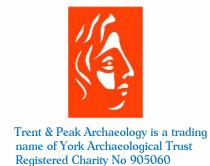
AN HISTORIC BUILDING SURVEY OF THE FORMER RED LION PUBLIC HOUSE, HIGH STREET, GOLDENHILL, STAFFORDSHIRE







AN HISTORIC BUILDING SURVEY OF THE FORMER RED LION PUBLIC HOUSE, HIGH STREET, GOLDENHILL, STAFFORDSHIRE

by Richard Sheppard and Matt Hurford

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SUMMARY

- Trent & Peak Archaeology was commissioned by Mr H. Singh in 2012 to carry out an historic building survey of a redundant public house at 899 High Street, Goldenhill, Staffordshire. The client has made a planning application (no. SOT/53584) for a mixed-use development of a site at the junction of High Street and Heathside Lane, involving the former public house and land to its rear; this includes the conversion of the building into two residences. Although not officially listed, the building was deemed to be of local historical importance or significance. Planning permission was granted subject to an historic building record being compiled first.
- The survey combined the results of documentary research carried out at Stoke-on-Trent City Archives in Hanley and two site visits. The building was recorded with black and white film and digital photographs, site notes and with measurements taken to produce floor plans and elevation drawings.
- Map evidence suggests that the building may have existed in 1775. The building's exterior symmetrical arrangement of windows and doors and detailing of features indicate a likely late Georgian origin. Early brickwork also indicates a likely late 18th century date. There is also circumstantial evidence from the brief obituary for William Thursfield, a former landlord, that the Red Lion existed prior to 1800. Nearly all references to it during the 19th century refer to it as an inn, implying that it provided accommodation for travellers and at least one parlour for meals and for conducting business. Its position next to an important road, upgraded to a turnpike in 1763, supports this. It also had local importance as a venue as there was a reported meeting there of local gentry and clergy in 1840 to discuss the building of a new church.
- The building started with a basic L-shape plan with 3 cells on two floor levels. There may have been a quasi-stair turret in the north-west corner, and cellars extended beneath this and the north range. The floor arrangement will have probably included a private room for the proprieter, a warm kitchen for public use and a heated parlour that was available for guests. Not long after 1800 another cell was added in the angle between the two ranges and the interior was altered to reposition the stairways. The moving of the former cellar entry freed up a central space for possible use for an early bar-counter.
- Another major phase of alterations occurred in the late 19th century with the building of a new 3-bay block at the north-west corner. This allowed all the already existing ground area to be devoted to the inn business, with the proprieter and family moving into the ground area of the new addition. The upper floor may initially have been similarly used but eventually served as a function room. At this time the rest of the building was evidently reroofed and new fireplaces were installed. A final major phase of works occurred in the 1930s when the ground floor area took on its present open appearance, with many walls removed or reduced, and a corner entry-point was added. These works removed most of the evidence of how it functioned prior to this.

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1. Introduction

This report by Trent & Peak Archaeology was commissioned by Mr H. Singh and follows both a brief issued by the City's Archaeologist and an approved Written Scheme of Investigation provided by the author. The subject of this report is a disused former public house at 899 High Street, Goldenhill, Stoke-on-Trent, formerly known as the Red Lion Inn (Figures 1, 2). The client has made a planning application (no. SOT/53584) for a mixed-use development of a site at the junction of High Street and Heathside Lane, involving the former public house and land to its rear; this includes the conversion of the building into two The Local Planning Authority requires that a programme of archaeological building recording and interpretation take place prior to alterations which will affect both the internal layout and the external appearance of the building. The building retains enough of its original construction to provide evidence on how it was organised and used. An historic building survey is a common requirement for planning permission where major alteration is proposed to a building deemed to be of local historical importance or significance.

The methodology employed here combines elements of both Level 2 and Level 3 historic building recording standards, as specified in English Heritage guidelines (see references). Where specific briefs are supplied by planning authorities with regard to late post-medieval buildings, they often require a mainly descriptive and partly analytical survey of the buildings concerned, together with a record in photographic and accurately measured drawn form, with examples annotated to illustrate salient points. Although plans of the building were made available these were found to be of insufficient accuracy for the purpose of the report and lacked reference to the cellars and roof. Measurements were made and new drawings produced (Figures 8-12).

The overall study employs the methodology developed by Trent & Peak Archaeology (TPA) for use on similar projects in the region. This methodology conforms to the standard requirements of planning authorities where consent applications are made for development, re-development, building conversion, major restoration or demolition. These follow guidelines to be found in the National Planning Procedure Framework (2012) which supercedes conservation planning document *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS 5, Department for Communities and Local Government 2010).

The procedures follow closely those laid down in English Heritage's *Understanding Historic Buildings. A guide to good recording practice* (2006). The methodology also accords with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Codes of Conduct and Standards* and the paper *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological*

Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures (Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001).

This report combines the results of documentary research, carried out at Stoke-on-Trent City Archives in Hanley and online to the Staffordshire Record Office catalogue, and two site visits made on 24th October and 9th November 2012 by the authors. Black and white film photographs were taken with a 35mm film camera, together with a parallel set of digital photographs. These were taken of both external and internal aspects of the building and several of the digital photographs are shown within this report to illustrate pertinent points. Contact sheets of the film records are included in the Appendix. During the site visits notes were made and measurements taken of the floor areas, room heights, brick sizes and other structural information.

The site archive will be deposited with The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent. The archive consists of site records, digital photographs and black and white film negatives and prints, together with plans showing their viewpoints.

The TPA site code is RLG.

2. Goldenhill

Goldenhill is near the northern extreme of the metropolitan area of Stoke-on-Trent, situated alongside the A50 road between Tunstall and Kidsgrove (Figure 1). Tunstall is the most northerly of the six towns incorporated into the borough of Stoke-on-Trent in 1910. At one time the district of Tunstall had three distinct centres of population – Tunstall itself, Goldenhill and Chell; they are now merged into a continuous urban area. Historically, Goldenhill was part of the township of Oldcott, and both it and Tunstall were within the parish of Wolstanton. At a height of c.215m (700ft) Goldenhill is the highest point within the city, lying on a ridge between the valleys of the Fowlea and the Scotia Brook (Jenkins 1963, 81). The origin of the name is uncertain.

Goldenhill probably existed as a village in 1670 and 1686 (Jenkins 1963, 83) and it appears on Emanuel Bowen's county map of 1749 (Figure 3) and later on William Yates's map of 1775, where it is shown as of near equal size to Tunstall (Figure 4). By that stage both villages were situated on the turnpiked (in 1763) main road running between Newcastle-under-Lyne and Burslem northwards to Manchester and Liverpool.

Although coal had been dug in the Goldenhill area before 1719 industrial activity grew following communication improvements to the main road, and the arrival

of both a canal and railways. Both Golden Hill Ironworks and Golden Hill Colliery were in existence in 1805 and in 1843 Goldenhill was described as having a coarseware pottery and a considerable population, principally of colliers (Ward 1843, 127). After this the village continued to grow and by 1900 it was a bustling area with many cottages, shops and places of worship. It extended northwards to Head o' th' Lane where the Potteries Electric Traction Company had taken its electric tramcar service from Burslem and built a new northern terminus. This later became a bus depot for one of three services running south into the Potteries (Jenkins 1963, 84).

3. Historical background to the Red Lion Inn

A directory published by Parsons & Bradshaw in 1818 lists the Wheat Sheaf and the Red Lion Inn at Goldenhill, the latter with William Thursfield as landlord. (Staffs C. C. reprint 1982). William White's directory of 1834 also mentions the Nelson's Arms and five beer houses but fails to give a landlord's name for the Red Lion. The death of William Thursfield was reported in the *Staffordshire Advertiser* on 6th October 1832. He was 85 years of age and it was reported that he had been landlord of the Red Lion Inn for over 30 years. This newspaper entry gives corroborative evidence for the Inn having been in existence since the 18th century.

The Inn was the venue for an important meeting on 27th November 1840 when members of the local clergy and gentry met to discuss building a new church. The *Staffordshire Gazette and County Standard* reported that Randle Wilbraham Esq. had chaired a meeting to consider the need for a church in the district for its growing population, with the nearest church then two miles away in Tunstall. The meeting set up a committee and measures were adopted to promote the building of a new church. Following donations, the church of St John the Evangelist was built in Norman Gothic style and was opened in 1842.

In 1851 the landlord was Thomas Oldfield. A 19th century 2d token bears the name Daniel Turner along with the Red Lion (Goldenhill and Sandyford Memories Group 2009, 20; an example was recently sold by a collector on eBay), and he may have been a landlord in the 1880s, having been listed as a beer seller at 43 High Street in the 1881 census. This also named a certain Charles Evans as a beer seller at 8 High Street. By 1891 he was a licenced victualler at the Red Lion, together with his wife Martha, three daughters (two working as assistants), a son, nephew, grandfather and sister-in-law. A year later both Charles, 40, and daughter Mary Ann, 18, died (possibly following an epidemic in the area) and were buried in the nearby churchyard.

In 1953 the Red Lion held a Coronation celebration party for local children, a picture of which is published (Goldenhill and Sandyford Memories Group 2009, 20). A certain Bob Whittingham was a landlord in the 1970-80s and later two generations of Brennans ran the business. By 2009 the public house had closed down and although the company Wetherspoons intended to revive the business this did not come to fruition. The local paper *The Sentinel* reported in 2011 that the building had suffered some vandalism.

4. Building description

Exterior

The former Red Lion public house faces eastwards onto the High Street at a prominent point where the road rises from the south and begins to gently slope again to the north. The building is of irregular shape but can be seen to consist of a basic L-shape with a 3-bay east range facing High Street and a 2-bay range behind it alongside Heathside Lane. Another lower block sits in the angle between these ranges, and projecting to the north-west from this there is a later 3-bay addition. Two single-storey outbuildings extend northwards from the latter and a toilet block has been added to the south range alongside Heathside Lane. The building is two stories high, reaching a maximum height to roof apex at just under 8 metres (Figure 11). It is gable-ended but hipped at its south-east corner.

Examination of the building's structure was hampered by most of the external walling having render and internally by the presence of plaster and wallpaper, both of which largely hid the underlying brickwork and suspected straight joints. Some small areas of exposed brickwork were seen at both ground and first floor levels and in the cellarage. The original part of the building appears to have been built using bricks 23/8-21/2 inches (60-63mm) thick, indicative of a building date in the mid-late 18th century, but most likely in the second half of the 18th century. Stonework is used for external decorative effect. The original roof structure appears to have been largely replaced (see section on roof below).

The east frontage shows a symmetrical arrangement of similar sized first floor window openings with straight lintels with flared ends and a keystone (Plate 3). These still contained sash windows until these were replaced sometime after 1967 (Plates 1, 2). The central doorway has a decorative rounded head with keystone and a Gothick-style fanlight (Plate 4). The lower windows are bigger and differ in size, but each has one side that aligns with a window above. Boarding currently hides windows that show internally as typical of public houses dating from the 1930s. The south elevation has a similar arrangement of openings that is less symmetrically accurate and lacks a central doorway. A corner doorway at the junction of the two ranges is a later addition. The rear of the building is more complicated, with a series of additions to the original

structure, both single and two storey in height (Plate 5). The north-west block and two adjoining outhouses still have their original brickwork free of render.

Interior

The ground floor area consists mainly of a number of adjoining open and public rooms served by a central bar-counter. A timber-built lobby off one of these leads to toilets and a doorway to the rear yard. An opening next to the bar-counter leads to a private corridor off which there is a staircase to the upper floor, an entry to the cellars and several rooms in the west part of the building that are now blocked off at ground floor level (and were inaccessible during the survey). The corridor also leads to the back yard.

The room arrangement, numbered 1-8 is shown on Figure 8. Four of these were until recently public drinking areas: a long open public bar (formerly separate Rooms 2 and 3; Plates 6-8); a bar parlour (Room 1; Plate 11) and a likely smoke room (Room 4, Plates 9, 10), with an added partition to stage a dart board (Area 4a). The latter room lacks seating and may have housed a billiard table. An inner door at the central entrance off High Street reads 'Smoke Room' and this has probably been moved from another position. This entrance also faced a slightly recessed part of the bar where off-licence sales may have taken place.

Three of the rooms had fireplaces. Room 1 has a colourful marble fireplace with tiles (Plate 11), Room 4 has a cast iron surround with rounded top and tiles in the hearth (Plates 9, 10) and Room 3 had a kitchen range, recently removed. These all appear to have been of late 19th century date. Part of an earlier dark brown and orange decorative scheme is also exposed next to the fireplace in Room 3 (Plate 7).

The upper floor (Rooms 9-17; Figure 9) is reached up a straight flight of steps, again of likely late 19th century date (Plate 13), that leads to a landing and to two parallel passageways. The upper rooms are separated mainly by thin half-brick and wood paneled partition walls. All windows are of likely 20th century date (Plate 12) and, as below, three rooms appear to have been heated at one time. The north-west room at 3-bay length is the largest room and was clearly used for functions. It had a small fireplace at the north end and a doorway leading to fire-escape in the west wall (Plate 14). Few details of any historical significance remain on this upper level.

The cellars (Figure 10) are now reached down a flight of steps from the passageway. This doorway has been broken through an existing wall and the angled top step suggests that the entry here was originally opposite, from Room 4. The steps lead to a small disjointed cellar (Cellar 3; Plate 16) which has either been extended under the adjoining property to allow for shared access or, more likely, originally had an external entry or delivery hatch. This cellar connects to

two larger cellars that run beneath the east range of the building, but are very different in appearance. Cellar 1 has a barrel-shaped brick ceiling and low thralls (Plate 17). On the south side there is an earlier flight of steps which originally descended from a position now under the bar-counter. Barrels and stock were delivered through a hatch and down a chute at the south end. Cellar 2, in contrast, has a higher flat ceiling supported by three irregular shaped beams, two of which have a similar end curve suggestive of being two halves of a split timber (Plate 15). It has no thralls but has an added thin partition that now divides it into two spaces, 2a and 2b. There are no obvious signs that these cellars differ in date, apart from the likely introduction of walling associated with the present entry steps.

The Roof structure: Figure 12 (Matt Hurford)

The North-west roof

The North-west roof comprises two king post trusses forming three bays. It has a plank ridge and back purlins resting on cleats. Struts rise from the tiebeam to the principal rafters on each truss (Plate 18). All the timbers are machine sawn softwood. The roof is of a single phase and of modern date.

The North roof

The North roof has a common rafter roof with a plank ridge, the rafters supported by oak purlins strengthened by reused machine sawn softwood timbers. A number of the common rafters are also reused softwood timbers (Plate 19). A lead lined gutter runs east to west in the northern part of the roof.

The South roof

The South roof comprises a single king post truss forming two bays (Plate 20). It has a plank ridge and trenched purlins. The common rafters and ridge are machine sawn softwood timbers whilst the rest of the roof is formed of reused oak timbers (Plate 21), whole trees which have been split rather than sawn in half, with some showing evidence that they were trimmed with an adze. The northern upper purlin extends into the east roof into which it has been incorporated.

The East roof

The East roof comprises two king post roof trusses forming three bays. It has a plank ridge and trenched purlins. Struts extend from the king post and tiebeam to the principal rafters (Plate 22). The south east corner of the roof is hipped using a hip rafter extending from the wall plate to the ridge which is supported by a further timber which is trenched into the tiebeam of Truss 2 and placed beneath the ridge where it joins with the hip rafter (Plate 23). The roof is constructed of machine sawn softwood timber and is of probable dates to the late 19th century.

Discussion

It appears likely that the roof of the early building, comprising the south and east elements of the property, was replaced in the late 19th century. It is tempting to suggest that the reused oak timbers forming the South Roof originated from this early building. The North Roof also utilises much reused material, although consisting of softwood rather than oak. The North-west roof is relatively modern and contemporary with the brickwork.

5. Development of the building

Although of somewhat limited precision, map evidence suggests that the Red Lion building probably existed in 1775 (Figure 4) and almost certainly before 1800. The Georgian symmetry and detailing and the brick used in its earliest parts tends to support this. There is also the circumstantial evidence from the brief obituary for William Thursfield that the Red Lion existed prior to 1800. Nearly all references to it during the 19th century refer to it as an inn, implying that it provided accommodation for travellers and at least one parlour for meals and for conducting business (Brandwood *et al* 2011, 11). Its position next to an important turnpike road supports this, although it is highly unlikely to have been a changeover point for stagecoach horses, as these were mainly situated within towns. Its local importance as a venue is indicated by its use for a reported meeting of local 'worthies' in 1840.

The building appears to have originally been an L-shaped building. No straight joint shows in Plate 2 to indicate that the rear part (Room 3) was added. This plan form, consisting of three rooms, a living room, parlour and rear kitchen was not uncommon throughout the 18th century (Brunskill 1997, 80-81). The Red Lion plan suggests that it had a through passage from the High Street entrance with a room to either side, and leading to another passage behind Room 1, and possibly extending to behind Room 2 (where a staircase may have once stood, as tentatively suggested in Figure 13). The rear room with its thicker walling was probably the kitchen. The latter, with rough interior, solid settles and large fireplace was the main operative room in an inn or tavern before 19th century (Gorham and Dunnett 1950, 50).

Being not dissimilar to a normal domestic dwelling the Red Lion would have had private quarters for the proprieter and his family and a parlour that could be made available as a private room for guests who did not wish to mix socially with others frequenting the kitchen (ibid. 53). Figure 13 provides a suggestion of how the inn first operated, with one private room, one public room and the third that could be either. Where the original staircase stood remains unclear. Two options are shown in Figure 13, both close to what may have been a back

passage, lit by the middle window in the south wall. A position near the north-west corner of the north range is favoured here. At its lowest level in Cellar 3 the west wall has early brickwork; similar early brickwork shows in the wall between Rooms 16 and 17 on the first floor. The space here would allow for a dog-leg staircase between ground and first floor level.

This suggested staircase was made redundant by the addition of an added cell in the angle between the two ranges which cut across this hypothetical extending section. Brickwork evidence indicates the use of slightly thicker bricks of $2\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches (63-70mm), indicating a date in the region of 1800-25 for this addition. This provided another sizeable room at the lower level (later extended further westwards at ground level only), and provided for new staircases to both the cellar and the first floor level. This would have permitted a rearrangement of the ground floor with the current bar area made available once the cellar entry was moved. It is not clear whether a bar-counter would have been an option at this time as they are usually dated to the mid 19^{th} century. However, a major change to the building in the early 19^{th} century is suggested by external features as the Gothick-style fanlight is a likely late Georgian – Regency style feature.

Another major change occurred in the late 19th century, with the addition of the north-west block at some point between 1879-99 (Figures 6, 7). This provided a large assembly / meeting room on the upper floor and new domestic rooms on the lower floor, freeing up all of the pre-existing ground floor to public use. Changes associated with this include a new cellar entry, opposite the earlier one from Room 4, and probably new Victorian fireplaces and the range. It is also likely that the building was largely re-roofed at this point. When exactly much of the internal walling was taken down to open up the building's lower floor area is unclear but it probably occurred in the 1930s. The present ground floor arrangement of central bar-counter, new corner doorway and slightly curving ground floor windows and the toilet addition probably all date to that period.

6. Summary

The Red Lion may well have been purpose-built to be an inn following at some point the adjacent main road being made into a turnpike in 1763. Its layout, outward appearance and brickwork dimensions indicate a late Georgian date of origin. It started with a basic L-shape plan with 3 cells on two floor levels. There may have been a quasi-stair turret in the north-west corner, and cellars extended beneath this and the north range. After 1800 another cell was added, the interior was altered to move the stairway entries and a counter may have been introduced. Another major phase of alterations occurred in the late 19th century, with the addition of the north-west block. This allowed the already existing ground area to be fully devoted to the inn business, with the landlord and family

moving into the ground area of the new addition. The upper floor may initially have been similarly used but eventually served as a function room. A final major phase of works occurred in the 1930s when the ground floor area took on its present appearance. This removed most of the evidence of how it functioned prior to this.

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8. Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank the owner for providing ready access and the staff of Stoke-on-Trent City Archives for their assistance. Thanks also to Stoke-on-Trent City Council for providing the map reproduced in Figure 2.

ILLUSTRATIONS FIGURES

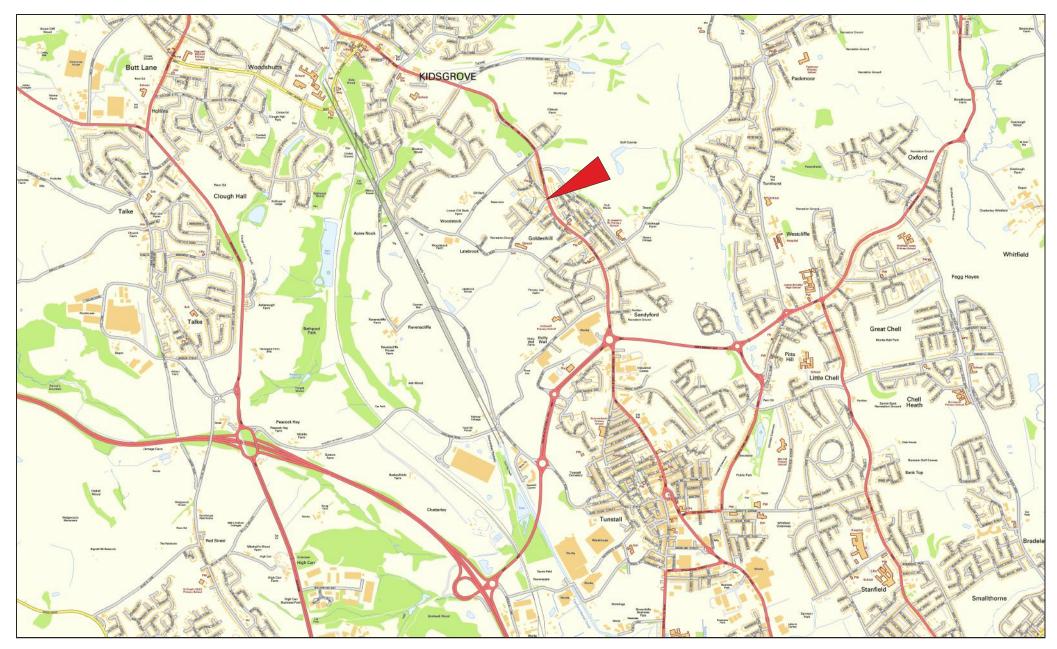


Figure 1: Location of the former Red Lion public house on High Street, Goldenhill, between Tunstall and Kidsgrove, north Staffordshire, here highlighted by the arrow. Scale 1:25,000. *Contains Ordnance Survey data*. © *Crown Copyright and database right 2012*.

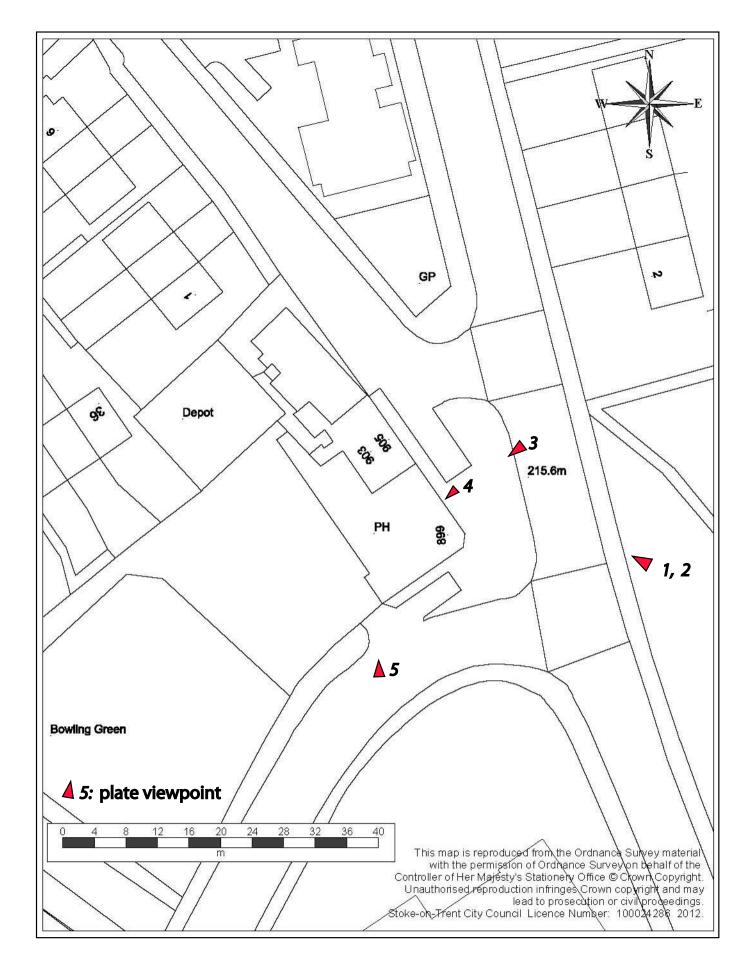


Figure 2: Location and surroundings to the former Red Lion public house, Goldenhill, Staffordshire. Scale approximately 1:500. *Plan licenced to and provided here courtesy of Stoke-on-Trent City Council*.

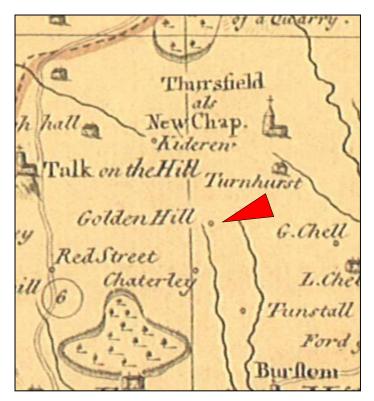


Figure 3: Golden Hill shown on Emanuel Bowen's county map of 1749.

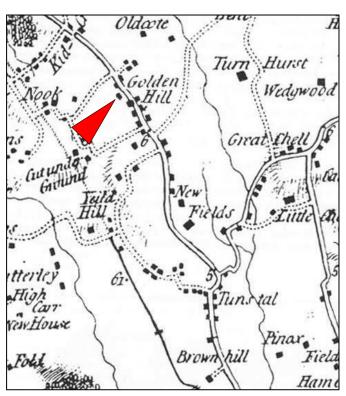


Figure 4: Suggested position of the Red Lion Inn highlighted on William Yates's county map of 1775.

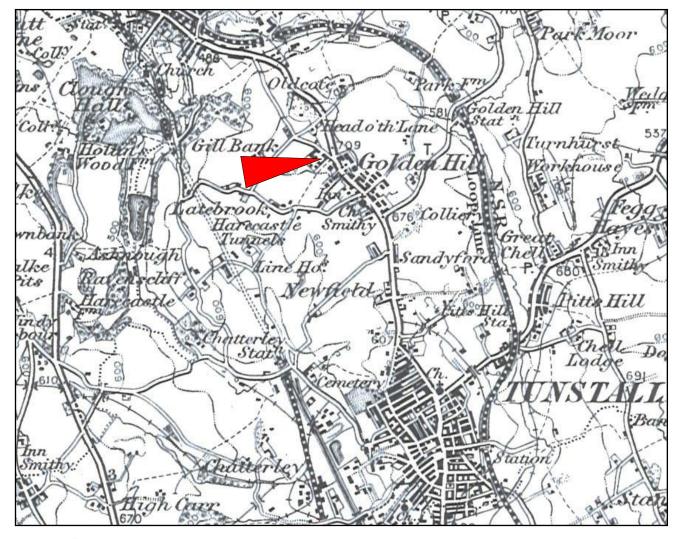


Figure 5: Position of the Red Lion Inn shown on an Ordnance Survey one inch scale map of 1895 (1:63,350).

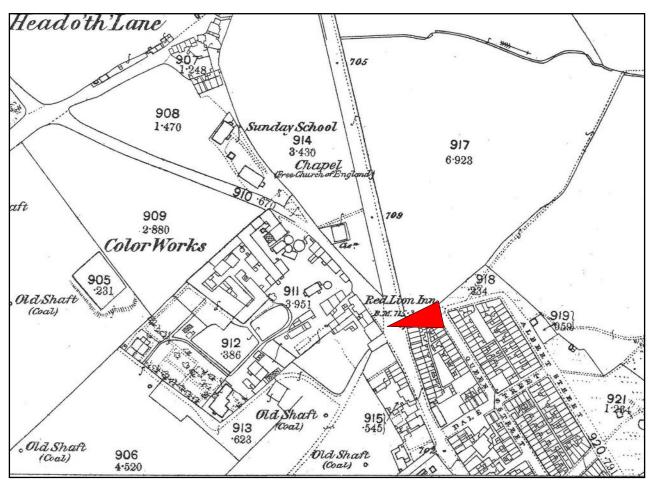


Figure 6: The Red Lion Inn shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey 25 inch scale map of 1879. Scale 1:2,500 x 80% at A4.

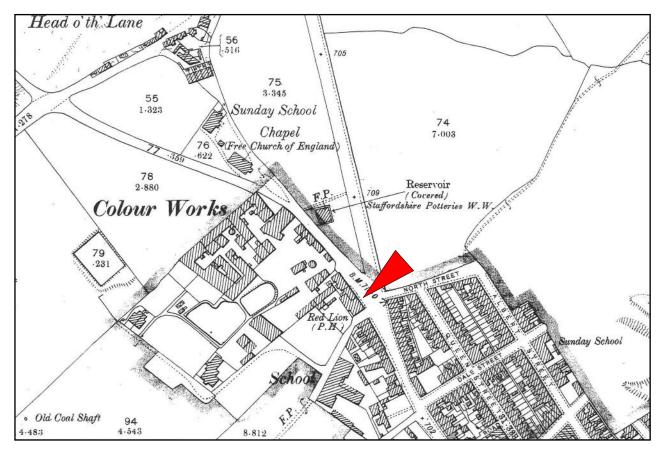


Figure 7: The Red Lion Inn shown on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey 25 inch scale map of 1899. Scale 1:2,500 \times 80% at A4.

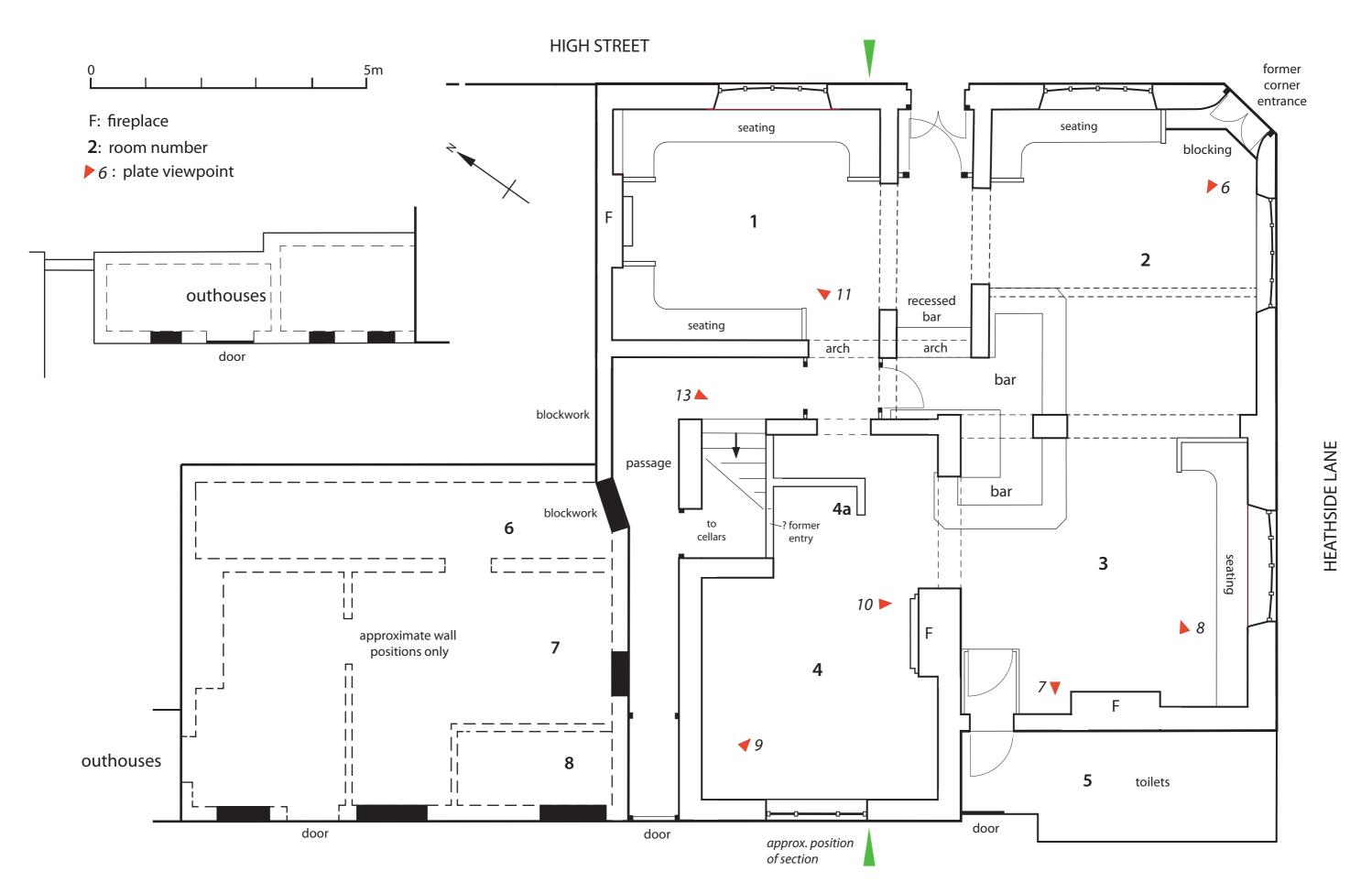


Figure 8: Ground floor plan of the former Red Lion public house, High Street, Goldenhill, Staffordshire. Scale 1:62.5 (1:50 x 80% at A3).

HEATHSIDE LANE

Figure 9: First floor plan of the former Red Lion public house, High Street, Goldenhill, Staffordshire. Scale 1:62.5 (1:50 x 80% at A3).

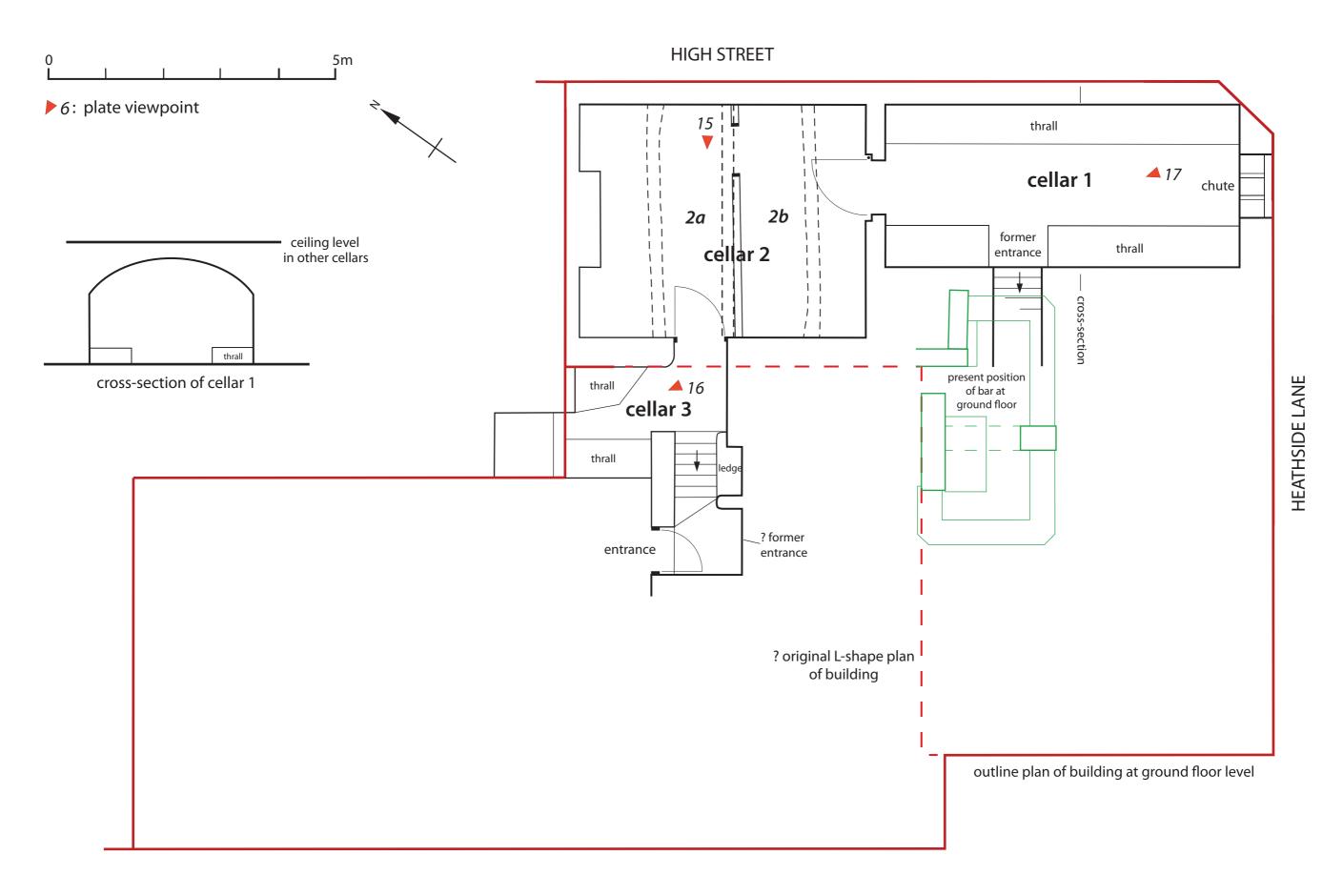


Figure 10: Cellar plan of the former Red Lion public house, High Street, Goldenhill, Staffordshire. Scale 1:62.5 (1:50 x 80% at A3).

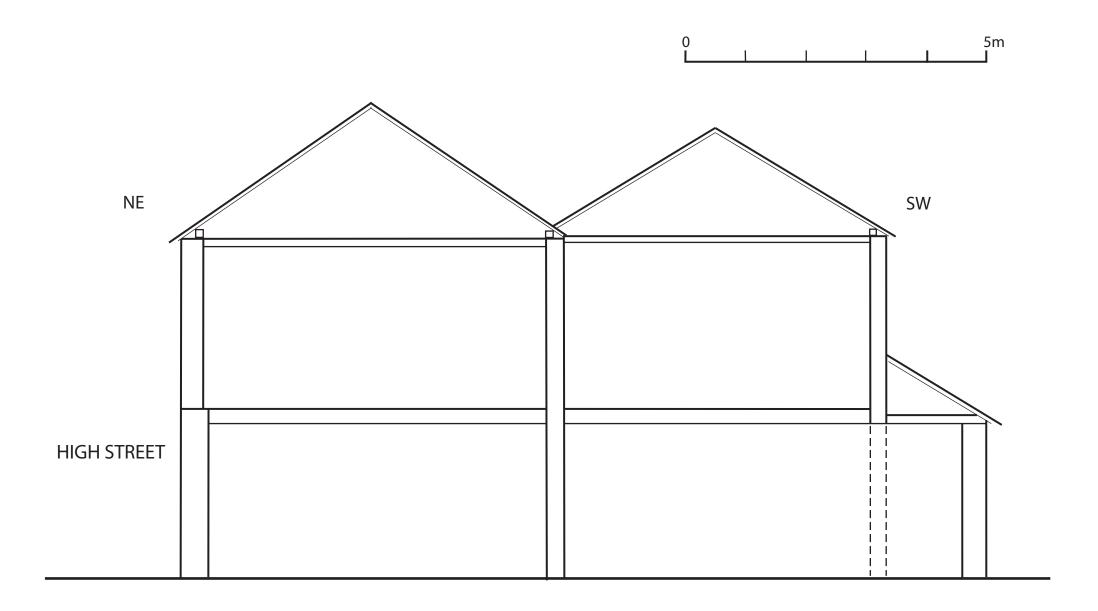


Figure 11: Cross-section through part of the former Red Lion public house, High Street, Goldenhill, Staffordshire. Scale 1:62.5 (1:50 x 80% at A4). *See Figure 8 for position of section.*

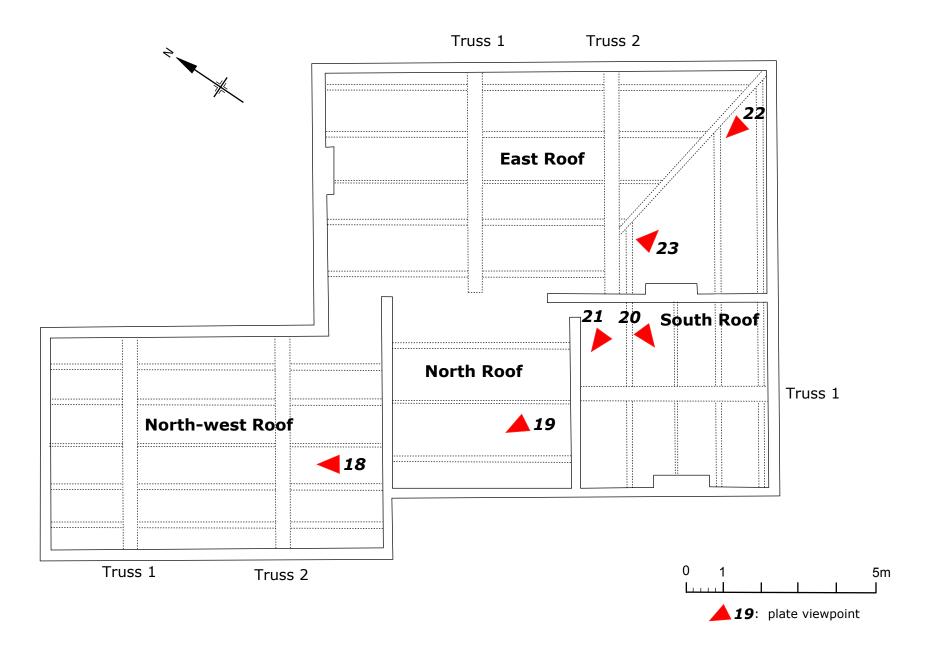
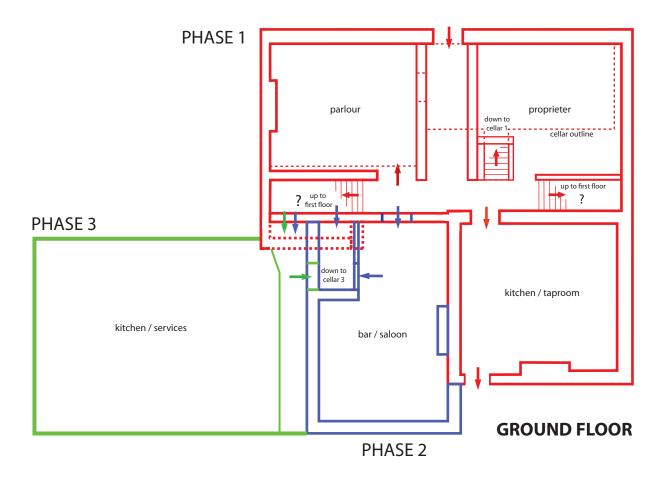


Figure 12: Sketch plan of the roof of the Red Lion public house, High Street, Goldenhill, Staffordshire. Scale 1:100 at A4.



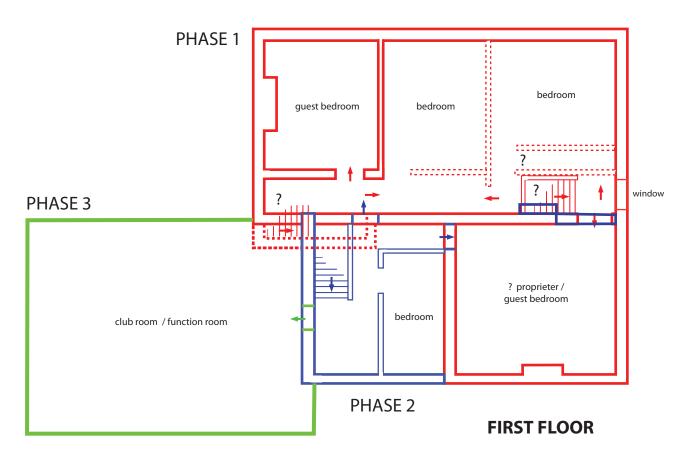


Figure 13: Suggested early phasing of the Red Lion Inn, Goldenhill. Scale 1:100.

ILLUSTRATIONS PLATES



Plate 1: Recent view of the Red Lion public house, Goldenhill, as seen from High Street.



Plate 2: View of the Red Lion Public House from about 1967. At that time it still had sash windows at first floor level (source: http://www.thepotteries.org/inns/goldenhill/red_lion.htm).

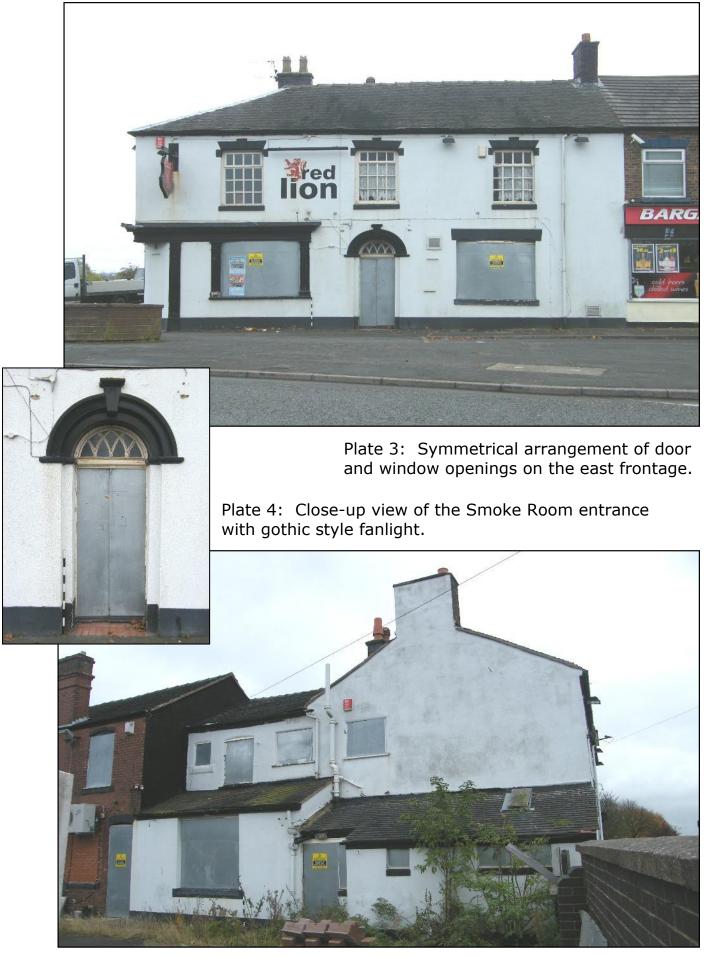


Plate 5: Rear view of the Red Lion public house showing the added middle range (in centre) and its extended lower room, a toilet block (lower right) and part of the function room block (brick showing, far left).

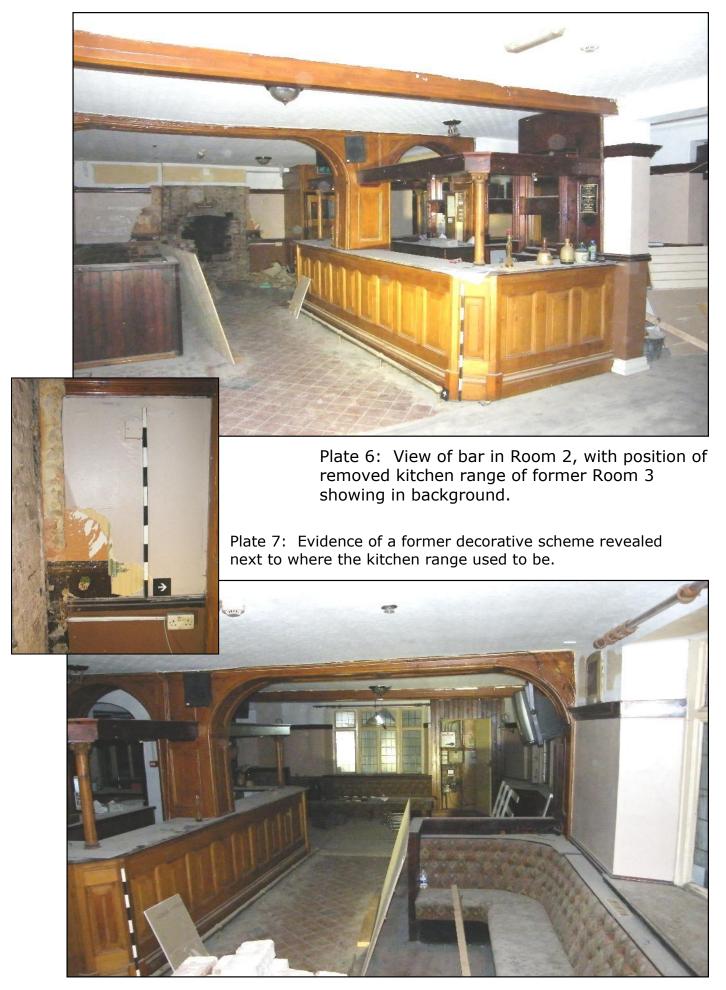


Plate 8: View from Room 3 looking through to Room 2, with window and former corner doorway showing in background.



Plate 9: View of Room 4.

Plate 10: One of the decorative tiles at foot of the fireplace in Room 4.



Plate 11: North end of Room 1 showing shelving and decorative Victorian marble fireplace.



Plate 14: View of the first floor function room, Room 17.



Plate 16: View of Cellar 3, with rear part that underlies the adjacent property.

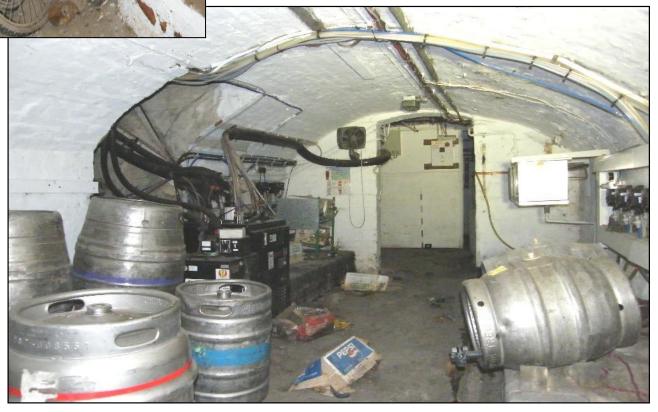


Plate 17: View of Cellar 1, looking towards Cellar 2, with former entrance showing to left, behind barrels.



Plate 18: North-west Roof, Truss 1, viewed looking north.



Plate 19: North Roof, viewed looking north-west.

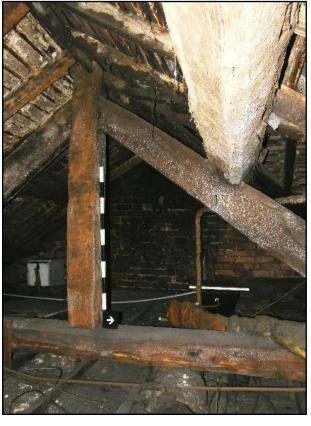


Plate 20: South Roof, Truss 1, viewed looking south-west.

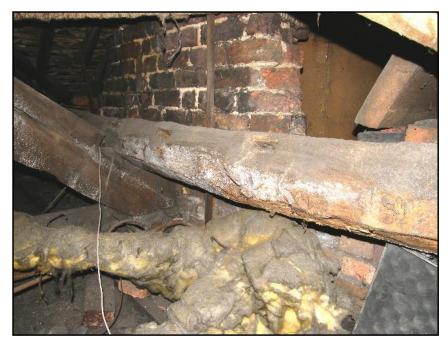


Plate 21: South Roof, north lower purlin with empty mortice holes indicating it is a reused timber, viewed looking northwest.

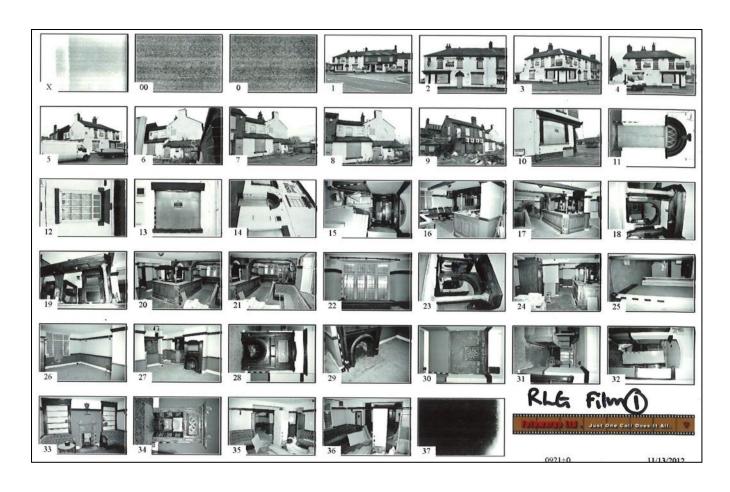
Plate 22: East Roof, Truss 2, viewed looking north-west.

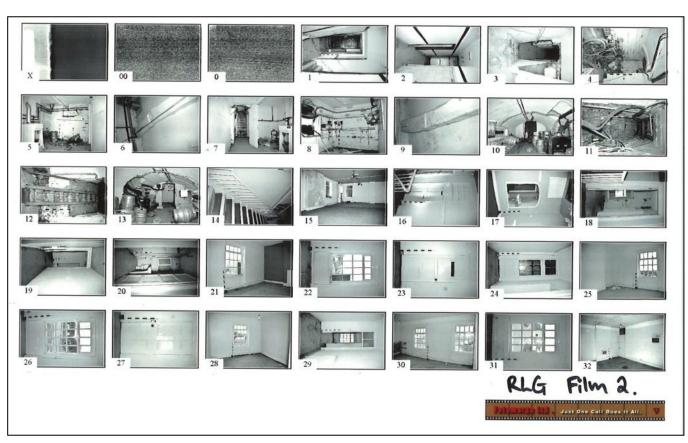




Plate 23: East Roof, with the hip rafter in the background and the timber support for the ridge and hip rafter in the foreground, viewed looking south-east.

APPENDIX





Contact sheets of archive black and white films 1 and 2 of the Red Lion public house, Goldenhill, Staffordshire.