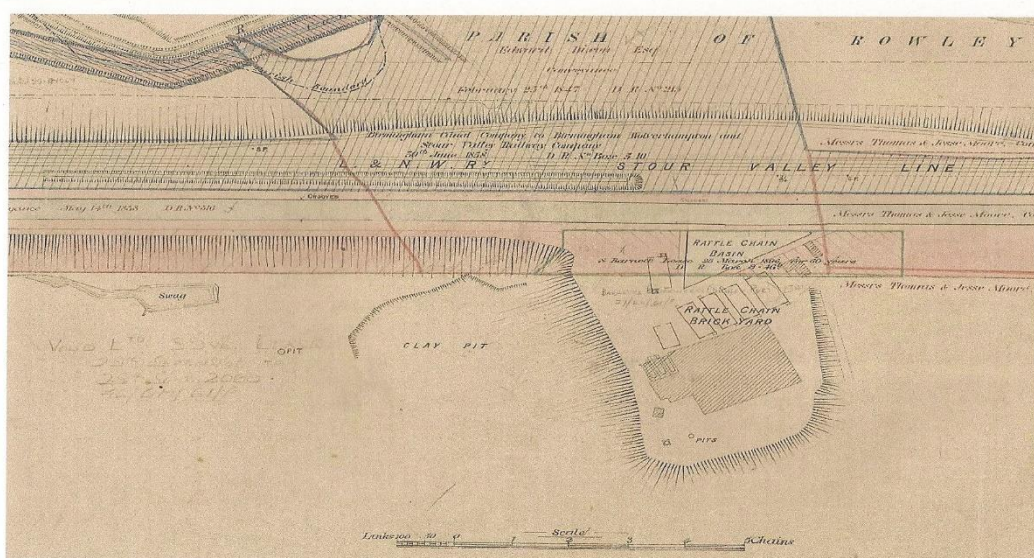


Former Rattlechain Brickworks/Duport's Tip and Tividale Sewage works Site History- A timeline of key events.

At the end of the **19th century**, Rattlechain lagoon was a clay pit created by Samuel Barnett as part of his Rattlechain & Stour Valley Brickworks. In **September 1899** the nearby Birmingham Canal [burst its banks](#), flooding the clay pit to a depth of 300' (100m).



After this period there appears to have been some continued use of the pit for Etruria Marl extraction, [in the manufacture of blue bricks](#), until a new claypit was dug to the East of the old one in **1946**. **The Rattlechain brickworks continued to operate separately under the direction of Sydney Sheldon. From this point on there is no association with what became of the old abandoned claypit (rattechain lagoon) which started to receive chemical waste from Albright and Wilson from 1942.**

The former Tividale sewage works operated at the same time as the post war brickworks and new chemical waste lagoon were in operation.

The new pit had a brief life and Sheldon unscrupulously began to sell off areas of land in [the 1950's](#) and [1960's](#) around the brickworks and Rose Lane, also encouraging tipping operations in certain areas which had dubious permission to do so.

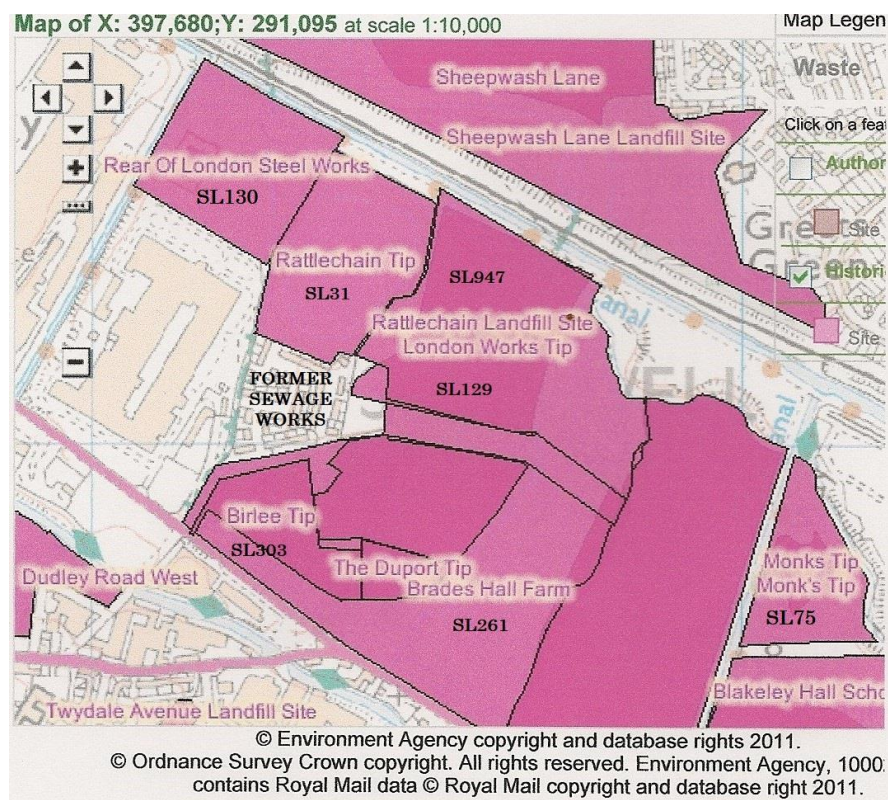
The brick works began to fall into dereliction and [a suspicious arson attack in 1971](#) destroyed the main remaining building at the site. By 1973, all brick working on the site had ceased leaving the land abandoned. [Industrial scale fly tipping](#) occurred around the Rose Lane area- most notably [from rogue waste carriers](#).

The Duport Group crucially with [Birlee Industrial Ltd](#) as a contractor managed by John S Hurst and Frank Pomlett began to tip demolition wastes, particularly foundry sands from local foundries in the area

across the former brickworks site, and from [the abandoned Vono lagoon](#). This operation was farcical, potentially criminally negligent and left vast amounts of packaging waste and putrescible waste across acres of land in the Rose Lane area. Unfortunately the continuation of tipping at the site adjoining Rattlechain lagoon by Duport Properties Ltd- ultimately through [site licence SL129](#) did virtually nothing to “manage the waste” but leave a terrible legacy of waste to “manage” at a later date- when the original polluter had long fled the scene.

The Temple Way Estate began to be built upon this dismal canvas of landfill operations under the auspices of site licences and planning applications, whilst the chemical waste dumping at Rattlechain lagoon continued.

For detailed information about these operations read the links below.



[LONDON WORKS STEEL SITE SL130](#)

[BRADES HALL FARM SL261](#)

[ROSE LANE BIRLEE INDUSTRIAL LIMITED SL303](#)

[ROSE LANE BIRLEE INDUSTRIAL LIMITED SL113](#)

[DUPORT'S TIP SL129](#)

In 1988, The Severn Trent Water Authority sold the former sewage works to Mintworth, (formerly Birlee Industrial Limited) managed by the Hurst family and Pomlett.

Williams Holdings, a holding company for Duport, wrote [a damning report on the state of the abandoned tip site](#) with Sandwell Council reluctant to buy the land due to the conditions including known underground fires.

Starting in 1990, a convoluted series of planning applications sort to “reclaim” areas of the former sewage works, Duport’s tip and land East of Rose Lane driven by The Black Country Development Corporation, (BCDC). Involved in this were Mintworth, British Waterways, Sandwell Council and Severn Trent. Secretive meetings were held without any local residents input and thus began what would become over a decade of “misery” for local residents which is summarised in a post [HERE](#).

A new site licence [“RATTLECHAIN TIP” SL947](#) from 1992 legitimised years more pain for local residents as did numerous section 73 applications to extend the time of these operations.

Alexander Gibb were appointed by the BCDC to monitor Mintworth’s activities, and their observations between 1990 and 1996 can be read [HERE](#).

By the early 2000’s the sewage works had been “reclaimed” with much of the wastes spread into areas of the former Duport’s tip. Areas off Macdonald Close were also extended.

2003 A Planning application refusal by Sandwell council for 100 homes on the former sewage works led to a successful appeal. The planning officer at the time, described the site in adjacency to the chemical lagoon as **“a crap site for residential”**. Built on here were Callaghan and Wilson Drives by Barratt Homes.

>>> John Baylay 30-Apr-02 11:31:16 AM >>>
It's a crap site for residential DC and the Building Consultancy opposed the re-allocation of the site from business in the adopted UDP to residential because of the proximity of the site to Albright and Wilson Lagoon which is a chemical waste tip, but their concerns were ignored. Industrial buildings are a much better neighbour to a potentially hazardous site as this in both public safety and security terms

In my view any application for the residential development of this site could not be approved because unless the HSE and Environment Agency support the proposal and unless Rhodia (A&W's successors) provide a site investigation report of the pool's contents (which they won't), SMBC cannot show that it has discharged its duty of care with regard to the public safety of future residents of that estate. No application could be entertained until some form of risk assessment has been carried out. In the absence of any knowledge of what the lagoon contains how can the risk be assessed?

On a pedantic note the site is allocated for business purposes in the Adopted UDP. The full Council has agreed to the fairly modest departure from the plan that the proposed industrial development represented.

CC: Bird, Keith, Rice, Tony

2006 Land sold to [“Denver Limited”](#) registered in Jersey under 4 land registry titles for just £5000 each!

Environment Agency have confirmed that site licence SL947 disappeared when *“The operator Mintworth Quays Ltd; were dissolved on 22 March 2007 whereupon the licence SL947 ceased to exist.”*

Callaghan and Wilson Drive houses marketed by Barratt Homes. Buyers told lies about the lagoon history and the site notice on here was absent.

2010 [A metal tatting operation was conducted](#) which dug out vast quantities of scrap metal not authorised under any previous site licence including SL947 and also uncovered scrap material mentioned in the Williams holdings report, casting serious doubt on the integrity of and the authors of the post reclamation report for the site.

2011 SAD examination where Mintworth reappeared as “promoting” the site for “Denver Limited” claiming that the lagoon and their former tipping area could be built on. 14 years later this has not gone any further.

Land began to recover for nature and many species such as small blue butterfly observed at the site.

2020 Land apparently sold to “Rattlechain Redevelopments Limited of Henley- In Arden under [the same 4 land registry titles this time for a combined £1.2 million!](#) How is that possible?

[2025 ecocide at the site documented](#) with local residents once again angered by a planning regime that does not protect their health and well-being with an urban forest being totally destroyed.

