

Project No. 1692

October 2007

**The George Hotel, Load Street,
Bewdley, Worcestershire**

Historic Building Record and Watching Brief

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THE GEORGE HOTEL, LOAD STREET, BEWDLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE

Historic Building Recording, October 2007

SUMMARY

Birmingham Archaeology undertook a programme of Historic Building Recording (HBR) in October 2007 at The George Hotel, Load Street, Bewdley, Worcestershire in advance of refurbishment works.

The work was required as a condition of Planning and Listed Building Consent and was undertaken in response to a Project Brief: 'Requirements for a programme of Historic Building Recording and Archaeological Watching Brief at The George Hotel, 64 Load Street, Bewdley, Worcestershire', prepared by the Historic Environment Planning Advisor for Worcestershire County Council.

The George Hotel as it presently stands constitutes two buildings No. 63 and No. 64 Load Street. These have subsequently been joined to form the expanded Hotel as it is presently seen. Historic building recording revealed five phases of development. The original structure on No. 63 Load Street was constructed in the early-17th century and historical evidence suggests it served as a bakery. Additions to the structure occurred to the rear in the late-17th to 18th century by which period it had converted to its present use as a hotel. The addition of an assembly room to the rear occurred in the late-18th century. Various alterations occurred during the late-18th to early-19th century including the addition of bow windows at the front of the building.

No. 64 Load Street was constructed in the mid to late-18th century and this is supported by dendrochronological study of the roof timbers which date to the period 1745–70. During the 19th century this appears to have been gradually incorporated into No. 63 until the present arrangement of 1/3 of the ground floor and 2/3 of the first floor were incorporated. Otherwise little alteration occurred throughout the 19th century and this reflects a general downturn in the prosperity of Bewdley as a whole.

The building as a whole was extensively remodelled in the 1960s and this has resulted in the loss of original features within the building as well as the boxing in of other features.

The watching brief revealed no features that added information about the development or fabric of the building external to the main building.

THE GEORGE HOTEL, LOAD STREET, BEWDLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE

Historic Building Recording, October 2007

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Birmingham Archaeology was commissioned by RJD Architects on behalf of JD Weatherspoons plc to undertake a programme of Historic Building Recording (HBR) at The George Hotel, Load Street, Bewdley, Worcestershire in advance of and during refurbishment works.
- 1.2 A Planning Application (ref.WF/070282) was submitted to Wyre Forest District Council in respect of internal refurbishment and alterations, limited demolitions and erection of ground floor extensions at The George Hotel, Bewdley. As a condition of planning consent, and in line with Planning Policy Guidance Note (DoE 1991, PPG15), the local authority required that a programme of Historic Building Recording and archaeological investigation be undertaken by way of mitigation.
- 1.3 The George Hotel is a Grade II Listed Building on the Department of the Environment Statutory List of Buildings of Architectural or Historical Interest (see Appendix A) and is included on the Worcestershire County Historic Environment Record (ref. WSM-10754).
- 1.4 The work was undertaken in response to a project brief '*Requirements for a programme of Historic Building Recording and Archaeological Watching Brief at The George Hotel, 64 Load Street, Bewdley, Worcestershire*', prepared by the Historic Environment Planning Advisor for Worcestershire County Council.', and was undertaken in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) prepared by Birmingham Archaeology (BA 2007) and approved by Worcestershire County Council. All work conformed to the Institute of Field Archaeologists '*Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures*.' (IFA 1999)
- 1.5 The recording was undertaken in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) prepared by Birmingham Archaeology (BA 2007) and approved by Worcestershire County Council.

2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The George Hotel is located in the town centre of Bewdley, Worcestershire on the northern side of Load Street, the main thoroughfare which runs approximately east-west through the historic core of the town from the Severn Bridge to the east to St Anne's Church to the west (Figure 2; Plate 1). It is centred upon NGR. SO 7860 7536
- 2.2 The hotel premises occupy the whole of Number 63 Load Street (Plate 2) and approximately 2/3 of the adjoining property, Number 64/5 (Plate 3), with which it is connected at ground and first floor levels. No 63 occupies a fairly narrow street frontage measuring 11.5m wide, but extends backwards as a series of back buildings and modern extensions to a total length of over 60m. No. 64 occupies a wider street frontage, but has a smaller rear yard, the northern limit

of which is defined by St. George's Hall (Plate 12), an assembly room of c.1890 and formerly part of the George Hotel complex.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The overall objective of the project, as stated in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), was to make an interpretative record of the buildings to a level equivalent to a 'Level 3' record as defined by English Heritage in '*Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*' (2006).

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Documentary Research

- 4.1.1 A search was made of all readily available published and non-published documentary sources including historic maps was made at the Worcestershire Record Office, Worcester Library and History Centre and the libraries of the University of Birmingham. A search was also made of the Worcestershire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), the primary source for archaeological information for the county, extending to known archaeological sites, finds and Statutory Listed Buildings.

4.2 Site Assessment and Recording

- 4.2.1 Further to the undertaking of preliminary documentary research, a programme of historic building recording was undertaken as follows:

The Written Record

- 4.2.2 A written record of the building was compiled in the field on *pro forma* building and room record sheets, noting details of building type, date(s), materials, plan, and elevations.

The Drawn Record

- 4.2.3 Existing survey drawings of the building were annotated with significant archaeological detail. No new measured survey was undertaken as a part of the current project

The Photographic Record

- 4.2.4 The photographic survey comprised both general and detail shots, and was carried out using a 35mm camera with black and white film, and a high resolution digital camera. Graded photographic scales were included where possible. All photographs were recorded on a *pro forma* photographic register sheet detailing subject, direction, photographer and date.

4.3 Dendrochronological Analysis

- 4.3.1 As part of the current study, a programme of dendrochronological sampling (tree-ring dating) was undertaken by Dr Robert Howard of the Nottingham Tree-

ring Dating Laboratory. The results of the study are summarised in section §.9 below, while a copy of the full report is attached (Appendix D).

4.4 Watching Brief

- 4.4.1 As part of the current study, an archaeological watching brief was conducted on below-ground excavations during the renovation of the buildings.
- 4.4.2 Where it was safe to do so, hand cleaning of exposed surfaces were undertaken in order to attain better definition of archaeological deposits present. No excavation of archaeological features, other than hand-cleaning, were undertaken.
- 4.4.3 Following the stripping of the overburden the machined surface were inspected, and sufficient hand-cleaning was undertaken to facilitate the definition of archaeological, or possible archaeological features and deposits.
- 4.4.4 Recording was in the form of pre-printed pro-formas for contexts and features, supplemented by plans (1:20 and 1:50 as appropriate) and sections (1:10 and 1:20 as appropriate), and high resolution digital photography.
- 4.4.5 Finds were recovered by context washed, marked and bagged.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Prehistoric and Roman

- 5.1.1 The ford over the River at Severn at Bewdley is likely to have been in use from an early period, and there are several examples of prehistoric and Roman finds from the area including a Bronze Age looped palstave from the river (WSM 08157) and a hoard of Roman coins discovered at Tickenhill Manor (WSM 03723). Evidence of prehistoric burials has been found at Dowles brickworks (WSM 01174), Kateshill House and Tickenhill Manor (WSM 10855). An Anglo-Saxon burial was discovered to the east to the River Severn (WSM 15302), but no sub-Roman or Anglo-Saxon activity has been found within the boundary of the town itself.

5.2 Anglo-Saxon

- 5.2.1 Bewdley is not recorded in the Domesday Book, but it is likely to have formed part of Wribbenhall which was a bailiwick of the Manor of Kidderminster.

5.3 Medieval

- 5.3.1 The early history of Bewdley is obscure. After the Conquest, the Manor of Wribbenhall belonged to the monks of Worcester and by the 14th century it was in the possession of the Mortimers, passing to the Crown in the 15th century. There is no documentary reference to Bewdley prior to 1304, when it first appears as '*Beaulieu*'. A ferry is mentioned as operating in 1336 at Bewdley. The first record of a burgage in the town is in 1367, and in 1376 Edward III granted a licence for a market and fair to Phillipa, Countess of March.

- 5.3.2 A bridge was constructed in 1447 by which time Bewdley appears to have changed from a linear settlement along Wyre Hill and Lax Lane into a planned town centred on the new bridge. The main streets and town gates are likely to have been laid out around this time including Load Street, although the first documentary reference does not come until the 1530s.

5.4 Post -Medieval

- 5.4.1 The town's prosperity increased during the later middle ages and it had become an important inland port by the 16th and 17th centuries. It acted as the principal centre of trade between the Upper Severn Valley, the Black Country and Bristol as well as sustaining important cloth and leather production industries. A large number of tenement plots and upstanding buildings within the town date from this period.
- 5.4.2 By the mid-18th century, the town was one of the most important inland ports in the country and served as a collection centre for goods from Wales and the west, which were then sent overland to Birmingham or Bristol. This prosperity was reflected in new building and extensive structural alteration in the town, with the widespread use of brick; many of the buildings of Load Street appear to have been owned by wealthy merchants or gentry.
- 5.4.3 The advent of the canal system at the end of the 18th century forced a decline in Bewdley's standing as an important port, though it still functioned as a market town. Subsequently, little rebuilding was undertaken during the Victorian period.

6 HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE GEORGE HOTEL

- 6.1 The building was initially known as the *St George* until around 1706, although it appears to have been commonly referred to as the *George* before this date. The earliest reference is from the Ribbesford Parish Registers for the burial of John Weaver in 1609; he is described as 'John Weaver the Baker of the George, over against the Chappell'. The next reference is found in the Bridge Wardens' accounts for 1635, when a Mr Graile and Mr Holland, along with their horses, stayed at the inn. The *George* appears again in the Hearth Tax records for 1662 where the owner, William Clare, is listed as having five hearths implying an already substantial building at that time (Scaplehorn 2004, 22).
- 6.2 At his death in 1668, William Clare's will states him to be a 'gentleman and baker' who also owned a bakehouse at the rear of the premises and several other properties in Bewdley. Seven rooms are detailed in the will including a '*George Chamber*' and '*Humphrey Yearon's Chamber*'. The number of hearths for the building was increased from 6 to 8 between 1662 and 1666, the extra hearths possibly being located within the bakehouse.
- 6.3 The George was subsequently surrendered to Thomas Burlton who was one of the appraisers of Clare's inventory. He possessed the inn until 1706 whereupon the sale inventory states that there were now seventeen rooms, suggesting some alterations and extensions during this period. The upper storeys are detailed as having nine bedrooms named as the '*Green chamber*', '*Blew chamber*', '*Red chamber*', '*Mr Burltons chamber*', '*John Burltons chamber*', '*stayerhead chamber*', '*Chamber over brewhouse*' and '*Bettye's chamber*'. There are also references to a 'coploft in the old building' and 'a further new coploft'

supporting the premise that extensions and building work were carried out during Burlton's occupancy. Downstairs, there is listed a dining room, middle and back parlours, a kitchen, a hall and a pantry.

- 6.4 The property then passed on to his son, Thomas Burlton and his wife Mary. When Thomas died in 1709 the property passed first to his mother and then in 1710 to his brother, John Burlton and his wife Hanna. They appear to have installed a tenant landlord in 1715 as an advert in the Worcester Postman of that year states that the inn was to be let and the furniture and stock to be sold (Scaplehorn 2004, 23). In 1728 it passed to Hanna and, upon her death, to another of Thomas's brothers, Edward. In 1768, upon the death of Edward, the inn was surrendered to Edward Burlton of Ludlow who installed James Vobe as a tenant. Vobe surrendered the tenancy in 1777 to his brother-in-law John Crump who subsequently bought the copyhold from the Burlton family.
- 6.5 It is likely that John Crump was responsible for many additions and alterations to the property including the construction of a large upstairs room called the *Assembly Room*. This was situated at the rear of the George and appears to have created a dispute as it encroached upon the land of the building next door with the permission of the tenant but not the copyholder. A fire is recorded as having devastated the rear during this period, possibly in 1774, destroying the brewhouse, extensive stabling and outbuildings (Hobson 1994, 3). The George was serving as a coaching house at this time and John Crump advertised a coach running to the White Hart in Digbeth, Birmingham in 1778.
- 6.6 After Crump's death, around 1791, the copyhold passed to his son, John Carlton Crump who subsequently sold it to Robert Tench in 1813. It was bought by Thomas Cartwright in 1814 who also owned the next-door property. He installed brothers Thomas and Edward Ree as tenants. Edward remained at the George until 1840 although Thomas moved away to Wribbenhall sometime before 1837 (Scaplehorn 2004, 23). A bowling green is first mentioned at the inn in 1818, stretching 179 feet in length from the inn stables to Dog Lane at the rear of the property. A second fire is recorded in 1823, when Thomas and Edward Ree advertised thanks to friends and neighbours for aid in extinguishing it (Hobson 1994, 6).
- 6.7 The property passed through the hands of various members of the Cartwright family who installed a series of tenants including James Davis Morris, John Parsons and Michael James Holder. The inn was sold in 1873 to William Augustus Weaver who further sold it to William Henry Anderson, a wine and spirit merchant from Wolverhampton, in 1882 (Scaplehorn 2004, 23).
- 6.8 The inventory and purchase details from this sale lists the presence of an assembly room / ballroom, 14 bedrooms, front and back staircases (the former with panelled wainscoting and oak banisters), a drawing room, bow-windowed Commercial and Private sitting rooms, a Private Parlour and a large paved entrance hall. Outside were four stable buildings, a harness room and a garden. A funeral business and posting business conducted on the premises were also mentioned in the sale.
- 6.9 Anderson installed William Blight as a tenant, subsequently followed by Atwell Goulding. The freehold of the property was bought from the Lord of the Manor in 1886, and in 1892 he transferred the premises to the Edgbaston Brewery

Company. Orlando Woodward became the new licensee, which subsequently passed to his widow, Sarah, who continued to run the business until 1908. Sarah Elizabeth Woodward greatly expanded the George with the purchase of the adjoining property (Nos. 64¹ and 65 Load Street) together with a number of properties in Dog Lane (Nos. 8-11) to the north and an adjoining acre of land and coal yard (Hobson 1994, 8). In the 1890s, she erected St Georges Hall to the rear of No. 64, a second function / assembly room. The Hotel was bought in 1909 by John Howard Cooper of Birmingham, who later became the Mayor of Bewdley in 1922/23. Under Cooper's ownership, the front elevation of the inn was painted in imitation of timber framing as can be seen in a number of historic photographs (eg. Hobson 1994, frontispiece). Cooper's widow, Helena Margaret remained until 1957 when she sold to Atkinson's Brewery (later Mitchells & Butler and eventually Bass PLC). Bass installed a series of tenants; Don Barton, Brian Cherrill, Robin Corbett, Linda Burns and Barry and Roger Haigh, until eventually returning the hotel to private hands, selling the property in 1993 to Mr and Mrs Martin Jones (Hobson 1994, 15).

- 6.10 Under Brian Cherrill, radical and extensive alterations were undertaken which had a dramatic effect upon the interior appearance of the inn. These alterations included the formation of the expansive front room space of No.62, created from a number of former separate rooms, and its decoration in Regency-style. The panelling of the 'Buttery' (ie. ground floor room of No. 64), was imported and installed, originating from Arley Castle, c.3 miles north of Bewdley and demolished in the 1960s (Charles Purcell, Bewdley Hist. Soc., *pers. comm.*). The series of ephemeral studwork and plasterboard partition walls removed as part of the current project date to this period or later.
- 6.11 A full list of known owners/tenants and licensees is give below in Appendix B.

7 CARTOGRAPHIC AND PICTORIAL SOURCES

- 7.1 Bewdley suffers somewhat from a dearth of early maps and images (C Purcell, Bewdley Hist. Soc., *pers. comm.*). A single engraving of the early 19th century, published by Samuel Danks of Bewdley in 1823 (Figure 3), illustrates the north side of Load Street from the western end of Telford's bridge of 1745 to St Anne's Church of 1695/1745-8. The engraving appears to have been produced with a certain amount of 'artistic licence' however, and significant foreshortening is apparent in the buildings of the north side of Load Street. Numbers 70/71, with superimposed Venetian windows are clearly recognisable, and by working westwards along the street it is apparent that the buildings of the George Hotel, represented by a gable end with ridge stack, are here depicted directly opposite the nave of St Anne's Church, somewhat to the west of its true location. This foreshortening results in little detail of the building of the George itself being visible and the engraving is thus of very limited use.
- 7.2 A review of historic Ordnance Survey editions (Figures 4 to 9) reveals little change to the core buildings of the George Hotel during the late 19th and throughout the 20th century, the single major addition being the erection of St. George's Hall to the rear of No. 64/5 in the 1890s and first evident on the Ordnance Survey edition of 1902 (Figure 5). A bowling green, forming part of the George complex, is first annotated to the rear of St. George's Hall in the

¹ Interestingly, No. 64 Load Street had formerly been an Inn, known as The Bull.

Ordnance Survey edition of 1938, though it would appear that the area, shown as plantation in 1886 (Figure 4) and cleared by the time of the 1902 edition (Figure 5), was used for this purpose from the turn of the century, the Bewdley Bowling Club having been inaugurated here in 1906 (Hobson 1994, 6).

- 7.3 Changes are evident within the series of back buildings to the George, recording of which have not formed a part of the current project. The 1902 edition (Figure 5) appears to show a series of small pens to the far north of the site, presumably related to the establishment of monthly stock sales in 1902 by Sarah Woodward (Hobson 1994, 9). These pens were replaced in 1916 by a light industrial building, used for the production of munitions during the war and later becoming a billiard hall (*ibid.*). The series of original back buildings, presumably representing stabling and carriage sheds, survive down to the Ordnance Survey edition of 1938 (Figure 7), after which they are successively removed and replaced by the late 20th-century garage and storage buildings that survive today (Plate 10).

8 BUILDING DESCRIPTION

8.1 Overall Arrangements

- 8.1.1 The George Hotel in its current form occupies the full extent of No. 63 Load Street and approximately 1/3 (ground floor) and 2/3 (first/second floor) of the adjacent property, No. 64/5, to the east. The two properties clearly represent distinct constructions of differing architectural styles and dates, No. 63 representing the earlier of the two. The properties have however been knocked through at ground floor level and are connected by a single doorway at first floor level. Above this level there is no direct communication between the two properties. No. 63 occupies a narrow frontage onto Load Street but extends back over 60m as a series of back buildings of different phases of construction with modern outbuildings to the far north end of the plot. No. 64/5 is somewhat wider with a small rear yard, the northern limit of which is defined St. George's Hall (Plate 12), an assembly hall dating to c.1890 and formerly forming a part of the George Hotel complex, though now under separate ownership.

8.2 Exterior Elevations

- 8.2.1 No. 63 (Plate 4) is of three storeys and is aligned parallel to Load Street. The street elevation is in rendered brick, of four window bays with a further part bay to the north, slightly recessed and incorporating a passage entrance to the rear of the adjoining property (No. 62) at ground floor level. Adjacent to this passage to the east is a further entrance passage serving the rear of No. 63, while the eastern three window bays are occupied by two, inserted (late 18th-century) bow windows with curved sash windows (six panes over six and four-over-four to the central and flanking windows respectively). At first and second floor the bays are each occupied by regular, six-over-six sashes (horned to second, unhorned to first floor) with exposed sash boxes set back from the wall face and with projecting stone cills. The recessed part-bay to the north incorporates single four-over-four sashes to first and second floor levels and a three pane casement to attic level. At first floor level a band runs the full width of the building, bearing the name 'George Hotel', while the eaves detail comprises a timber plain board with moulded brackets. The roof is pitched and

tilled with two eaves dormers to the central two window bays, and a single ridge stack rising above the eastern gable.

8.2.2 Nos. 64/5 (Plate 5) is again of three storeys and three bays, aligned parallel to Load Street, set slightly forward relative to the front elevation of No. 63 to the north. The street elevation is of unrendered, red-brick laid to Flemish bond, with painted stone quoins. At ground floor level, a central carriage entrance with elliptical arch and fluted keystone leads through to the rear yard. To the west of the passage, the ground floor is occupied by an early/mid 20th-century shop frontage with recessed central door (renewed) set between canted plate-glass windows, and double-pane windows to the street front, all with rounded heads between narrow timber shafts. To the east of the passage is a radically altered, late 20th-century shop frontage with side doorway to the north and large, projecting plate window to the south. First and second floors display regularly spaced, six-over-six pane sash windows, two per bay, with exposed sash boxes set flush with the exterior wall face. Windows have moulded stone cills and flat heads of gauged brick displaying stone keys, fluted to first and scrolled to second floor level. The elevation is topped by a brick parapet and moulded stone coping; the brickwork of the parapet is distinct from that of the main elevation, suggesting it may be a secondary modification. The first and second floor windows of No. 64/5 are set slightly lower than those of No. 63 to the north, reflecting a discrepancy in interior floor levels, though the brick parapet of No. 64/5 raises the eaves to form a continuous level (Figure 1). The George Hotel occupies only the western 1/3 of the building at ground floor level (ie. that part to the west of the central carriage passageway) and the western 2/3 of the building at first and second floor levels.

8.2.3 The rear elevation of No.63 is formed of the paired gable ends of two, one-bay projections aligned north-south, assumed contemporary with the main block and partly obscured by later extensions (Plates 6, 10 and 11). Each gable displays exposed trusses of double-collar form with V-strutting above the upper collar, infilled with brick nogging. The western gable includes superimposed, timber cross-windows lighting staircase B internally, the lower window including 18th-century incised graffiti on one of the glass panes, dated 1774.² This gable is partly abutted by the rear wing of No. 62 to the west.

8.2.4 The rear elevation of No. 64/5 comprises three symmetrical gables, brick-built laid to English garden wall bond with three stretcher courses between headers. Only the western of these gables (Plate 11) forms a part of the George Hotel; the lower part of this elevation is obscured by a single-storey, flat-roofed, brick built toilet block (G6/9), which replaced a former pitch-roofed building on a similar plan, evidenced by a scar in the rear elevation at first floor level (Plate 11).

8.3 The Interior; Nos. 63

The Basement (Figure 11)

8.3.1 The basement level of the George extends to the full extent of the front range and the southern part only of the rear extension of No. 63; it is accessed via a straight flight stair descending from Room G10 (Plate 15). No access was gained to the cellar of No. 64/5, which it is assumed is accessed from the property at

² 'John Blome of Carmarthen, Wales, May 4th 1774, was hanged'.

No. 65.³ The cellar is divided into a series of separate rooms (**B1** to **B4**, Figure 12), arranged around a massive red sandstone stack base (Plate 16) located below Room G5 at ground floor level. The walls of the cellar are of red sandstone construction to a height of between 1.05 - 1.70m above basement floor level, above which they continue in brick. Both rooms B1 and B2 are spanned by east-west aligned, stop chamfered timber beams; those within Room B2 display redundant mortices formerly housing north-south aligned floor joists. The cellar is floored in concrete throughout; a hatch and barrel-ramp to street level are located to the south of Room B2

The Ground Floor (Figure 12)

- 8.3.2 The ground floor has been subject of extensive refurbishment, as is often the case with buildings with the function of hotel and/or public house, reflecting changing contemporary tastes in interior decoration. Already at the time of the list entry of 1950 (Appendix B), alterations were noted to have taken place but, more drastically, a major programme of redecoration understood to have been undertaken during the 1960s under the licenseeship of Brian Cherrill (Hobson 1994, 14) radically altered the interior arrangements. This programme of work involved the creation of a single large front lounge (**Room G1**) from a former series of smaller rooms; the old vaults bar, a dining room, an office, parlour and 'Mrs. Cooper's sitting room', (*ibid.*). A series of archways were formed and the new, expansive room decorated throughout in Regency style (Plates 17-19 and 22). Small areas of former decoration were exposed during the present works, including a short section of dado panelling to the north side of the room (Plates 19/20). However, insufficient survives to draw any general conclusions as to the former arrangements of the room. The room is lit by two bow windows within the southern, street elevation, representing secondary features of (?)18th-century date. The room is spanned by two east-west aligned ceiling beams, boxed in though assumed original. The removal of a section of plaster to the east wall of Room G1 (representing the partition wall between 63 and 64) exposed a change in brickwork at low level (Plate 21), possibly representing a building break between the main range and the rear projections.
- 8.3.3 **Room G5** forms a large entrance lobby accessed from the exterior passageway via a door in the western wall. It partly occupies the area of the rear projection, though extending into the southern section of the north extension, the limit between the two building elements being defined by a truncated, east-west aligned beam over Staircase B (see below). It is lit by a two-light casement window within the west wall, noted externally to have been enlarged. The southern section of the room (that section which lies above the massive sandstone footing at basement level, see §.8.3.1) is flagged; to the north the room is floored in east-west aligned softwood boards. The room is spanned by two substantial east-west aligned, stop-chamfered beams while the removal of a small section of modern plasterboard ceiling served to expose early floor joists displaying shallow ogee chamfers. **Staircase B** rises against the western wall of the room as a rounded, quarter-turn stair with winders, of open string form with simple rectangular balusters (3 per tread), curtail step and elegant handrail, ramped at first floor level (the original form of the stair survives at first and second floor level, see below). A substantial, east-west aligned beam, formerly defining the northern limit of the open well stair (and the northern limit of the

³ The basement of No.64 is shown on drawings of June 1985 (found within the building), at which date it was accessed from Room G4 via a continuation of Stair A.

one-bay, gabled projection) has been truncated to accommodate the revised layout and is supported on a Tuscan circular section column (Plates 26/7).

The First Floor (Figure 13)

- 8.3.4 The first floor of No.63 (front range) is accessed via **Staircase B** (§.8.3.3), which rises from Room G5 to landing F8. The front range is sub-divided to form a series of bedrooms, mainly by modern partition walls of studwork and plasterboard construction. **Rooms F1 to F4**, however, clearly formerly constituted a single room, evidenced by a continuous ogee cornice detail around the head of the walls. The room was spanned by two substantial timber beams, chamfered but not stopped, and floored in wide (10½ in.) softwood boards set upon north-south aligned joists with soffit tenons, single-pegged to the principal floor beams. The east wall of Room F2 comprises simple, large-panel, fielded wooden panelling with no dado rail (Plate 36) beneath a deep, moulded beam (Plate 37) suggesting a room of high status. The room was originally heated by a fireplace set centrally within the north wall, which retains a cast-iron grate of late 19th-/early 20th-century date (Plate 38), with canted, tiled reveals, now somewhat isolated within corridor F3. The room was originally lit by three sash windows in the south wall, now split between rooms F1 (two; Plates 34/5) and F2 (one). A doorway at the western end of corridor F3 gives onto a former bathroom to the north (**Room F5**); it is furnished with a two-panel, bolection moulded door (Plate 39), hung on iron L-hinges.
- 8.3.5 **Room F6** (Plate 40) retains its original dimensions, though in comparison to rooms F1-4 to the west, fewer fixtures and fittings of historical note, having been fairly radically redecorated, probably as part of the 1960s refurbishment. The room retains a simple, moulded dado rail, cornice and high skirting; the main beam over the west wall corresponds to the moulded beam recorded above the panelled wall in F2; here the beam is unmoulded, suggesting a room of lower status. The room is again spanned by two substantial timber beams, aligned east-west (Plates 41/2), here stop-chamfered (Plate 43) and is floored in wide (10½ in.) softwood boards, as per F1-4. The room is lit by two 6 over 6 sash windows in the south wall with moulded architraves that extend to floor level (Plate 40). The room was originally heated by a fireplace set within the angled north-east corner, now boxed in with a modern gas appliance (Plate 41).
- 8.3.6 **Room 7** represents en-suite bathroom accommodation to Room F6, the fitting out of which obscures any early arrangements; the room is subdivided by a series of studwork and plasterboard partitions, removed during current works. A breach has been made in the eastern wall of F7 linking No. 63 with No. 64 via a short flight of steps (the first floor level of No. 64 is c.0.80m below that of No.63); a fragment of newspaper recovered from the packing material around the doorframe of this opening was dated November 10th 1964, suggesting the connection of the buildings at this level may have been effected during the 1960s refurbishment.
- 8.3.7 The original layout of the floor would appear to have been of two generously proportioned rooms to the south (street) front, with subsidiary rooms to the north (within the gabled projections) served by a central staircase (B).

The Second Floor (Figure 14)

- 8.3.8 The second floor of No. 63 is accessed via a continuation of **Staircase B**, which is located within the western one-bay rear projection. The stair from first floor level is of closed string form, with elegant turned balusters, heavy, flat-topped handrail and plain square-section newels. Two items of note were recorded on this section of stair. Firstly a short section of elaborately carved beam is preserved within the northern wall, to the east of the cross window lighting the stair (Plate 52), possibly forming part of a framework related to the structure of the stair though its isolated survival does not allow for an interpretation of original function. To the west of this feature, the cross window lighting the stair retains an area of incised 18th-century graffiti on one of the glass panes (see §.8.2.3). The brickwork of the rear extension can here be seen to be angled back to respect the window opening. The staircase opens onto landing **S7**, which has been enlarged from its original stairhead into the northern part of the main range, forming a lateral corridor **S3**. The northernmost section of the principal north-south aligned partition wall has been removed by this alteration, though the headbeam survives with redundant stud mortices evident in its soffit (see Figure 14).
- 8.3.9 As at first floor level, the second floor has been subject to extensive refurbishment characterized by ephemeral partition walls of studwork and plasterboard construction, separating the floor into a series of three bedrooms (**S1**, **S2** and **S5**) with associated bathroom facilities (**S6**, **S8**). Such schemes of redecoration have served to mask, to a greater extent even than at first floor level, the earlier layout at this level; the original layout would appear, however, to reflect fairly closely the arrangement of the lower floor, with two rooms of generous proportions to the south, accessed directly from staircase B, with subsidiary rooms within the northern projections. The southern rooms were again spanned by two substantial, east-west aligned beams, here boxed in, and it is assumed that the partition wall at S2/S5 is original, reflecting the pattern at first floor level; the wall at this level retains no diagnostic features. Each of the original rooms would have been heated by a fireplace in the north wall, centrally in the western room and within the north-east corner of the eastern room. Doors (modern) to Rooms S5 and S2 retain re-used strap hinges with rounded, spearhead terminals, otherwise no fittings or fixtures of note were recorded.

The Third Floor (Figure 15)

- 8.3.10 The third, attic floor of No. 63 is accessed via the upper section of **Staircase B**. The arrangement again reflects second and first floor levels with two large rooms (**T1** and **T4**: Plates 58, 60 and 64) to the south and subsidiary rooms (**T3** and **T6**) within the attic space of the rear, gabled projections (Plate 63). Each of the principal rooms is lit by a dormer window within the southern slope of the roof. The partition between T1 and T4 is formed by the central truss of the range (Truss 3) and the rooms are ceiled over at the level of the lower collar. The western side of Room T1, is closed off at Truss 1 to form a small storage space, lit by a small casement window in the south wall. The rooms are floored in 10½ in wide softwood boards.
- 8.3.11 Details recorded at third floor level, including the proportions of the principal rooms, the continuation of turned balusters on the stair and landing at this level and the presence of a bolection moulded door to Room T4 together suggest an original usage at a status somewhat above that of simple servants quarters.

- 8.3.12 The roof structure of **No.63** is of 2 full bays plus a part-bay to the west adjoining No. 62 (Figure 16). Bays are defined by solidly constructed, principal trusses (numbered 1 to 3 from west to east), Truss 2 being of double-collar form with paired queen struts between upper collars and three between lower collar and tie (Plate 59). Common rafters are carried on two tiers of trenched purlins.

8.4 The Interior; Nos. 64

The Basement

- 8.4.1 No access was gained to the cellar of No. 64/5, which it is assumed to be accessed from the property at No. 65 (see §.8.3.1, fn.3).

The Ground Floor (Figure 12)

- 8.4.2 The ground floor section of No.64 within the ownership of the George Hotel comprises only the southern bay, ie. that section of the building lying to the west of the central carriageway entrance (see Figure 10). **Room G2** forms the front room and is accessed via a recessed door in the south elevation (forming part of a 20th-century shop frontage) and also via a wide stair descending from Room G1 (No. 63) to the west (Plate 24) via an opening formed in the original property division wall (the ground floor level of G2 is 0.8m below that of G1). It is unclear at what time the two properties were conjoined at this level, though Nos. 64/5 are known to have been acquired by Mrs Sarah Woodward in the late 19th century (Hobson 1994, 8). The room is lined with small-square wooden panelling (Plate 23), introduced during the 1960s refurbishment and originating from Arley Castle, c.3km north of Bewdley (*ibid.* 14). The south wall of the room comprises a shop frontage of early/mid 20th-century date with recessed central door flanked by paired glass windows (see §.8.2.2). A doorway at the eastern end of the north wall gives onto a small room (**Room G3**), displaying similar panelling and including the base of **Staircase A** (Plate 25) rising to first floor on an elongated, open-well plan, with closed string and slender, vase-profile turned balusters.
- 8.4.3 The ground floor of the western, gabled projection is occupied by toilet facilities (**Rooms G7** and **G8**); the modern fitting out of the spaces negates the identification of early fabric. Further toilet facilities are housed within a single storey brick-built, flat-roofed extension (**Room G6/9**; Plate 11), which represents a modern addition, though probably replacing a former structure on a similar plan (see §.8.2.4).

The First Floor (Figure 13)

- 8.4.4 The George Hotel occupies the western two bays of No. 64/5 at first floor level, extending over central passageway at ground floor level. It is accessed via **Staircase A** rising from **F3**, described above. The stair opens onto a landing (**F11**) off which two bedrooms with en-suite accommodation (**F9** and **F10**) are accessed to the south, and a further room (**F12**), fitted out as a bathroom to the north. As in No.63, modern refurbishment of these rooms has obscured almost all detail of their original arrangements (see Plates 44-46). Each of the southern rooms is lit by paired, double-hung sash windows within the south wall, and the rooms are spanned by a single east-west aligned ceiling beam (un chamfered). A further, un chamfered beam at the head of the partition between F9/10 suggests

this partition may be original. The nature of neither flooring nor original ceiling were exposed during the course of work. **Room F12** is located within the rear gabled projection and is lit by a single timber casement within the north wall. The room is spanned by a single east-west aligned, chamfered ceiling beam, and a corner stack is represented by the angled wall in the north-west corner. However, as elsewhere, modern decorative schemes, including a series of inserted studwork and plasterboard partitions, mask the original arrangements of the room. A breach made within the western wall of the room in the 1960s connects through to the first floor of No. 63 to the west (Room F7) via a short flight of steps (see §.8.3.6).

The Second Floor (Figure 14)

- 8.4.5 The George Hotel again occupies the western two bays of No. 64/5 at second floor level, replicating reflecting the arrangements at first floor. Modern decorative schemes again obscure any earlier arrangements of the two southern rooms (**S18** and **S19**; Plate 55), each of which are lit by paired, double-hung sash windows in the south wall. Only the single, east-west aligned, ceiling beam (boxed in) was exposed, and nature of neither the floor or ceiling structure was accessible. The render of the partition wall between S18 and S19 (primary) was noted to be of lath and plaster. The rear projection is divided into three separate rooms (**S22-24**) at this level, the western room corresponding to Room F12 at the lower level with angled corner stack to the north-west corner. To the east of S24, half of the central gabled projection is included within the George Hotel, and is sub-divided to form bathroom facilities serving S19 and S24, partitions again being modern. A north south ceiling beam (chamfered) within rooms S22/3 is set on the same alignment as the partition wall between S18 and S19, and is assumed primary.

The Third Floor (Figure 15)

- 8.4.6 The third floor of No. 64 is accessed via the upper section of **Staircase C**. The upper section of the stair clearly reflects the reduction in status of the building in the upper levels with balusters of simple plank profile, though that section of the upper flight visible from second floor level retains turned balusters (Plate 65). The third floor is subdivided to form three rooms, two of which (**Room T11** and **T10**) open directly off the landing at the head of the stair; **Room T9**, occupying the eastern half of the front range, is accessed solely via Room T10.
- 8.4.7 The roof structure of **No. 64** is of two bays demarcated by brick-built wall to the west and by two simple trusses to the east and centre of the range. The central truss (Truss 3) comprises simple, principal rafters with tie and single collar, with queen struts extending from the tie to collar, the latter being demonstrably re-used (Plate 69). The truss is closed to the west by a mix of vertically and horizontally set boards. The eastern truss is of similar design but is infilled with studwork, rendered externally (Plate 67). A diagonal brace between the tie and the southern principal was noted to comprise a re-used window cill/head of probable medieval origin, being furnished with three 'diamond' profile mullion mortices and glazing bar sockets (Plate 68). Common rafters are carried on two tiers of trenched purlins. The roof of the rear, gabled projection is of simple, common rafter form (Plate 66).

8.5 No. 63, Rear Extension

Exterior

- 8.5.1 The rear extension to No.63 Load Street is a two storey, brick-built structure of five bays with pitched roof, aligned approximately north-south along the eastern property boundary with No. 64, with a substantial, brick-built ridge-stack to the north end (Plates 6 and 7). The range abuts the central section of the two projecting gable projections to the south (Plates 6 and 11) and, to the north is abutted by the later 'Assembly Room' extension (see Figure 16). The western elevation of the range overlooks the passageway leading to the rear of No. 63; it is of brick, painted white, laid to English garden wall bond with three stretcher courses between headers and includes two projecting strings, each of two brick-course depth which are continued in the Assembly Room to the north. The ground floor displays a wide window to the south (lighting G5 internally) a doorway and three regular window openings to the north, lighting G10. Upper fenestration is of three timber cross windows to the south a reduced window lighting interior toilets and, to the north an inserted 6/6 double-hung sash with exposed sash box and wide glazing bars (Plate 8); upper window openings display flat arches of gauged brick. The eastern elevation overlooks the yard of No. 64/5; it is again in brick, laid to a mix of English and English garden wall bond, partly rendered and painted white to ground floor level. As in the west elevation, two string courses of two course depth project at the head of ground and first floor levels. The elevation is unfenestrated to ground floor level, though it shows signs of patching where unrendered. First floor displays three unevenly spaced timber casements (all modern), while a 6/6 sash lights Staircase C towards the southern end (Plate 11).

Interior

- 8.5.2 Ground floor level (Figure 12) of the range is split between the northern half of entrance lobby G5 to the south and a large bar area to the north (G10), divided by a glazed timber partition (Plate 26). Both of these rooms retain their essentially 20th-century character, with little to indicate their former arrangements, save for the original transverse timber chamfer-stopped ceiling beams (Plate 28). Access off the eastern side of G5, south of Staircase C gives, via a short flight of steps, onto the toilet block to the rear of No. 64/5. Room G10 has most recently been fitted out as a bar, with bench seat below the windows of the west wall. A stair descends to the basement from the east side of G10. To the northern end of the room, a substantial stack occupies the centre of the end wall, rebuilt at this level, with passageways to east and west leading through to the ground floor level of the Assembly Room to the north.
- 8.5.3 Access to the upper floors within the range is via **Staircase C** (removed during current works), which rises through the full height of the building from the northern part of Room G5 at ground floor level, serving F14 and S12. The lower section of the stair has been radically remodelled during 20th century reordering.
- 8.5.4 First floor level (Figure 13) has again been drastically altered, subdivided by studwork and plasterboard partitions (removed during the current programme of work) to form a series of small rooms (Plate 47). Little of note was exposed during stripping out to inform on the original function and arrangement of the building, though a small, square spice cupboard with plain, undecorated door

and butterfly hinges (Plates 50/1) was exposed within the western flank of the fireplace of the north wall (Room F18) was of particular interest.

- 8.5.5 **Staircase C** rising from first to second floor, though again much altered, also represents an early survival (Plates 48/49); it is of open-well, closed string form with winders, twisted balusters and flat-topped handrail, stylistically of late 17th- or early 18th-century date. The 'exterior' wall of the stairwell is clad in dado level timber panelling (Plate 48). The upper part of the stair has also undergone extensive repair, with few of the original balusters surviving.
- 8.5.6 The second floor occupies the attic space of the range. The space is divided up by a series of studwork partitions to form staff accommodation and nothing was exposed to suggest the form of earlier arrangements. The roof structure of the rear extension was not readily accessible at the time of survey, though it would appear to be of five bays demarcated by principal trusses (form not observed). The common rafters are carried on one, probably two tiers of timber purlins, the western of which appears to have been renewed (Plates 56/7). A passage along the north-eastern side of the range gives access to the gallery at the south end of the Assembly Room to the north.
- 8.5.7 The extension represents a secondary addition, evidenced most clearly by the awkward junction at the southern end where the brickwork of the western wall is angled back at first floor level to accommodate half of the timber cross window lighting Stairway B (Plate 9). Details recorded internally, including the open-well stair with twisted balusters (Stair C) and the spice cupboard recorded within Room F18 are broadly consistent with a late 17th-/early 18th-century date.

8.6 No. 63, 'Assembly Room' Extension

- 8.6.1 The Assembly Room is a brick-built structure of two storeys, with pitched roof of five bays, rectangular in plan and aligned approximately north-south along the eastern property boundary to the north of the rear extension of No. 63 (Plate 10). To the south, it abuts the rear extension while to the north it is abutted by a single storey kitchen extension (G12-15), possibly of late 19th-century date, though reordered in the 20th-century. Exterior brickwork is laid to English bond, painted white and, in the west elevation, includes two projecting string courses, each comprising two brick courses, at the head of the ground floor windows and half way up the first floor level. The ground floor includes two windows. The upper level is lit by three tall casement windows below segmental brick arches, the northernmost having been partly adapted to form a door served by an exterior, metal fire-escape stair which rises over the entrance lobby of the single-storey kitchen extension.
- 8.6.2 Internally, the Assembly Room essentially constitutes a single, open space at both ground and first floor levels, the rear dining room (**Room G11**) and function room (**Room F19**) respectively. **Room G11** is lined with small-square panelling (Plate 29), introduced in the late 1940s and originating from nearby Ribbesford House (Hobson 1994, 14); a fine Jacobean style overmantle above the fireplace in the east wall (Plate 30) is from the same source. A small opening in the inserted ceiling of the room revealed a section of arcaded plaster cornice (Plate 31). The southern part of the room has a raised floor level in concrete, while to the north the room is floored in east-west aligned, softwood boards.

- 8.6.3 At first floor level the building is formed of a single open space of large proportions (**Room F19**; Plates 71/2), with a small service room (**F20**) occupying the northernmost bay. The room is accessed via a short flight of stairs that rise from Room F17 to the south (Plate 70) and via a dog-leg stair rising within Room F20 from the kitchen (G12) below. The function room is liberally lit by three tall, rectangular window openings in the west wall, with fixed lower lights below bottom-hinged upper, opening panels, set within hooded timber architraves that extend to floor level. The northernmost window has been partly adapted to form a doorway, opening onto a platform above the lobby of the single-storey kitchen extension, and serving a metal fire-escape stair descending to the yard below (Plates 6/7). The walls of F19 are rendered and papered throughout, with moulded timber skirting and dado, and projecting plaster cornice. A Regency style fireplace, decorated with central panel of mythical theme, swags, musical instrument motifs, elliptical rosettes and trailing foliage, is set centrally within the east wall (Plate 74). The room is furnished with a fine coved ceiling with a frieze of rosette and simplified acanthus leaf design, circular plaster ceiling roses to north and south and a central, coved elliptical recess (Plate 75). The floor is formed of modern parquet flooring. At the south end of the room, a gallery, with slender turned balusters, fills the full width of the room (Plates 72 and 73), accessed from Room S16 at second floor level.
- 8.6.4 The roof structure is of five bays demarcated by four timber king-post trusses (Plate 76) carrying two tiers of trenched purlins, a number of which represent re-used timbers.
- 8.6.5 The Assembly Room is understood to have been appended to the rear of the hotel building in the latter years of the 18th century, under the ownership of John Crump, 1777 - c.1791 (Hobson 1994,3).

8.7 The Kitchen Extension

- 8.7.1 To the far north of the building complex is a single-storey, flat-roofed, brick-built extension. The building is fitted out as a modern kitchen (**Room G12**: Plates 32/3) with lino flooring and glazed tile walls, and toilet facilities (**G14/15**), the latter accessed from the entrance lobby (**G13**) at the south-west corner. No early fabric was exposed/identified during the current programme of works.
- 8.7.2 The kitchen block partly occupies the footprint of a structure indicated on a number of the early Ordnance Survey maps (Figures 4 to 9), though it was not possible to identify any early fabric within the standing building, which probably dates, in its present form at least, to the middle years of the 20th century.

9 DENDROCHRONOLOGICAL STUDY

- 9.1 The results of dendrochronological analysis have not allowed for a firm construction date to be established for either of the buildings sampled. However, the presence of a re-used collar of late 15th-/early 16th-century date provides a *terminus pre-quem* for the construction of No. 63 Load Street, the earliest section of the building while the mid-18th century date for No. 64/5 is broadly supported by the felling date range (AD 1745-70) of two principal

rafters. A copy of the full dendrochronological report is included below as Appendix D.

10 BUILDING ASSESSMENT

10.1 The buildings of the George Hotel have been subject to successive phases of remodelling and periodic refurbishment, and it is unfortunate that these remodellings have, to a considerable extent, and in places almost entirely masked the original form and previous layouts of the property. In this context, a discussion of the buildings origins and development is inevitably based upon dating by general stylistic grounds and upon the form of diagnostic features recorded in relative isolation. Problems of dating on stylistic grounds have been compounded by the introduction of historic features from outside

10.2 The most recent and extensive programme of refurbishment occurred during the 1960s when the bedroom accommodation was reorganised and a large ground floor lounge area created. The present programme of enabling works has comprised, for the most part, the removal modern partitions associated with the 1960s reordering and exposure of significant, diagnostic fabric and detail has thus been limited.

Phasing

10.1 **Phase I:** The earliest element of the complex is the front, street range of No. 63, of three-storeys with attics. The results of dendrochronological study have not allowed for a precise date to be assigned for the construction of this range, and so the broad dating of early to mid-17th century included within the statutory listing, based upon stylistic grounds, remains.

10.2 **Phase II:** The rear extension to No. 63 would appear to be an early addition, inferred in particular by the form of Staircase C and by the spice cupboard recorded within the western flank of the contemporary brick stack. Both of these features are stylistically of a late 17th-/ early 18th-century date and it is thus tempting to assign this development to a phase of enlargement of the premises documented to have been instigated by Thomas Burlton who possessed the inn in the early years of the 18th century (down to 1706, see Appendix C). At this time, accommodation was increased from seven to seventeen rooms and reference is made to a coploft within the *old building* and a further *new coploft* (see §.6.3), implying a fairly major programme of enlargement.

10.3 **Phase III:** No. 63 was fairly extensively remodelled during the 18th century, including the introduction of double-hung sash windows throughout.

10.4 **Phase III:** No.64/5 Load Street dates to the early to mid-18th century on stylistic grounds, and the results of the dendrochronological study broadly support this assumption with two timbers from the roof structure providing a felling date of AD 1745–70 (see Appendix D). Again, periodic interior refurbishment and remodelling has masked earlier layouts.

10.5 **Phase IV:** The bow windows of No. 63 on the front elevation suggest a further programme of alteration in the late-18th or early 19th century, probably also including the adaptation of the lower section of the principal staircase B, and possibly contemporary with the creation of the assembly room extension to the

rear of the property. With the exception of the last of these works, these alterations are again dated on stylistic grounds alone and it is not possible to be certain that they formed part of a single or several different phases of work.

- 10.6 **Phase V:** The assembly rooms can be conclusively dated to the late-18th century by historical evidence (see above). The majority of the interior decoration were part of a 1960s refurbishment.

11 WATCHING BRIEF

- 11.1 Three areas were observed during a watching brief on demolition of 20th-century buildings and sub-surface excavation to the rear of the building (Fig. 18, Plate 77 and 78). The natural was not reached in either Area 1 or 2 of the watching brief. The watching brief revealed a depth of 0.50m of predominantly black silt with degraded sandstone and rubble, overlain by the former concrete surface. Within Area 1 an occupation layer of light brown yellow silty clay with charcoal mottling (**1008**) was encountered at 0.78m below ground. No significant structures were encountered (Fig. 19, Plate 77).
- 11.2 A further two test-pits were excavated within the building. These were located in room (the rear dining room of the hotel). They revealed the natural at grey sandstone at a depth of 1.20m (Test-pit 2, Plate 80) and overlying this was natural red-sand (test-pit 1, Plate 79).
- 11.3 Detailed descriptions of the archaeology encountered are provided in Appendix A.

12 DISCUSSION

- 12.1 The earliest fabric within the building relates to the street range of No. 63. References from as early as 1609 for a 'baker at the George' (see §.6.1) correspond with this date for the range and suggest that the building was established by the early-17th century with a bakehouse functioning in parallel with an inn at this stage. The historical development of Bewdley as a whole suggests that the 16th and 17th centuries were periods of relative prosperity and expansion. This was associated with the development of the town as an inland port serving the hinterland of southern Shropshire and Staffordshire and northern Worcestershire at the point where the River Severn became unnavigable for larger boats. The side passage leading to the rear of the building was typical of the 16th to 17th century inn layout. The 19th-century map evidence (Tithe Map and 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map) show the passage continuing through to Dog Lane at the rear. The series of buildings to the rear of the inn suggest the location of stabling and carriage facilities. The layout of the town as indicated on the tithe map suggests that the through passage would also allow immediate access to pasture associated with the low lying areas adjacent to the River Severn.
- 12.2 The purpose of the 'inn' in its early incarnation was to act principally as accommodation and a venue for meals and refreshment for travellers (Brandwood et al 2004, 13). The decoration and plan visible on the third floor suggest that even here the rooms were used for accommodation as opposed to servant quarters (see §.8.3.11). The extension of No. 63 to the rear in the late-

- 17th to early-18th century in order to increase capacity would correspond with continued growth of trade in the town during this period. The rooms here are simpler and were possibly used for lower status accommodation, overlooking the rear of the building as opposed to the street.
- 12.3 The addition of the assembly room in the late-18th century would correspond with the burgeoning functionality of the premises. The 'inn' acted as a social centre for both the dinners, balls and concerts but also acted as accommodation for official functions including court sessions and inquests (Brandwood et al 2004, 15). The addition of the assembly room in the late-18th century probably coincided with the period of greatest prosperity. The inn is known to have had coaching routes to Birmingham at this time and the outlay involved in the addition of the assembly room supports the assertion that the George was a high status inn during this period.
- 12.5 Alteration has occurred at various periods masking the original form within the building. The earliest of these must be seen as a late-18th century remodelling involving the insertion of vertical sash windows at first floor level and associated remodelling with dado and skirting within the rooms. The absence of any substantial, identifiable additions within the building during the 19th century is unusual but reflects the decline in trade passing through Bewdley. Although the town still acted as a substantial market centre the advent of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal connecting Birmingham and the Black Country to the River Severn at Stourport about five miles south of Bewdley led to a reduction of trade passing through the town. Features such as the bolection panelled door and the insertion of a decorated 19th-century fireplace suggest piecemeal alteration of the upper rooms as and when required.
- 12.6 The internal layout of the building was subject to significant alterations in the 1960s, a period that saw the radical alteration of many public house interiors and the subsequent loss of original features. The building as a whole retains few fixtures or fittings of any note from prior to the 1960s within the principal rooms. Generally wall surfaces and beams have been rendered and boxed preventing detailed analysis of fabric and building form. On the ground floor little original fabric has been retained and the layout of the bar has been radically altered. On the first to third floors, retention of original features is confined principally to the stop-chamfered ceiling beams though with occasional survivals such as the spice cupboard in Room F18.
- 12.7 No. 64 dates to the mid-18th century or later, but the property was not incorporated into the ownership of the George Hotel until the 19th century. Like No. 63, the 1960s remodelling has resulted in little evidence for earlier fittings or fixtures. However, given that the property changed ownership, it is likely that alteration had occurred throughout its lifetime. Indicators of original layout were limited to the Stairwell A, which appeared to be in its original location and indicated the third floor was probable lower status accommodation and a single lathe and plaster partition wall on the second floor. Such scant early features reflect the level of alteration within the interior over time.

13 IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 The exterior fabric of the building as a whole remains largely unchanged. Interior alteration throughout the lifespan of the building has resulted in little of the original layout surviving. Survival of fabric is as residual glimpses within the present building and does not generally constitute the original form. The original or early fabric of the building is best represented in ceiling beams and the staircases that all retain at least some earlier fabric. The individual layout of rooms has almost exclusively been altered.

14 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 14.1 The building assessment was undertaken by Ric Tyler and was managed by Chris Hewitson of Birmingham Archaeology. The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Elizabeth Bishop and the historical research by Alison Derrick. The dendrochronological analysis of the roof timbers was undertaken on behalf of Birmingham Archaeology by Robert Howard and Alison Arnold of the Nottingham Tree-ring Dating Laboratory. The current report was written and illustrated by Ric Tyler and edited by Chris Hewitson.

15 SOURCES

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- Ordnance Survey County Series 1:2500 3rd Revision map of 19.
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Kelly's Directory, 1884, 1888, 1892, 1895, 1900, 1904, 1908, 1912, 1916, 1921, 1924, 1928, 1932, 1936 and 1940.

Littlebury's Directory, 1873, 1879.

Owen's Directory, 1881.

Pigot's Directory, 1842.

Slater's Directory, 1862.

Post Office Directory, 1863, 1868.

APPENDIX A: List Entries

(a) *No. 63 Load Street*

SO 7875 SE BEWDLEY CP

LOAD STREET
(north side)
13/126

No 63 (The George Hotel)

22.4.50

GV II

House, now hotel. Probably early C17, remodelled mid-C18 with some mid- C20 alterations. Probably timber-frame clad in stuccoed brick. Three storeys with attic lit by two gabled dormers, brick coped verge to right, wooden modillioned cornice, band to first floor bearing hotel name; four windows: boxed glazing sashes with stone sills; second floor: as first floor; ground floor: two bow windows with continuous moulded cornice, each having a curved 12-pane sash to the front flanked by an 8-pane sash each side; carriage entrance to left corner has a boarded door with shaped top carrying wrought iron spikes. Rear wing facing into courtyard is of painted brick, in two blocks of two storeys, that nearest front of four windows, the other of three. Other side of this wing faces into courtyard of no 64 and 65 (qv) and has two timber cross-windows. Framing: visible in carriage entrance with square panels.

(b) *Nos. 64 and 65 Load Street*

SO 7875 SE BEWDLEY CP

LOAD STREET
(north side)
13/127

Nos 64 and 65

22.4.50

GV II

Two houses, now restaurant, shop and flats. Early C18 with mid-C19 and some late C20 alterations. Brick with machine tile roof, gable end stacks. Three storeys; stone coped parapet, stone quoins; six windows: boxed glazing bar sashes under rubbed brick heads with fluted stone keystones; second floor: similar windows, but of shorter height with scrolled keystones; ground floor: central passageway with segmental head and fluted keystone to entrance; entrance to flats off this passage: to left hand mid-C20 entrance, to right-hand side a radially glazed fanlight over a door of six raised and fielded panels; to left-hand side of front: rusticated pilasters with scroll brackets to dentilled stone cornice, two 2-pane shop windows, central recessed entrance with C20 glazed door; to right- hand side: pilastered shop front with dentilled wooden cornice, plate glass shop window with entrance to left which has a 2-pane overlight and half-glazed door.

APPENDIX B: Ownership of The George Hotel (after Hobson, 1994 and Scaplehorn, 2004).

(a)

Date	Copyholder/owner	Tenant
? - 1609	John Weaver <i>'the baker of the George'</i>	
1662 - 1668	William Clare	
1668 - 1706	Thomas Burlton	
1706 - 1709	Thomas Burlton (Jnr)	
1709 - 1710	Bettye Burlton	
1710 - 1728	John Burlton	
1728 - ?	Hanna Burlton	
? - 1768	Edward Burlton	
1768 - 1777	Edward Burlton (of Ludlow)	James Vobe, John Crump (after 1773)
1777 - c.1791	John Crump	
c.1791 - 1813	John Carlton Crump	
1813 - 1814	Robert Tench	
1814 - 1840	Thomas Cartwright	Thomas and Edward Ree
1840 - c.1854		James Davis Morris
c.1854 - c.1863		John Parsons
c.1863 - 1874		Michael James Holder
1874 - 1882	William Augustus Weaver	
1882 - c.1888	William Henry Anderson	William Blight
c.1888 - 1892		Atwell Goulding
1893 - c.1895	Edgbaston Brewery Company	Orlando Woodward
c.1895 - 1909		Sarah Elizabeth Woodward
1909 - c.1940	John Howard Cooper	
c.1940 - 1957	Helena Margaret Cooper	
1957 - 1993	Atkinson's Brewery	Various Tenants

1993 present	-	Martyn and Irene Jones	

(b) Licensees listed in Trade Directories

Date	Copyholder/owner	Tenant
1829	Pigot's Directory	Thomas and Edward Ree
1837	Pigot's Directory	Edward Ree
1840	Bentley's Directory	Edward and Ann Ree
1842	Pigot's Directory	James Davis Morris
1854	Kelly's Directory	John Parsons
1860	Cassey's Directory	John Parsons
1862	Slater's Directory	John Parsons
1863	PO Directory	Michael James Holder
1868	PO Directory	William Augustus Weaver
1873	Littlebury's Directory	William Augustus Weaver
1879	Littlebury's Directory	William Augustus Weaver
1881	Owen's Directory	William Augustus Weaver
1884	Kelly's Directory	William Henry Blight
1888	Kelly's Directory	Atwell Goulding
1892	Kelly's Directory	Orlando William Woodward
1895	Kelly's Directory	Sarah Elizabeth Woodward
1900	Kelly's Directory	Sarah Elizabeth Woodward
1904	Kelly's Directory	Sarah Elizabeth Woodward
1908	Kelly's Directory	Sarah Elizabeth Woodward
1912	Kelly's Directory	John Howard Cooper
1916	Kelly's Directory	John Howard Cooper
1921	Kelly's Directory	John Howard Cooper
1924	Kelly's Directory	John Howard Cooper
1928	Kelly's Directory	John Howard Cooper
1932	Kelly's Directory	John Howard Cooper
1936	Kelly's Directory	John Howard Cooper
1940	Kelly's Directory	John Howard Cooper

APPENDIX C: Archaeological Watching Brief

Area 1 (11.40m x 6.28m x 11.50m x 6.0m x 0.84m, Plate 77)

This area was located on the west side of the George Hotel building where once stood a modern outbuilding (Fig. 18 and 19). The true natural was not reached during excavations as the required depth was obtained before the natural. A light brown yellow silty clay (**1008**) with charcoal mottling was encountered at 0.78m below ground. This was overlaid by a mixed deposit of degraded sandstone and building rubble (**1006**) 0.30m-0.50m thick and sandstone blocks (**1005**) of varying sizes. Also overlying **1008** in the north facing section was three courses of bright orange bricks (**1007**) of different sizes, 9½" x 4¼" x 2¼" and 4¾" x 2¼". Cut through **1006** was a modern ceramic drain pipe (**1002**). Overlying 1007, 1006 and 1005 was mid brown silty sand (**1004**) with large amounts of charcoal, 0.08m-0.70m thick. A large concrete and orange sand disturbance (**1003**) 0.60m x 0.66m truncated 1006 at the edge of the area in the north facing section. Overlying 1006 and 1004 and sealing the trench was a brick surface (**1001**) consisting of dark purple red bricks 4¼"x 2¾". Truncating this surface and overlying **1003** on the north-western edge of the trench in the north facing section was a layer of modern concrete (**1000**), 0.04m thick.

Area 2 (15.70m x 4.35m x 0.84m, Plate 78)

This area is located at the south side of the hotel on what was formerly a passageway (Fig. 18). The natural was not reached during excavations as the required depth was obtained before the natural appeared. A mid-black brown silty sand (**2003**) with building rubble formed the base layer encountered in this area. A 20th-century drain pipe sealed by concrete (**2002**), running east-west, truncated 2003 across the whole length of the area excavated on the south side. Visible only in part of the section was a number of green stones (**2001**) of various size and at least 0.08m thick. Overlying this was a mixed layer of sandstones, again of various sizes, and sand (**2000**), 0.50m thick. These two layers provided the foundations for the George Hotel building.

Test-Pit 1 (1.04m x 0.58m x 0.98m, Plate 79)

This was located in the **Room G5** (Fig. 12) next to the north facing interior wall (Fig. 12). The natural consisted of orange red sand with degraded sandstone (**3005**) first encountered at 0.83m below floor level. This was overlaid as follows:

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	THICKNESS
3004	Dark black gritty coal deposit	0.13m
3003	Mid pinkish orange sand	0.05m
3002	Mid brown silty sand	0.21m
3001	Mid orange bricks, 9"x 2¾", stretcher bond, 6 courses (only visible in south facing section)	0.44m
3000	Light pinkish white cement, floor (not visible in south facing section)	0.10m

Test-Pit 2 (2.39m x 1.10m x 1.36m, Plate 80)

This was also located in the **Room G5** (Fig. 12) next to the south-facing internal wall. The natural grey bedrock (**4004**) was reached at 1.20m below floor level. Overlying

this was the natural orange red sand and degraded sandstone layer (**4003**), 0.12m thick. This was overlaid as follows:

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	THICKNESS
4002	Mid orange bricks, 9½" x 2¼", laid in English cross bond 5 courses, with yellow white mortar 0.01m thick	0.36m
4001	Light pinkish white concrete	0.65m
4000	Mid orange bricks, 9" x 2¾" 1 course, with pinkish mortar 0.02m thick	0.07m

CONCLUSIONS

In Area 1 a possible occupation layer **1008** was exposed. One piece of pottery, spot dated between 16th-17th century came out of this layer (K. Nichol pers. comm). This links up with the construction of the George Hotel. No significant archaeological features were revealed in any of the areas excavated. The excavations revealed the foundations which the George Hotel was built on in the 17th century.

APPENDIX D: Dendrochronological Report



Nottingham Tree-ring Dating Laboratory
Dendrochronology, timber analysis & historic building
consultants

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TREE-RING ANALYSIS OF TIMBERS FROM THE GEORGE HOTEL, LOAD STREET, BEWDLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE

ALISON ARNOLD
ROBERT HOWARD

SUMMARY

Dendrochronological analysis was undertaken on a number of timbers at this building resulting in the dating of a single site sequence and the individual dating of one sample.

A reused collar in 63 Load Street was dated to a felling of AD 1490–1515.

Site sequence BWDBSQ01, containing two samples from 64 Load Street, spans the period AD 1661–1732. One of these samples was felled in AD 1745–70 and, whilst the other one does not have the heartwood/sapwood boundary ring date, the date of its last measured ring makes it possible that it was also felled in AD 1745–70.

A second site sequence could not be dated.

Tree-ring analysis has shown that the roof of number 63 Load Street contains at least one reused timber of the late-fifteenth/early sixteenth century and that the roof of 64 Load Street contains at least two timbers of the mid-eighteenth century.

TREE-RING ANALYSIS OF TIMBERS FROM THE GEORGE HOTEL, LOAD STREET, BEWDLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE

Introduction

The Georgian town of Bewdley is situated on the banks of the River Severn some 15 miles to the north-east of Worcester (Figure 1). The medieval and post-medieval periods were prosperous ones for the town due largely to its river location and close proximity to the Wyre Forest. This wealth can be seen in some of the timber-framed and Georgian buildings which still line its streets; one of which is the George Hotel.

The George Hotel, located on the north side of Load Street, is actually two buildings, numbers 63 and 64 (Figure 2). Number 63, the George proper, is a Grade II listed building of three storeys plus attics. The main (or front) range is orientated east-west and is of two full bays. Behind this are two gabled single bays orientated north-south. To the rear of this are further two storey ranges. This building is thought to date to the early-seventeenth century but was remodelled in the eighteenth century. The adjacent building (number 64) is also Grade II listed and is again of three storeys. It consists of a main east-west range of two bays and a north-south rear wing. This

building is believed to be early-eighteenth century in date but again with some later alterations.

The roofs

The roof of number 63 has three trusses of varying forms. Truss one is the more simple design, consisting of principal rafters and collar. The collar shows signs of previous use in the form of empty mortices (Plate 61). Truss 2 consists of principal rafters, queen struts, and collars (Plate 59). The common rafters are supported on two sets of trenched purlins. There is a third truss in the wall between this building and number 64.

The roof of number 64 is of two bays and two trusses. Truss 3 consists of principal rafters, queen posts, collar, and struts from principal rafter to tiebeam. Again, there are signs that the collar has been reused from another structure (Plate 69). There is a second truss in the north gable wall.

TREE-RING SAMPLING

Within the attic spaces of both buildings, it was possible to inspect a number of the roof timbers. Unfortunately, many of these were unsuitable for tree-ring analysis, having too few growth rings for secure dating. However, it was felt that some of the more substantial beams might have sufficient number of growth rings and these were sampled. Each core sample was given the code BWD-B (for Bewdley, site 'B') and numbered 01–11. Samples BWD-B01–08 are from timbers associated with 63 Load Street and samples BWD-B09–11 are from timbers of 64 Load Street. The location of each sample was noted at the time of sampling and these have been marked on Figure 16. Further details can be found in Table 1.

PRINCIPLES OF TREE-RING DATING

Tree-ring dating relies on a few simple, but quite fundamental, principals. Firstly, as is commonly known, trees (particularly oak trees, the most frequently used building timber in England) grow by adding one, and only one, growth-ring to their circumference each, and every, year. Each new annual growth-ring is added to the outside of the previous year's growth just below the bark. The width of this annual growth-ring is largely, though not exclusively, determined by the weather conditions during the growth period (roughly March – September). In general, good conditions produce wider rings and poor conditions produce narrower rings. Thus, over the lifetime of a tree, the annual growth-rings display a climatically determined pattern. Furthermore, and importantly, all trees growing in the same area at the same time will be influenced by the same growing conditions and the annual growth-rings of all of them will respond in a similar, though not identical, way.

Secondly, because the weather over any number of consecutive years is unique, so too is the growth pattern of the tree. The pattern of a short period of growth, 20 or 30 consecutive years, might conceivably be repeated two or even three times in the last one thousand years. A short pattern might also be repeated at different time periods in different parts of the country because of differences in regional micro-climates. It is less likely, however, that such problems would occur with the pattern of a longer period of growth, that is, anything in excess of 60 years or so. In essence, a short period of growth, anything less than 50 rings, is not reliable, and the longer the period of time under comparison the better.

The third principal of tree-ring dating is that, until the early- to mid-nineteenth century, builders of timber-framed houses usually obtained all the wood needed for a given structure by felling the necessary trees in a single operation from one patch of woodland or from closely adjacent woods. Furthermore, and contrary to popular belief, the timber was used "green" and without seasoning, and there was very little

long-term storage as in timber-yards of today. This fact has been well established from a number of studies where tree-ring dating has been undertaken in conjunction with documentary studies. Thus, establishing the felling date for a group of timbers gives a very precise indication of the date of their use in a building.

Tree-ring dating relies on obtaining the growth pattern of trees from sample timbers of unknown date by measuring the width of the annual growth-rings. This is done to a tolerance of 1/100 of a millimeter. The growth patterns of these samples of unknown date are then compared with a series of reference patterns or chronologies, the date of each ring of which *is* known. When a sample "cross-matches" repeatedly at the same date against a series of different relevant reference chronologies the sample can be said to be dated. The degree of cross-matching, that is the measure of similarity between sample and reference, is denoted by a "t-value"; the higher the value the greater the similarity. The greater the similarity the greater is the probability that the patterns of samples and references have been produced by growing under the same conditions *at the same time*. The statistically accepted fully reliable minimum t-value is 3.5.

However, rather than attempt to date each sample individually it is usual to first compare all the samples from a single building, or phases of a building, with one another, and attempt to cross-match each one with all the others from the same phase or building. When samples from the same phase do cross-match with each other they are combined at their matching positions to form what is known as a "site chronology". As with any set of data, this has the effect of reducing the anomalies of any one individual (brought about in the case of tree-rings by some non-climatic influence) and enhances the overall climatic signal. As stated above, it is the climate that gives the growth pattern its distinctive pattern. The greater the number of samples in a site chronology the greater is the climatic signal of the group and the weaker is the non-climatic input of any one individual.

Furthermore, combining samples in this way to make a site chronology usually has the effect of increasing the time-span that is under comparison. As also mentioned above, the longer the period of growth under consideration, the greater the certainty of the cross-match. Any site chronology with less than about 55 rings is generally too short for satisfactory analysis.

ANALYSIS, RESULTS, AND INTERPRETATION

All 11 samples were prepared by sanding and polishing and their growth-ring widths measured. These growth-ring widths were then compared with each other, resulting in six samples forming two groups.

Firstly, two samples grouped and were combined at the relevant offset positions to form BWDBSQ01, a site sequence of 72 rings (Figure D1). This site sequence was then compared against a series of relevant reference chronologies for oak where it was found to have a first-measured ring date of AD 1661 and a last-measured ring date of AD 1732. One of these samples (BWD-B11) has the heartwood/sapwood boundary ring, the date of which is AD 1730. This allows an estimated felling date to be calculated for the timber represented to within the range AD 1745–70. The second sample (BWD-B10) does not have the heartwood/sapwood boundary ring and so an estimated felling date cannot be calculated for it, except to say that with a last-measured ring date of AD 1700, this would be estimated to be AD 1716 at the earliest, a date that does not preclude this timber also having been felled in AD 1745–70.

Secondly, four samples grouped and were combined at the relevant offset positions to form BWDBSQ02, a site sequence of 78 rings (Figure D2). Attempts to date this site sequence by comparing it against the reference chronologies were unsuccessful and it remains undated. Three of these samples have complete sapwood and the same end

position demonstrating that all three timbers represented were felled in the same year. The heartwood/sapwood boundary position of the fourth sample makes it quite likely that this timber was also felled at the same time (Figure D2), although it is not possible to say when this would have been.

Attempts to date the remaining ungrouped samples by individually comparing them against the reference material resulted in sample BWD-B03 being matched at a first-ring date of AD 1392 and a last-measured ring date of AD 1480. The heartwood/sapwood boundary ring date of this sample is AD 1475, which allows an estimated felling date to be calculated for the timber represented to within the range AD 1490–1515. The evidence for this dating is given by the *t*-values in Table 2.

All felling dates have been calculated using the estimate that 95% of mature oak trees in this area have between 15–40 sapwood rings.

DISCUSSION

Prior to the tree-ring analysis being undertaken, number 63 Load Street was thought likely to date to the early-seventeenth century with the adjacent number 64 being slightly later, dating to the early-eighteenth century. The dendrochronological analysis has resulted in the successful dating of three timbers from these two roofs.

A timber from the roof of 63 Load Street is now known to have been felled in AD 1490–1515. This timber, a collar, clearly shows signs of previous use prior to its inclusion in this roof structure (Plate 69). Four further samples from this roof, all taken from principal rafters, grouped to form site sequence BWDBSQ01; although it has not been possible to date this site sequence, we can say that all four timbers represented were probably felled in the same year. Additionally, the good intra-site matching of these four samples is indicative of a single source being utilised for all of these timbers. Although it has not been possible to provide a construction date for the roof of this building, it is now known to include at least one reused timber of the late fifteenth/early-sixteenth century.

The two principal rafters of truss 3 in the roof structure of 64 Load Street have been dated. One of these is now known to have been felled some time within the period AD 1745–70, with the second principal rafter having a *terminus post quem* felling which would make it possible that this timber was also felled in AD 1745–70. Stylistically, this building has been dated to the early-eighteenth century. It is now known that this roof contains at least two timbers of the mid-eighteenth century. However, it should be stressed that the dating of two timbers cannot be said to be conclusive evidence for a construction date of the building as a whole.

It is unfortunate that tree-ring analysis has not been able to provide dating for more timbers at these two buildings. This is especially disappointing in the case of site sequence BWDBSQ01. Site chronologies which are relatively short in length or poorly replicated, with only a small number of samples incorporated, are more likely to remain undated. This site sequence contains four samples but at 78 rings is relatively short which may have hindered successful matching. Another potential problem with dating this site sequence, and also the individual samples, is that, if indeed it is early-eighteenth century, there is a lack of reference chronologies from the post-medieval period with which to match it against.

Acknowledgements:

This work was commissioned by Birmingham Archaeology as part of their survey of the building, on behalf of its owners, J D Weatherspoons. The above building description is based on its Listed Building Description.

Table 1: Details of samples from the George Hotel, Load Street, Bewdley, Worcestershire

Sample number	Sample location	Total rings	*Sapwood rings	First measured ring date (AD)	Last heartwood ring date (AD)	Last ring date (AD)
<u>63 Load Street</u>						
BWD-B01	North principal rafter, truss 1	53	23C	----	----	----
BWD-B02	South principal rafter, truss 1	71	21C	----	----	----
BWD-B03	Collar, truss 1	89	05	1392	1475	1480
BWD-B04	North principal rafter, truss 2	63	03	----	----	----
BWD-B05	South principal rafter, truss 2	64	19C	----	----	----
BWD-B06	Collar, truss 2	74	--	----	----	----
BWD-B07	South lower purlin, truss 2 to brick party wall	120	28C	----	----	----
BWD-B08	West principal rafter, south truss, west gabled bay	44	--	----	----	----
<u>64 Load Street</u>						
BWD-B09	South lower purlin, truss 3 to brick party wall	40	17C	----	----	----
BWD-B10	North principal rafter, truss 3	40	--	1661	----	1700
BWD-B11	South principal rafter, truss 3	70	02	1663	1730	1732

* C = complete sapwood on sample, last measured ring is the felling date

Table 2: Results of the cross-matching of sample BWD-B03 when the first-ring date is AD 1392 and a last-ring date of AD 1480

Reference chronology	Span of chronology (AD)	<i>t</i> -value
Wales and West Midlands	1341–1636	6.5
Sinai Park, Burton on Trent, Staffs	1227–1750	5.4
Mercer’s Hall, Glos	1289–1541	5.4
Wetheral Priory Gatehouse, Cumbria	1410–1511	5.1
Primrose Hill, Kings Norton, Birmingham, West Mids	1354–1593	5.6
The Guildhall, Worcester, Worcs	1361–1609	5.8
5 Church Street, Newark, Notts	1403–1655	4.9
107/8 High Sty Stourbridge, West Mids	1389–1462	4.9

Table 3: Results of the cross-matching of site sequence BWDBSQ01 when the first-ring date is AD 1661 and the last-ring date is AD 1732

Reference chronology	Span of chronology (AD)	<i>t</i> -value
Southwell Minster (north chancel aisle roof), Notts	1573–1716	8.0
Bradgate Trees, Leics	1595–1975	7.3
Stoneleigh Abbey, Stoneleigh, Warwicks	1646–1813	6.9
Worcester Cathedral (composite chronology), Worcs	1484–1772	6.8
Wheelwright’s Shop, Chatham Docks, Kent	1615–1708	6.5
Kibworth Harcourt Mill, Leics	1582–1773	6.5
Croome Court, Worcs	1639–1753	6.4
Claydon House, Bucks	1613–1756	6.2

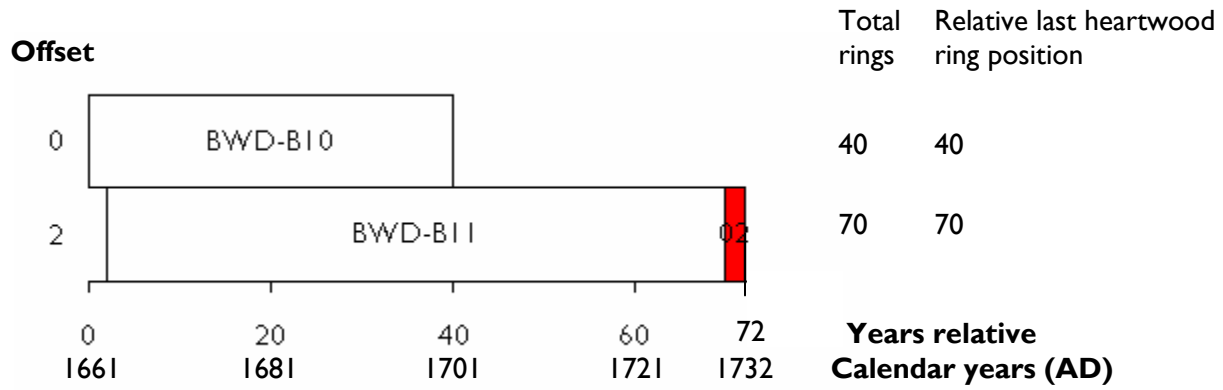
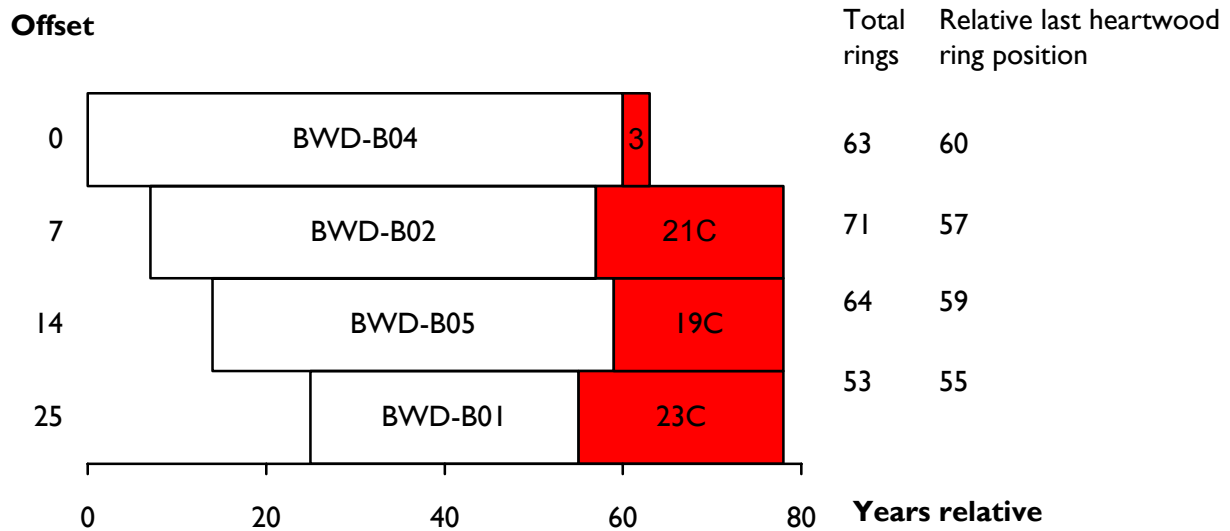


Figure D1: Bar diagram of samples in site sequence BWDBSQ01



C = complete sapwood retained on sample, last measured ring is the felling date

Figure D2: Bar diagram of samples in undated site sequence BWDBSQ02

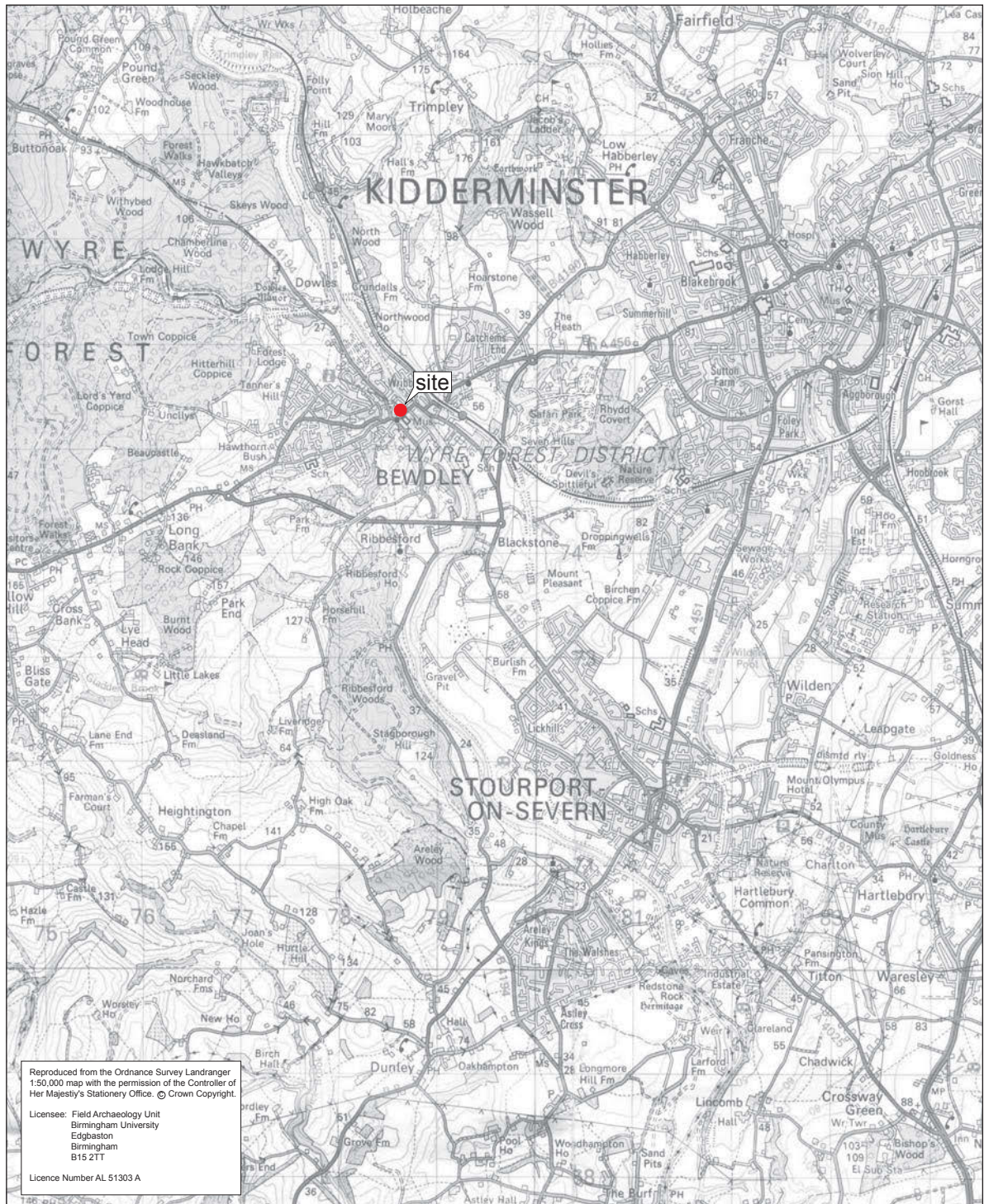


Figure 1: Site location

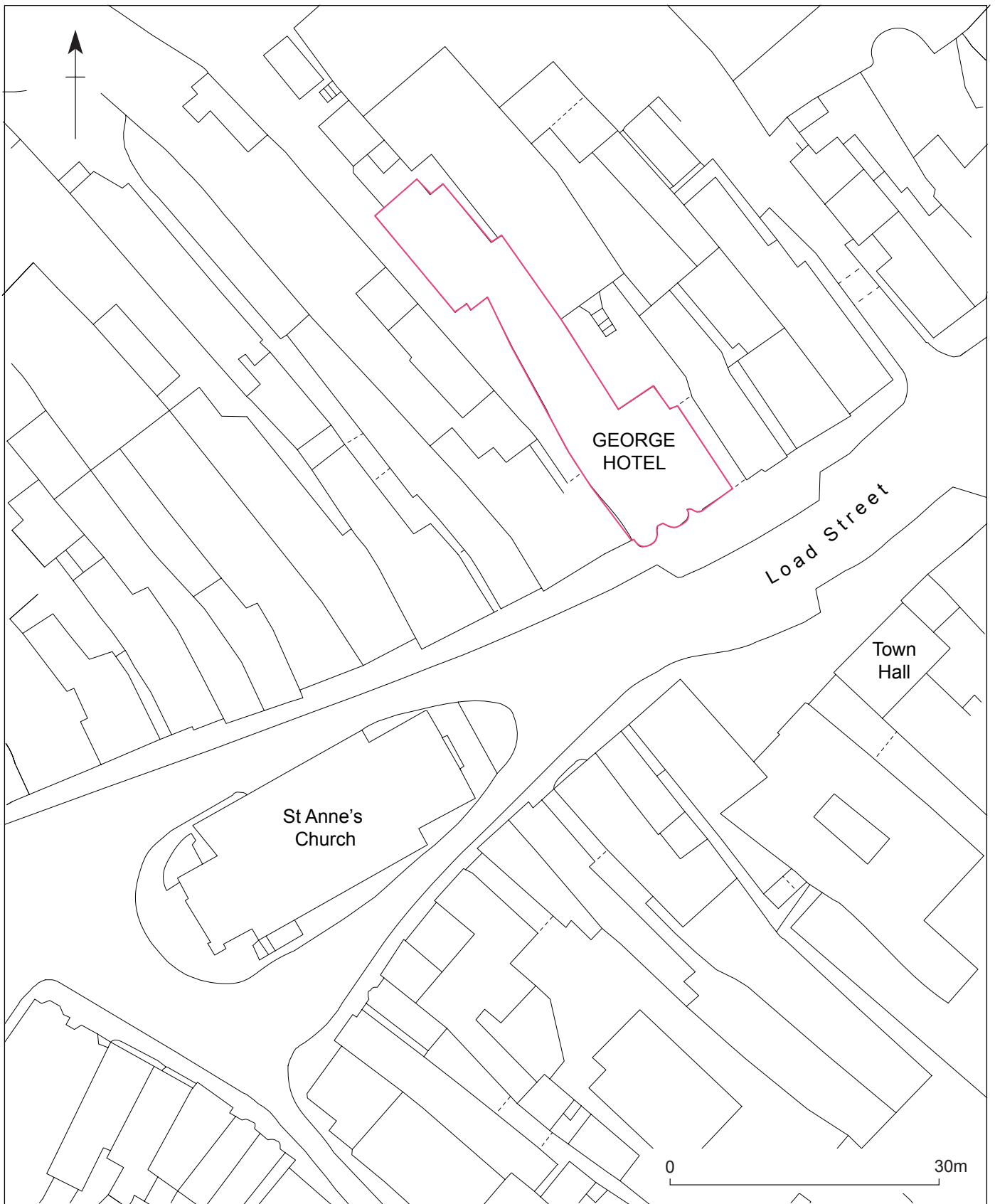


Figure 2: Location of the George Hotel



Figure 3: Engraving of Load Street published by Samuel Danks, 1823.

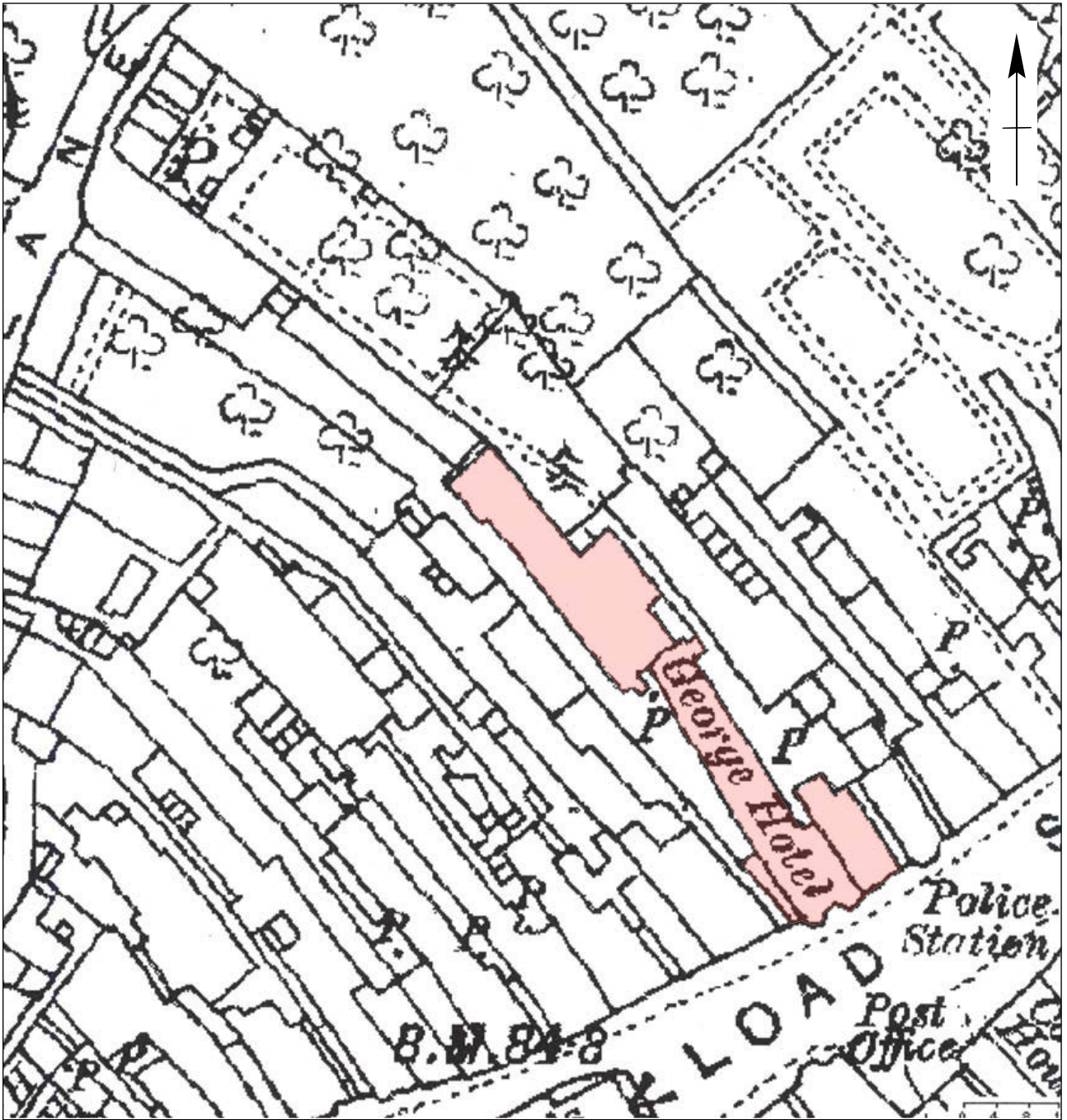


Figure 4: Ordnance Survey County Series 1:2500 1st edition map of 1886.

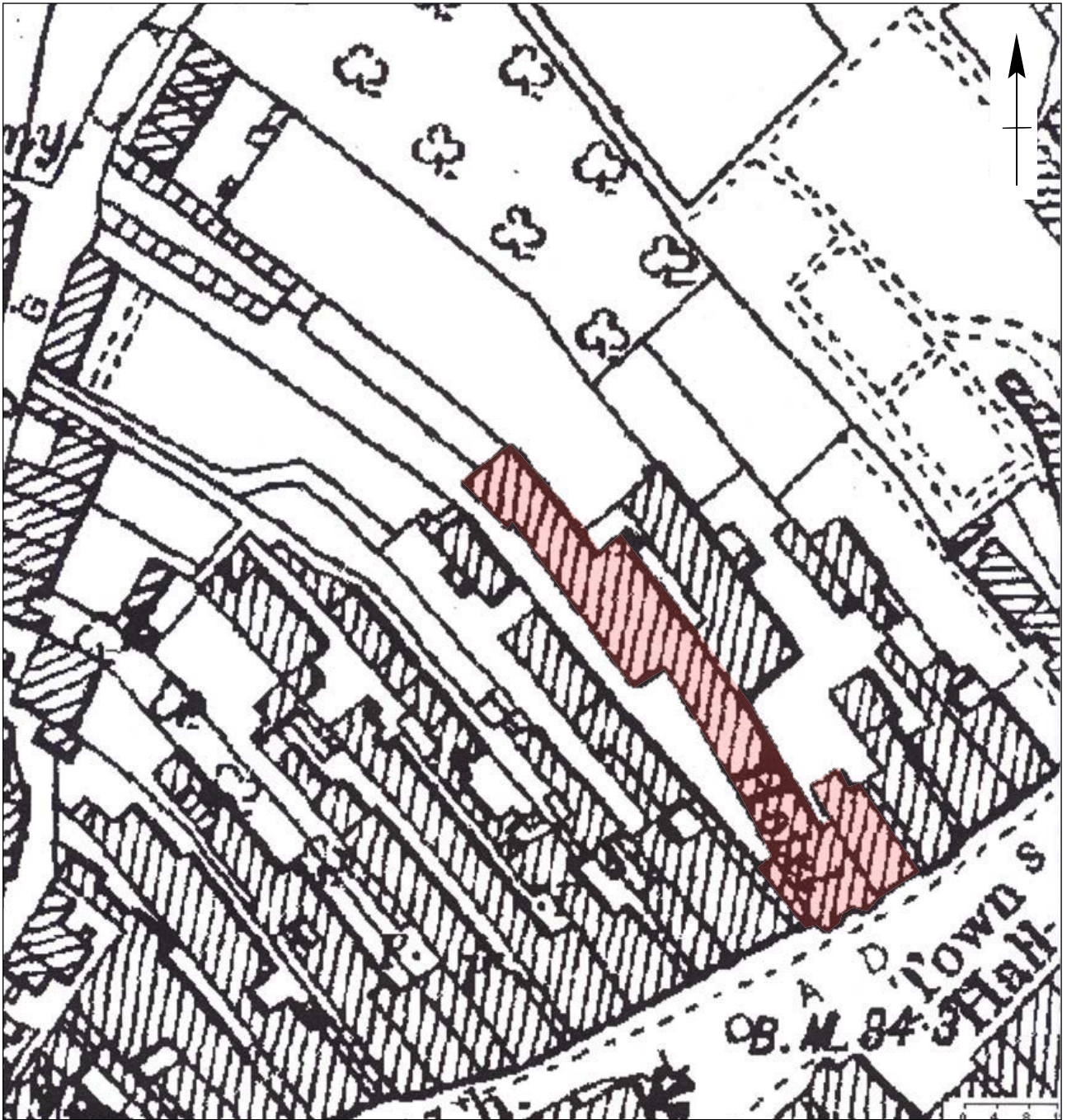


Figure 5: Ordnance Survey County Series 1:2500 1st revision map of 1902.



Figure 6: Ordnance Survey County Series 1:2500 2nd revision map of 1924-7.

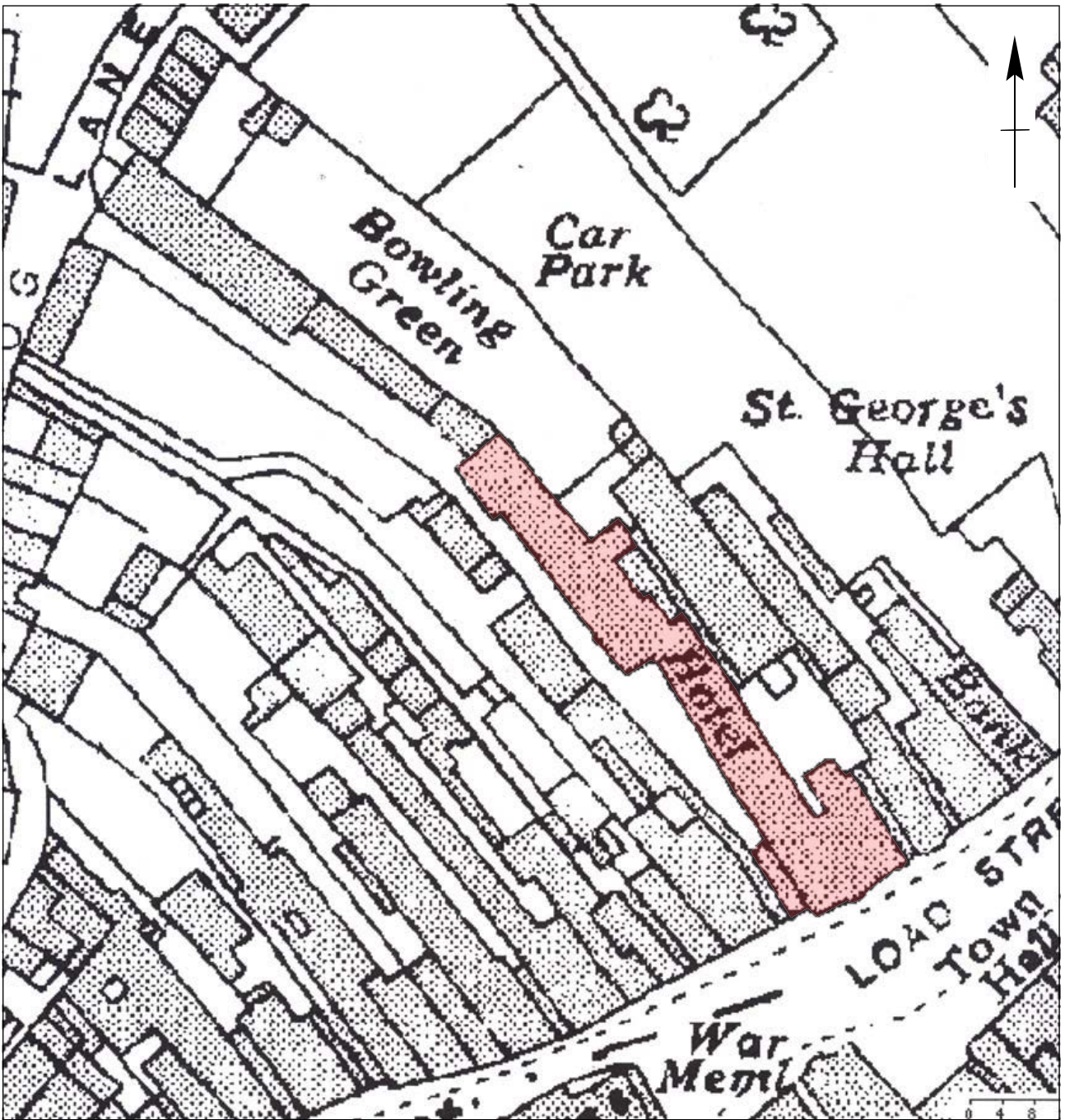


Figure 7: Ordnance Survey County Series 1:2500 3rd revision map of 1938.



Figure 8: Ordnance Survey National Grid Series 1:2500 map of 1964.

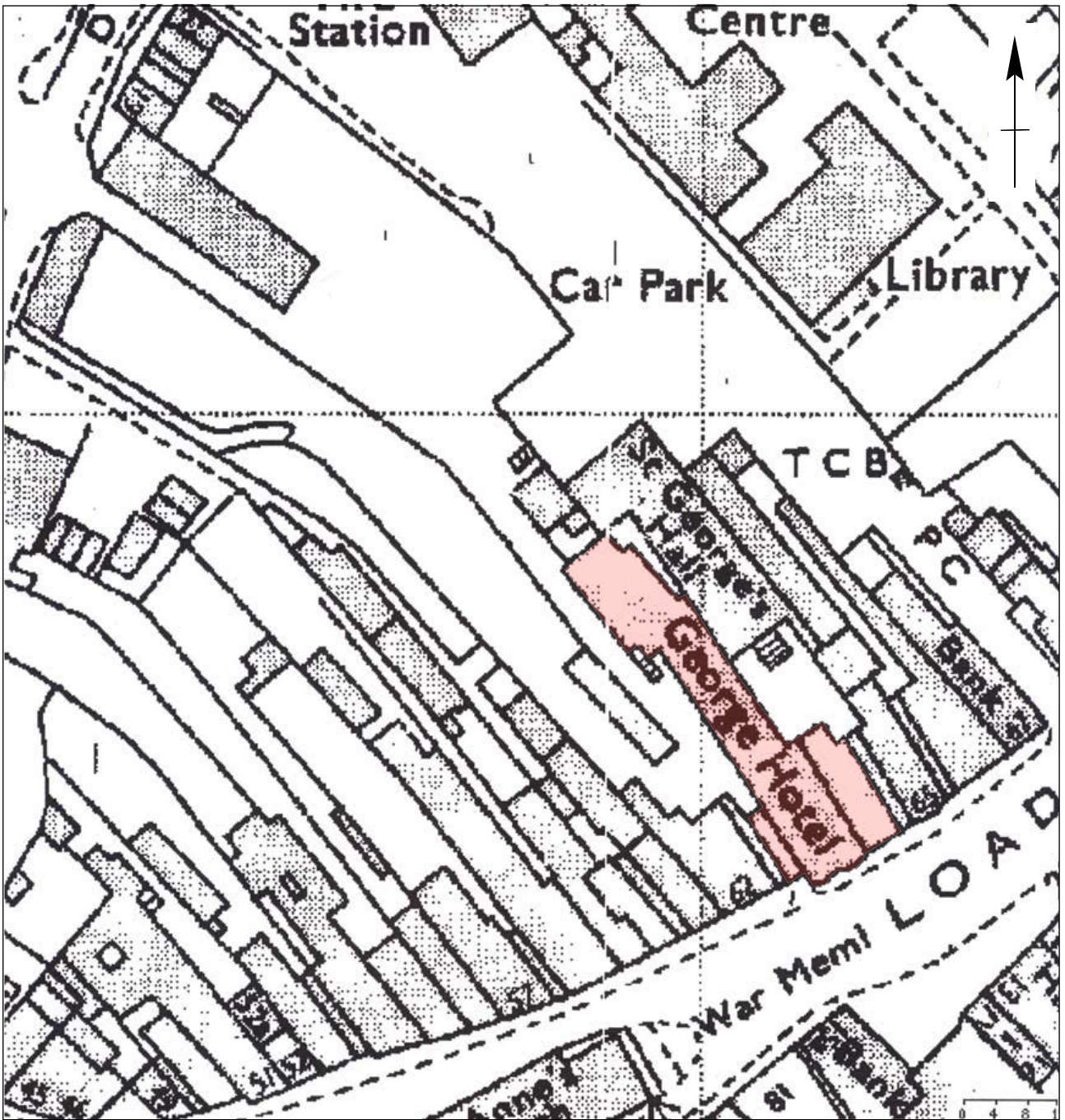
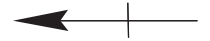


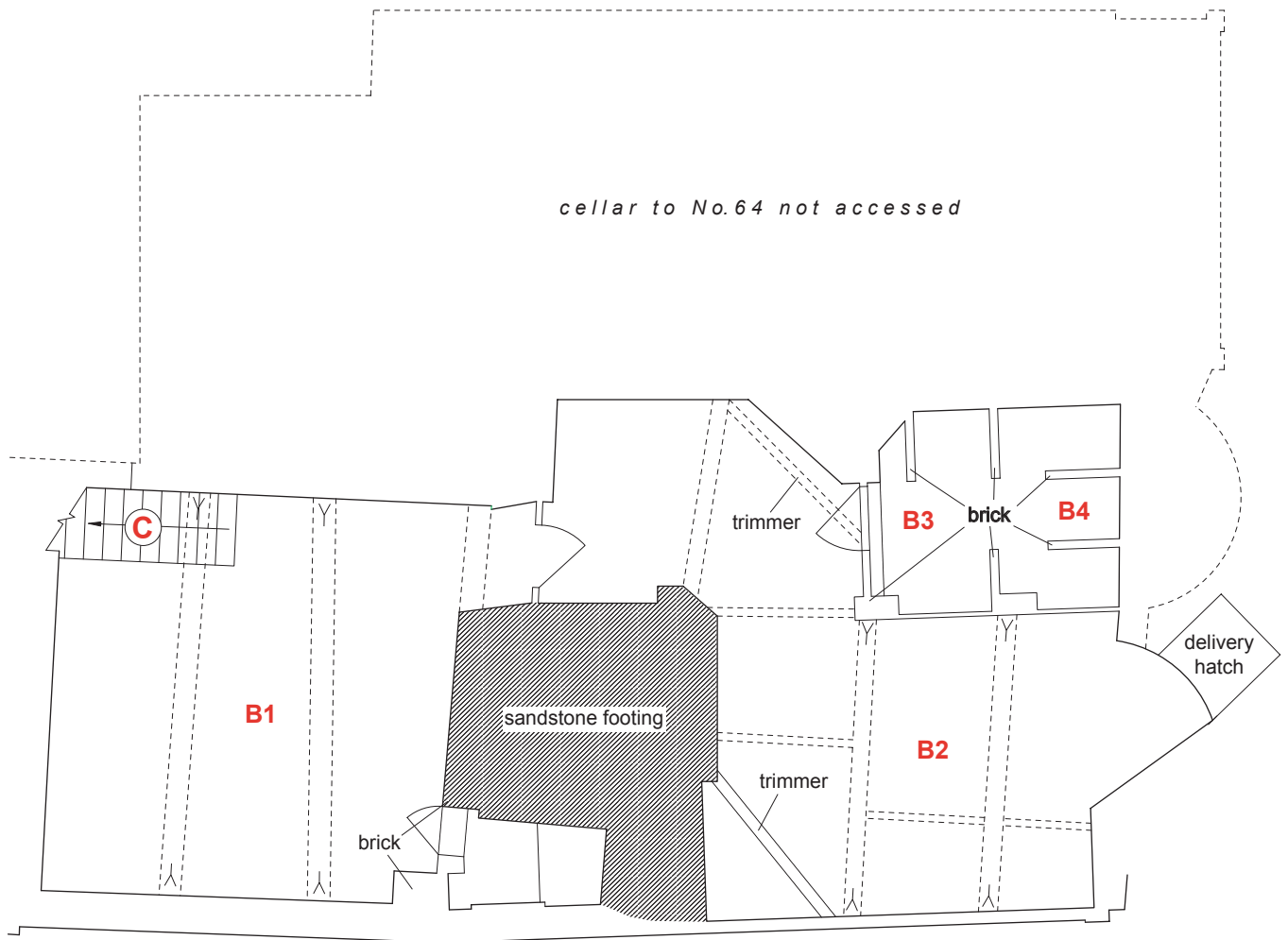
Figure 9: Ordnance Survey National Grid Series 1:2500 1st Revision map of 1975.



Figure 10: Street (south) elevation



north
(indicative)



0

10 m

Scale 1: 100 @ A4

Figure 11: Basement Plan

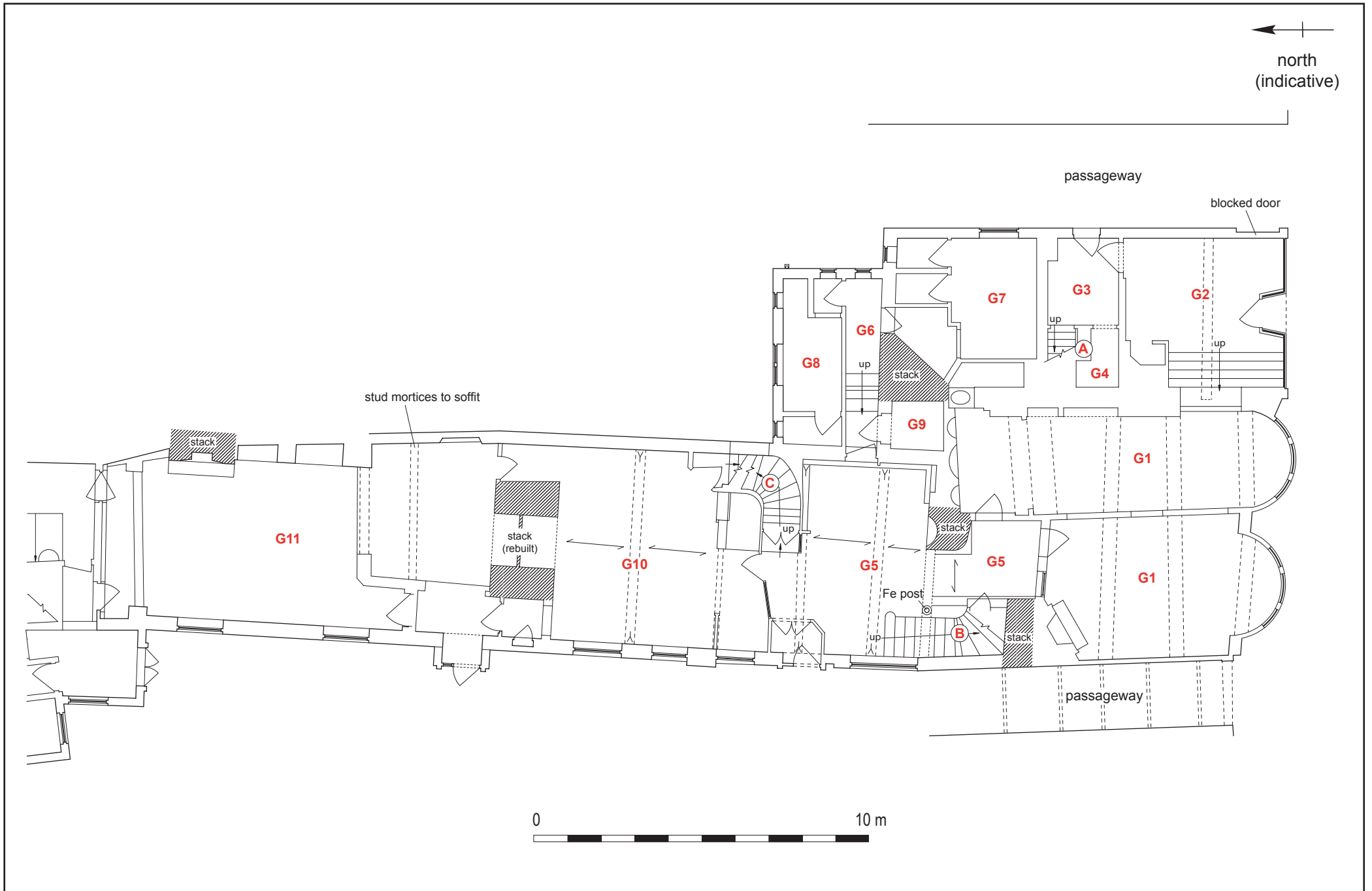


Figure 12: Ground Floor Plan (excluding kitchen extension)

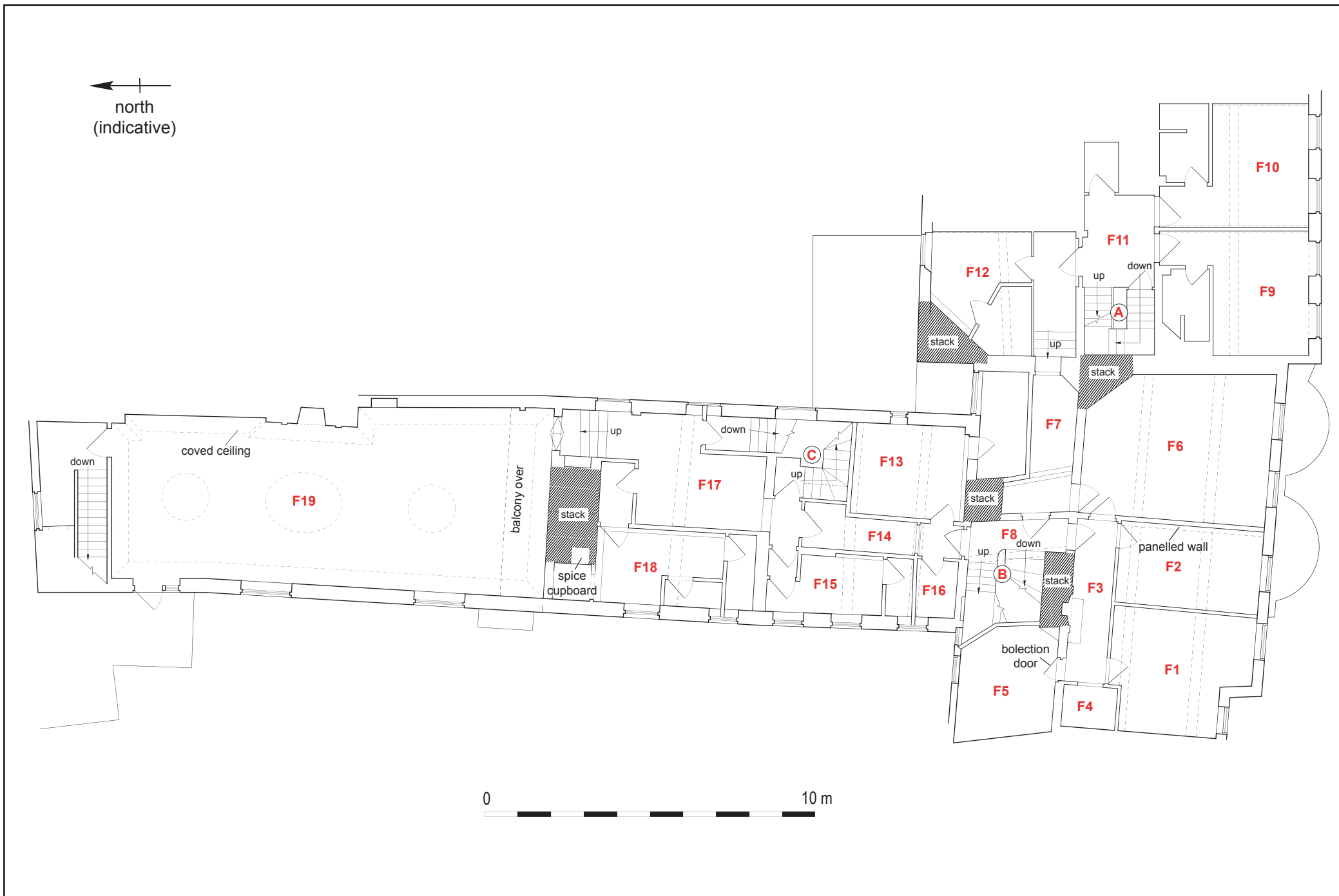


Figure 13: First Floor Plan

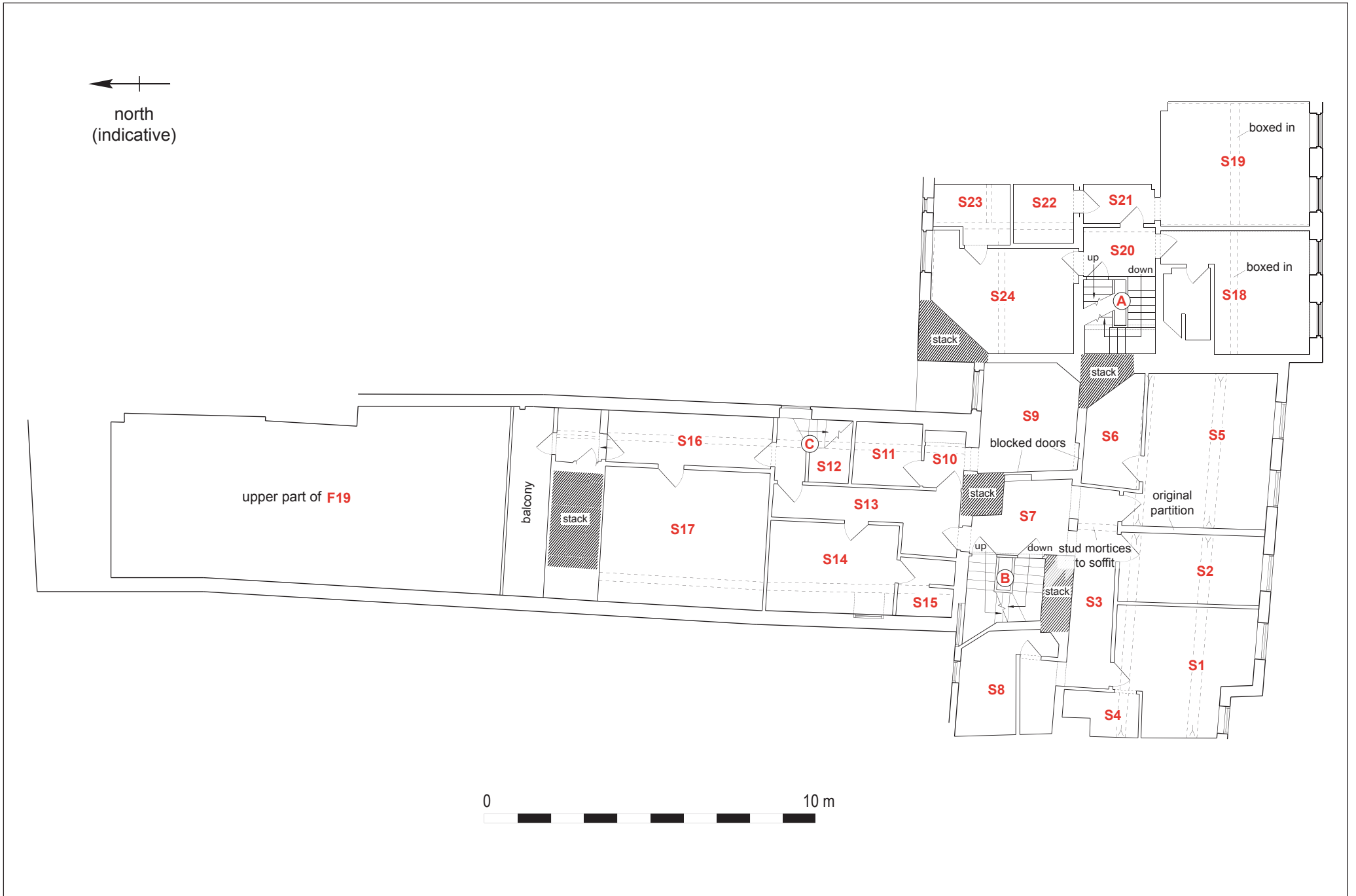
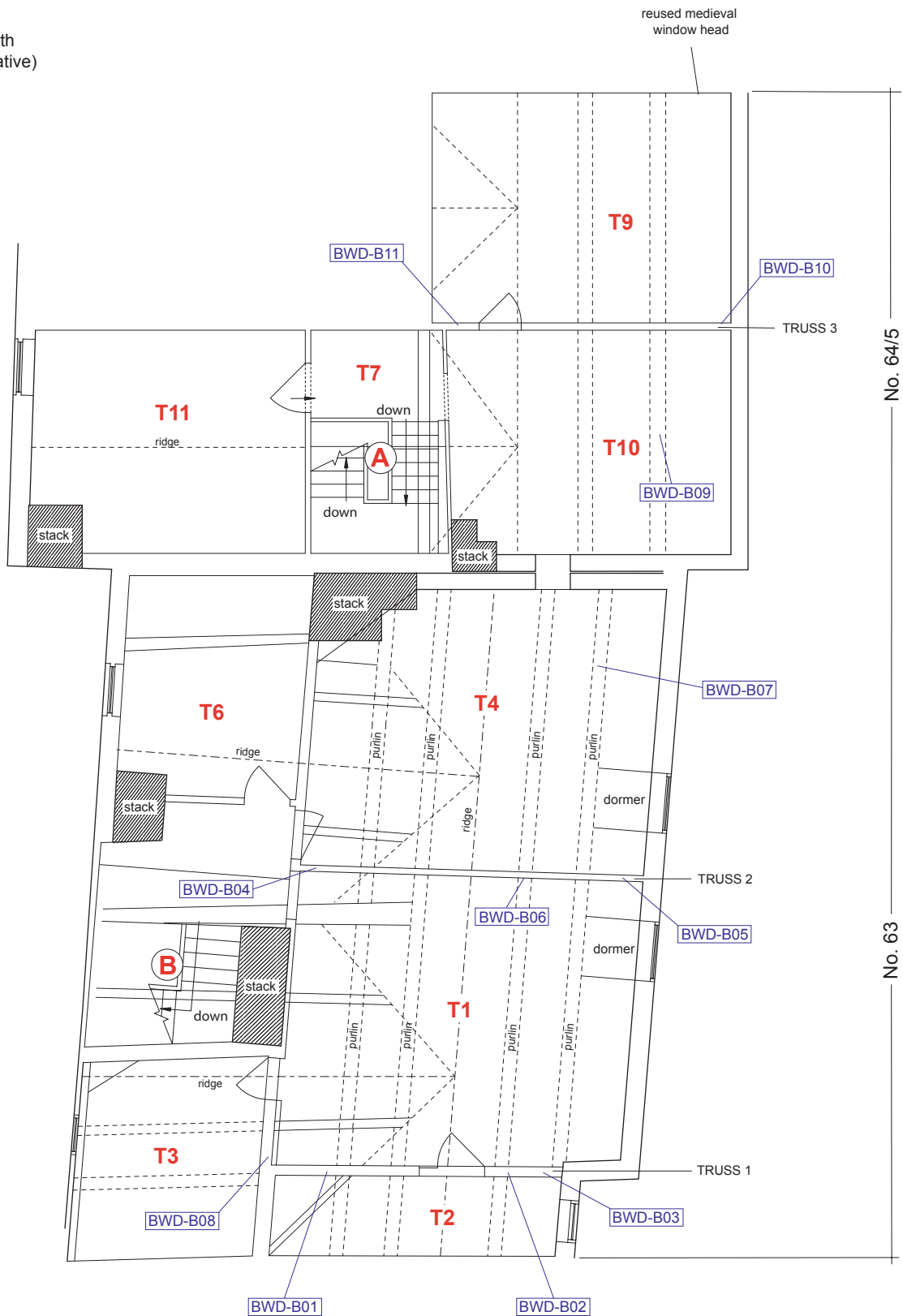
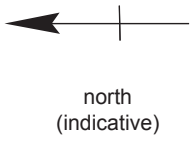


Figure 14: Second Floor Plan



No. 64/5

No. 63

BWD-B01 Dendrochronological sample location



Figure 15: Third Floor (Roof) Plan (including location of dendrochronological samples)

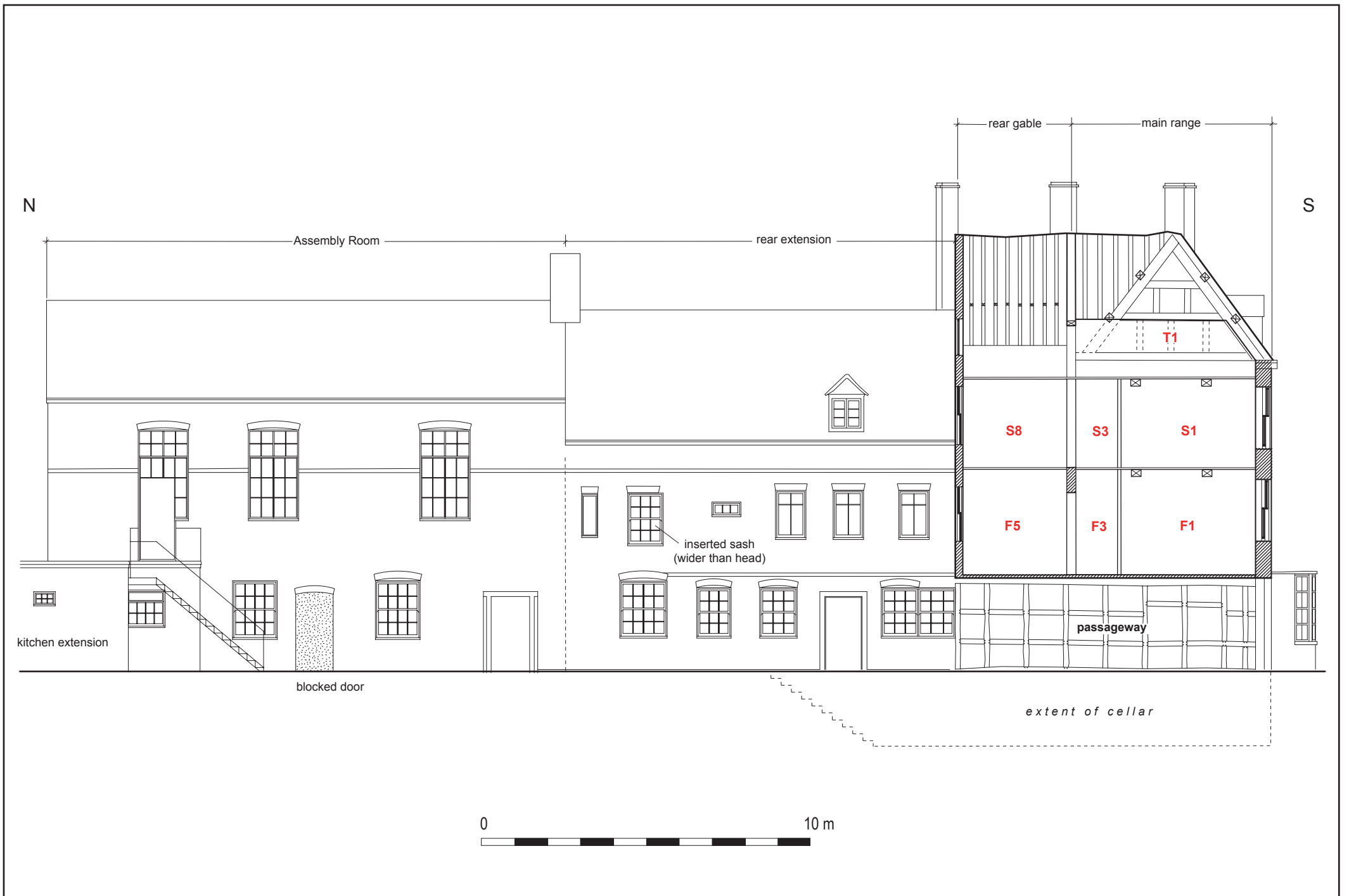


Figure 16: Longitudinal, sectional elevation

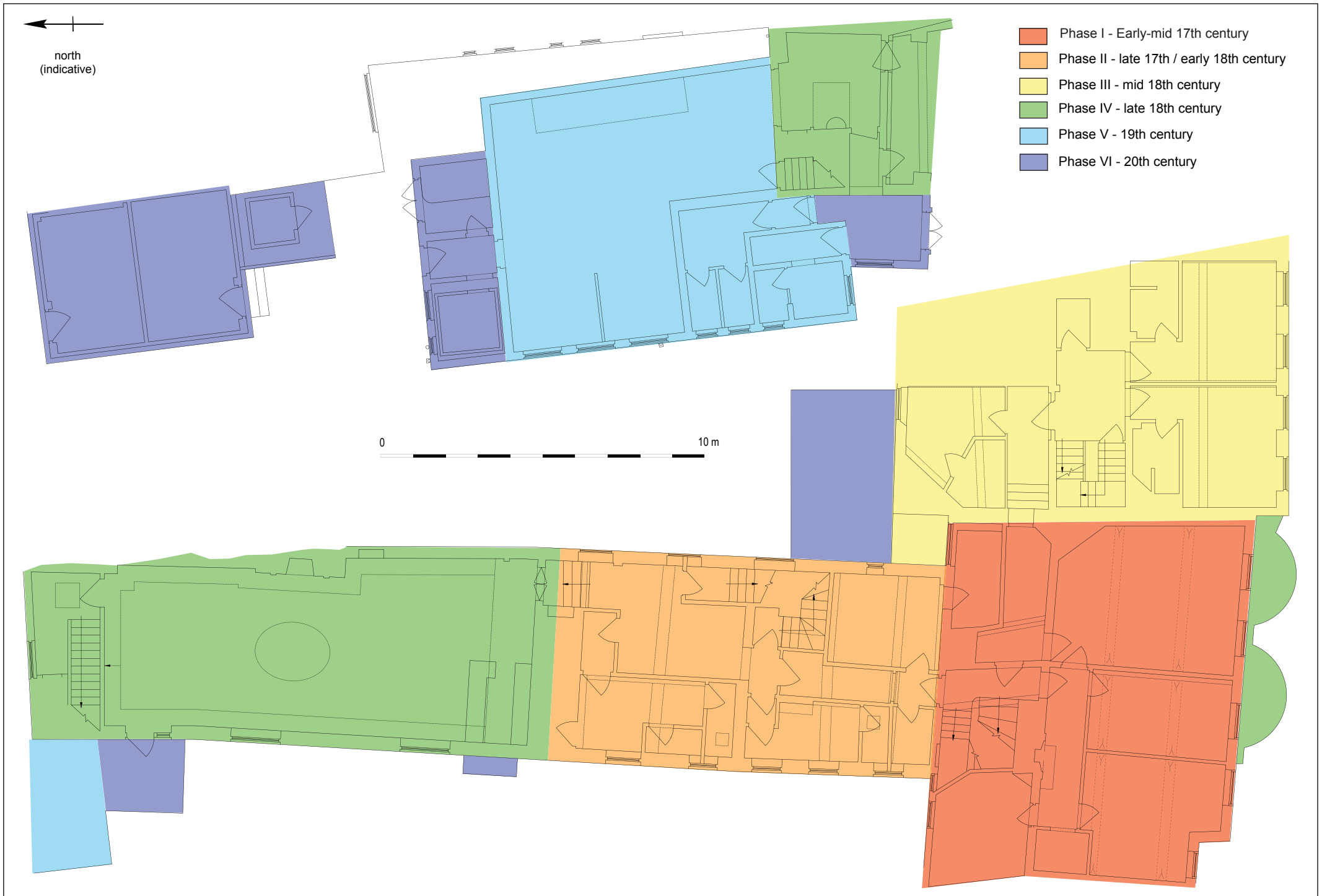


Figure 17: Overall Phasing

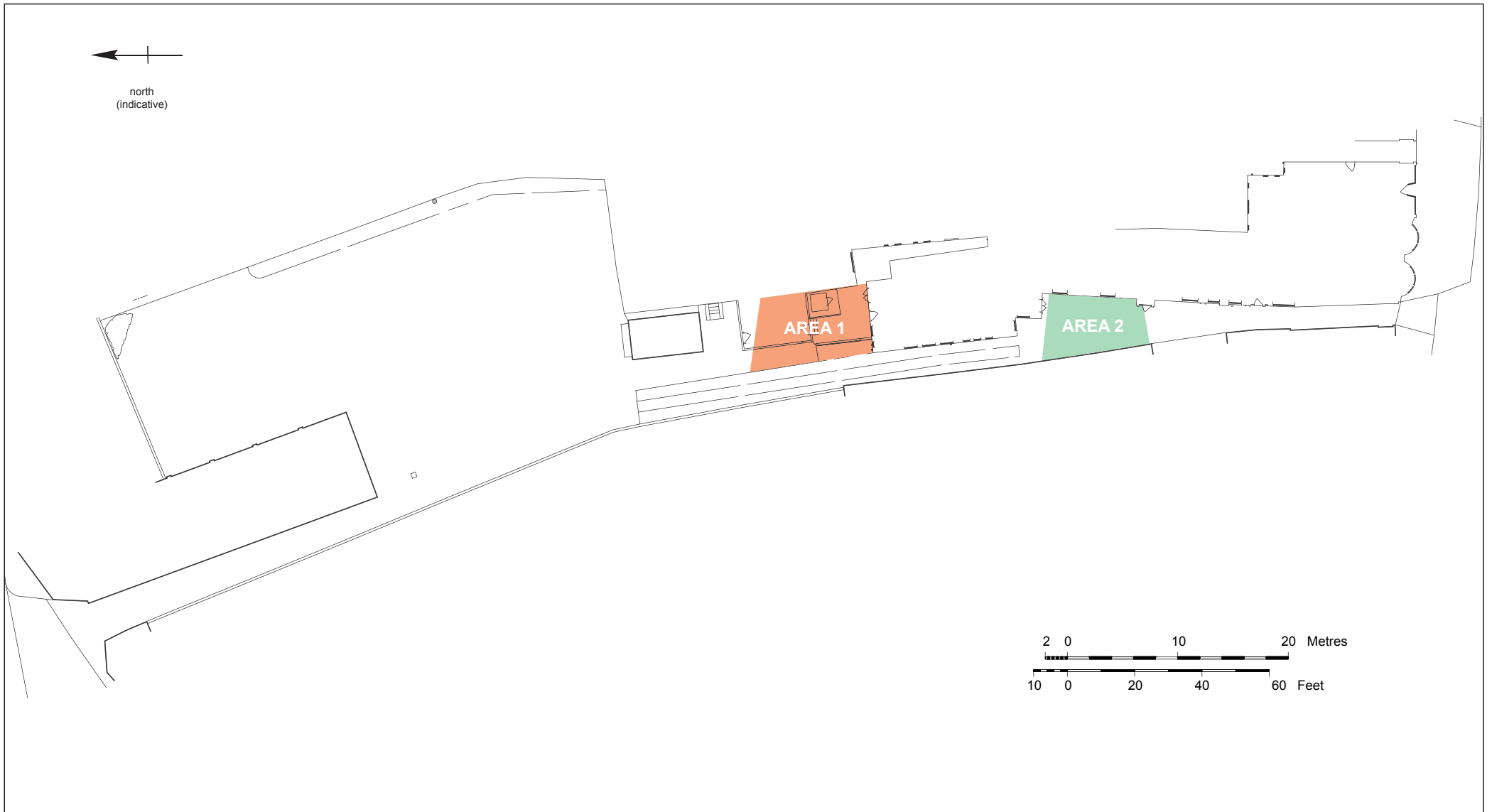


Figure 18: Watching Brief Location Plan

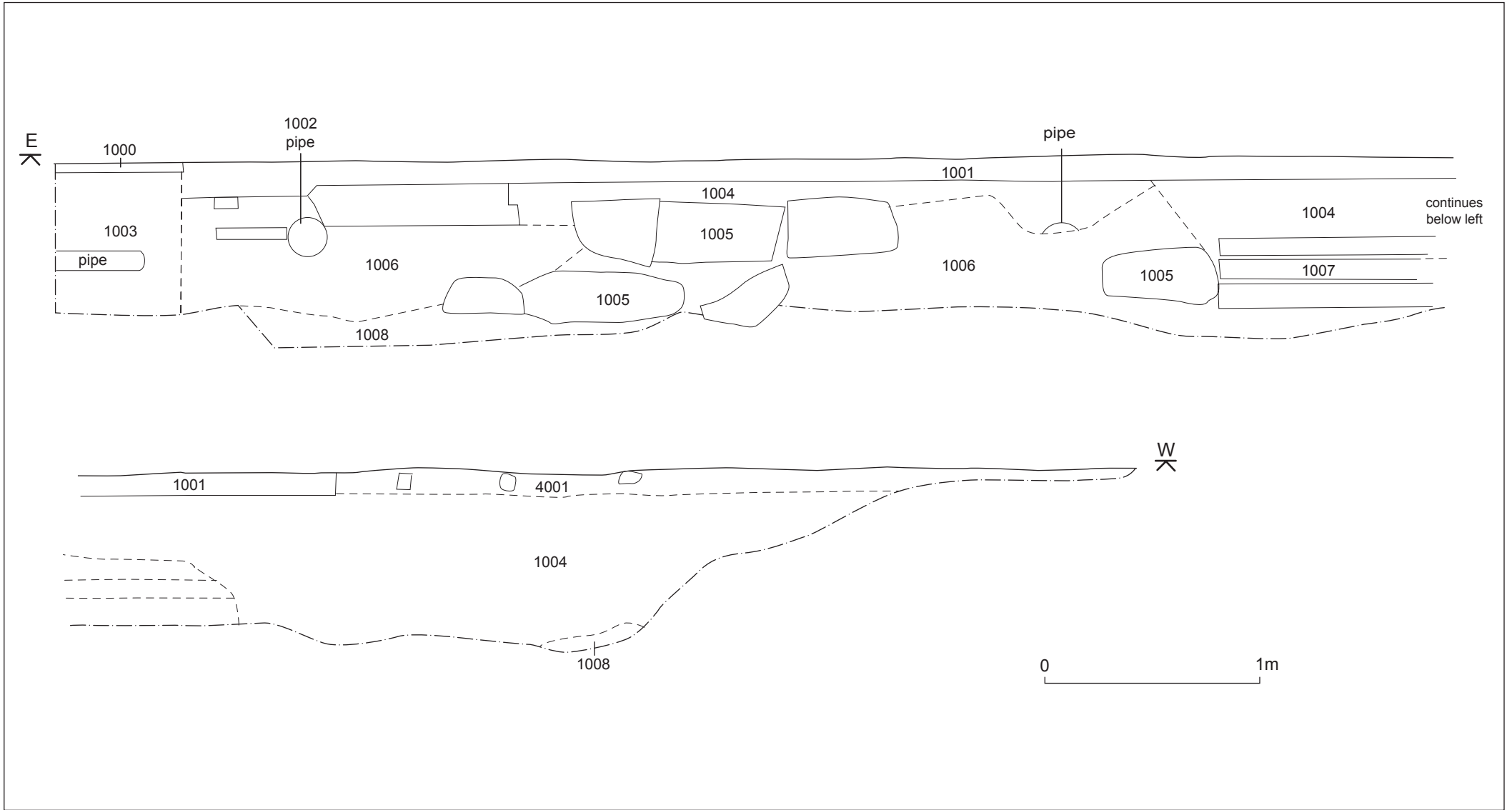


Figure 19: Area 1 - North Facing section



Plate 1: Load Street streetscape; view from south-east, George Hotel to centre right of photo.



Plate 2: Street elevation from south-west.



Plate 3: Street elevation from the south-east.



Plate 4: Street Elevation, No. 63 Load St.



Plate 5: Street Elevation, Nos. 64/5 Load St.



Plate 6: No 63, Rear Elevation, looking south.
'Assembly Room' to left.



Plate 7: No.63, rear ranges looking north.



Plate 8: Exposed sash-box / broad glazing bars to primary window Room F.xx

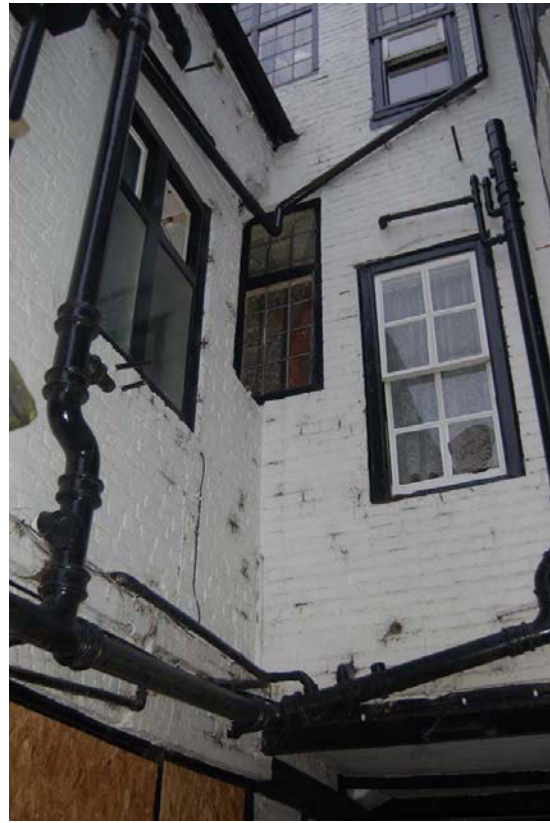


Plate 9: Rear extension cut back around cross window.



Plate 10: Modern garages (left) to north of Assembly Room (note rebuild in Assembly Room gable).



Plate 11: No.63/64; rear (north) elevation and east No. 63 rear range (right). (right).



Plate 12: No.63, 'Assembly Room' from and St. George's Hall



Plate 13: Passageway.



Plate 14: Passageway gate.



Plate 15: Basement Room B1, looking east.



Plate 16: Basement room B1 looking south; red sandstone stack footing.



Plate 17: Room G1 (west), looking south.



Plate 18: Room G1 (east), looking south.



Plate 19: Room G1 north wall, note former dado panel.



Plate 20: Detail of plate 19.



Plate 21: Room G1, change in brickwork.



Plate 22: Room G1; Regency style ceiling decoration, introduced 1960s



Plate 23: Room G2 panelling (introduced 1960s).



Plate 24: Step up from G2 - G1.



Plate 25: Room G3; base of stair A.



Plate 26: Room G5 looking north.



Plate 27: Room G5 base of stair B.



Plate 28: Room G10 looking south-west. Note stop chamfered beam.



Plate 29: Room G11 looking north, panelling imported from Ribbesford House.



Plate 30: Room G11; Jacobean style overmantle.



Plate 31: Room G11; former cornice detail above inserted ceiling.



Plate 32: Room G12 (Kitchen) looking north.



Plate 33: Room G12 (Kitchen) looking west.



Plate 34: Room F1 looking south-west.



Plate 35: Room F1 looking south-east.



Plate 36: Panelling, Room F2.



Plate 37: Moulded beam, Room F2.



Plate 38: Room F3, late Victorian fireplace.



Plate 39: Room F5 bolection panelled door.



Plate 40: Room F6 looking south.



Plate 41: Room F6; angle fireplace.



Plate 42: Room F6 looking south-east.



Plate 43: Room F6, detail of stop-chamfered ceiling beam.



Plate 44: Room F9 looking south-west.



Plate 45: Room F9 looking north-east.



Plate 46: Room F10, looking south.



Plate 47: Room F14/ 15/16 - 1960s studwork partitions during removal.



Plate 48: Late C17th open-well stair (C) with twisted balusters.



Plate 49: Detail of twisted baluster.



Plate 50: Spice cupboard in F18 (closed).



Plate 51: Spice cupboard in F18 (open).



Plate 52: Carved beam on Stair B (1st - 2nd Floor).



Plate 53: Room S1, looking south-west.



Plate 54: Room S5 looking north-west.



Plate 55: Room S19 looking south.



Plate 56: Room S16 looking north.



Plate 57: Room S17 looking north.



Plate 58: Room T1 looking south-east.



Plate 59 Truss 2, taken from the west.



Plate 60: Room T1 looking north.



Plate 61: Truss 1; taken from the east. (Photo: Nottingham Tree Ring Dating Laboratory)



Plate 62: Doors to T4 (left) and T1 (right) at head of Stair B.



Plate 63: Room T3 looking north.



Plate 64: Room T4 looking south-east.



Plate 65 Stair A (2nd - 3rd floor).



Plate 66: Room T.11 looking north.



Plate 67: Room T9, east wall.
head/cill.



Plate 68: Room T9: re-used window



Plate 69: Truss 3, taken from the north, note reused collar. (Photo: Nottingham Tree Ring Dating Laboratory).



Plate 70: Stair approach to F19.



Plate 71: Room F19, looking north.



Plate 72: Room F19, looking south.



Plate 73: Room F19, balcony to south wall.



Plate 74: Room F19, detail of Regency style fireplace, east wall.



Plate 75: Room F19, central oval recess



Plate 76: Room F19 King-post roof structure looking south. Note re-used timbers.



Plate 77: Area 1 of the Watching-Brief



Plate 78: Area 2 of the Watching Brief



Plate 79: Test-pit 1



Plate 80: Test-pit 2