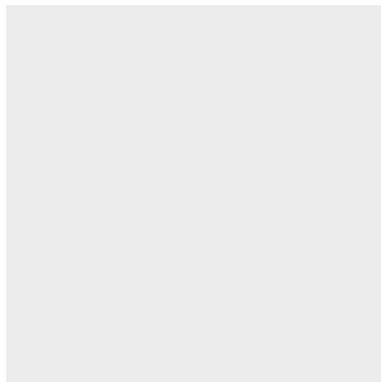
4K: Dartmouth Middleway © Ian Bone



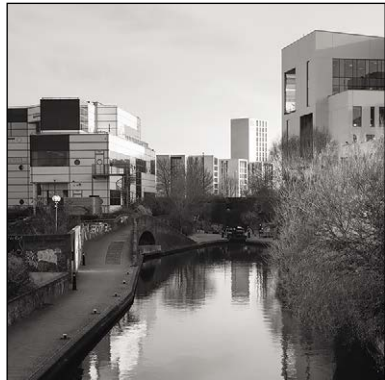
5J: Lister Street, Gosta Green © Jay Mason-Burns



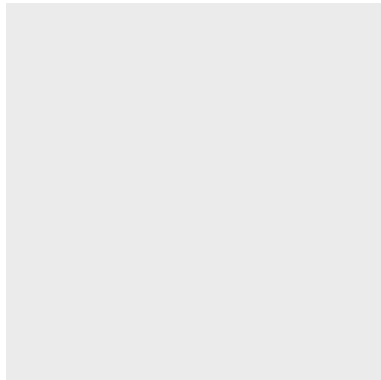
5K: College of High Speed Rail © Jay Mason-Burns



6J: Off Holt Street © Wali Taylor



6K: Digbeth Branch Canal © Pete Davies



7J: Woodcock Street © Wali Taylor

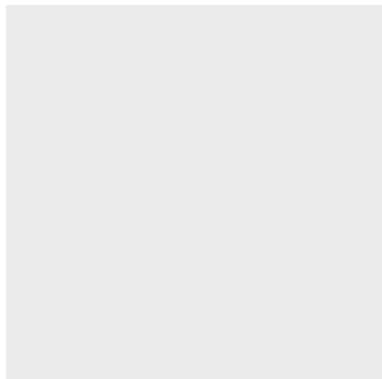
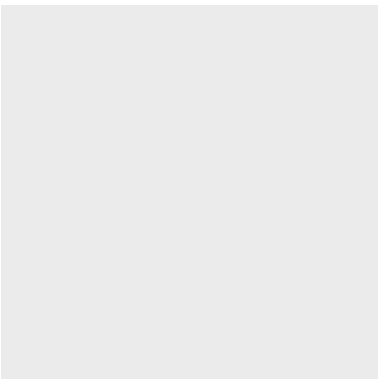
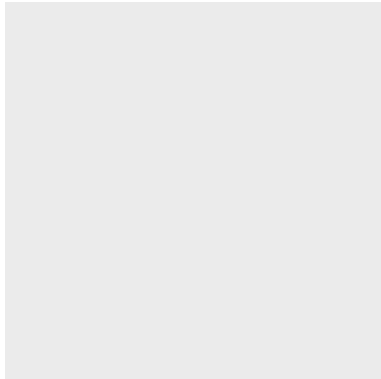
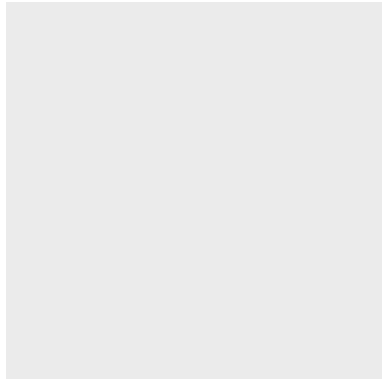
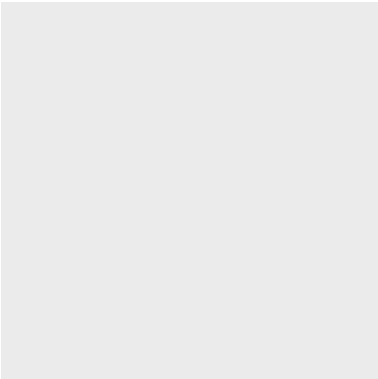


7K: Off Woodcock Street © Ed Brown

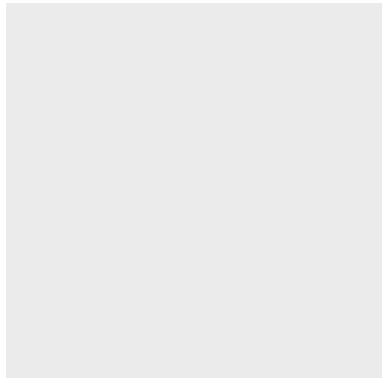
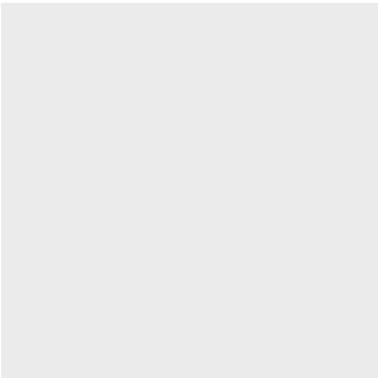


7L: Off Ashted Circus © Marina Brodie

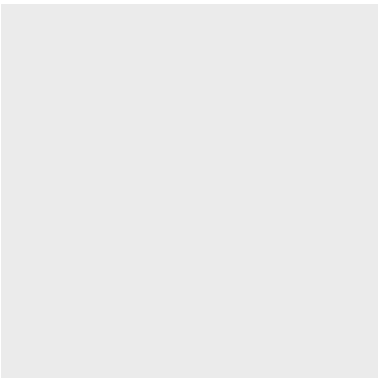
CORPORATION STREET AREA



9F: Corporation Street © Bruce Sabin



10F: Dalton Street © Jerry Tew



11E: Corporation Street © Bruce Sabin



11F: Courts, Newton Street © Wali Taylor

ASTON UNIVERSITY, JENNENS ROAD



8G: Aston Street © Ed Brown



8H: Aston University © Simon McCreery



8I: Aston University © Max Watts



9G: Aston University © Marina Brodie



9H: Aston University © Wali Taylor



9I: Aston University Car Park © Marina Brodie



10G: Aston Student Village © Alex Waldron



10H: Coleshill Street © John Timmins



10I: Jennens Road © John Timmins



11G: James Watt Queensway © Karen Allen



11H: Jennens Road © Wali Taylor



11I: Grosvenor Street © Jay Mason-Burns

JENNENS ROAD, MILLENNIUM POINT, EASTSIDE CITY PARK



8J: Aston University © Jerry Tew



8K: Jennens Road © Wali Taylor



8L: Off Jennens Road © Robyn Allen



9J: Jennens Road © Alex Waldron



9K: Howe Street © Prue Evans



9L: Off Belmont Row © Eugene Farrell



10J: Thinktank, Prince's Street © John Timmins



10K: Thinktank, car park © John Timmins



10L: Cardigan Street © Karen Allen



11J: Millennium Point © Derek Robbins



11K: Millennium Point © Robyn Allen

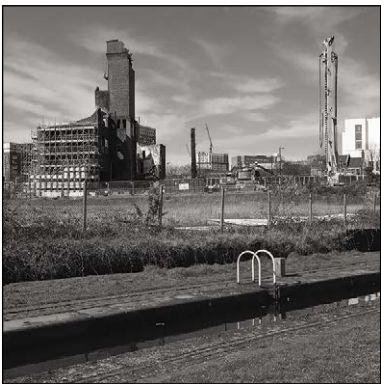
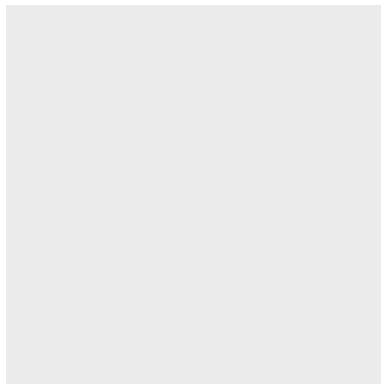
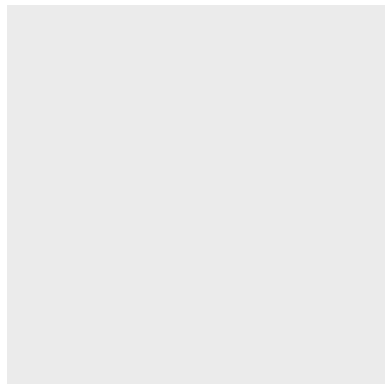


11L: Eastside City Park © Michael Bell

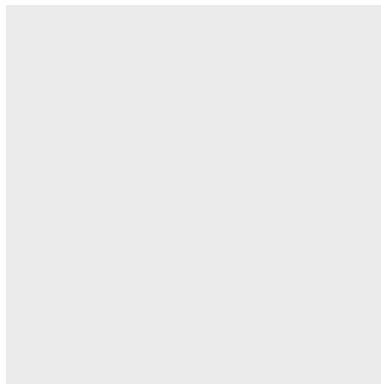
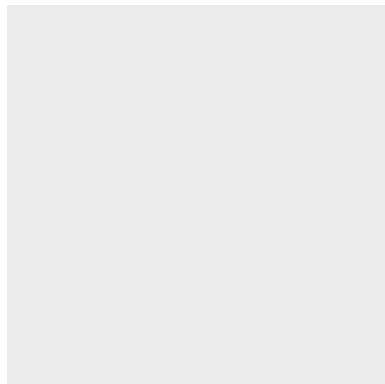
LAWLEY MIDDLEWAY, CURZON STREET



8M: Lawley Middleway © Wali Taylor



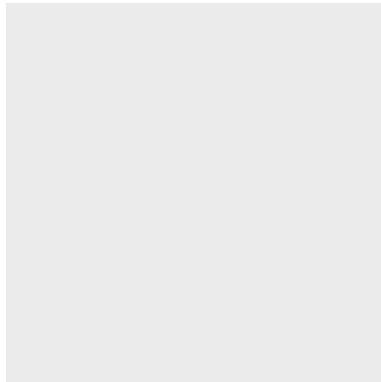
9M: Grand Union Canal © Dave Allen



10M: Birmingham City University © Jackie Hodgson



10N: Lawley Middleway © Jerry Tew



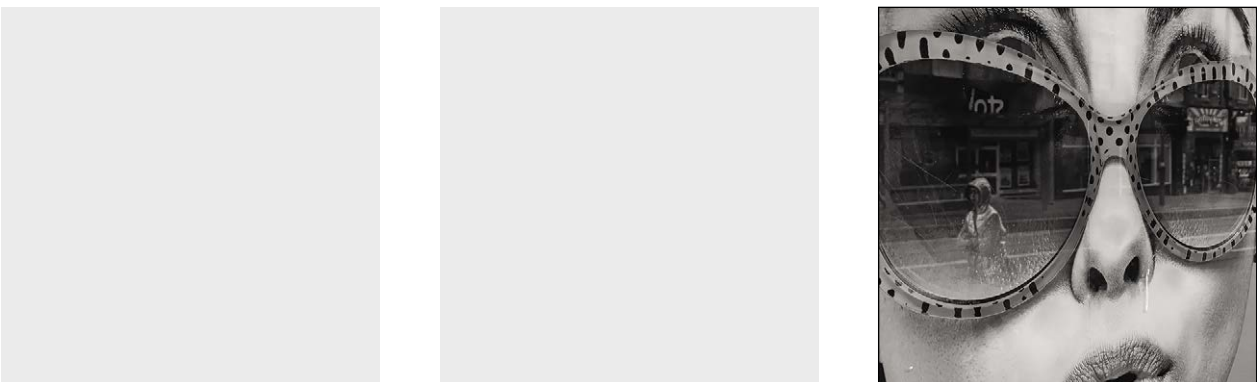
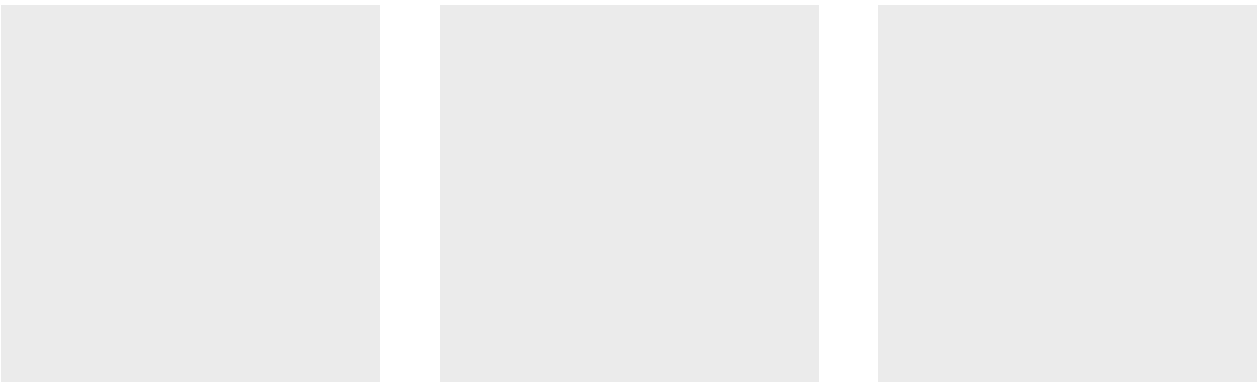
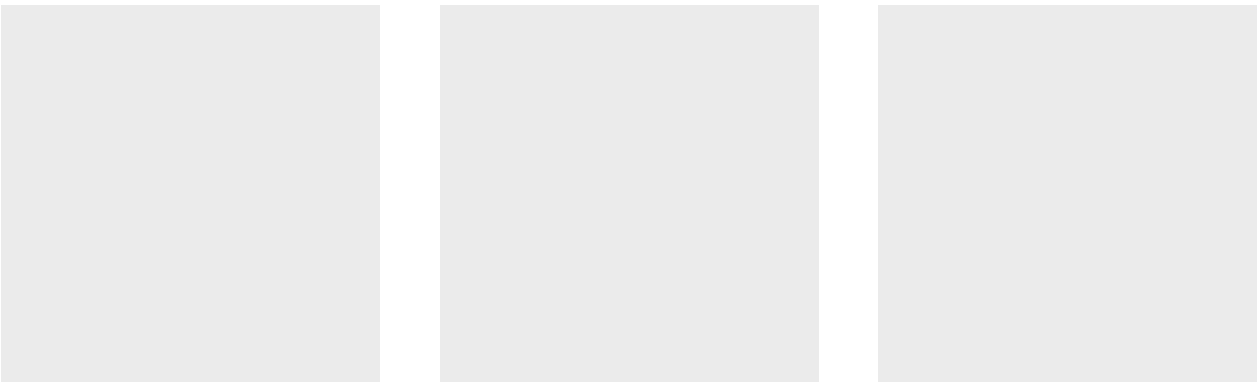
11M: Curzon Street, near canal © James Allen



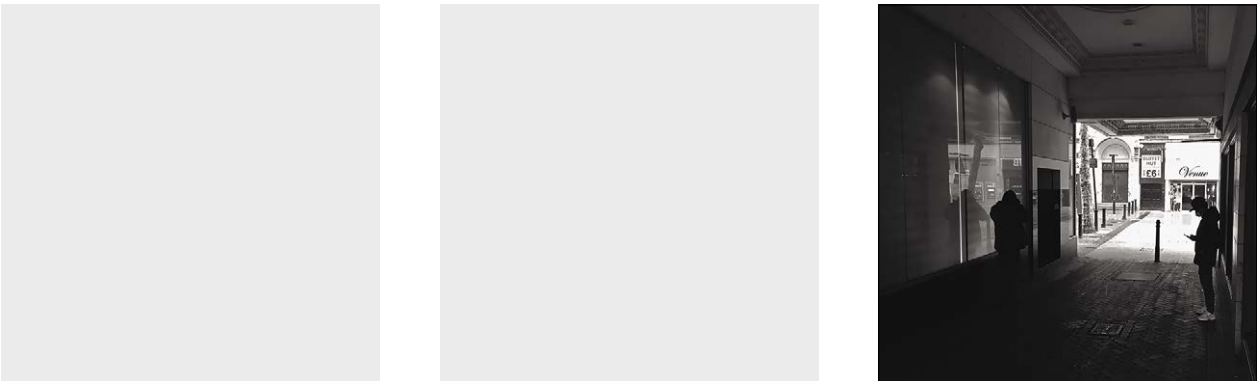
11N: Off Curzon Street © Jay Mason-Burns



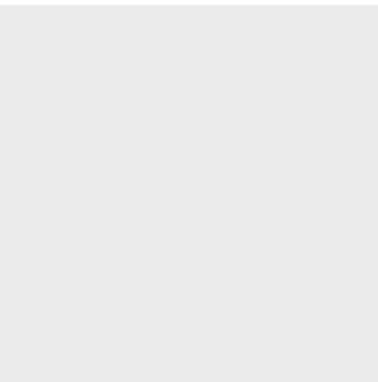
11O: Lawley Middleway © Wali Taylor



14C: Corporation Street © Jay Mason-Burns



15C: Union Passage © Jackie Hodgson



12E: The Priory Queensway © Wali Taylor



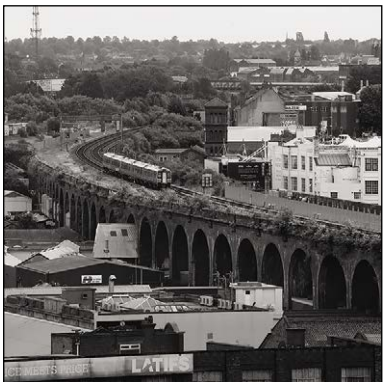
12F: The Priory Queensway © Ed Brown



13D: Poundland, Bull Street © Wali Taylor



13E: Dale End © Wali Taylor



13F: Car Park, Dale End © Dave Allen



14D: Martineau Way © Barry Whitehead



14E: New Meeting Street © Jay Mason-Burns



14F: Albert Street / Moor Street © Jay Mason-Burns



15D: Off High Street © Jay Mason-Burns



15E: Primark, High Street © Jay Mason-Burns



15F: Moor Street Station © Abigail Wills

PARK STREET AREA, HS2 SITE



12G: Moor Street Queensway © Jay Mason-Burns



12H: Near Hive, Park Street © Karen Allen



12I: Eastside City Park © Dave Allen



13G: Moor Street Queensway © Ed Brown



13H: HS2, Park Street © Karen Allen



13I: HS2, off New Canal Street © Dave Allen



14G: HS2, off Park Street © Wali Taylor



14H: HS2, off Fazeley Street © Dave Allen



14I: New Bartholomew Street © Nayson Ratcliffe



15G: Park Street © Dave Allen



15H: New Bartholomew Street © Dave Allen



15I: Latif's car park © Simon McCreery

CURZON STREET, FAZELEY STREET, HS2 SITE



12J : Curzon Street Station © David Moore



12K: HS2 Site, off Curzon Street © Jay Mason-Burns



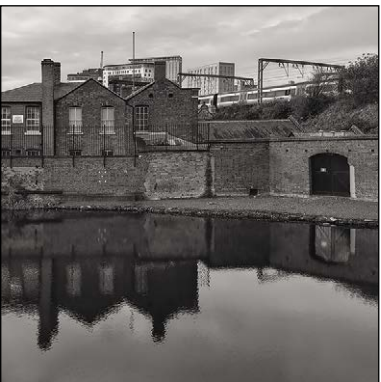
12L: HS2 Site, off Curzon Street © Eugene Farrell



13J: Banbury Street © Phil Lumby



13K: HS2, off Banbury Street © Wali Taylor



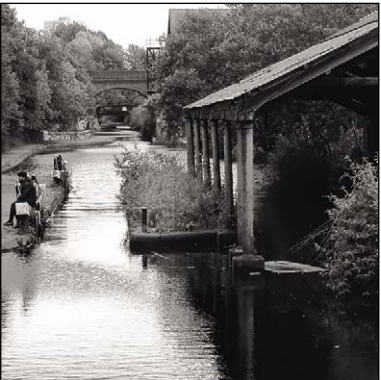
13L: Railway, near HS2 Site © Teresa Dolan



14J: Fazeley Street © Ed Brown



14K: Fazeley Street, near canal © Abigail Wills



14L: Grand Union Canal © Ian Bone



15J: Benacre Drive © Dave Allen



15K: Pickford Street © John Hill



15L: Fazeley Street © John Hill

HS2 SITE, WASTE DEPOTS, MONTAGUE STREET AREA



12M: HS2 Site, off Curzon Street © Abigail Wills



12N: HS2 Site, off Curzon Street © Wali Taylor



12O: City Clean Gas, Montague Street © Wali Taylor



13M: SITA depot, near canal © Wali Taylor



13N: Waste depot Montague Street © Steve Cooper



13O: Montague Street © Wali Taylor



14M: SITA Depot, Montague Street © Wali Taylor



14N: River Rea, in waste depot © Abigail Wills



14O: Montague Street © Jay Mason-Burns



15M: Grand Union Canal © Abigail Wills

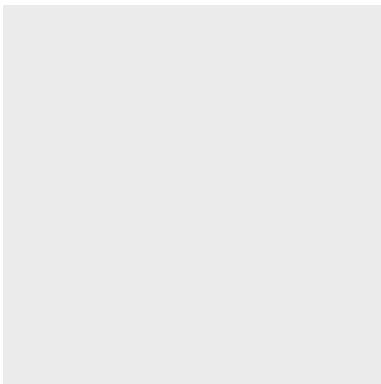
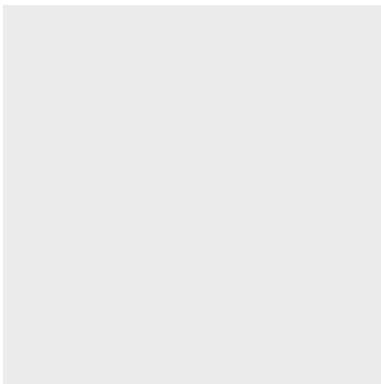
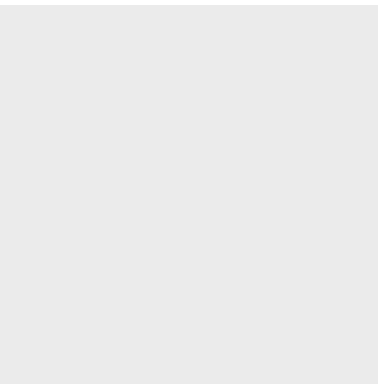


15N: Waste depot, Montague Street © Ed Brown

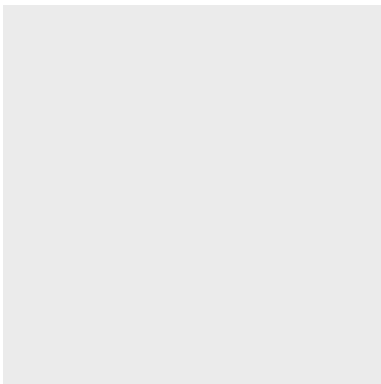
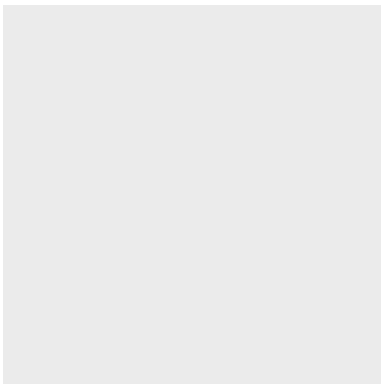


15O: Works, Montague Street © Ed Brown

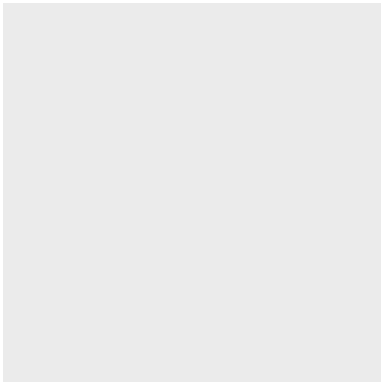
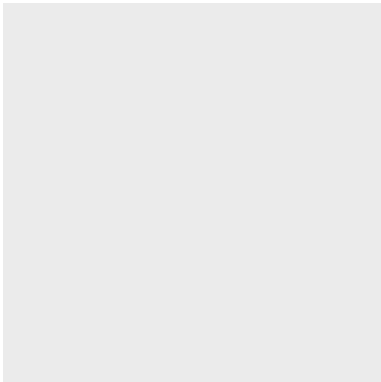
LAWLEY MIDDLEWAY AREA



13P: Lawley Middleway © Simon McCreery



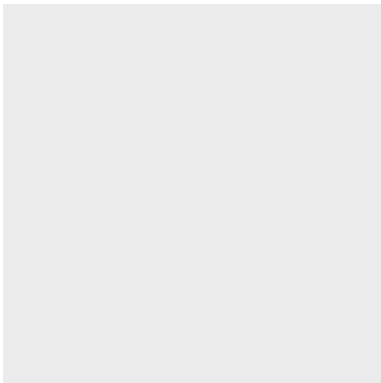
14P: Mercedes, Lawley Middleway © Steve Cooper



15P: Great Barr Street © Wali Taylor



15Q: Watery Lane Middleway © Ed Brown



NEW STREET STATION AREA



16A: New Street Station © Jay Mason-Burns



16B: New Street Station © Brian Burnett



16C: New Street Station © Jay Mason-Burns



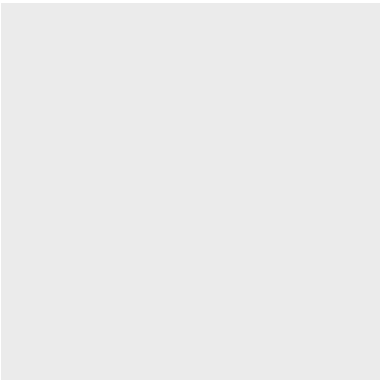
17A: New Street Station © Bruce Sabin



17B: New Street Station © Dave Allen



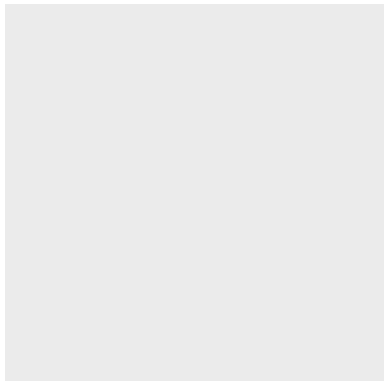
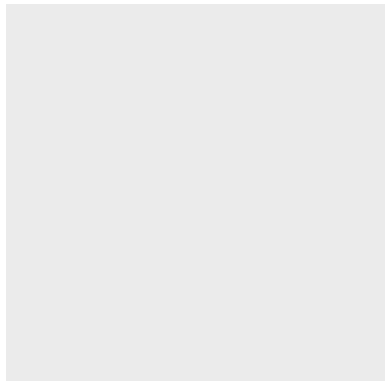
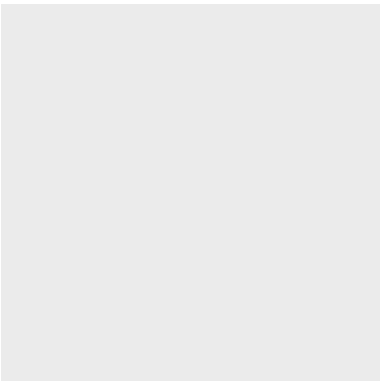
17C: Smallbrook Queensway © Jay Mason-Burns



18B: Hinckley Street © Jay Mason-Burns



18C: Smallbrook Queensway © Ed Brown



THE BULLRING AREA



16D: The Rotunda © Dave Allen



16E: The Bullring © Karen Allen



16F: The Bullring © Barry Whitehead



17D: The Bullring © Jackie Hodgson



17E: The Bullring © Barry Whitehead



17F: Bullring car park entrance © Ed Brown



18D: Birmingham Indoor Market © Brian Burnett



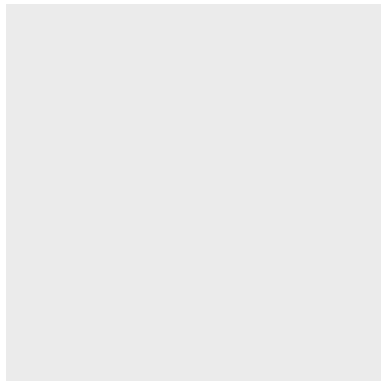
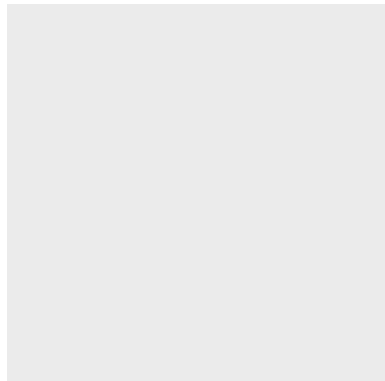
18E: Birmingham Rag Market © Georgie Evans



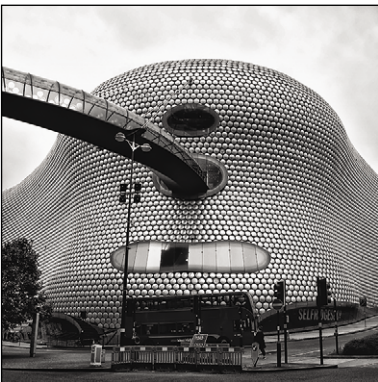
18F: Moat Lane, Upper Dean Street © Dave Allen



19D: Market, Upper Dean Street © Georgie Evans



COVENTRY STREET, DIGBETH AREA



16G: Moor Street / Park Street © Barry Whitehead



16H: Shaw's Passage © James Allen



16I: Meriden Street © Jay Mason-Burns



17G: Well Lane, car park © Simon McCreery



17H: Coventry Street © Barry Whitehead



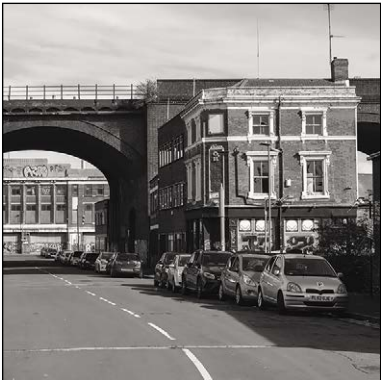
17I: Coventry Street © John Hill



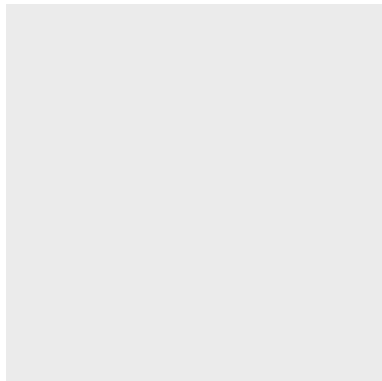
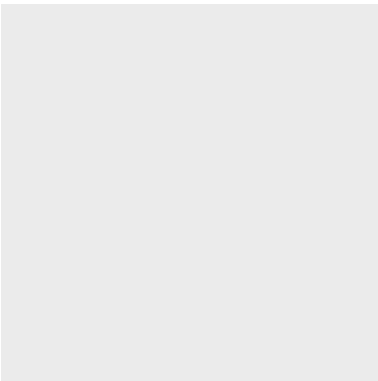
18G: Digbeth © Karen Allen



18H: Meriden Street © Barry Whitehead



18I: Oxford Street © John Hill



19I: Digbeth, near Rea Street © Mark Jackson

CHILTERN LINE VIADUCT AREA



16J: Bordesley Street © Prue Evans



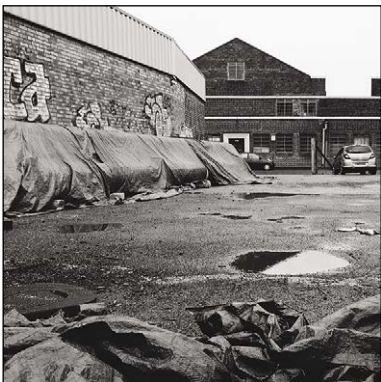
16K: Off Pickford Street © Dave Allen



16L: Barn Street © Ed Brown



17J: Trent Street © Derek Robbins



17K: Car park, Milk Street © Afraa Din



17L: Little Ann Street © Jay Mason-Burns



18J: Coventry Street © Jackie Hodgson



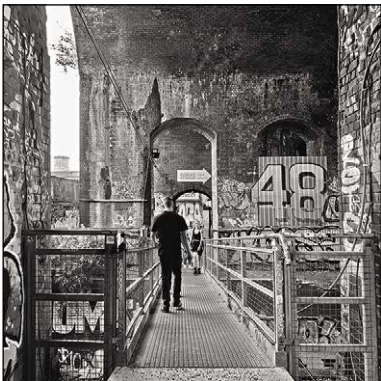
18K: Milk Street © Phil Lumby



18L: Floodgate Street © Abigail Wills



19J: College, Milk Street © Karen Allen



19K: Floodgate Street © Eugene Farrell



19L: Gibb Street © Dave Allen

DISUSED VIADUCT AREA, LIVERPOOL STREET



16M: Fazeley Street © Jackie Hodgson



16N: Digbeth Branch Canal © Ron Carter



16O: Great Barr Street © Barry Whitehead



17M: Floodgate Street © Karen Allen



17N: Heath Mill Lane © John Hill



17O: Liverpool Street © Abigail Wills



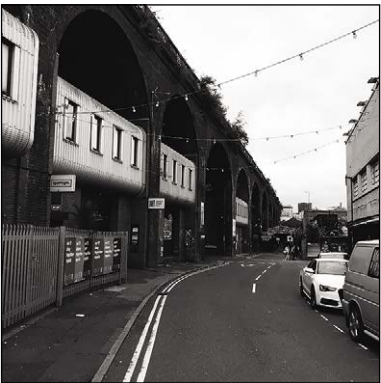
18M: Heath Mill Lane © Karen Allen



18N: Disused viaduct, Allcock Street © Ed Brown



18O: Bus garage, Liverpool Street © Phil Lumby



19M: Lower Trinity Street © Phil Lumby



19N: Bromley Street © Derek Robbins



19O: Liverpool Street / Allcock Street © Teresa Dolan

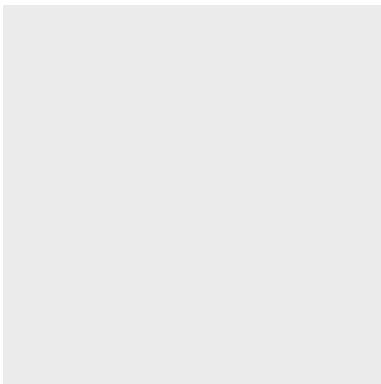
GLOVER STREET, WATERY LANE AREA



16P: Palmer Street, by works yard © Mark Jackson



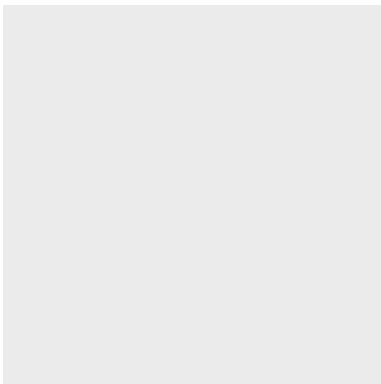
16Q: Watery Lane Middleway © Steve Cooper



17P: Glover Street © Jay Mason-Burns



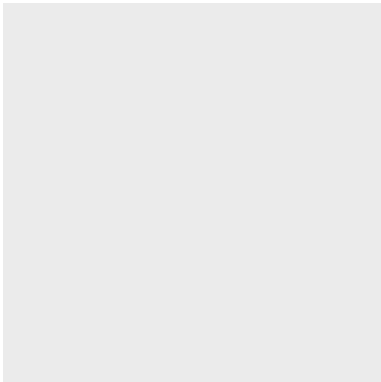
17Q: Westley Street © Jay Mason-Burns



18P: Grand Union Canal © Ron Carter



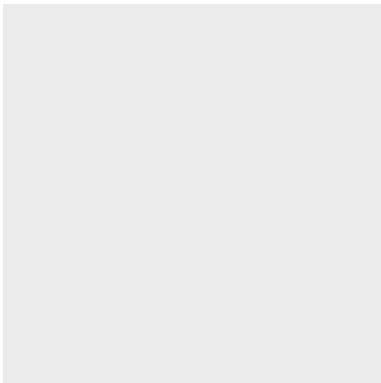
18Q: Grand Union Canal © John Hill



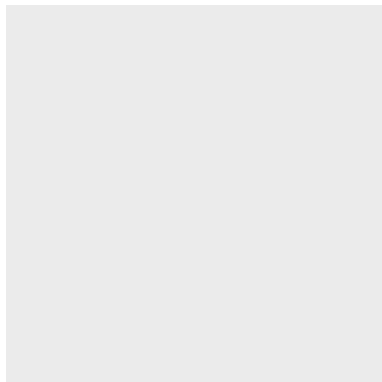
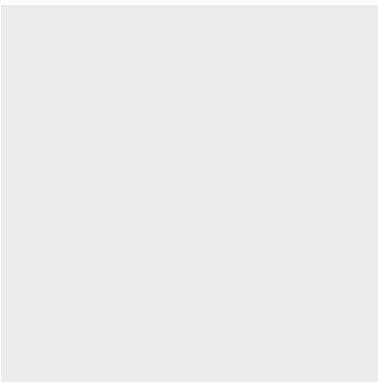
19P: Bus depot, Adderley Street © Abigail Wills



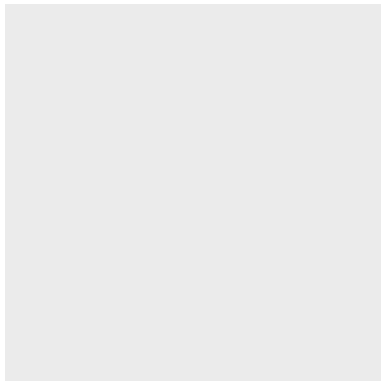
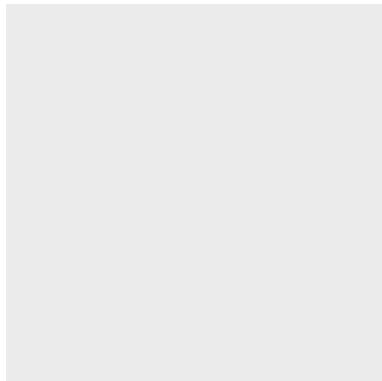
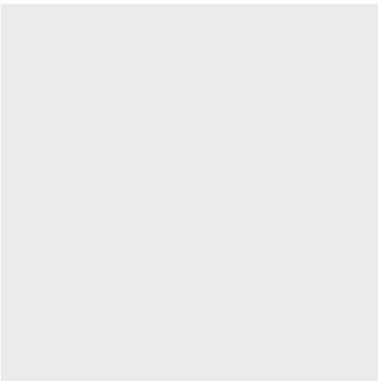
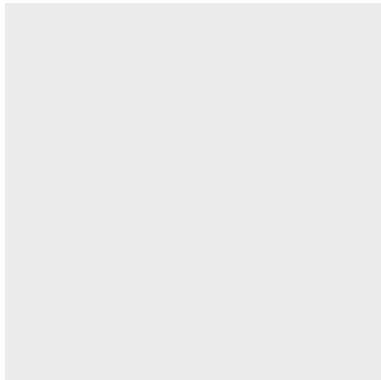
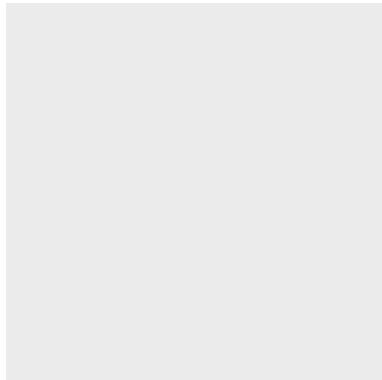
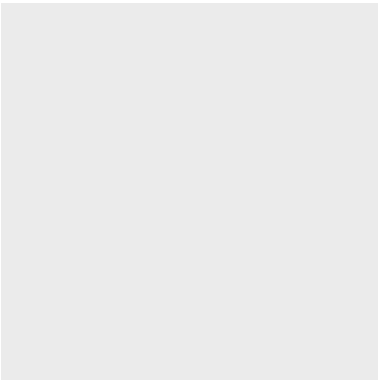
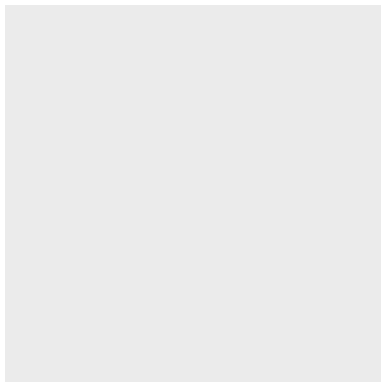
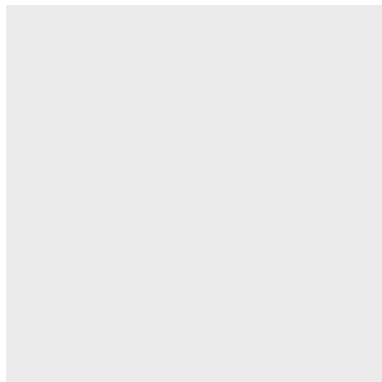
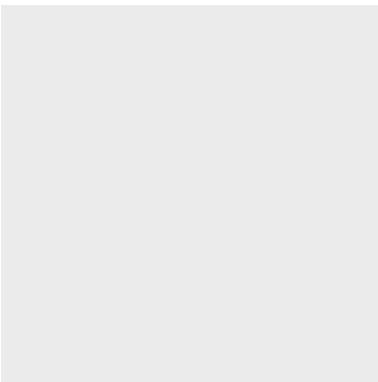
19Q: Glover Street © Ed Brown



DERITEND



20L: High Street Deritend © Ron Carter



DERITEND, HIGH STREET BORDESLEY



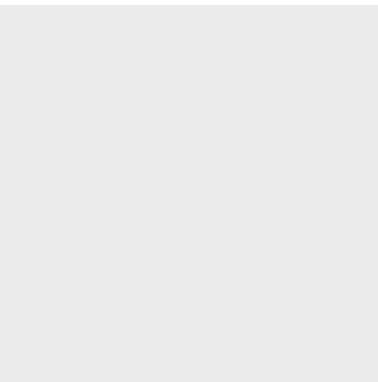
20M: High Street Deritend © Robyn Allen



20N: Adderley Street © Barry Whitehead



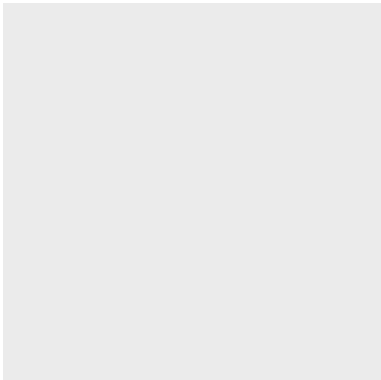
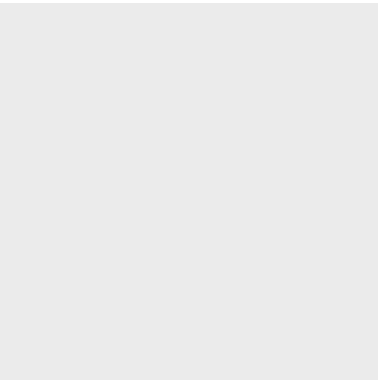
20O: Aston House, Adderley Street © Ed Brown



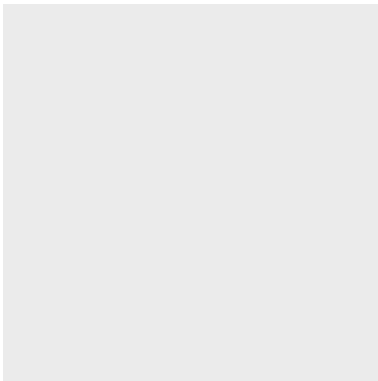
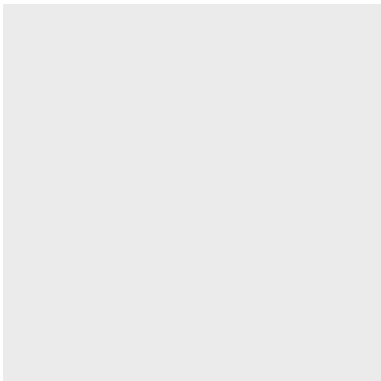
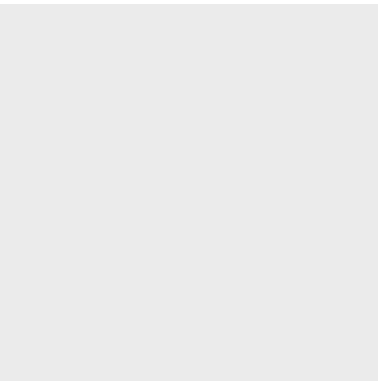
21N: High Street Bordesley © John Hill



21O: Upper Trinity Street © Phil Lumby



22O: High Street Bordesley © Phil Lumby





20P: Bus depot, Adderley Street © Jay Mason-Burns



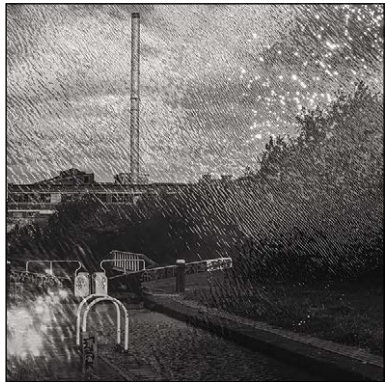
20Q: New Bond Street © Derek Robbins



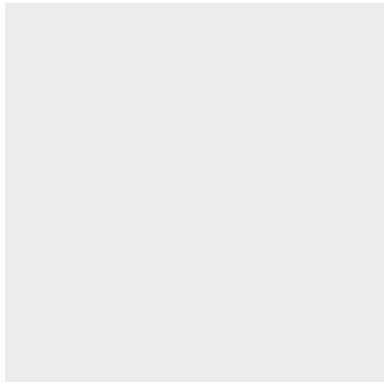
20R: Watery Lane Middleway © John Hill



21P: Bowyer Street © Eugene Farrell



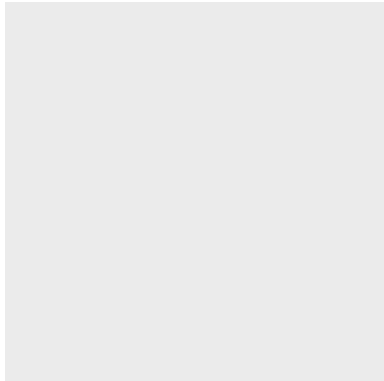
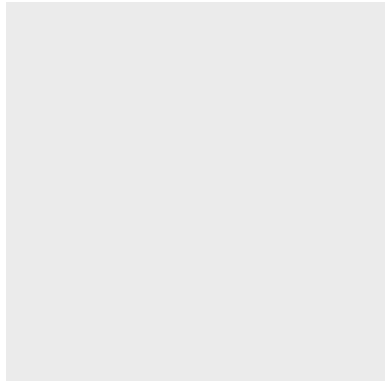
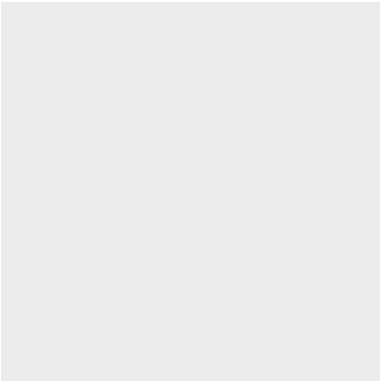
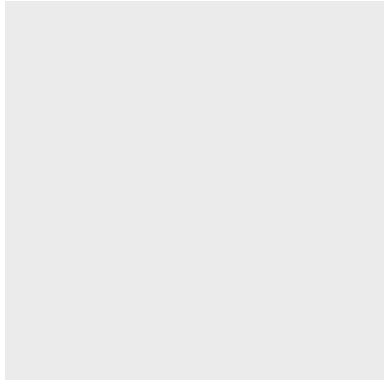
21Q: Grand Union Canal © Jay Mason-Burns



22P: Off Upper Trinity Street © Phil Lumby



22Q: GU Canal / Coventry Road © Simon McCreery



GALLERY

DARTMOUTH CIRCUS (11)

ED BROWN



Eastside's most northerly point. I've driven around Dartmouth Circus countless times and always found it to be fairly unpleasant. It's big and the traffic is often heavy with drivers jostling for position. Standing at the side of the roundabout makes it seem even bigger: the ring road is huge. It locks the city centre in and is a stark reminder of the city's unapologetic love affair with the motor car.

Standing at the side of this giant roundabout it's clear that the motor vehicle still reigns supreme with pedestrians being forced below the roads via a series of underpasses. One day I'll head back here to explore the inner sanctum of Dartmouth Circus, although I probably won't go on my own.

BIRMINGHAM & FAZELEY CANAL, OFF MILL STREET (21)

RON CARTER



A view near to Mill Street, lovely canal architecture, with the Aston Expressway traffic just a few yards away. This is Aston Junction, where the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal meets the Digbeth Branch Canal. The cast iron 'Roving Bridge' is dated 1828 and is Grade II listed.

THE WHITE WATERLINKS CURL, DARTMOUTH MIDDLEWAY (2J)

BRIAN BURNETT



This location is situated on the central reservation that divides the clockwise and anti-clockwise lanes of the Dartmouth Middleway, approximately 100 metres south from Dartmouth Circus. The Waterlinks name was coined for part of the Heartlands redevelopment scheme in the late 1980s, a Government initiative to regenerate decayed industrial areas to the east and north-east of the city centre. Sited on the Middle Ring Road, its name derives from its location along the Birmingham & Warwick Junction Canal and the Birmingham & Fazeley Canal. *White Curl* is a metal sculpture made by Suzi Gregory in 1993 to mark the gateway to Heartlands.¹ Waterlinks House is now the home of the King Solomon International Business School.²

(1) William Dargue's - A History of Birmingham Places and Placenames A to Z. (2) Wikipedia

GRAND UNION CANAL, DIGBETH BRANCH (3I)

JOHN TIMMINS



This shows the Aston Junction of the Birmingham and Fazeley and Digbeth Branch Canals. The Matalan sign shows the location of Dartmouth Circus and the bridge can be seen in the photo of location 2I on the previous page.

The grid point location was directly opposite from where I photographed this view. According to the map there was a walkway down to a small square with a couple of benches. However, as I walked to the grid point it was fenced off. I heard the unmistakeable chug-chug of a Perkins diesel engine behind me, so I just had to wait for the narrow boat to be where I wanted it to be.

PREMIER TRADING ESTATE, DARTMOUTH MIDDLEWAY (3J)

ED BROWN



I took a long time to work out what I wanted from this point and decided that a shot across the Middleway was it. These parts of the city have a very transient feel to them, everyone passing through and no one stopping. There was something rather lonely about being here on a cold December day.

PREMIER TRADING ESTATE, DARTMOUTH MIDDLEWAY (3J)

DAVE ALLEN



Faceless. The Loomis building is situated on Dartmouth Middleway, about 200 metres from Dartmouth Circus. There are no signs on it. It faces the dual carriageway to the 'front' and the other side runs along the canal. Behind the hedges and out of view is the entrance, a doorway enclosed in a steel-barred cage. This feature is no surprise as Loomis is 'a global network of secure cash handling facilities with a substantial fleet of armoured vehicles.'¹ The atmosphere on this little stretch of the middle ring road, the outer edge of what we've defined as Eastside, is modern, vehicle-focused and a place where people pass-through if they're not at work.

(1) About Loomis. <https://www.loomis.co.uk/about>. Accessed 4.10.20.

ASTON UNIVERSITY (4H)
BRIAN BURNETT



Holders only. This location is situated on the northern edge of the Aston University campus and is bordered by the Aston Expressway and Enterprise Way. This triangle of land is quite desolate and is currently being used as a university car park which on this day in July 2020 was virtually empty. As regards future plans for this site, a document dated June 2020 explains all. “An animated and active gateway into the city centre, the mixed-use destination will provide an anchor drawing people into and through the campus. A place for people to work, live and play, this dynamic neighbourhood will help to promote the campus as a key city destination”.¹

(1) <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/about/estates/documents/aston-university-campus-masterplan-issue-1-02.06.2020.pdf>

ASTON UNIVERSITY (6H)
DARREN CAMPBELL



The photo was taken from the sixth floor of the east wing of Aston University main building, looking towards the corner of the road where Woodcock Street meets Lister Street. The area has a rich history associated with the gun trade and up until the late 19th century the whole area seen in this shot would have been a typical Victorian mixture of housing, pubs and workshops. The white building located next to the Sacks of Potatoes was originally built as the Delicia Cinema in 1923. It has also been a BBC studio, home to the Birmingham Arts Lab and the Triangle Cinema. Only the frontage of the original building remains now and this was formerly a bookstore before Aston University redeveloped it and added the European Bioenergy Research Institute to the rear. The site of the Aston University Student Union building can be seen in the left foreground of the shot. This building was demolished in 2020 as a new Student Union building had been erected in 2019 nearby on the campus.

WOODCOCK STREET, GOSTA GREEN (6I)

PRUE EVANS



These are two iconic landmarks of the Aston University campus: the Sacks of Potatoes pub, that den of iniquity for Sunday drinking, and behind it the delightful former cinema which showed art and alternative film.

DIGBETH BRANCH CANAL (6K)

PETE DAVIES



The buildings that surround the Digbeth Branch Canal are ultra-modern, but this beautiful short (2 km) stretch of canal is not to be intimidated. The Digbeth Branch Canal (1799) connects the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal at Aston Junction with the Grand Union Canal at Warwick Bar (itself a conservation area). My grid point was right next to Heneage Street Bridge. Birmingham History Forums suggest Heneage Street was lined with back-to-back housing until redevelopment in the inter-war years.¹

(1) Birmingham History Forum. <https://birminghamhistory.co.uk/>

FIRE STATION, CORPORATION STREET (7G)
MARINA BRODIE



This location is on the drill ground inside the former Central Fire Station and directly below the landing of my old flat where I lived when my husband was stationed here in the late 70s to early 80s. It is Grade II Listed and was transformed into student accommodation in 2015.

“Designed by Herbert Humphries and Herbert J. Manzoni, when it opened back in 1935, it was both a fire station and a fire service headquarters. Not only did it have the latest in fire fighting tech but it also had living quarters, recreation rooms and schools for the families of the fire fighters and senior officers.”⁽¹⁾

(1) <https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/homes-and-property/first-look-inside-birminghams-old-9102656>

ASTON BUSINESS SCHOOL (7I)
KAY EMBLEN-PERRY



After everyone has gone. I visited Aston Business School and Conference Centre on a Saturday when it was empty. It felt like everyone had just upped and left and the building was waiting to be useful again. Located just north of Jennens Road it is just a short walk from the city centre.

WOODCOCK STREET (7J)
CHRISTINE WRIGHT



The glossy new Birmingham City Council (Public Health) building dwarfs the Sacks of Potatoes pub, well known to generations of Aston University students.

ASHTED CIRCUS (7L)
WALI TAYLOR



Ashted Circus is a busy junction on the Birmingham Middle Ring Road. Until 2018 it was a roundabout (or as we prefer to say in Brum, an island) with a series of underpasses to make crossing the road easier.

The council redeveloped it and now it is a traffic light controlled crossroads that takes a lot longer to cross on foot but at least you get to keep your wallet. One day the city architects will realise that the name Ashted Circus is no longer applicable and rename it.

ASTON UNIVERSITY (8H)
SIMON McCREERY



I have always loved these banners for the work that Aston University does. This is on the side of the Library. The face spreads hope in all of our futures.

The Library was designed by Sir Basil Spence, Glover and Ferguson between 1972-75 and opened in 1975. In 2010 and 2013 it underwent major refurbishments. The Library now contains over 148,000 volumes, with access to 120,000 journals (electronic and print) and 179,000 e-books across all subject areas.¹

(1) <https://discover.libraryhub.jisc.ac.uk/about/libraries/aston-university.html>

ASTON UNIVERSITY (8I)
MAX WATTS



This photograph was taken on the corner of the passageway adjacent to the University of Aston Day Hospital, opposite the passageway to the Martin Luther King Multi-Faith Centre at Aston University.



This point sits on the pedestrian walkway between the halls of residence of Aston University campus.

I chose to point my camera away from this impersonal box construction to the warm brickwork and craftsmanship of the Methodist Central Hall across the road, its rooms now home to the city's pigeons and small saplings which grow from it's lofty tower.



Freshers' Week. I had visited this location at least three times previously and discarded my photos as they did not tell us much about 2020 and I knew there would be a story to tell during Aston University Freshers' Week.

There were a few students about getting ready for the academic year and this desk was set up in the middle of the campus right next to my grid location. I had a word with the students and police officer on the 'Auntie Aston' desk and explained the Grid Project to them and they were fine with having a photo taken.

JENNENS ROAD (9J)

DAVE ALLEN



For me, the most archetypal view of the Rotunda as you approach town is the one from Digbeth. Yet the view along Jennens Road also does the building justice: it seems to rise with a certain majesty from the buildings below it. "By 1993, when there was a serious proposal to demolish the Rotunda, along with flattening the entire Bullring, Birmingham discovered a soft spot for its alien invader and petitioned to save it: in 2000 English Heritage made it a Grade II listed building." ¹ Personally I thought James Roberts' original was more likeable - more pure in its geometry. But it needed a refurb and I'm so glad it's still there as a significant symbol of Birmingham.

(1) KENNEDY. M. 2008. *Birmingham's Rotunda scrubs up well*. The Guardian. Accessed 22.12.20. <<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2008/may/15/architecture>>

HOWE STREET (9K)

PRUE EVANS



This view is across the car park on the corner of Howe Street and Jennens Road - zoomed in on a facade of a building supported by all this scaffolding. The building is on Belmont Row, currently closed due to the construction work. The historic facade behind the scaffolding will be kept, fronting a modern structure. I loved this geometric patterning.

GRAND UNION CANAL (9M)

IAN BONE



Old = curvy bricks/stone & nature vs New = square, concrete/glass & sterile. This is in the area of the Eastside Locks development. The older building behind the tree is the Lock Keepers Cottage (34 Belmont Row). It is a 19th century narrow fronted house which sits opposite the canal bridge. It was occupied right up until development started as part of Birmingham City Council's Big City Plan, which led to significant regeneration of the Eastside of the city.¹

(1) <http://www.birminghamconservationtrust.org/2013/01/11/the-friday-photo-the-lock-keepers-cottage/>

DALTON STREET (10F)

GREG MASON



This view looks down Dalton Street with the dilapidated Methodist Central Hall on the left and at the student residence buildings on the edge of Aston University Campus that replaced the three tower blocks that were built in the early 1970s.

When the Methodist Central Hall ceased to be used for worship, it became the location for the legendary Que Club where Bowie played a secret gig on August 1st 1997. The future use of the building is currently uncertain - various schemes have come and gone - and the fabric of the building is starting to look a little worse for wear.

ASTON STUDENT VILLAGE (10G)

ALEX WALDRON



The location for this shot was in a locked area, a courtyard for student residences on the edge of the Student Village. It was a very quiet Sunday afternoon. The only signs of potential life were the bikes.

COLESHILL STREET (10H)

ABIGAIL WILLS



Fog. I set off early to avoid the traffic and students. Visibility on the way there was limited and I am amazed I could find my way. The fog still had not cleared so, not to waste a journey, I went to have a look and took this quick shot. Eastside is well known for fog due to its number of waterways and being in a low-lying area. Perhaps the fog makes the picture?

THINKTANK, PRINCE'S STREET (10J)

PETER ALLEN



As I walked to the exact position of the grid point (which I could see was not on public land, but not fenced off either) I heard a voice say, "Hey! Mate! What are you doing?" A bloke duly appeared in overalls and we had a chat. After showing him the project notes (I always carry them with me) and explaining further, he told me that I really needed permission from his boss. He also told me that he was locking up for the night and once he'd gone home (after a long day) he didn't really care. It was about 5:30pm.

So I left to take some other grid points and when I came back, the gates were locked and I took this photo. This is another example of how Eastside is becoming more and more subjected to closed gates and fences.

THINKTANK, CAR PARK (10K)

JOHN TIMMINS



Little boxes. This grid point was in front of the Millennium Point car park. Not a problem, I thought, but the exit door opened out on to a private car park surrounded by very tall but boring buildings.

I took a few steps into the car park, turned round and found the outside of the car park had a very interesting exterior. Being of a certain age it reminded me of the hit Pete Seeger had in 1963, *Little Boxes*.

LAWLEY MIDDLEWAY (10N)

JERRY TEW



The White Tower is an Arts and Crafts influenced 1930s pub with strong associations with both the Irish community and Birmingham City supporters. It is currently called Moriarty's in honour of previous landlords Tom and Mary Moriarty who, I believe, lost their licence in 2016 after Blues fans used this as a base for an intended ambush of Villa fans after a derby game at St Andrews.

CORPORATION STREET (11E)

KAREN ALLEN



When I took this photograph I was standing in the road opposite Pitman House. Knowing that Bruce Sabin had already photographed that iconic building (see overleaf), I pointed my camera down Corporation Street to capture this image, which includes several listed buildings: The Victoria Law Courts (Grade I listed), The Old Fire Station (Grade II listed, now student accommodation) and the Methodist Central Hall (Grade II* Listed).

The sun was just beginning to light up these amazing structures giving them a beautiful glow and picking out the colour in the red brick, which I think enhances the view hugely.

CORPORATION STREET (11E)

BRUCE SABIN



Pitman building facade. Built 1896-97, this is a Grade II* listed Arts and Crafts inspired Victorian building by Crouch and Butler. It is a single architectural composition but of two different purposes: a shop/warehouse for A.R. Dean, manufacturer of furniture for Crouch and Butler's exclusive houses around Birmingham, and a vegetarian restaurant with hotel above. It is named after Sir Isaac Pitman (1813-1897), the developer of shorthand, who was then vice-president of the Vegetarian Society. The restaurant was still open in 1930 and was frequented by Mahatma Gandhi when he visited the city during the Indian Independence Campaign. On the elaborate Queen Anne Revival facade is a band of carved reliefs by Benjamin Creswick (1853-1946). He was a follower of John Ruskin and teacher at the Birmingham Municipal Art School nearby. The carvings depict carpenters and diners.

JENNENS ROAD (11H)

DARREN CAMPBELL



This shot was taken from Jennens Road, outside Matthew Boulton College, and looking towards Dale End. The pile of rubble in the centre of the image was Aston University's Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry building. The building occupied a space between Coleshill Street, James Watt Queensway and Jennens Road. The building was demolished in 2019/2020 to make way for a fifty-one storey tower block on this site, which when erected will be the tallest building in Birmingham. There is evidence that Coleshill Street dates back to the 1400s and its name must be linked to the nearby town. James Watt Queensway and Jennens Road are much newer roads and were developed as part of Herbert Manzoni's ring road plans for Birmingham. James Watt Queensway is obviously named after the Scottish engineer. Jennens Road is named after the Jennens family who were important in the growth of Birmingham during the industrial revolution. It is thought that the fictional case of Jarndyce vs Jarndyce from Dickens' Bleak House was based on a court case that the Jennens family were involved in.

JENNENS ROAD (11H)

WALI TAYLOR



The biggest problem with this location is access, due to Birmingham's ever changing and chaotic road system. I looked at the detailed map and realised that HS2 had closed most of Park Street, and some roads shown going through the University no longer existed as depicted. It is simplicity itself to drive into a bus lane and get a fine so I decided to park a mile away in Gosta Green and walk.

Once at the location there is plenty that justifies a photo but I am a Brummie and as such have an obsession with the Rotunda. Also shown is St. Michael's Catholic Church (often referred to as the Italian Church in the 19th century). The rough square outside of it is now the location of a huge operation every night by the Sikh community to feed hundreds of those among us who are enduring hard times.

GROSVENOR STREET (11I)

WALI TAYLOR



I love this view and it was quite unexpected when I chose the grid point towards the end of the project. The juxtaposition of Millennium Point and Curzon Street Station is nice but I love the redundant DP (Telephone pole) without any wires but still proudly standing above Digbeth.

MILLENNIUM POINT (11K)
MALCOLM VEITCH



This is taken just outside Millennium Point at Eastside City Park. I liked the trees lining the water and the reflections.

The Millennium Point building contains several spaces, including a 354-seat auditorium (formerly a giant screen IMAX cinema), Birmingham Science Museum, Birmingham School of Acting and Birmingham City University's Faculty of Computing, Engineering and The Built Environment. The building was opened in 2001.¹

(1) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Millennium_Point,_Birmingham

EASTSIDE CITY PARK (11L)
ED BROWN



I used to be a car park. This bit of land, adjacent to Millennium Point, used to be a car park before the Parkside Building and the 6.75 acre Eastside City Park were developed. The park was designed by landscape architect Allain Provost and was opened to the public on 5 December 2012 at a cost of £11.75 million.

The Parkside Building was designed by Associate Architects for Birmingham City University, opened in 2013 and now houses the Faculty of Arts, Design and Media (ADM).

CURZON STREET (11M)
MAX WATTS



This photograph was taken on Curzon Street, opposite Birmingham City University, with the Digbeth Branch Canal behind the grid point to my left, the HS2 site entrance to my right and the current Curzon Street station on the corner of New Canal Street (just out of picture in this photograph).

The road is very busy with parked cars all along the route and heavy traffic heading in and out of the city centre, so I captured this image at 6am.

OFF CURZON STREET (11N)
JAY MASON-BURNS



This grid point is currently inaccessible because it sits a few metres inside the fenced-off construction site of the HS2 railway station at Curzon Street. I took a few unsatisfactory photos as close to the grid point as possible, but they just weren't doing it for me.

The Digbeth Branch Canal runs beside and beneath the construction site and, as I stood roughly parallel to the grid point, overlooking the canal, I noticed a digger parked up on the opposite side. What really drew my eye to it was how the arm of the digger almost perfectly frames the Rotunda building in the distance.

NEAR THE HIVE, PARK STREET (12H)

ABBAS HAMEER



Realising potential. What do you see in this picture? On the left I see a conundrum of technological feats, traffic lights, cars and architectural complexity. Potential. A place for growth.

This is where Aston University starts as you move north through the area. Out of shot to the left is the *Hive* complex. Student accommodation dominates the area, while in the background is the Central Hall building on Corporation Street.

EASTSIDE CITY PARK (12I)

DAVE ALLEN



Birmingham is full of reminders of its industrial heritage and in my mind this monolithic cube is one of the most powerful examples. It started out in 1838 as the Birmingham Station and was only called Birmingham Curzon Street from 1852. It was part of the London and Birmingham Railway's line to London Euston which also had an impressive entrance to its station, the Euston Arch (demolished in 1962), designed by the same architect, Philip Hardwick. The last passengers travelled from here in 1893 but it remained in use for goods for another 73 years, until 1966. The site continued in use as a Parcelforce depot until 2006. At the time of writing it is a Grade I listed building and will have a future. It will not, though, fall within the perimeter of the new HS2 station.¹

(1) Minnis.J. et al (2015) Curzon Street Station, Birmingham - Research Report Series no. 029-2015. Historic England: Portsmouth

HS2 SITE, OFF CURZON STREET (12K)

JAY MASON-BURNS



My grid point, 12K, is located within the construction site of the new station and using the Grid Project schematic map I was able to locate a position parallel to the spot. I believe this spot is more or less where one of the entrances to the new HS2 station will be once it is constructed.

At the moment it is rather dominated by the vast spoil heap made by the diggers clearing the old goods yard that used to be here. I rather liked the surreal contrast it makes behind the old wall and the shadow being cast by the street light. Happily, as I lined up to take a photo, a young man flew past on an electric scooter.

HS2 SITE, OFF CURZON STREET (12M)

ABIGAIL WILLS



Brave new world - not. How utterly sad, bleak and depressing.

This walkway bridge was accessed from the canalside walk from Curzon Street. It is blocked off as the far end descends into the HS2 site. I was able to see from the tow path that the inhabitants were absent and I didn't linger for long. It felt intrusive in a way as this, for all intents and purposes, is someone's home.

It raises many questions. Why are they homeless? How are they coping through the pandemic? Unlike my other eventful outings for the Grid Project when I returned home buoyed up, this outing left me feeling very depressed and despondent.

HS2 SITE, OFF CURZON STREET (12N)

JAMES TEW



This location was completely inaccessible due to it being surrounded by a train track on one side, and tall walls enclosing construction work taking place on the other.

Exciting stuff! Scratching up temporary partitions to reveal what is laying hidden... only to find an empty yard. Oh well, can't win them all.

HS2 SITE, OFF CURZON STREET (12N)

WALI TAYLOR



This was taken from a train journey between New Street and Coventry on March 13th 2020. It shows the foundations of the world's first locomotive turntable, unearthed during the HS2 excavations. It was built by Robert Stevenson in 1837 and was used to turn engines around or to direct them towards repair sheds in an extremely economic use of space. The design was so good it was replicated throughout the world (I was involved in the building of a turntable in Dabuka Marshalling Yards in Zimbabwe in 1982).

This spot is possibly the least accessible location on the project now that use of public transport is limited to essential use only. Although it is not on the exact spot - it is about two canal widths to the west (The Grand Union is in a tunnel beneath the railway) but it is a hundred metres closer than you can get to by any roadway.

CITY CLEAN AUTO GAS PREMISES, MONTAGUE STREET (120)

JOHN HILL



City Clean Auto Gas appears to be located within a Victorian 'Spaghetti Junction' of blue brick viaducts. Taxicabs are constantly arriving to fill up with fuel at less than half the cost of petrol.

I was drawn to the unusual arrangement of the piggy-back railway line. This was a consequence, it seems, of relocating the declining Curzon Street terminus to the higher elevation of New Street in 1854.

POUNDLAND, BULL STREET (13D)

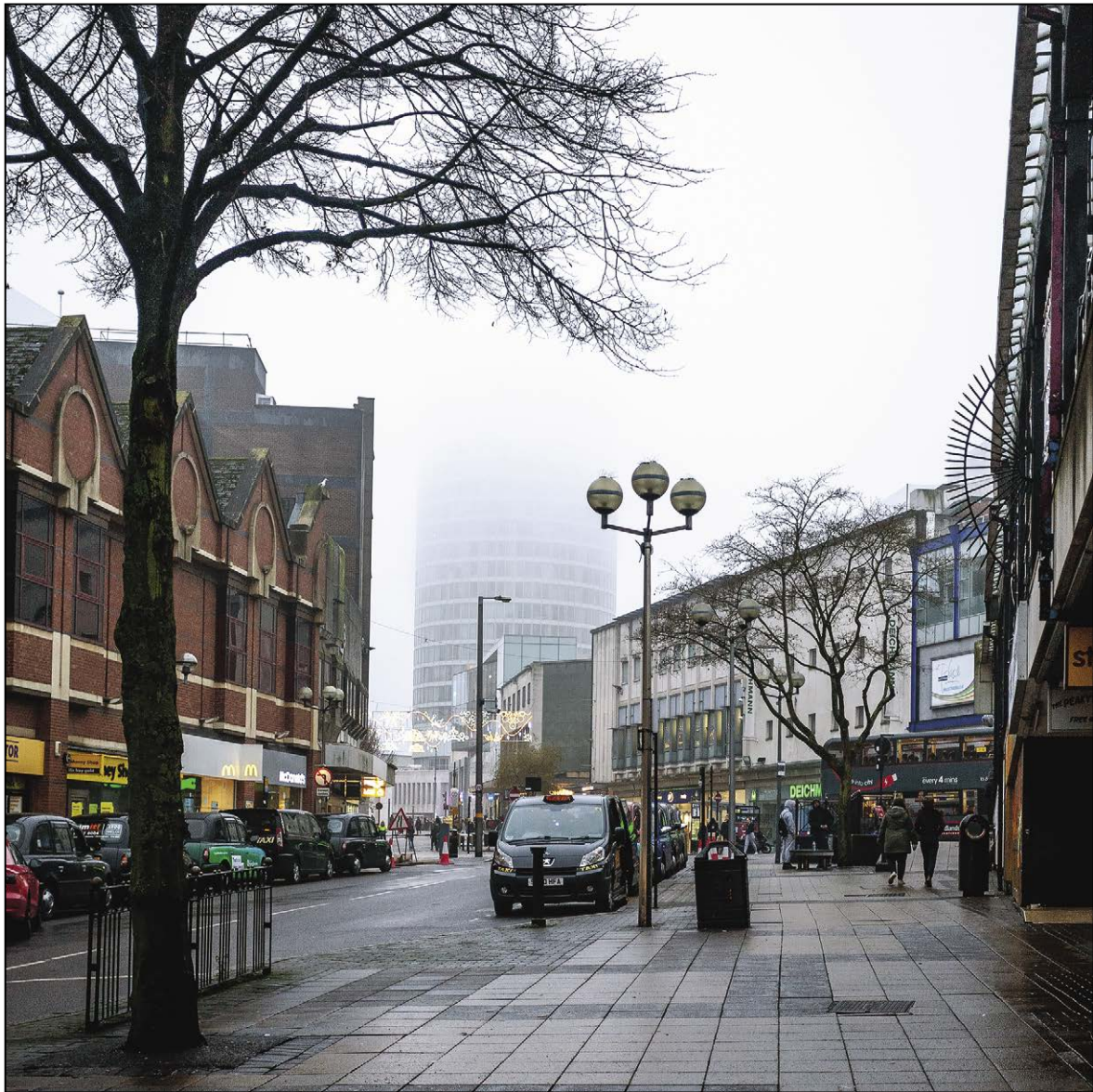
MICHAEL BELL



Vertical lines. To say it was late in December in a pandemic, the streets in town were bustling with people. This shot was taken by a closed down Poundland store in a corner of town that wasn't as hectic. I enjoyed the amount of verticality that this area had and the curvature of the tramlines in amongst this. It's tricky to see, but most of the shop fronts in the photo now lie empty due to the crippling effect that the COVID pandemic has had on the retail/hospitality sector.

DALE END, OPPOSITE ALBERT STREET (13E)

DAVID MOORE



The Rotunda. As a young boy I lived through the rebuilding of Birmingham City Centre in the 1960s. To see a round building being built in Birmingham to me was a dream come true. It was so space age, modern and so different that it completely captivated my imagination. It has been a joy to watch it grow not only as a structure, but also an iconic part of the Birmingham skyline.

I was so disappointed with the refurbishment. It took away its science fiction look and feel. Gone were the bright high tech office lights and control panels and space age looking lines. The clear windows were draped with net curtains that now give it a domestic quality that no longer engenders curiosity. But to me, it will always be there in plain sight.

HS2 SITE, OFF NEW CANAL STREET (13I)

DAVE ALLEN



This location is inside the HS2 site: New Canal Street was the nearest I could get to it, at a gateway opposite Banbury Street. The gate had a mesh and, crucially, a 'hole' where the padlock was. The hole was big enough to get the camera through if I took the lens hood off.

The view I've got looks towards the grid point location and beyond it to the city centre. Ten years ago, this wasn't a vista at all and the 2010 Eastside Grid shows photos looking away from the town centre. I think that in another 10 years the view will have closed up again so it seemed right to point my camera across the wasteland.

BANBURY STREET (13J)

PHIL LUMBY



One of the many casualties of the planned HS2 development is the Victorian public house The Eagle and Tun in Digbeth. In the 1980s it was used to film the video for *Red Red Wine* by Brummie band UB40 and in 2019 featured in a further video by musician Ed Sheeran. I visited the pub on New Year's Day 2020, four days away from its closure, pending demolition. The barman reported to me that three years earlier the owner had been assured by the authorities that the building was not at risk from the HS2 project. However, a few months ago he had been advised that the law had been changed, allowing HS2 to assume priority. When I took this photograph, at dusk, the location seemed largely desolate, with land on two sides already cordoned off for the HS2 preparation already underway. The graffiti somewhat poignantly reads 'NFA' (an abbreviation commonly used for 'No Fixed Abode' or 'Address'). However, the real writing on the wall for me was that this was the latest in a long list of historic Birmingham pubs being forced to call last orders.

BANBURY STREET (13J)

DAVE ALLEN



This point is on Banbury Street, slightly beyond the Eagle and Tun pub. But at the start of September I couldn't get to the exact point because the road had recently been blocked off. Access seems to change every time I go to do a shoot. (See Phil Lumby's monochrome version, opposite, for the view that is exactly on the location).

There were several scaffolding workers busy at it. They didn't mind me taking photos of them at work, but I should have asked them what was going on. The signs said 'demolition site' but I'd heard rumours that perhaps this was not the case, given the care being taken with the building. A suggestion I'd seen was that the brickwork was being reclaimed. I could have selected a wide view of the building, but chose this one because it includes demolition work, HS2 fencing, closed access, the railways and the Bullring.

HS2 SITE, OFF BANBURY STREET(13K)

WALI TAYLOR



Work is proceeding on the Curzon Street site with the 1843 turntable currently being excavated. Unfortunately location 13K is some 50 metres short of that so my best photo was of this digger doing preparatory work for the station. Being taken from a moving train it is far from perfect.

HS2 SITE, NEAR DIGBETH BRANCH CANAL (13L)

JERRY TEW



Bit of a lucky one. On my last train journey from London into Birmingham before lockdown, I was able to get this shot from my mobile through the window looking over the HS2 site - including where Birmingham City University's newly built halls of residence had now been demolished after only a few year's use.

HS2 SITE, NEAR DIGBETH BRANCH CANAL (13L)

TERESA DOLAN



The exact location for this photo is inaccessible, due to the canal and the railway embankment next to the lines. However, with the help of a footbridge you can at least see some of the trains passing along these lines every few minutes. The building to the left of the photo is the rear of the Gun Barrel Proof House.

SITA DEPOT, NEAR DIGBETH BRANCH CANAL (13M)

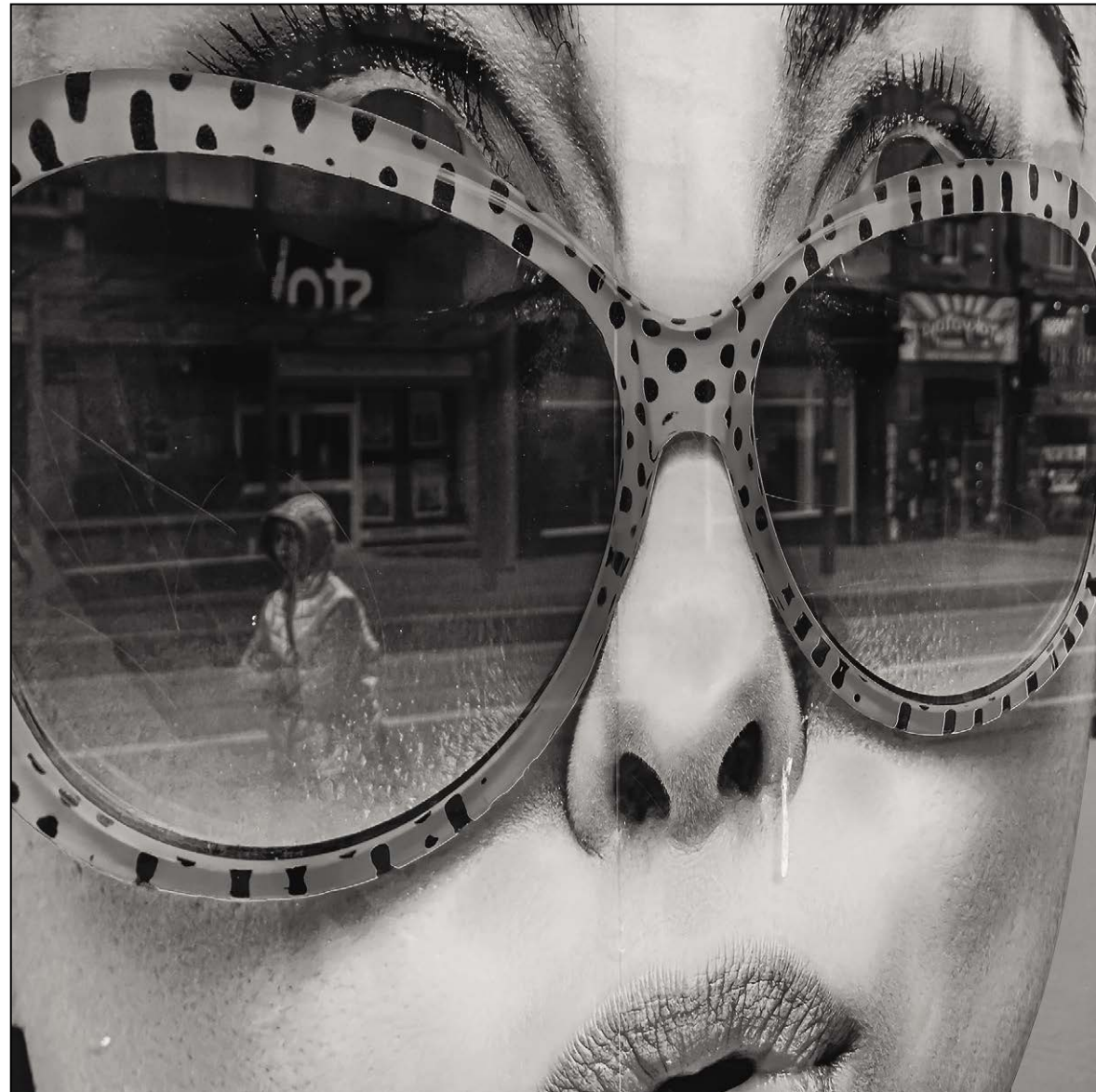
MALCOLM VEITCH



This grid location is inaccessible and the nearest available spot was in the canal tunnel at the end nearest to the Gun Barrel Proofing House. The vegetation beyond the tunnel was attractive and this view also had interesting diagonal lines.

CORPORATION STREET (14C)

JAY MASON-BURNS



I made a conscious choice to depict this part of Corporation Street in a different way, by looking into the windows of the shops facing the street. This was taken looking into a shop poster on the Superdrug Store, using the window reflections to create a deeper more interesting double image - real people within a poster image.

It looked like public movements were going to be restricted during the weeks and possibly months to come, so I went out on Monday (16.3.20) and grabbed three before things got real. Despite the surrounding panic of the Coronavirus and people avoiding the city centre, I was able to capture grainy shadowy people passing by quite easily, focusing on the lenses of the poster girl. I like the fact that a circular scratch on the window creates a subframe within the frame for the girl in the silver coat.

MARTINEAU WAY (14D)

MICHAEL BELL



Sale and so much more. It's strange to live in times where even the biggest of retail units have suffered such losses, but that's 2020. Being inside a fairly busy Argos store allowed me to try and encapsulate the state of affairs and the large sale sign ticked that box. The lady had just started walking by as I eyed-up the shot which further emphasises the year this was taken. I enjoy the small nod to Christmas with the purple and gold baubles hanging on the street.

NEW BARTHOLOMEW STREET (14I)

KAREN ALLEN



Right on the edge of the HS2 site on New Bartholomew Street is a derelict building covered with graffiti, a real feast for any urban photographer's eyes. As I looked through the viewfinder a homeless man exited the building. The irony of the homeless charity sign right next door wasn't lost on me.

NEW BARTHOLOMEW STREET (14I)

NAYSON RATCLIFFE



Sandwiched between the eastern approach to New Street Station and a bunch of old warehouses and factories, New Bartholomew Street is one of the lesser trodden corners of Digbeth. I found the door to this abandoned old sheet metal works wide open and headed inside. It's clearly being used as shelter by people given the amount of litter inside, especially on the ground floor, but is still in surprisingly good condition. There isn't much left of its days as a working factory and it only gets natural light, but this does mean there are some amazing shadows cast within.

NEW BARTHOLOMEW STREET (14J)

PETE DAVIES



Shot at dusk, this view takes a peek at some of the HS2 work site along Fazeley Street. The image has an old fashioned Nicklin-like look, harking back to Grid Projects past.

NEW BARTHOLOMEW STREET (14J)

ED BROWN



82 Fazeley Street. This end of Fazeley Street is pretty run down. Once you leave the fairly well trafficked area around the front of Millennium Point, you're very quickly into the quiet side streets of Digbeth. Other than a few regular haunts, I don't know this area of Birmingham that well. It's a part of the city that has never felt very well connected to the rest of the city and that it's one of those areas that had been left to rot by the city council. Until now, that is.

HS2 (agree with it or not) seems to have reinvigorated the city's regeneration efforts of the late 1990s and early 2000s around Eastside. I just hope that the area's regeneration doesn't drive up rental prices and push small businesses out of the area in favour of residential lets.

GRAND UNION CANAL (14L)

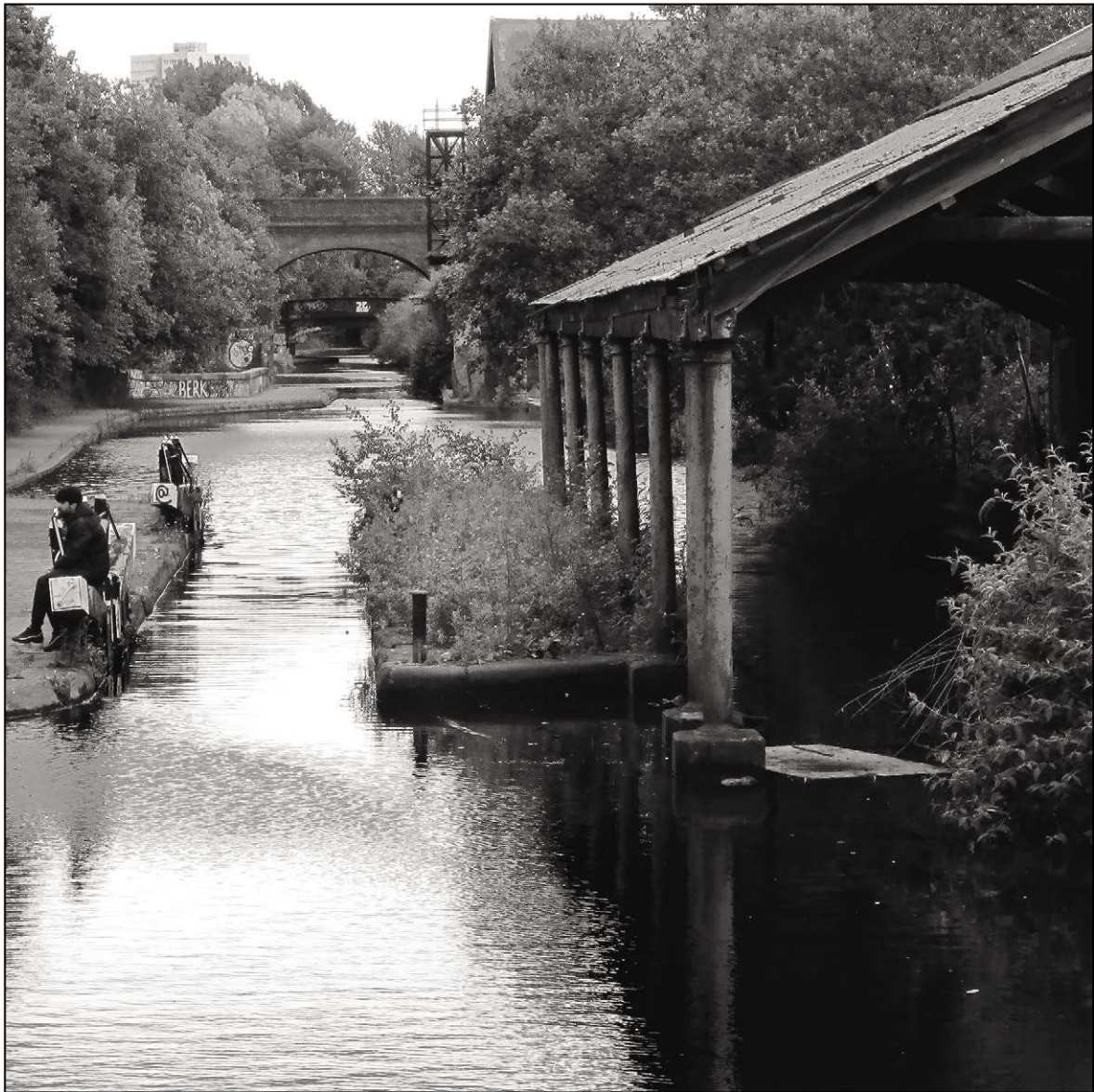
TERESA DOLAN



The most colourful view from this point - a mural created by artist Lucy McLauchlan in 2016.

GRAND UNION CANAL (14L)

IAN BONE



This location is at Warwick Bar, a conservation area at the junction of the Digbeth Branch Canal and the Grand Union Canal. This photo shows the Warwick Bar stop lock and the overhanging canopy of the Grade II listed Banana Warehouse, formerly owned by Geest.¹ The Duddeston Viaduct and the bridge on Great Barr Street are visible in the distance.

(1) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warwick_Bar#/media/File:Warwick_Bar_stop_lock_and_Banana_Warehouse.jpg

SITA DEPOT, MONTAGUE STREET (14M)
ALASDAIR TEW



This site should consist of a large building belonging to SITA Suez, a waste and recycling company, according to maps and satellite images. However upon visiting the site the building has now been demolished. Rubble, rebar and Rotunda views are all that remain. It is currently being used as a car storage area.

SITA DEPOT, MONTAGUE STREET (14M)
WALI TAYLOR



This is from the former SITA Suez Recycling administration block. The outline of the floor slab can just about be made out as nature does its best to reclaim the site.

I was surprised at the excellent view of the city centre from here. The building under construction with the crane is 103 Colmore Row which, at 26 storeys, will be Birmingham's tallest office building. It replaces John Madin's NatWest Tower.

RIVER REA, IN WASTE DEPOT (14N)

WALI TAYLOR



This is possibly one of the most dangerous locations on the B4B4HS2 project and one that does not feature in any tourist guides to Birmingham so I thought I would write one...

“A rough trail leads from the tow-path of the Digbeth Branch of The Grand Union Canal along the culverted edge of the River Rea. The path leads to a dead end featuring a bush, draped in used condoms, against a high wall. It is now so grown-over by brambles that this tourist highlight is no longer accessible. The pathway has been created over the years by rent boys and their clients along with intravenous drug users, and much evidence of this can be observed by the way of discarded syringes, burnt spoons and used prophylactics. The experience is heightened by the five-metre drop into the river as your clothing is snagged by the encroaching foliage, forcing you ever closer to the edge.”

UNION PASSAGE (15C)

GRAHAM EVANS



This was a dull day in a dull setting: Union Passage.

Everything seemed grey. The closed sandwich bar, although containing a bit of colour, just added to the sense of despair.

HIGH STREET (15D)

JAY MASON-BURNS



The location of this grid point falls within the old 'Big Top' shopping centre on High Street. Access to the site is unfortunately closed pending redevelopment. In April 1941 Birmingham was heavily bombed and many shops, including The Midland Arcade, were destroyed. Post-war a local circus, 'The Big Top', was allowed to occupy part of the site, and soon became a mainstay for the visceral thrills of live entertainment. So popular was it that it returned for nearly thirteen years, eventually making way for Brum's inevitable post-war redevelopment.¹ Many retailers have now vacated the site and the pandemic has closed most of the rest. There are plans to redesign it, allowing current residents to expand, which will inevitably close these connecting public walkways forever.²

(1) <https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/nostalgia/carl-chinn-ashes-rose-big-379290>. (2) [Wikimapia.org/1810487/Big-Top](https://www.wikimapia.org/1810487/Big-Top).

PRIMARK, HIGH STREET (15E)

ROBYN ALLEN



This point was inside the world's largest Primark. When I first walked in at the entrance opposite Moor Street Station, it felt like the world's quietest Primark. It was calm, and a security guard opened the door for me: not a privilege I'd usually associate with Primark.

However, going up the escalator to the first floor things were more as I'd imagined. There was a long queue of masked (and semi-masked) shoppers by the till just by the grid point.

PRIMARK, HIGH STREET (15E)

JAY MASON-BURNS



This is another point that unfortunately falls within a site (the Primark Megastore on High Street) that is currently inaccessible due to enforced closure in light of the second Lockdown in England.

Instead I chose to capture a simple street shot outside the megastore, focusing on a nearby telephone box but incorporating one of the shop's lockdown community signs in the background. In many ways I'm relieved that the store was closed because I find the entire Primark experience rather soul destroying.

MOOR STREET STATION (15F)

JAMES ALLEN



Passing through a familiar station when it is relatively quiet and temporary paths and barriers have sprung up is just another example of how the virus has affected daily life. There is the same purpose, but a radically altered method.

MOOR STREET STATION (15F)

ABIGAIL WILLS



I took the train. Location 15F has two levels. One at an artificial ground level at the start of the tunnel to Snow Hill Station and the lower one at the end of Platform 2, where the Hall Green train stops. Unless you use the train, most people would be unaware of the lower level.

Moor Street Station opened in 1909 in temporary buildings, the permanent buildings being completed in 1914. The 1970s saw its decline and in 1987 a new modern station was built next to it. In 2002, the old and the new stations were combined with the new building rebuilt. The whole station was remodelled in a 1930s style and is now Grade II listed. This is a funny coincidence as I feel my photograph is evocative of that period.

PARK STREET (15G)

DAVE ALLEN



The Taboo is an adult cinema club on Park Street, around 150 metres from Selfridges which is hidden behind it in this photo. It has two screens and is housed in a windowless block. It has been there for 40 years.¹ As you walk past it on the street it is virtually featureless. Its location is very central and yet it is not noticeably *there* as it is sandwiched between Moor Street Station (left) and the West Coast Main Line out of New Street (right). Subjectively I feel that you have left the city centre and entered Eastside once you've reached the Taboo Cinema Club.

(1) Roe, K. 2016. Cinema Treasures - Taboo Adult Cinema. <http://cinematreasures.org/theaters/34559>. Website. Accessed 8.7.20.

NEW BARTHOLOMEW STREET (15H)

WALI TAYLOR



One of the very oldest parts of Birmingham, the Bordesley Street area, has been occupied since the 13th century and by the mid-19th century had become to be known as Little Italy with 53 people with Italian names listed in the 1891 census. These rather grim looking houses were built in 1895 by Jethro Cossins, the same architect responsible for the imposing Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital in Edmund Street. By 1976 the buildings had been knocked through and opened as the Gay Community Centre operating up to 1978. I am unsure of their present status but they seem to be well maintained.

LATIF'S CAR PARK (15I)

SIMON McCREERY



Signs. Latif's has moved and is now located on Pickford Street. Open since 1956, it is a mine of goodies of every kind. This car park runs between New Bartholomew Street and New Canal Street and has good views toward the former Typhoo factory.

I just like markings. Stark and now redundant.

GRAND UNION CANAL / RIVER REA (15M)

HELEN LEWIS



Aqueduct. The canal narrows as it crosses the River Rea at this point. There is street art on the tow path opposite in the direction of the disused Duddeston Viaduct. Lying behind the fox graffiti is The Bond Warehouse, now a multi-purpose venue.

GREAT BARR STREET (15P)

HELEN LEWIS

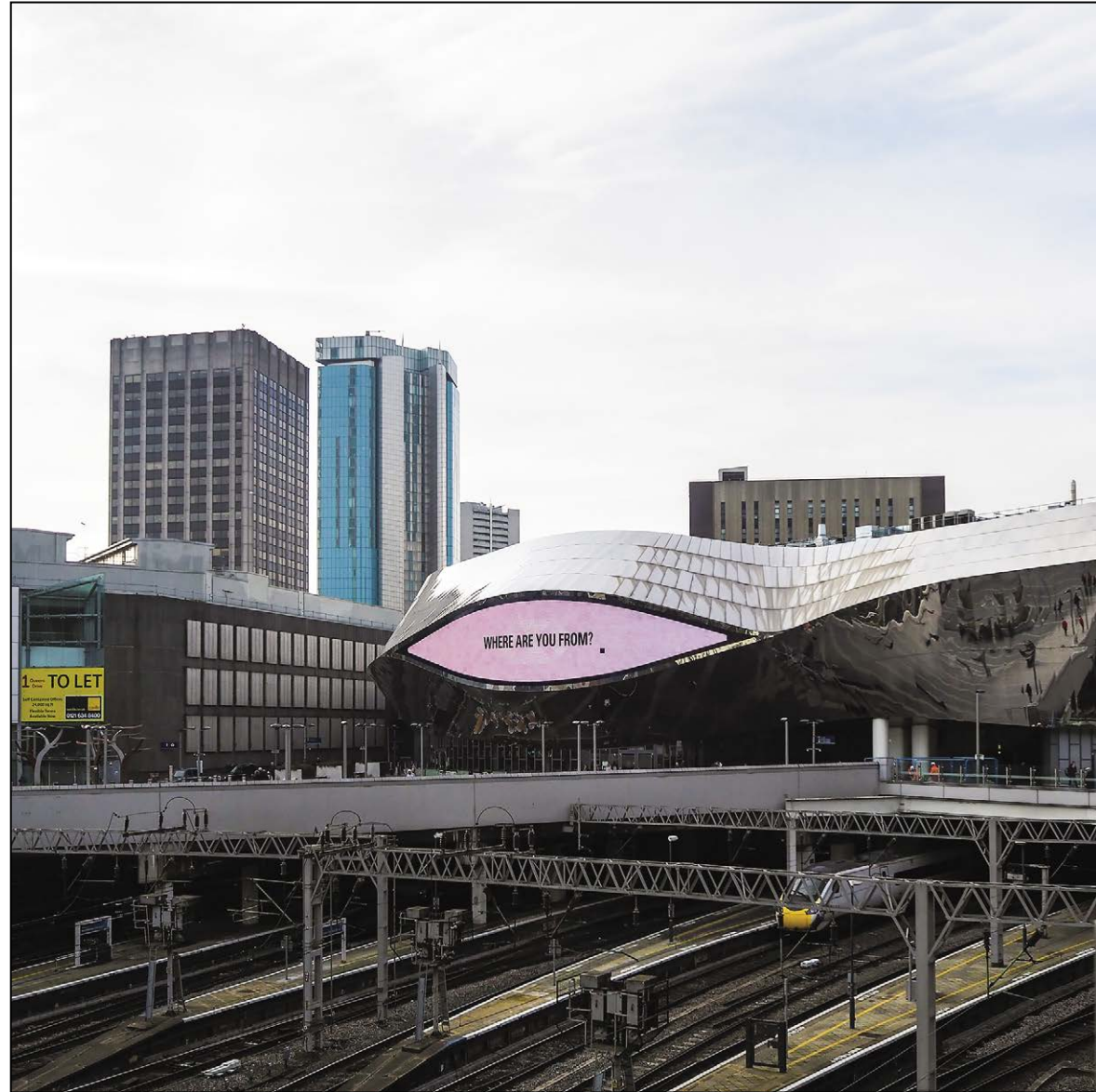


A little bit of politics. This was formerly the Canning Works, built between 1937 and 1951.¹ The company was established in Birmingham in 1785, manufacturing equipment for electroplating and polishing. They were taken over by MacDermid Incorporated in 1998 (see location 16P, page 152).

(1) <https://collection.sciencemuseumgroup.org.uk/people/ap27339/w-canning-co-ltd>

NEW STREET STATION (16C)

ED BROWN



Where are you from? I'm from Birmingham. It's home, it has been for nearly 40 years. I've been away and always come back to the city I was born and raised in, often on the train and through New Street Station. People used to cringe when I told them where I was from, everyone had a story about how New Street Station was the worst place on earth, short of Spaghetti Junction in rush hour, but I never felt that way about it. Yes, it was tired, run-down and needed a facelift, but getting off the train at New Street and then wandering to get the number 9 bus home was always a comfort.

The station has now been redeveloped and is now a rather wonderful welcoming space, befitting of a wonderfully welcoming city.

THE ROTUNDA (16D)

TREVOR BEATTIE



All change... All the same. New Street station from atop the Rotunda.

THE ROTUNDA (16D)

DAVE ALLEN

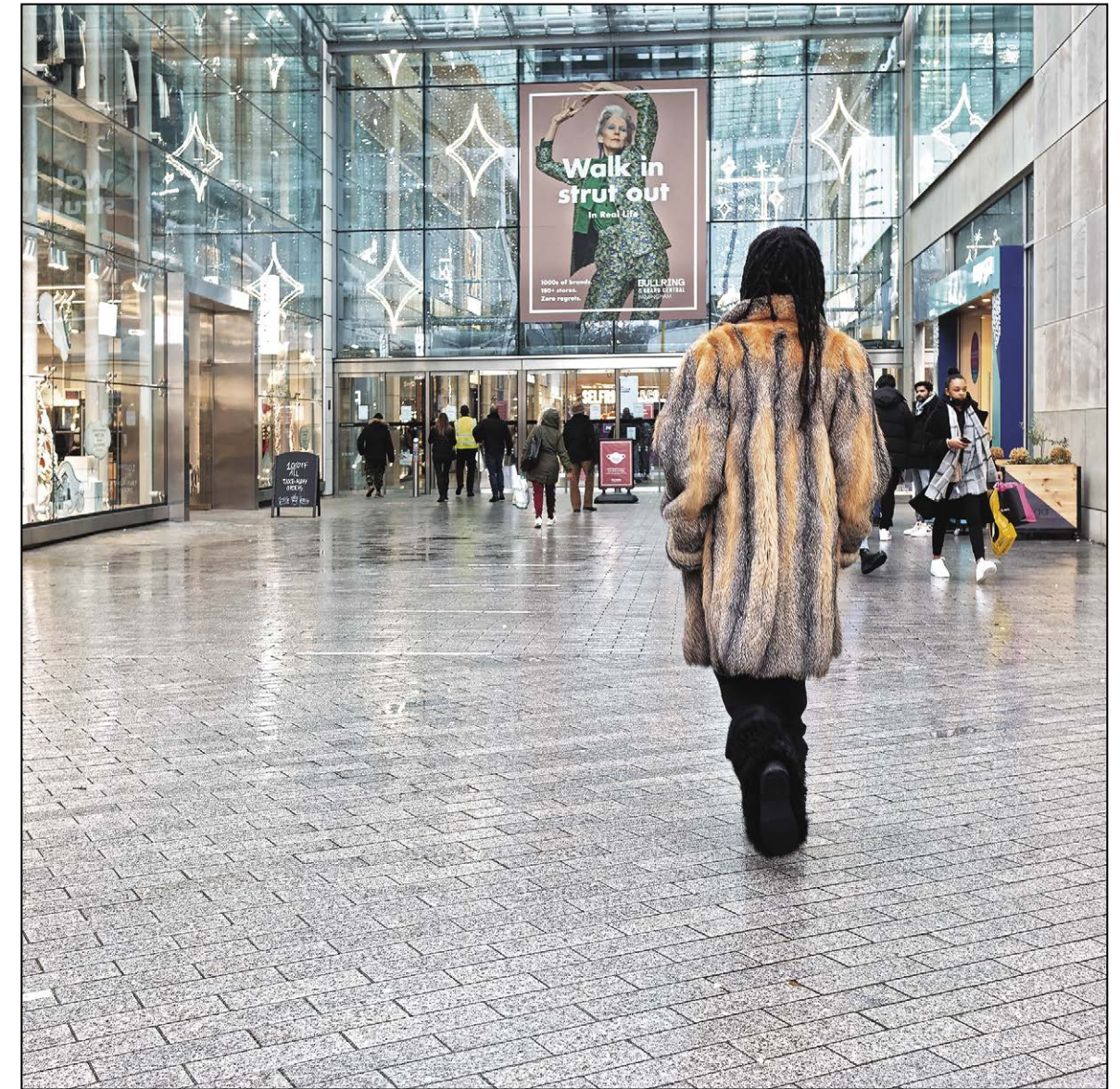


This, I guessed, was my day to take some pictures before more stringent Coronavirus restrictions were enforced. The guess was right: PM Boris Johnson invoked a lockdown the following day (23.3.2020).

I had a lot of choices from here. I could have pointed my camera at Grand Central New Street Station, but there's already an excellent picture of that in the project. I stood right by the former location of The Mulberry Bush pub, bombed in November 1974. These premises are now labelled Devour, but I can't tell whether it is operating at all. Anyway I didn't feel like that dull view would have really said much about the place in which I was standing. So I selected this one. The Rotunda (1965) is iconic and majestic and, entering the town centre from the Digbeth side, sits proud at the top of an incline. Part of the Brummie consciousness. To think, they proposed demolishing it in the 1980s.

THE BULLRING (16E)

SIMON McCREERY



Bullring. Mammon central. Fashion, even during these difficult times, is important to both the individual and to the economy.

THE BULLRING (16F)
PAUL BARTLETT



View from the number 50 bus terminus. I chose this location because throughout most of my life it has been my point of arrival in Birmingham. For this reason it seemed appropriate for bus windows to frame aspects of the zone.

There is a travel theme via notices on the bus, views of other buses, Birmingham Moor Street railway station, and pedestrians facing in all directions. Comparative scarcity of people for the area, and on the bus, is a portent of what is to come with Coronavirus social distancing. The shops visible include Primark, while Selfridges is subtly present via its Dalek-look disks reflected on the bus window. Indicative of the 'big brother is watching us' times we are living in, another bus notice declares: 'CCTV is used on this bus for your safety & security'.

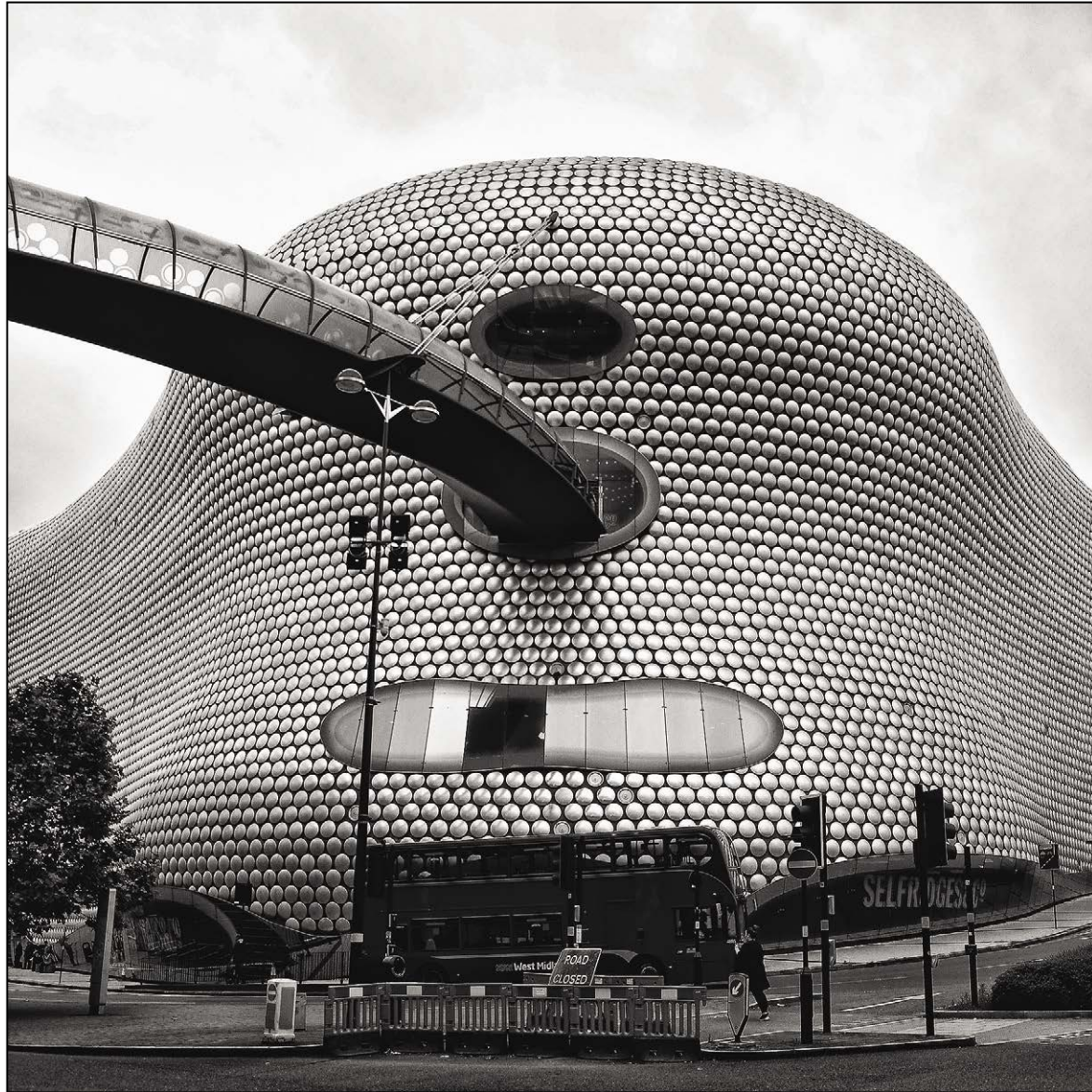
THE BULLRING (16F)
BARRY WHITEHEAD



In this spot I have photographed the famous number 50 bus route terminus. The bus is waiting to go out, the guy at the front with the raised visor is waiting to get on but is having a cigarette before he does so. Visors and face masks are a sign of the times now (August 2020) as we are having to wear them both on public transport and in shops. In the background is the new Primark store which opened last year.

MOOR STREET / PARK STREET (16G)

BARRY WHITEHEAD



I picked this spot as I have often been here photographing the light trails of the buses at night as they go past the iconic Selfridges building. I did convince myself that I was not going to take a shot of Selfridges, but I guess I did not convince myself enough. So here it is in all its glory.

This was taken from the tunnel at the entrance to Moor Street car park. I think this building has to be one of the most photographed buildings in Birmingham and it is often criticised for its design.

SHAW'S PASSAGE / ALLISON STREET (16H)

DAVID MOORE



Great Western Railway viaduct. Railway and canal architecture really define Birmingham's industrial look and identity. This architecture plays a significant part of my memories of growing up in Birmingham. These railway tunnels were usually dark, dirty, and unlit, and they were a magnet to the not yet invented young urban explorer. They were scary and exciting, a place where decent people feared to tread.

Now I am older, I still hold these feelings plus, with my grown-up mind, I see an eclectic mix of construction and change. They hold an honest expression of the means of construction. Railway architecture celebrating new technology and progress. These tunnels are still inviting. I knew the moment I first visited this spot that the only image that would capture my past memories would be one taken at night on a dark and wet winter evening.

SHAW'S PASSAGE / ALLISON STREET (16H)

JAMES ALLEN



Viaducts are another iconic part of Birmingham's infrastructure, but not one that is likely to change as much or as quickly as others. A testament to a city that has to be practical to maintain itself, and has been for a long time.

MERIDEN STREET / BORDESLEY STREET (16I)

DAVE ALLEN

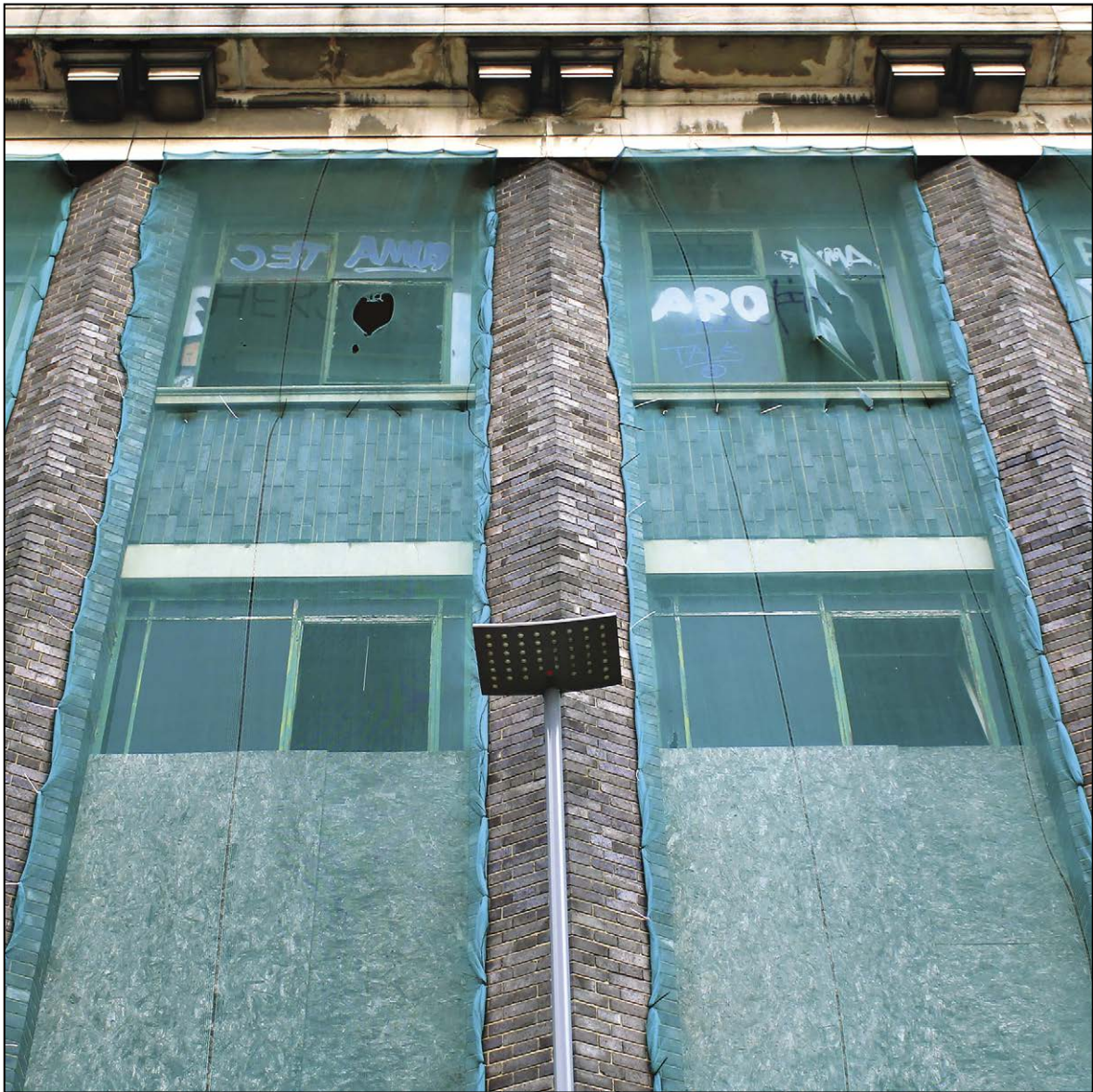


This building on the corner of Meriden Street and Bordesley Street is covered completely by a mural (rather than graffiti). It's a music venue - Suki10C. But like so much of the actual graffiti in Eastside, the colours are in dramatic contrast to the industrial buildings that surround it. 'Future of Birmingham' proclaims the artwork, which depicts 22 significant Birmingham artists, both new and established. It was created by Gent48, an illustrator and graffiti artist.¹

(1) HAYNES. J. 2019. City's 22 black stars of future celebrated in stunning mural in Digbeth. Birmingham Live. Accessed 23.12.20. <<https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/citys-22-black-stars-future-17145685>>

BORDESLEY STREET (16J)

ALASDAIR TEW



The abandoned Typhoo Tea packing works was built in 1929. There is no building work currently occurring. According to signage it was last occupied by a wholesale clothing merchant that dissolved in 2017. The site is scattered with police leaflets listing helplines for the homeless. The external masonry feature above the doorway shows 'TTT' in a half moon, presumably for 'Typhoo Tipps Tea'. Peeking into the building reveals decorative iron stair railings and glass and wood panelled doors.¹

(1) Historic England Report Number 31/2018. Digbeth and Deritend, Birmingham, West Midlands, Historic Area Assessment - pg.49.

BORDESLEY STREET (16J)

PRUE EVANS



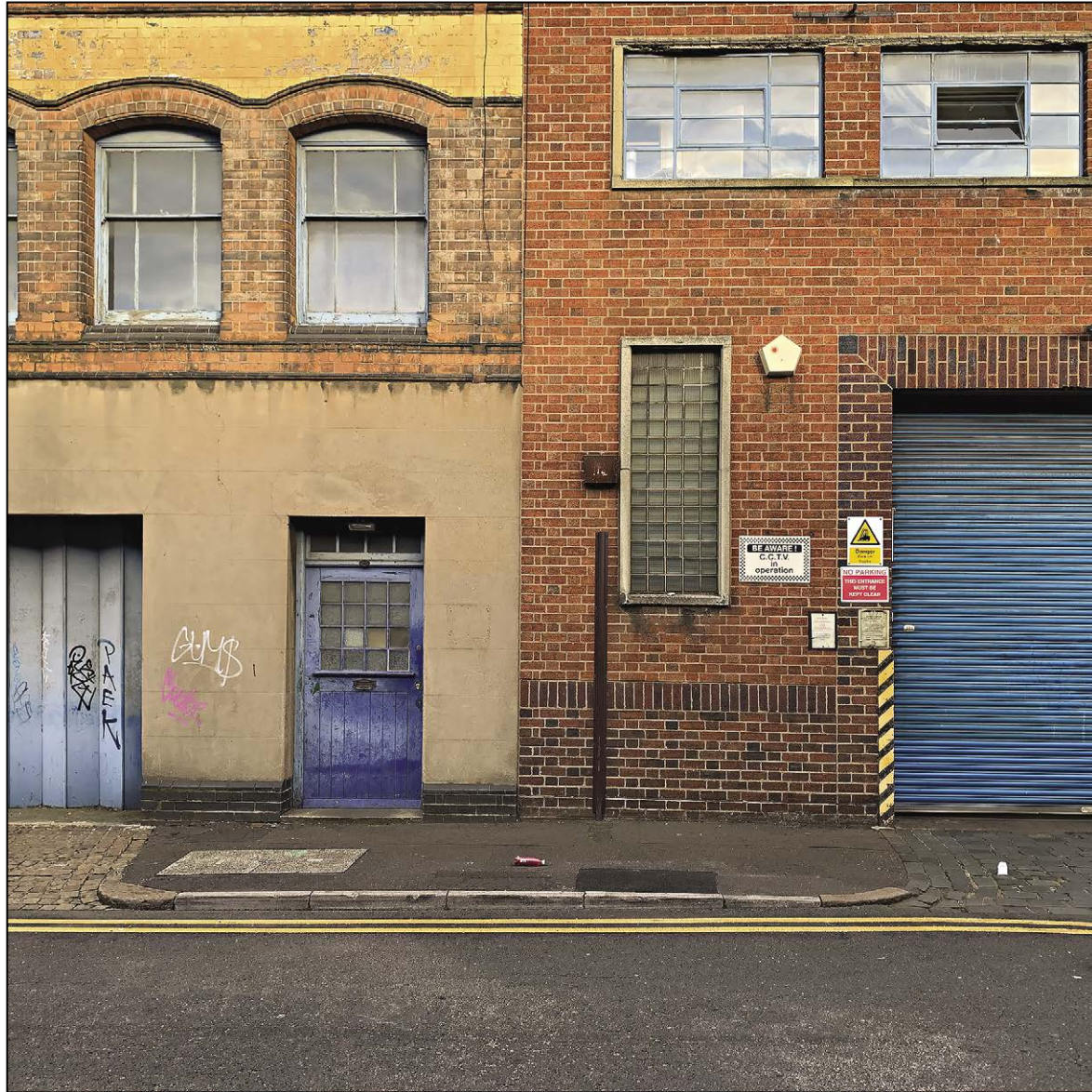
I looked at several views from location 16J. The railway arches are quite impressive but this zoomed street view struck me as more interesting. The tattooed building, Suki10C, a club, contrasts beautifully with the historic Ladbrooke Hotel, a hotel in quite an unlikely setting.

"In 2020 the building had been converted into a luxury hotel but for some years it was known as Ladbrooke House. Designed by Ernest H. Wigley in 1919, the building moves on from the structures erected before the First World War. There are elements of Arts and Crafts architecture."¹

(1) www.midlandspubs.co.uk <https://bit.ly/39XOH6W>

BARN STREET (16L)

SIMON FELTON



Contrasts. The grid-point location was in the building itself so I took a picture facing the buildings that were on the site. I loved the contrast of building types and windows - Victorian and modern. I like the windows on the building on the left with the curved arch (window head) over it, adding interest and contrasting with the crittel windows of the modern neighbouring building. The contrast is very reminiscent of Birmingham itself.

DIGBETH BRANCH CANAL (16N)

RON CARTER



This is a section of the Grand Union Canal, Digbeth Branch, situated next to Glover street, at the rear of Giro Foods warehouse.

I met a graffiti artist at work on the wall. He showed some talent, so I tried to give him some career advice - to go and see Mo Ali (an established graffiti artist awarded an MBE in 2016). This photograph would have looked better in colour, although the strong sunshine gave an interesting lighting angle.

GREAT BARR STREET (160)

BARRY WHITEHEAD



Well this seemed a very uninspiring location to pick, literally nothing at all to photograph. I could have cheated and walked about 20 yards down the road from the spot and got a nice canal photo. I resisted this urge and, keeping within the spirit of the project, I stood my ground.

I waited for a bus to cross the canal bridge as this was possibly my only chance of getting a half decent shot. So eventually along came a bus and I hit the shutter. It is looking like the driver was trying to get the front wheels off the ground and to be honest the speed he was doing I was quite surprised he did not do so.

GREAT BARR STREET (160)

WALI TAYLOR



Helikopter-Streichquartett. In his book, *The Canning Story 1785-1986*, David A Thomas says: "Central Warehouse at Bordesley may one day be regarded as a monument to Fred Essex." The c.1976 building does not live up to his dream: it is instead one of the most bland and uninteresting buildings in the area. The extension to the Argyle Works served as a computerised warehouse for the polishing and plating company until its demise. But then something fabulous happened in August 2012. Karlheinz Stockhausen (1928-2007) wrote his opera *Mittwoch aus Licht* between 1995 and 1997 and, although it had been performed in parts, the complete piece was deemed to be impossible to stage. As part of the 2012 Olympic celebrations the opera received its full stage world premier in the former warehouse, performed by the Birmingham Opera Company. This involved musicians performing while being transported around Birmingham - including by helicopter.

PALMER STREET, BY WORKS YARD (16P)

MARK JACKSON



This night time shot through the heavily fortified yard at McDermid's looks towards the housing at Glover Street. McDermid's holds a long-standing license for the usage of Potassium Dichromate on this site. This industrial land use held up the development of Eastside's new housing developments in the early 2000s and Birmingham City Council listed a £54M payment to McDermid, (in a footnote at the end of the 55th document of Supplementary Material in the bundle for the East Side Compulsory Purchase order, added 1 week before the Public Enquiry) to ensure the non usage of this electroplating license and allow for relocation of this process from this site.

WATERY LANE MIDDLEWAY (16Q)

STEVE COOPER



Clean. There's not a lot to be said for this location really, just a few old buildings and the dual carriageway. But for me it shows the future and the conflict. The Clean Air Zone is divisive and certainly not universally popular. I think it's a good move - if you live or work in the B4 area then any reduction of pollution has to be a positive thing.

NEW STREET STATION (17A)

BRUCE SABIN



Recharge at Grand Central concourse. Transformed by Covid-19 warnings and safety restrictions, attached signage has affected the whole of Grand Central's concourse. An opportunity for a free recharge whilst passing by.

THE BULLRING (17D)

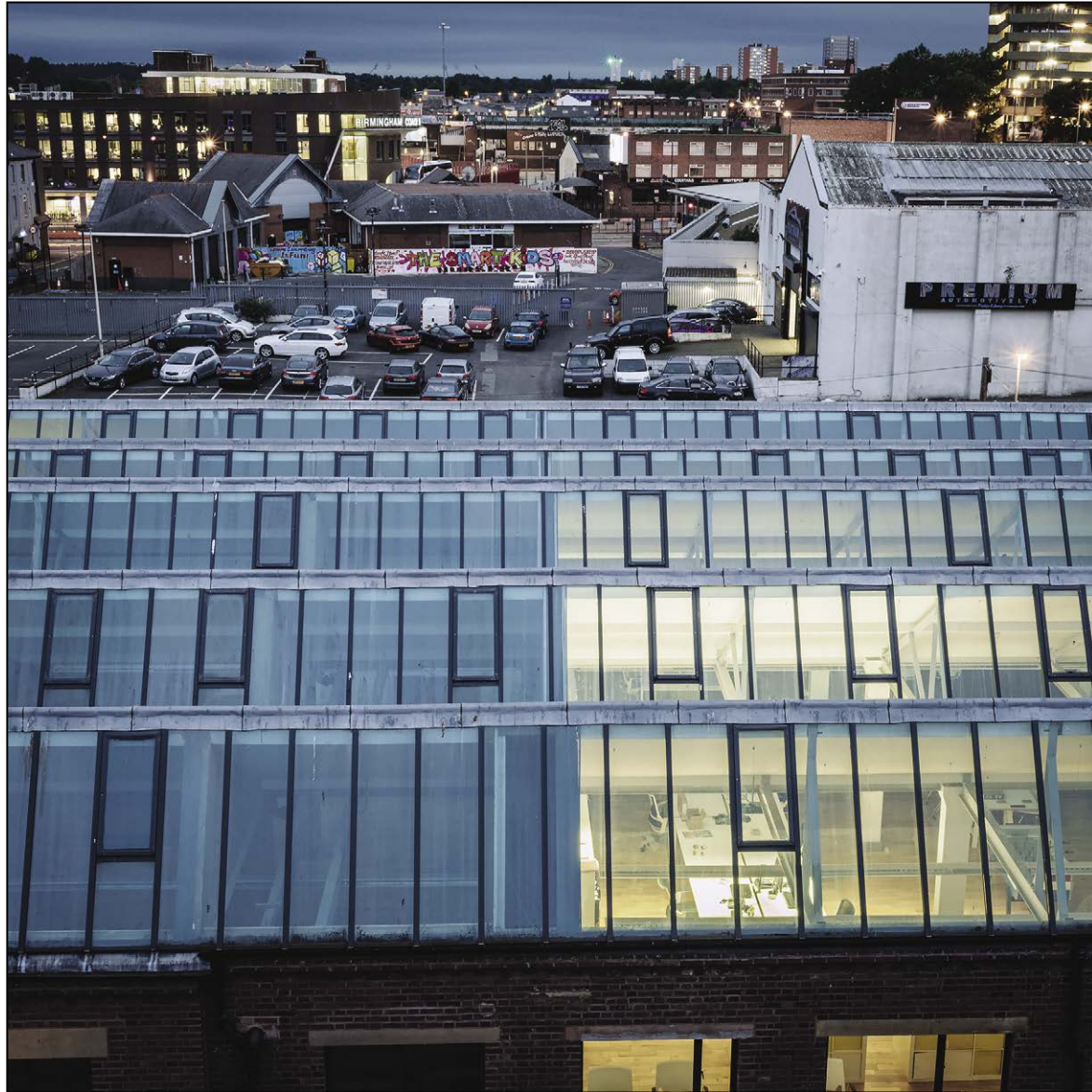
JACKIE HODGSON



I had to talk my way into gaining access to the Bullring as this was taken during November Lockdown. I love the symmetry and the lines of the escalators and the shiny floor that looks almost like a swimming pool drawing you in. I've never been in the Bullring when it is empty like this. The fact that it was all lit up with Christmas lights with only one person in there added to the eeriness.

COVENTRY STREET / OXFORD STREET (17I)

NAYSON RATCLIFFE



This grid point falls somewhere within the boundary of the Walker Building, an office block which is trying to point to what Digbeth might become in the 21st century.

I'm fortunate enough to have access to the large railway viaduct which passes over the top of The Walker Building and can look down onto the fantastic glass rooftop and the rest of Digbeth behind it. I like how clear this photo shows which half of the office is occupied and which is sitting vacant, but does it highlight the current uncertainty about what the future holds with regards to large numbers of office workers based in city centres.

TRENT STREET (17J)

NAYSON RATCLIFFE



The Bordesley Railway Viaduct dominates large parts of Digbeth, both in stature and what it's brought to the area culturally.

The railways made it possible to get goods in and out of the industrial heart of the city and as that faded away in recent years we can see the arches which have provided locations for many independent businesses and a 'canvas' for graffiti artists, which has in turn led to Digbeth getting something of a rebirth as a creative quarter. All of this enhanced by the area's proximity to the city centre, as we can see here in the form of the Rotunda.

TRENT STREET (17J)
DEREK ROBBINS



Looking to the left of this shot is a car park with walls covered in graffiti and the viaduct. As there is much graffiti in the area I chose this view showing the building.

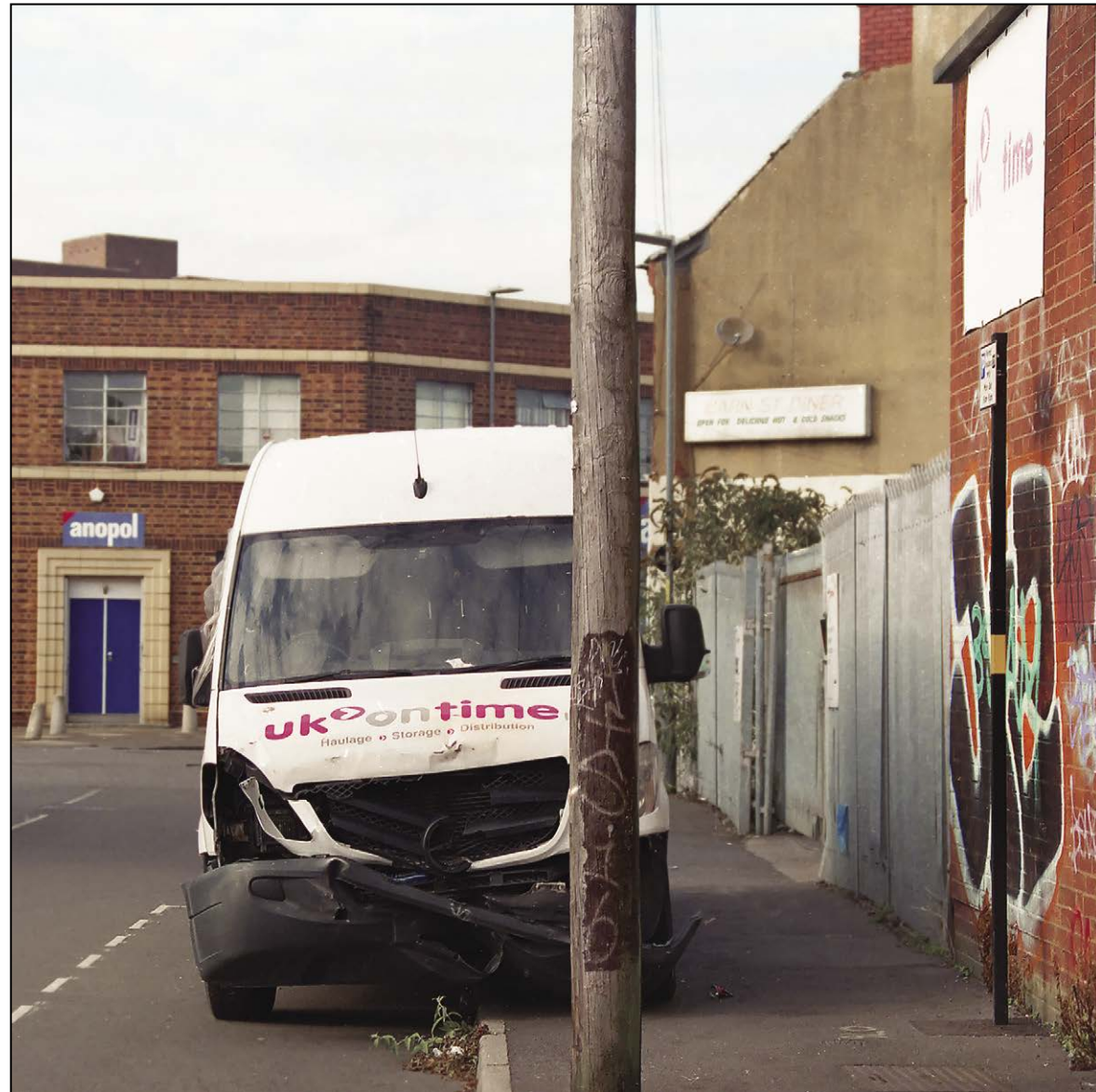
CAR PARK, MILK STREET (17K)
AFRAA DIN



This location is in a car park on the junction of Bordesley Street and Milk Street. In 2020 all of the buildings in this locality are commercial in some way or other. This wasn't always the case and the area was residential until at least 1953. From the mid 1950s the poor quality housing was demolished and Digbeth was soon designated as a commercial area.

LITTLE ANN STREET (17L)

FARAZ MERCHANT



2020 has been a bit of a car crash for most of us, and this image spoke to me in that regard.

However, much like the van in the picture, this wreck has given a blank canvas to the creativity many of us didn't know we had.

LITTLE ANN STREET (17L)

JAY MASON-BURNS

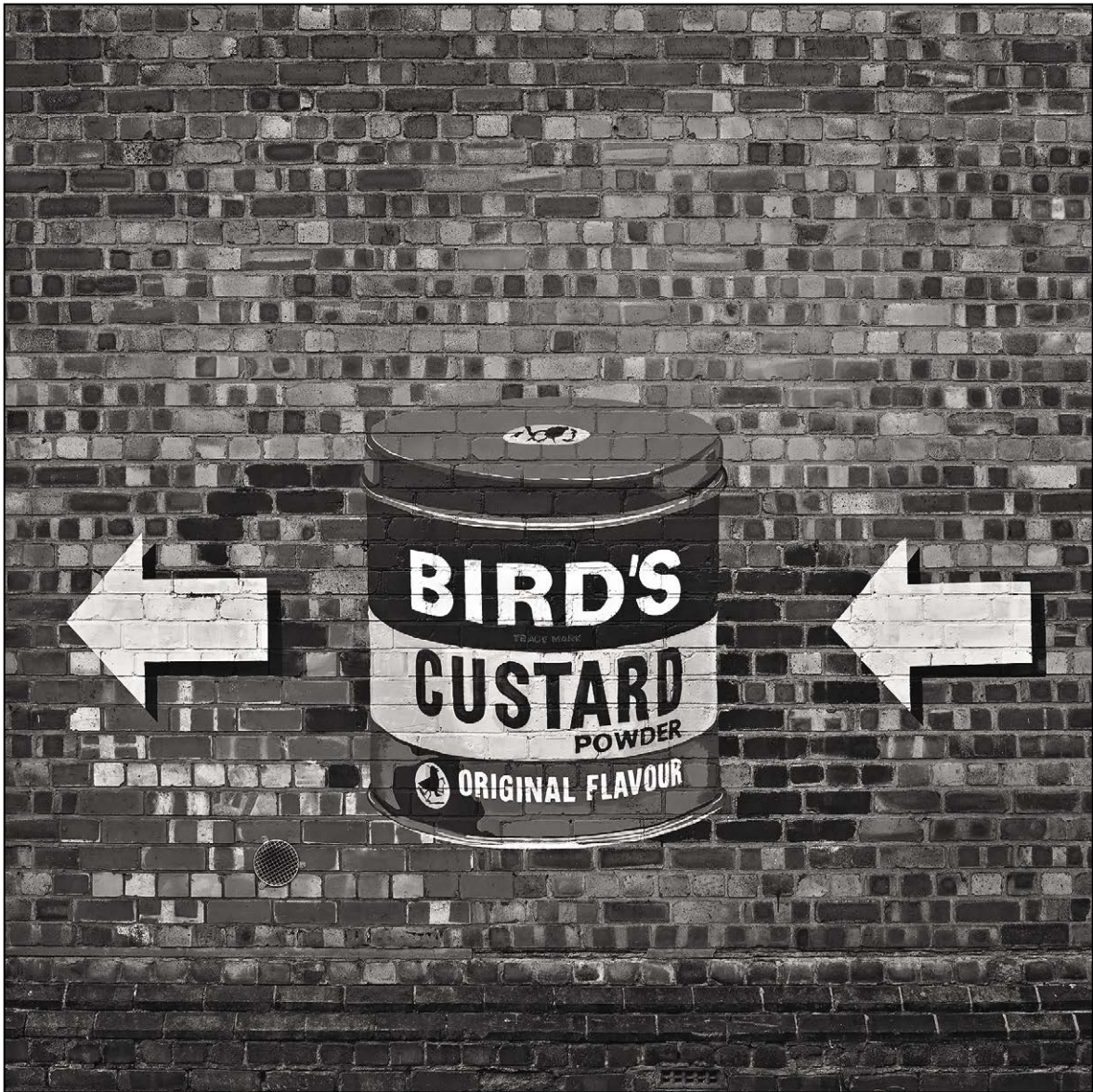


According to the schematic map this grid point falls within the confines of a factory unit at one end of Little Ann Street in Digbeth. I wasn't quite sure how I was going to capture the place, after all it's in Digbeth so there was bound to be lots of interesting graffiti if all else failed.

However, Lady Luck was smiling down upon me when I got there. The metal shutters of the building, currently occupied by a distribution company, were wide open. I was able to poke my 35mm lens through the railing fence outside the factory to look through the open shutters to quickly capture a slice of this gent's working day. I really like the result, it's feels very familiar and real.

FLOODGATE STREET (17M)

KAREN ALLEN



This painted sign on Floodgate Street points the way to The Custard Factory, formerly the manufacturer of, yes, custard and now 'an independent shopping destination and digital business workplace'.¹ The highly recognisable artwork of the custard powder tin needs no other explanation. I like the way the brickwork pattern is accentuated by the photo being in black and white, although the sign itself is in very bright colours. I think it's an important symbol of the progressive nature of Eastside.

(1) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Custard_Factory

HEATH MILL LANE (17N)

PHIL LUMBY



Dominating this view is one arm of the Duddeston Viaduct. Below this structure is a former so-called 'Temple of Relief' - a Grade II listed Victorian gents' urinal. "Local heritage buffs are fuming after yet another historic public toilet has gone down the pan... Once a must-see on any local history enthusiast's loo roll of honour, the ornate wrought-iron edifice is now crumbling and covered in graffiti."¹ History-lovers are now calling for it to be relocated and put as an exhibit in the Black Country Living Museum. An interesting location and one, like many parts of contemporary Digbeth, that speaks directly to its historical heritage. Whatever the future holds for both of these idiosyncratic nineteenth century artefacts (particularly in an area which is imaginatively evolving at relative speed) there is a sense perhaps of unfinished business here.

(1) <https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/gallery/temples-relief-birminghams-victorian-toilets-8564891>

LIVERPOOL STREET NEAR DIGBETH BRANCH CANAL (170)

JOHN SHEEHAN



I had visited this location a couple of times, but the grid point itself is within a working premises that appeared to always be closed at the weekend. However, whilst scratching my head for a solution I turned to view a very fitting vista, the disused viaduct arch framing the slightest hint of the BT tower in the distance.

LIVERPOOL STREET NEAR DIGBETH BRANCH CANAL (170)

ABIGAIL WILLS



Wombling. Finding this location was easy enough, it was in the Cardboard 4 Cash Ltd premises. But gaining access and exiting was another matter entirely. Unexpectedly the steel gates rolled back enough to let me in. They promptly shut behind me. No problem I thought: I would just follow the signs and go into reception. Reception was all locked.

What now? While pondering my options, I quickly snapped off a few photographs with little thought about composition or focus. Just as it was feeling like a serious problem, a very smartly dressed man appeared from nowhere asking what I was doing in there. The immediate answer of 'trying to get out' didn't initially impress. Once I explained I got my get out of jail card.

SMALLBROOK QUEENSWAY (18C)

ED BROWN



Smallbrook Queensway, part of what used to be the inner ring road, aka the 'concrete collar', was originally planned by Herbert Manzoni in 1943. It was the first part to be built but due to financial controls did not begin construction until 1957. It was completed in 1960. The entire ring road was opened in 1971 by the Queen.

The building on the left is one of Birmingham's best - the Ringway Centre. I love this building. It's beautiful. It was designed by James Roberts and completed in 1962. Sadly, it's seen better days and needs some love but, like other 1950's / 60's buildings in the city, the City Council have approved its partial demolition. Birmingham's motto is 'Forward' and it's always trying to reinvent itself and move with the times but, in doing away with what came before, we sometimes fail to acknowledge where we've come from.

INDOOR MARKET, EDGBASTON STREET (18D)

BRIAN BURNETT



Level 4. For this location the grid point passes through at least 5 levels that elevate from the Birmingham Indoor Market up through 4 floors of the car park that sits above it. On the day I was there the market was very quiet with many of the stalls, particularly in the area around the grid point, being closed and shuttered up. The car park was deserted so I had an unencumbered view of empty parking lots stretching away from me in all directions. My eye was immediately drawn to one of my favourite things, namely an interesting looking cloud formation, and also to one of my favourite places, ie. St. Andrews, the home of Birmingham City FC. In the photograph you cannot miss the 'interesting' cloud but St. Andrews might be harder to spot (its on the horizon to the extreme right). My apologies to any Villans reading this, I'm a simple soul and mean no harm.

BIRMINGHAM RAG MARKET (18E)

KAREN ALLEN



My location for this photo, in the Rag Market, gave me the opportunity to incorporate people into my shot. Rather than sneakily capture images of the stall-holders, I asked them if they would mind if they were in the picture. The gentlemen here (one is cropped out) happily agreed and it goes to show that people generally don't mind if asked.

I loved the bright colours of the safety jackets, but it's a sign of the times how few people were in the normally bustling market on this Saturday afternoon in August. I wonder if the market will ever return to its normal busy self, and if those stall-holders will be there in 12 month's time.

BIRMINGHAM RAG MARKET (18E)

GEORGIE EVANS



The Rag Market was closed when I went to photograph inside, so instead I pointed my camera at the only stall that was open. This year, wearing face coverings, we have learned to read people's expressions from their eyes; the stall owner's eyes told me to clear off when he saw me raise the camera. I stood to the side and took this photograph of the clothes rails, overlooked by a sign that read, 'Please keep a safe distance.' The jackets on the rail look almost like people, standing in a queue far too compact for comfort in 2020.

DIGBETH (18G)

TERESA DOLAN



Instead of looking up towards the Rotunda, I turned 90 degrees to focus on one of the longest running redevelopment sagas in Birmingham's history. The Beorma Quarter, first mooted in 2009, was designed to breathe new life into the upper end of Digbeth High Street. Plans included a new hotel on the corner of Alison Street and High Street (tick), conversion of the historic Digbeth Cold Storage building into offices (tick), plus the slightly more controversial creation of a 30 storey skyscraper that would look down on Selfridges. It would be the tallest building in Birmingham. Planning permission was granted in 2009 for the tower, and the developers have mentioned numerous start dates ever since then. However, eleven years on the tower is still missing and the redevelopment of this part of town lies dormant. Apparently the Council has mooted a Compulsory Purchase Order to enable the comprehensive redevelopment of the Beorma Quarter and given a target decision date of November 2020. Whether this happens given the second lockdown remains to be seen.

DIGBETH (18G)

KAREN ALLEN



Interesting times. The Government said 'Stay indoors', but we drove to Birmingham from Yorkshire despite my reservations. A 2-metre exclusion zone between people was required: how to do that in Birmingham city centre? I needn't have worried. Digbeth, and everywhere else, was empty. Only a handful of people here and there on the street, few cars. I would never have expected to see this view. It brought home the severity of our situation. But also, despite what the media (and social media) were reporting, most people were respecting the advice we'd been given and staying at home. A spark of hope.

I was reminded of that old Chinese curse 'May you live in interesting times'. These times, if nothing else, are surely interesting.

MILK STREET (18K)

PHIL LUMBY



August 2020 : underneath the arches. This is Rea Court on Milk Street, Digbeth. Historic England notes that 'Digbeth's history has been particularly shaped by transport infrastructure, including the river Rea, the main road into Birmingham, the canals, and the railways'¹

These factors undoubtedly contribute towards Digbeth's unique flavour. Views like this are far from uncommon in this diverse area and the likely future occupation of these units (whenever that may be) remains anyone's guess.

(1) Bayer, O, Herring, P, Lane, R and Roethe, J. 2018. Digbeth and Deritend, Birmingham, West Midlands: Outline Historic Area Assessment. Historic England Research Report Series 031-2018

FLOODGATE STREET, NEAR RIVER REA (18L)

ABIGAIL WILLS



My personal opinion on Brexit. I went down to location 18L, Floodgate Street, for 11pm just as the UK left the EU. My intention was to do something positive at a time when I was feeling very disheartened and disillusioned. Parking there, I got out of my car and immediately saw this piece of street graffiti which seemed to sum up how I was feeling.

GRAND UNION CANAL (18P)

WALI TAYLOR



I took this on the tow path of the Digbeth Branch of the Grand Union Canal. I had intended to take a picture of the 1844 cast iron bridge at Bordesley Junction, but I pointed my camera the other direction where this homeless person was sleeping.

Digbeth is vibrant, hipster and trendy but it has a very dark side with poverty not far under the bright veneer of graffiti.

GRAND UNION CANAL (18Q)

JOHN HILL



Bridge No.98 of the Grand Union Canal with Bordesley junction in distance. The bridge carries Glover Street over the canal and this location is at the eastern extremity of the Eastside area, near to Watery Lane Middleway.

INDOOR MARKET, UPPER DEAN STREET (19D)

GRAHAM EVANS



This was the weekend before lock down.

The fact that masks were becoming commonly seen felt in line with things seen in the news.

INDOOR MARKET, UPPER DEAN STREET (19D)

GEORGIE EVANS



I visited this location - on the corner of the Indoor Market between Pershore Street and Upper Dean Street - at around 13:00 on the 30th December. The screen opposite boasted one of the benefits of the city being under 'Tier 3' restrictions: Steve can go to the barber's now! That afternoon, the Secretary of State for Health revealed that Birmingham was among the many towns and cities moving into 'Tier 4'. I hope Steve got to the barber's in time.

MILK STREET (19J)

KAREN ALLEN



This view is from a car park entrance on South Birmingham College looking towards High Street Deritend. The building on the left is the one containing The Big Bull's Head pub.

The lines and patterns caught my attention in this location. My eye was drawn from the bins, up the railings, across the corrugated roofs to the sky. Then, back down the chimney, down the windows of the building and along again to the bins.

The photo has a feeling of continuity, like everything has been reset, ready for Monday.

FLOODGATE STREET (19K)

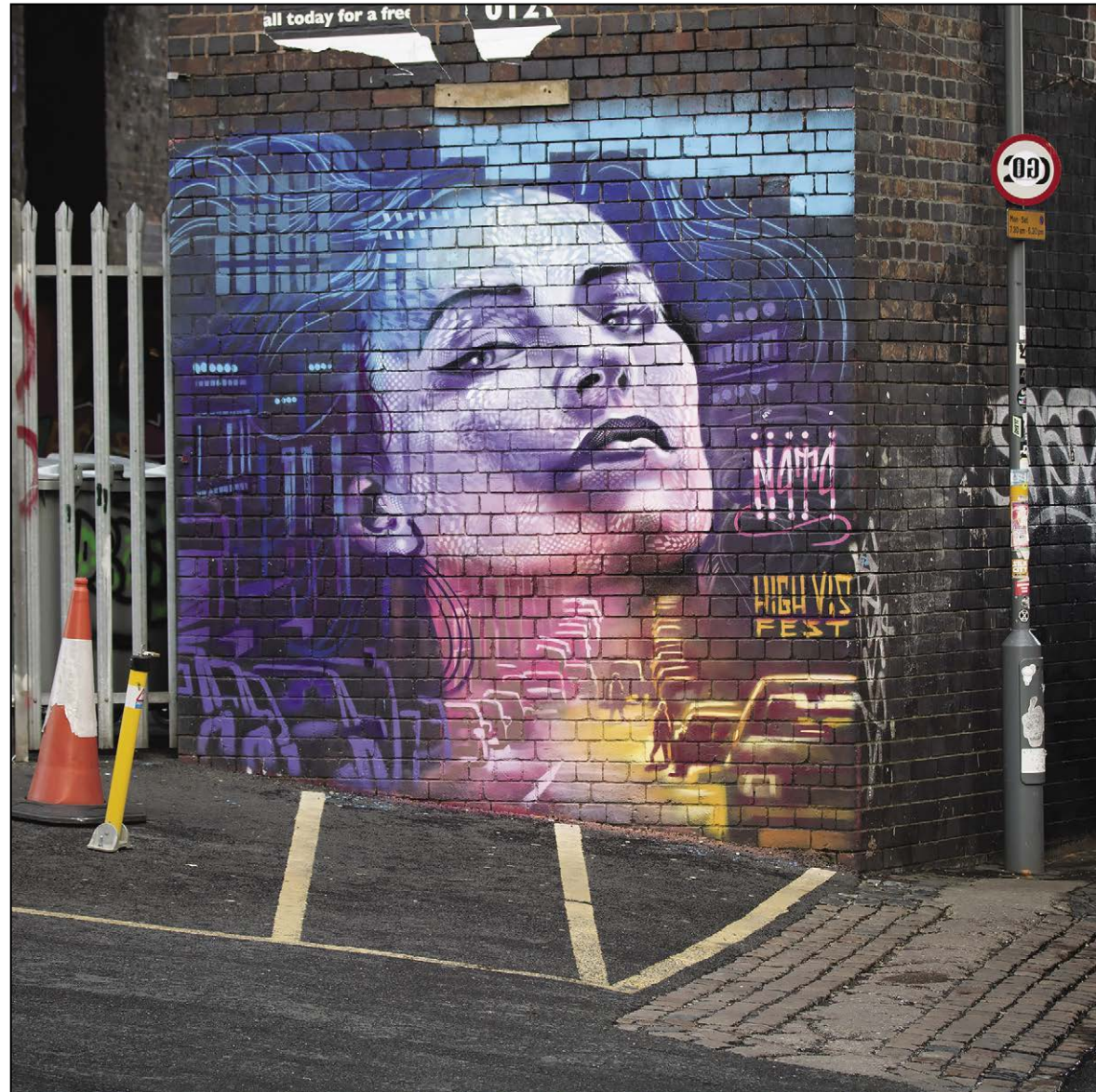
EUGENE FARRELL



The great lockdown of 2020 had a profound effect upon people in the UK, and even after the easing of restrictions people were not going out as before. Taken in August, this picture shows the arches near the Custard Factory that on normal Saturdays would be thronging.

GIBB STREET (19L)

JOHN HILL



This Gibb Street graffiti has remained intact for some time, unlike other great examples beneath nearby railway arches. I had been aware of this particular piece of art and was eager to photograph it before its demise.

GIBB STREET (19L)

DAVE ALLEN



This bit of Gibb Street just by the Custard Factory is so visually rich that I spent quite a bit of time doing various framings of the scene. The graffiti, the viaduct, the windows and so on all offer a lot.

"The development of some fifteen acres of converted industrial buildings, interspersed with relatively new interventions and scattered with sheds and factories yet to find a new use, delivers a powerful sense of place. It is an identifiable 'quarter' with an undeniable character and identity. There is a kind of laid back atmosphere and the sense of freedom that has been engendered here is almost tangible." ¹

(1) <https://www.academyofurbanism.org.uk/custard-factory/>

LOWER TRINITY STREET (19M)

JON JONES



I managed to find the exact grid point for my shot of Lower Trinity Street. Next to one of the many bars in the area, I still managed to get some of the Digbeth artwork in the shot, even though there isn't so much of it in that part of the street.

LOWER TRINITY STREET (19M)

PHIL LUMBY



Digbeth Dining Club, founded in 2012, has been at the forefront of the Digbeth area's regeneration. Turning bars/venues located beneath railway arches into a street food destination, it attracts large crowd numbers, particularly at weekends. When I originally chose this grid location, I had envisaged capturing a vibrant, busy street scene. The reality turned out to be quite different.

This post-lockdown photograph was taken on a Saturday lunchtime and the Lower Trinity Street location felt quiet and unwelcoming. The signs outside the entrance convey positive messages such as 'We'll eat together again'. Since lockdown Digbeth Dining Club has been offering a 'click and collect' service for customers from another location. However, at the time of writing its future (alongside that of innumerable businesses across the city, country and world) remains uncertain.

BROMLEY STREET (19N)

JERRY TEW



Although the point itself is on (or underneath) the never used Great Western Railway viaduct (see 18N), the nearest accessible place is the back end of the Custard Factory car park.

On the wall, with the viaduct hidden behind, is the Spiderman logo. There is probably a joke here about needing to have Spiderman's powers in order to climb the viaduct for the perfect shot. But I think I've killed it.

VIADUCT, NEAR BROMLEY STREET (19N)

DEREK ROBBINS



This image was taken on the corner of Allcock Street and Hack Street which shows the graffiti, viaduct and boarded building.

The Duddeston Viaduct was built in 1846 to link the Oxford and London lines with the new station being built at New Street. However, when the Great Western Railway bought the Oxford line in 1848 and Snow Hill Station was opened, access to New Street was no longer needed and work on the almost completed Duddeston Viaduct was abandoned. Only a small part of the line near Bordesley Station was ever used (as cattle sidings) which still remains high above Upper Trinity Street.¹

(1) <https://billdargue.jimdofree.com/placenames-gazetteer-a-to-y/places-d/deritend/>

GLOVER STREET (19Q)

JON JONES



It was difficult to find any inspiration for a shot here, both sides of the road being lined with bland metal topped industrial buildings. Therefore this is more of a social comment, as I found a warehouse doorway on the street with a mattress that someone was probably sleeping on. Scattered around the near area was an array of small metal gas cylinders, used for nitrous oxide (laughing) gas. A sign of the times, sadly.

HIGH STREET DERITEND (20L)

RON CARTER



This coaching house/pub, The Old Crown, is claimed to have been build been built in 1368, but it was more likely built in the early 16th century.¹ It stands on the corner of High Street Deritend and Heath Mill Lane, with the Custard Factory visible in the background.

(1) <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1076298>

HIGH STREET DERITEND (20M)

PETER ALLEN



For this photo I could have chosen from a number of views, but in the end I chose this one to show the somewhat impromptu nature of Pay and Display parking being available on all manner of otherwise useless scraps of land in Digbeth. It also shows that plenty of buses are available as well.

HIGH STREET DERITEND (20M)

ROBYN ALLEN



I had this same point on the last Eastside project in 2010, but the area is now a tarmac car park.

I had initially tried to recreate my previous photograph but I felt disappointed by all the cars in front of the old church building. I noticed the burnt out building reflected in the icy puddles contrasted with the neat newly painted lines of the car park and felt much more satisfied.

ADDERLEY STREET (20N)

PETER ALLEN



I initially chose this location because it is very close to The Arches Project (just behind where I took the photo). I was having a meeting there to discuss taking part in their Hidden Talents Exhibition in July and, being a lazy sort, I could 'kill two birds with one stone' and not have to walk too far! However, it is quite a claustrophobic position with an active viaduct behind and the Bridge to Nowhere (or Duddeston Viaduct to give it the correct name) in front. I wanted to show the bigger picture and get the whole of the arch into shot. Easier said than done.

Eventually, on my third visit, I produced this view which is made from a 12-shot panorama and then cropped to shape (with a few perspective tweaks to get it looking natural)...so much for my original laziness. I finally took this on a Sunday so the car parking wasn't quite so competitive.

ADDERLEY STREET (20N)

BARRY WHITEHEAD

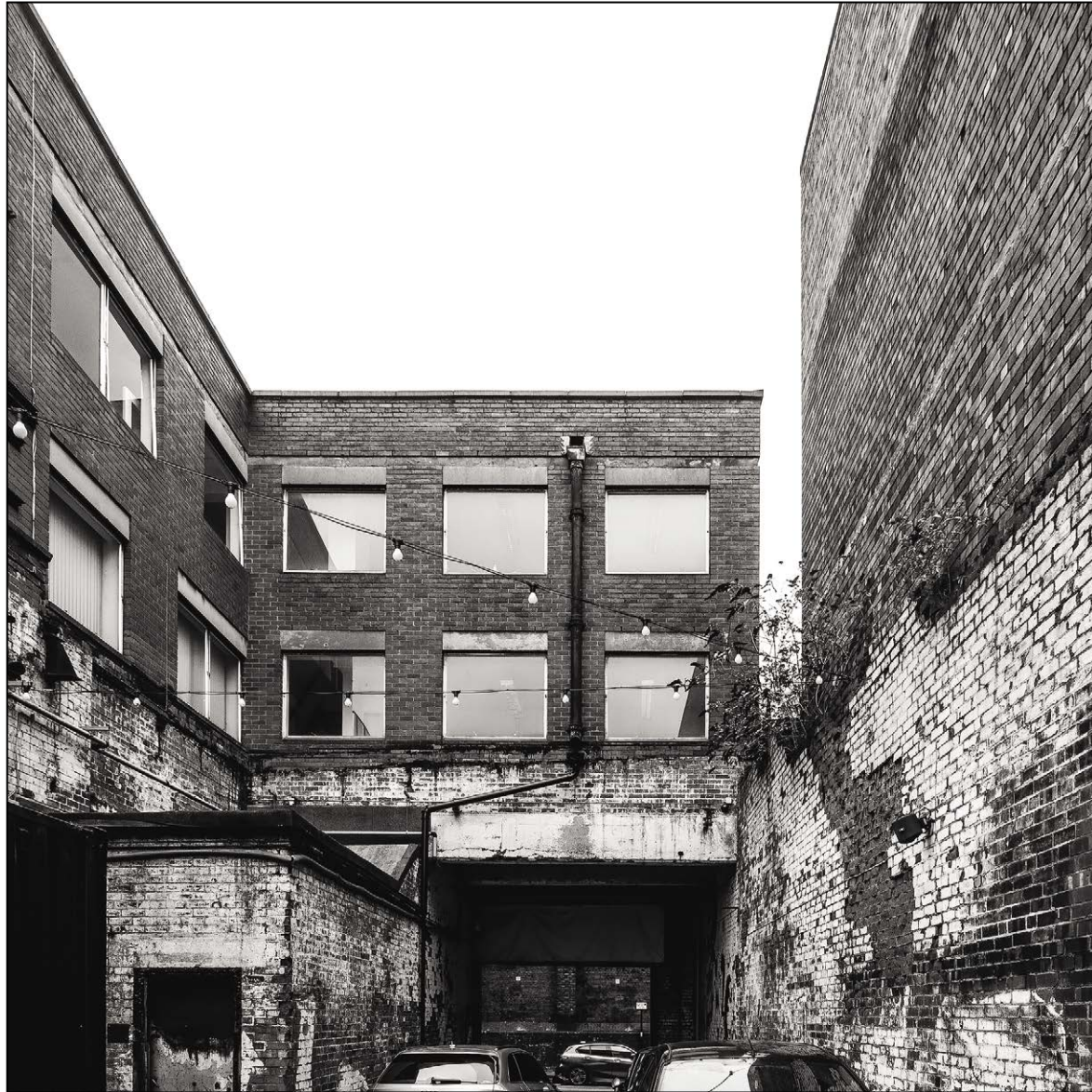


I first thought I had taken this photo earlier in the year but found out I had missed the location by about 100 yards due to me being unable to read my own directions. I think though it has turned out for the better as this is the Life and Death street art right slap bang in the centre of the correct location. I am unable to give credit to the artist as I am unsure who painted it and when. This really sums up 2020 as we have all been going through hell and I think for some it is going to be a year to forget. It has been a year when the words 'Life and Death' have become quite significant to probably the whole world. Many of us have come through this but unfortunately many have not. I do not think that any person in the world has not been affected by the virus in one way or another.

Lets all hope that we can get back to normal as soon as we can. But will life be normal ever again?

ASTON HOUSE, ADDERLEY STREET (200)

ED BROWN



This point on the grid was one that I wasn't expecting to get into. It falls in a yard area to the side of Aston House on Upper Trinity Street. I wandered up there on a rather dreary November afternoon fully expecting to be taking a photograph of the roller shutters or the Viaduct wall. To my surprise the shutters were up and two chaps were standing in the yard having a smoke. I wandered up, explained what I was doing and what it was for. The boss came out and simply said, "Do what you like, just don't come inside, y'know, Corona and that".

Turns out that the site is currently occupied by Mutt Motorcycles. I've never been that interested in motorbikes but if I end up having a mid-life crisis I'll definitely be buying one of their bikes. Mutt Motorcycles will be moving in the New Year to Kings Norton. I wonder what Aston House and the adjoining yard will be home to next?

BUS DEPOT, ADDERLEY STREET (20P)

SIMON FELTON



Symmetry and pattern. I couldn't access the site as it was closed and was the depot for National Express West Midlands buses, but I would imagine the view would be similar looking out. It felt like a magnet of activity with all the buses in an area of transition and change.

NEW BOND STREET (20Q)

DEREK ROBBINS



As far as I could ascertain the grid point was actually on private ground inside the premises of the company Self Storage Place. This occupies virtually the whole length of Adderley Street up to the Coventry Road. I did actually go inside and found, unsurprisingly, rows of storage units.

HIGH STREET BORDESLEY (21N)

JOHN HILL



My intention was to photograph the city landscape from this location. Unfortunately there were too many obstructions for my liking. A newly painted sign across the street offered a topical alternative. The human element was worth waiting for, to add interest and show scale. Spot the discarded face mask?

In this photo there are three current themes: Eastside's propensity to allow graffiti, Covid-19 in the form of the masks, and Black Lives Matter, a movement brought into the spotlight by George Floyd's killing at the hands of the police in America on 25th May 2020. For graffiti artists Digbeth has a mixture of 'permission walls' and completely illegal displays. Some businesses in the area have also welcomed the artists to use their walls as canvases.

UPPER TRINITY STREET (210)

PHIL LUMBY



Upper Trinity Street - seemingly the poor relation to Digbeth's Lower Trinity Street. Where the latter is home to Digbeth Dining Club, Digbeth Arena and an array of bars, music and gaming venues, Upper Trinity Street isn't really where the 'cool kids' go. The (out of shot) viaduct at the north end of Upper Trinity Street hosts a Victorian ghost sign which indicates that the entrance to Bordesley Cattle Station once lay on this street - the destination for cattle being brought to Birmingham from the countryside to serve the Bull Ring markets.¹ So far, so bland, it would seem. However, with limited options, from this location I photographed in the direction of where the 'action' normally happens - and captured this railway architecture in the process. Very striking, very satisfying - and very, very Digbeth.

(1) Rail Around Birmingham and the West Midlands: Bordesley Station. <http://www.railaroundbirmingham.co.uk/Stations/bordesley.php>

BOWYER STREET (21P)

EUGENE FARRELL



It was a cold wet Sunday with barely any light when I set out to this location. I thought I'd try the top end of Bowyer Street as it was just inside the grid. The street view didn't offer much hope.

Nobody was around and I walked up to the end of the street barred by a gate. As luck would have it, two workmen from a power company were working in a yard at the end of the road to the left, this was inside the grid and open. I saw one of them and asked if I could take a few pictures, he looked bemused and I explained it was a grid based photographic project and not the first of this type of project. "Was there an exhibition at the library of the last one?" he asked, "yes" I replied. "I saw that, the old and the new and how Birmingham had changed" he responded. "Go on then, if I don't see you then it's fine".

GRAND UNION CANAL (21Q)

RON CARTER



A section of the Grand Union Canal, Digbeth Branch, near to Watery Lane and the now demolished Dunelm store. It was a rare February sunny day, although very cold. The lock and graffiti made the most interesting view, including a couple of lads on the lock gate.

GRAND UNION CANAL / COVENTRY ROAD (22Q)

JOHN SHEEHAN



Having grown up in Small Heath, I wouldn't even like to guess how many times I passed under the iconic railway bridge at Bordesley. Whilst this grid point offered many great possibilities, the old bridge simply had to feature.

GRAND UNION CANAL / COVENTRY ROAD (22Q)

SIMON McCREERY



Very nice! A cut runs through it. Although industrial in origin, the canals of Digbeth make the whole area a little dark Venice. Looking toward Coventry Road I caught a bit of the cut as I was attracted to the poster of the new Borat film¹ which places the shot in 2020. 137 miles of water.² Long may it not flow.

(1) Borat Subsequent Moviefilm: Delivery of Prodigious Bribe to American Regime for Make Benefit Once Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan (October 2020). (2) Canal and Rivers Trust.