

**AN HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD AND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT
ST. HELEN'S HOUSE, KING STREET,
DERBY**

by M. Hurford

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SUMMARY

- Between 23rd February 2012 and 7th September 2012 Trent & Peak Archaeology carried out a Level 2-3 building record of St. Helen's House, the Pearson Building and the Headmasters House prior to their refurbishment for commercial purposes and a Level 3 building record of the Chapel and the Chemistry Laboratory prior to their demolition. The buildings are located on King Street, Derby, centred on SK 3504 3679. A watching brief on the subsequent alterations to St. Helen's House and on the ground works within the precinct of the building was undertaken between 24th February 2012 and 18th December 2012. The work was commissioned by Richard Blunt Properties Ltd.
- St. Helen's House is a Grade I listed late-Palladian Revival town House designed by Joseph Pickford for John Gisbourne and built in 1766-67. It originally stood within a large park. The house passed on to John Gisbourne's son, Thomas, in 1779. It is likely that the house was extended to the rear with the addition of a service wing during the Gisbourne's ownership and that the family also re-modelled the building range located to the south-east extending along Bridge Gate. Thomas Gisbourne subsequently sold the house to the industrialist William Strutt in 1803. He embarked on a substantial building programme, completed by 1819, expanding the rear of the property which included a new service range and commissioned major alterations to the building range to the south-east. The last owner of the house was Edward Strutt who left it in about 1848. He had gradually sold off the parkland since inheriting the house from his father William Strutt in 1830.
- In 1863 the house was acquired by the Governors of Derby School. Around this time Arthur Street was extended resulting in the partial demolition of the service wing. The widening of King Street in circa 1870 resulted in the destruction of the majority of the original curvilinear forecourt. The school commissioned the construction of numerous buildings within the grounds of St Helen's House in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The largest addition was the neo-classical Pearson Building, designed by Edwin Thompson and Julian Young and opened by the Prince of Wales in 1875. The Chapel and Chemistry Laboratory, designed by Percy Curry, were constructed in 1894. The Headmasters House, also designed by Curry, was built in 1900. By 1914 St. Helen's House and its grounds appeared much as they do today with the only later additions being a war memorial designed by Sir Reginald Bloomfield in 1924 and placed in front of St. Helen's House and a temporary school building erected in 1934.
- The site archive will be deposited with the Derbyshire County Council Heritage under the Accession Number DBYMU 2011-175.

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Fieldwork was directed by M. Hurford. The plan of the cellar was produced from a laser scan survey undertaken by J. Clarke of TPA with the assistance of M. Hurford. The project was managed by R. Sheppard. Much appreciated assistance was given by all the staff of Richard Blunt Properties Ltd on site.

1. INTRODUCTION

Background

Trent & Peak Archaeology was commissioned by Richard Blunt Properties Ltd to undertake a Level 2-3 building record of St. Helen's House, the Pearson Building and the Headmasters House prior to their refurbishment for commercial purposes and a Level 3 building record of the Chapel and the Chemistry Laboratory prior to their demolition. The buildings are located on King Street, Derby centred on SK 3504 3679 (Figures 1 and 2). The recording was carried out between 23rd February 2012 and 7th September 2012. A watching brief on the subsequent alterations to St. Helen's House and on the ground works within the precinct of the building was undertaken between 24th February 2012 and 18th December 2012.

Building Report

The building report is principally a photographic archive but also provides a basic description of the buildings and their background, with 19 figures and plans, and 37 plates as illustrations. A second part of the report (Section 12: Archival Record) comprises a list and illustrations to support the archival record. The latter consists primarily of 404 digital images and black and white medium format film negatives and prints from all or parts of 16 films, comprising 235 negatives with 235 5x4 inch prints held in 30 archival quality sleeves. In addition there are black and white negatives from part of one 35mm film comprising 23 negatives with 23 6x4 inch prints held in 3 archival quality sleeves. There are also 60 colour slides also held in archive quality sleeves. The report includes copies of the digital images together with plans showing their viewpoints. All 404 digital images are included in two CDs affixed to the back of the report.

Building Recording

Where specific briefs are supplied by relevant planning authorities with regard to buildings they may require a survey based on classifications as outlined in English Heritage's guide *Understanding Historic Buildings* (2006). In this instance a Level 2-3 descriptive survey of the buildings is required. The methodology employed also follows advice from the Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings and Structures* (2001).

Where an existing building / structure is not protected by listing and permission is sought or granted for demolition or major alteration, the local authority may require that a full archival record be made first, in order to 'preserve by record'.

The building recording has involved a detailed examination of St. Helen's House and the buildings within its curtilage. This has allowed for a brief written description (building type, materials used, likely date of origin, changes and development etc) and the compilation of a photographic record. Basic plans, with the exception of the cellar which is based upon a laser scan survey undertaken by J. Clarke of TPA, were kindly provided by the client and many of these are included here, redrawn with additional detail.

2. SITE BACKGROUND

St. Helen's House and the other associated buildings within its curtilage are located between King Street, Edward Street and Arthur Street, Derby centred on SK 3504 3679. St. Helen's House is a Grade I listed late-Palladian Revival town House, designed by Joseph Pickford for John Gisbourne and built in 1766-67. The last owner of the house was Edward Strutt who left it in about 1848. In 1863 the house was acquired by the Governors of Derby School and it remained in use as a school until 1972. Later used as an Adult Education Centre, the building has been redundant since 2004. Other buildings within the curtilage of the listed house date from the late 19th and early 20th century and comprise the Pearson Building, the Chapel, the Chemistry Laboratory and the Headmasters House.

3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

St. Helen's House was built for a local businessman John Gisbourne by the prominent local architect Joseph Pickford in 1767. It is shown on Burdett's map of 1767 standing within a large park and until the 19th century was still on the very edge of the city. The house appears narrower than it currently is and is connected to a building range, probably a service wing, to the south-east (Figure 3). The house passed on to John Gisbourne's son, Thomas, in 1779. He subsequently sold the house to the industrialist William Strutt in 1803. He embarked on a substantial building programme expanding the rear of the property which included a new service wing and commissioned major alterations to the building range to the south-east (Figures 4-5). He also installed a heating system which distributed hot air around the house. In 1830 the house was inherited by William Strutt's son, Edward who gradually sold off the parkland for development and let the house out occasionally as a school. He left the house in 1848. The property was bought by the Governors of Derby School in 1863. Around this time Arthur Street was extended resulting in the partial demolition of the service wing. The widening of King Street in circa 1870 resulted in the destruction of the majority of the original curvilinear forecourt.

Buildings were erected within the grounds of St Helen's House in the late 19th and early 20th century. The largest addition was the neo-classical Pearson Building, designed by Edwin Thompson and Julian Young and opened by the Prince of Wales in 1875. The Chapel and Chemistry Laboratory were constructed in 1894 and designed by Percy Helyn Curry. In 1900 the Headmasters House was built, also designed by Curry. By 1914 St. Helen's House and its grounds appeared much as they do today (Figure 6) with the only later additions being a war memorial designed by Sir Reginald Bloomfield in 1924 and placed in front of St. Helen's House and a temporary school building erected in 1934.

4. ST. HELEN'S HOUSE BUILDING SURVEY (Figures 7-13)

For a full description of the building see Morris, K., 2008 *St Helen's House, King Street, Derby, Derbyshire. An Outline Architectural and Archaeological Assessment*.

Exterior

The ashlar frontage to King Street is a late-Palladian Revival composition of seven bays (Plate 1). It has a central engaged portico of three bays with a triangular pediment supported on a Giant Order of engaged Roman Ionic columns with matching Giant Order pilasters at either end. The elevation has a dentilled

entablature, the top dentilled cornice moulding is continued into the pediment. Large urns terminate each corner. The ground floor has plain window openings set within semi-circular headed recesses. The first-floor windows have stone architraves. The central window beneath the pediment is segmental, the ones either side being triangular. The second floor windows are half the height of the others. All the windows have stone sills and thin-barrelled sashes.

The north and south elevations are of brick with ashlar pilasters at each corner (Plate 2). Windows are, or were present, in each bay at all three floor levels. The windows have plain surrounds and projecting stone sills. They have flat arched heads of rubbed brick and thin-barrelled sashes.

The main feature of the rear elevation is the large Palladian window with a central arched light and narrower square-headed lights at each side lighting the main stairs within the central section. There are also windows which have flat-arched heads and sashes. Doorways are present allowing access into the service ranges.

The Ground Floor

The ground floor comprises six principal rooms, SHG1-4, and SHG16-17. There is also a small passage SHG6 and stairs SHG9. Surviving elements of the service wing comprise rooms SHG7 and SHG11, which essentially date to 1914 when they were remodelled, and the passage comprising rooms SHG8 and SHG15, the original servants' entrance being located in the south wall of SHG15. Room SHG5 is a 20th century addition and rooms SHD12-14 are late Victorian or modern single storey brick outbuildings.

The Entrance Hall SHG1 (Plate 3) would have had six doors leading off from it. It has a fireplace in the north wall. The ceiling is divided into twelve panels by boxed beams decorated in plasterwork, with egg-and-dart moulded surrounds to the panels and floral work in their soffits. The doorways have pedestal architraves and are topped by full dentilled entablatures.

The former Dining Room SHG3 is located to the north of the Entrance Hall (Plate 4). There are doorways at either end of the south wall which have highly decorated surrounds. There is a chimney piece of Carrara and Siena marble between the doors. The windows lighting the room are also decorated like the doorways. Their shutters have egg-and-dart surrounds to the panels. The skirting board and dado rail have bead-and-spindle floral mouldings and the walls are topped by a decorated frieze. The ceiling has Rococo influenced plasterwork comprising three main panels, the central panel having a circular pattern with rich decoration in its spandrels (Plate 5). Exposed bricks in the north-west and south-west corners of the room were up to 2³/₈ inches (60mm) thick. At the eastern end of the room is a three-centred arch with pilastered sides leading into room SHG4.

Rooms SHG4 and SHG4a were originally a single room heated by a former fireplace in the south wall. It was lit by three windows in the north wall, the easternmost one now the entry into the passage leading to the Pearson Building. The decoration is more understated than that of SHG3 though the ceiling does have a twelve-leaved acanthus leaf 'rosette' in the middle of a large 'batwing' fluted frame typical of Rococo ornament of the 18th century.

Between rooms SHG4 and SHG2 is the North Passage SHG6. It has a stone floor and moulded cornice which are probably both original.

To the south of the Entrance Hall are rooms SHG16 and SHG17, probably the Study and Breakfast Room respectively (Plate 6). Both rooms were heated by fireplaces in the north wall. The doorway in the east wall of SHG16 has been

reduced in size. The south-west room, SHG17 has the higher status with egg-and-dart mouldings enriching the architraves and the dentilled cornice and further plasterwork adorning the ceiling. Exposed bricks in the east wall of room SHG16 were $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches (59-60mm) thick.

Occupying the central part of the building is SHG2, the Main Stairs (Plate 7). Originally the western part of the room would have formed a passage providing access to all the principal rooms and both sets of stairs. The stairs are cantilevered out from the walls and have moulded soffits and an iron balustrade in typical Palladian style. The room is lit by a Palladian tripartite window in the east wall which has fluted pilasters with plinths and capitals and Gothic style glazing bars to the taller central lights.

To the south of the Main Stairs is the Service Stairs SHG9. It has cantilevered treads and iron stick balusters with ramps in the handrail at landing level.

The Cellar

The brick cellar is possibly of two main phases, the earliest comprising rooms SHC1-4 and SHC9 located at the western end of the cellar network (Plate 8). The bricks used were slightly longer than those in the rooms above being $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches (63mm) thick. The vault of SHC1 is supported by two brick pillars and the room lit by a window with a timber lintel in the south wall, since blocked. A thrall extends around the walls. It has a brick floor set in a sand bedding deposit. To the east is a slightly smaller barrel vaulted cellar. It has been divided by a modern wall creating rooms SHC3-4 and SHC9. The principal reason for the division of the room was for the insertion of a large metal tank in SHC9 associated with the central heating system. The two cellars were accessed via the barrel vaulted passage SHC2 which was lit by a single former window with a timber lintel in the south wall. There is no evidence that the doorway between SHC2 and the later room SHC5 had been broken through an existing wall and so it is likely that this was the original entry into the cellar, the stairway leading to ground level since removed. No other possible doorways were present within this phase of the cellar, though room SHC9 could not be examined due to the presence of the metal tank.

The possible second phase of the cellar network comprises three principal rooms, SHC5-7 (Plate 9). Each is barrel vaulted with brick floors. The floors in SHC6 and SHC7 have a later layer of concrete. A low thrall is present along the north wall of SHC7. Access into the cellars was via stairs in the east wall of room SHC6 and the current stairway SHC8 in the south wall of SHC7. A further small former opening in the alcove in the east wall of room SHC7 is likely to have been for the delivery of barrels and stock and there would originally have had a chute extending from the opening to the floor (Plate 10). The alcove was strengthened by the insertion of a brick wall a single brick thick extending from floor to vault. The bricks used to block the opening and build the wall in the alcove were the same type measuring $2\frac{7}{8}$ (74mm) inches thick. The same $2\frac{5}{8}$ (68mm) inch bricks used to create room SHC9 were used to insert the west to east aligned wall by the entrance into SHC7 and the wall strengthening the east side of SHC8. A blocked opening in the west wall of SHC6 probably locates the former entry point from the cellar into the service wing above (Plate 11). Access between the two phases of cellar is facilitated by corridor SHC5.

The First Floor

The first floor comprises five principal rooms, SHF3-4, SHF6, SHF15 and SHF17. They were accessed by an axial corridor, now three rooms, SHF2, SHF5 and SHF16. A further small room SHF7 may also have served as a corridor. To the east of the Main Stairs SHF1 and Service Stairs SHF10 and room SHF15 are four

further rooms, SHF11-12 which are part of the 19th century servants' wing, though much remodelled, and rooms SHF8-9 which are 20th century additions.

The Corridor comprises rooms SHF2, SHF5 and SHF16 but was originally one north to south orientated room providing access to all the rooms on the first floor. The Corridor has a skirting board, dado rail and dentilled plaster cornice. It was divided into three compartments by the main cross walls, the openings having pilastered sides and basket arched openings.

The principal rooms, SHF3-4, SHF6 SHF15 (Plate 12) and SHF17 each originally had a skirting board, dado rail and cornice. Original fireplaces are present including a neo-classical marble one in Room SHF15 with much 19th century graffiti carved in it from when the building was a school (Plate 13). The room also possessed early wallpaper depicting stylised white and green palm trees on a brilliant red background (Plate 14). The doorway in the east wall is inserted through a former exterior wall.

Anomalies are apparent within a number of the principal rooms. The main first floor room was probably SHF3 being centrally located. However, it has fireplaces in both the north and south walls indicating that it was originally two rooms, each reached via a doorway in the Corridor with the southern door since blocked. Room SHF6 is also likely to have originally been two rooms as fireplaces are present in both the south and east walls and doorways located off both corridors SHF5 and SHF7. This view is strengthened by the presence of two vertical wrought iron or steel stanchions, also present in the room above, inserted for structural reasons presumably between two ceiling beams. It is likely that there originally was a wall dividing the room into two which when removed caused stresses upon the building which required the use of the supports. Additional strengthening was also required for two second floor ceiling beams in room SH24. A cast and wrought iron bracing mechanism is present in the ceiling of room SHF4 designed to strengthen two beams above (Plate 15). They are likely to be of 19th century date. The bricks of the south wall were between 2³/₈ and 2¹/₂ inches (60-62mm) thick.

Positioned at the south-east corner of the building are rooms SHF11 and SHF12 which are the only remaining elements of the Service Wing added by William Strutt. Differing brickwork and floorboards between the eastern and western halves of the rooms suggest that the eastern halves are later alterations to the original build, undertaken in the 19th century due to the extension of Arthur Street.

Renovation work in room SHF17 established that the east window on the south wall is a replacement window, probably Victorian in date. It is pegged into a wooden cill which rests upon a single course of angular stone pieces measuring up to 170mm x 870mm which is in turn mortared to a course of tiles which are mortared to the wall of the house, the bricks being 2³/₈ inches (59mm) thick. The window is secured to the walls by oak pieces. The lintel above is a re-used timber.

Previously unrecognised features were exposed during the removal of the wall plaster in rooms SHF5 and SHF6. Towards the northern end of SHF5, at the base of the wall, was the top of a brick arch, the bricks measuring 2³/₈ inches (61mm), designed to provide structural support to the building (Plate 16). The bricks in the north-east corner of the room by the fire escape were between 2³/₈ and 2¹/₂ inches (60-65mm) thick. In room SHF6, behind the skirting board at the eastern end of the south wall, the brickwork had been faced with handmade stone roof tiles.

The Second Floor

The second floor comprises five principal rooms, SH23-25, SH27 and SH29. They are less ornate than those below but still possess skirting boards and moulded cornices. The principal rooms were accessed by an axial corridor, now two rooms SH22 and SH28 which has a skirting board, a moulded plaster cornice and basket arched openings. A further small room SH26 may also have served as a corridor. The only access to this floor was via the Service Stair SH21. This floor has the same general layout as that below.

The central room SH23 was originally two rooms as it has fireplaces in both the north and south walls, two sets of doors leading from the corridor SH22 and the moulded cornice only present in half the room indicating that the northern most room would have been of higher status (Plate 17). The north wall was constructed of bricks measuring between $2\frac{3}{8}$ and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches (60-63mm) thick. The same sized bricks were present in the east wall of SH27 and the north-east corner of room SH24.

Room SH25, like room SHF6 located directly below, was originally two rooms, probably a bedroom and dressing room. The vertical stanchions present in the room below extend into this room and presumably terminate in a ceiling beam in the roof space.

Square metal hatches are present in a number of the walls. There are two in the north wall of SH27 (Plates 18-20) and three in the south wall of SH25. The hatches open into cavities within the wall of the house which are coated in a sooty deposit. It is likely that these are the access hatches for the hot air circulation system devised by William Strutt in the early 19th century.

The south wall stone window sills of room SH29 had 19th and 20th century graffiti carved into them by pupils who attended St. Helen's when it was a school (Plate 21). Renovation on the rooms' west wall established that the window frames were fitted in the same way as the one exposed in SHF17. However, internally the windows were originally semi-circular headed and of brick, as was also the case in west wall of room SH24, rather than having wooden lintels (Plate 22). In contrast, partial stripping of the plasterwork in room SH23 indicates that the windows of the south wall did have timber lintels, which were reused pieces, though it could not be established if the lintels were later insertions or if the windows were originally semi-circular due to the presence of plasterwork.

The Roof Space

The roof is of king post construction. It has a plank ridge and trenched purlins. Struts extend from the king post to the principal rafters. The roof is built using machine sawn softwood and is of a single phase.

A number of the purlins rest upon piers constructed of bricks measuring $8\frac{7}{8}$ inches (225mm) x $4\frac{3}{8}$ inches (111mm) x $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches (60mm). These bricks are the same size as those used in the lower courses of the chimneys. The upper courses of the chimneys have been repaired with bricks measuring $8\frac{3}{4}$ -9 inches (223-229mm) x $4\frac{3}{8}$ inches (111mm) x $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches (63mm). The top of the brick piers are in poor condition with fragmentary bricks and often an undulating surface giving the impression that they have been lowered to support the current roof which replaced a roof which required the piers to be at a greater height.

The view that the roof has undergone changes is supported by the presence of a wall beneath the roof located the north-east end of the building which divides rooms SH25 and SH26 on the floor below. It is built of bricks measuring $8\frac{3}{4}$ - $9\frac{1}{4}$ inches (222-235mm) x $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches (90mm) x $2\frac{1}{8}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches (53-63mm). The

bricks are less well fired and laid than those of the piers and chimneys. The wall has a stone capping and a base for a finial indicating that it was designed to be an exterior wall, the superior quality of the north face of the wall suggesting that it was designed to be seen.

The piers have also been modified at their bases with bricks removed and cut to allow for the insertion of floor joists. This indicates that the ceiling height in the room below may have been altered.

5. THE PEARSON BUILDING SURVEY (*Figures 7 and 14*)

The Pearson Building is located to the north of St. Helen's House. It was built as an extension for Derby School and officially opened in 1875.

Exterior

The Pearson Building is a Grade 1 listed neo-Classical brick building with three sides in sandstone ashlar. It is of three storeys and rectangular in plan. The west elevation is the main façade and is almost symmetrical if it was not for the addition of a further projecting bay to the south housing the staircase (Plate 27).

The main five bay façade (not including the southern projecting bay) has no doorways. It has a plain stone band course at first-floor level and two further narrower ones above joining the first-floor and second-floor window sills. The ground floor stonework is rusticated with six windows with margin lights, the first and second floors have five similar windows. The first floor windows are taller than the ground and second floor ones though of similar design. They have stone architraves and the central window has two dwarf piers between the stone band courses. The second floor windows have full-height architraves and panels beneath their sills. The central window has a triangular pediment, the ones to either side flat pediments and the outer windows are formed by the cornice. The three central windows are grouped under a gable formed into a triangular pediment within which is the school crest.

The north elevation has a covered external stair giving access to the former assembly hall which has decorative cast-iron detailing and balustrade.

Interior

Joining the Pearson Building and St. Helen's House is a three bay linking screen. It has a rusticated plinth and three tall recesses. The cornice links into the first-floor band course around the rest of the building.

The staircase is located in the eastern half of the southern bay. It is stone with a plain iron balustrade and a high dado of matchboard panelling.

The ground floor has a central axial corridor, room PG2 with classrooms either side. The principal four rooms of the second floor are also accessed by a corridor room PS2. In contrast the first floor is almost entirely occupied by the large former assembly hall room PF4, the walls of which are articulated by pilasters. These support the ceiling which is divided into long transverse compartments (Plate 28).

6. THE CHAPEL BUILDING SURVEY (*Figures 7 and 15*)

The Chapel is located to the north-west of St. Helen's House. It was designed by Percy Helyn Currey and completed in 1894.

Exterior

The Chapel is a brick built building with stone dressings and a slate covered roof. It comprises a nave and chancel of four and three bays respectively with a single bay between the two. There is a projecting polygonal turret-like structure in the centre of the building on the south elevation, a chimney on the north elevation and at roof level a miniature spire. A vestry has been added to the northern elevation.

The south elevation is buttressed and has a door at the west end (Plate 29). The nave has three Perpendicular style windows each beneath an outer two-centre headed arch spanning between the buttresses. The three chancel windows are positioned higher than those of the nave and are narrower though of similar perpendicular style.

The nave windows and the only chancel window located in the eastern most bay of the north elevation have been sheeted in plywood. The remaining two bays of the chancel have two two-centre headed arches between the buttresses, possibly originally designed as an arcade leading into a chapel that was never built. Similarly the western gable is possibly uncompleted as it is flanked by enlarged buttresses giving the impression that the building may originally have been envisioned as having a tower.

At the east end of the chancel the gable is again buttressed. It has a large window in the Perpendicular style beneath a two-centred arched head. Above is an empty stone niche with a cinquefoil head.

Interior

Much of the interior has been altered to create a lecture theatre with a projection room above and a lobby beneath at the west end. The roof is concealed by an inserted modern false ceiling. All fixtures and fittings have been removed. Single stained glass windows are present in the south wall of the chancel and nave (Plate 30).

7. THE HEADMASTERS HOUSE BUILDING SURVEY (*Figures 7 and 16-17*)

The Headmasters House is located to the north-east of the Pearson Building and fronts Arthur Street. It was also designed by Percy Helyn Currey and completed around 1900.

Exterior

The Headmasters House is brick build and of two storeys with a slate roof. The principal elevation is to the east fronting Arthur Street (Plate 31). At the south end is a two-bay wide projecting gable with sash windows set in openings of cambered flat-headed arches of brick. The bay windows to the north are of differing design, one being under a hipped roof with stone lintels, the other with timber flanks and a flat roof.

The west elevation is also unorthodox (Plate 32). A pentice extends around the elevation with slate roof and timber posts. At the northern end of the house is a slightly projecting wing. A central chimney is present on the west wall and has a round-headed recess is present to the south.

Interior

The interior of the property has been much altered due to it being converted into cottages prior to its use as part of the Adult Education Centre when ground floor rooms H1, H3 and H5 became classrooms. However, the staircase H2 and a number of the original fixtures do survive, notably in room H5 where the original skirting boards, dado rail, cornice and chimney piece are present (Plates 33-34). Being the most ornately decorated room on the ground floor suggests that this was the principal private room of the headmaster.

The first floor has also undergone a certain amount of alteration. The principal room H9 has been formed from two separate rooms for use as the main office for the Adult Education Centre (Plate 35). The rooms to the north were converted into storage spaces H7, kitchen H8 and further classroom H6. Despite this a number of original fixtures including doors, skirting boards and cornices, (principally in room H9), do survive.

8. THE CHEMISTRY LABORATORY BUILDING SURVEY (*Figures 7 and 16*)

The Chemistry Laboratory is located in the north part of the site with the Chapel to the west and the Headmasters House to the east. It dates to circa 1890 and was also designed by Percy Helyn Currey.

The building is a single storey brick built structure with the central principal part of the building having a gabled M-shaped roof with a flat roof extension to the west forming room L1, the Laboratory (Plate 36). The southern most bay, L2 is much narrower. It has a gabled roof and would originally have been a storage room and office. The pentice of the Headmasters House extends to the exterior east wall of room L1. The Laboratory L1 is lit by two original sash windows in each of the gables, a single window in the east wall and two in the west wall of the later extension (Plate 37). Room L2 also has sash windows and retains its original doors and skirting board.

9. WATCHING BRIEF (*Figure 18*)

During the renovation work on St. Helen's House a watching brief was undertaken on repairs and alterations undertaken on the boundary wall fronting King Street. This was erected in circa 1870 when the road was widened replacing an earlier curvilinear wall which formed a forecourt for the property. The work included the slight realignment of the current wall necessitating the excavation of Trench 01 for new buildings footings. Within the northern part of the trench two brick courses 0001 of the 19th century wall footings were encountered (Plate 38). They rested on a foundation layer 0002 of brick and mortar which exceeded 0.4m in depth. To the south of 0001 the stratigraphy comprised layers associated with the King Street 0004-0005, and 0008-0013 beneath which were earlier deposits 0006-0007 and 0014 of loose sand and mortar containing bricks of likely 17th century date.

The ground level in Area 01 was reduced by circa 0.2m revealing compacted re-deposited sands and gravels with patches of greyish white hardcore 0015 extending around the west and south of St. Helen's House (Plate 39). No archaeological features were encountered.

10. DEVELOPMENT OF ST. HELEN'S HOUSE (Figure 19)

The maps of Burdett (Figure 3) and Simson (Figure 4) indicate that St. Helen's House was originally substantially narrower. The map of Simpson which was published in 1826 corresponds to what was established during the watching brief and building survey. The stanchions present in rooms SHF6, and room SH25 directly above, which were inserted to provide additional support to the building probably weakened by the removal of a wall, are located on the line of the rear wall of the house shown on Simson's map. Furthermore, the eastern extent of the external wall preserved in the roof space terminates on the same line. If Simson's rear wall is projected through the building it forms the rear wall of rooms SHG16, SHF15 and SHF27 which is likely to be contemporary with the front wall based on a comparison of bricks.

The Palladian revival of the 18th century determined that the ground floor should be treated as the basement and that the first floor should be the Italian *piano nobile* or principal floor, usually reached by an external flight of steps (Beard 1990 181). However, the building survey and watching brief found no evidence for such a flight of steps nor any evidence to suggest that the ground floor had not always functioned as the *piano nobile*.

The original house probably comprised six principal ground floor rooms and is likely to have followed the plan of many 18th century houses with a great hall, with saloon behind, on the central axis with rooms likely to include the dining room, ante room, library and study to the north and south. The stairs to the upper levels may have been in one of these northern or southern rooms or alternatively in one of the buildings to the south, since demolished. Burdett's map shows that the house was connected to a building range, probably a service wing, to the south-east which extended along Bridge Street.

There are two maps from the 19th century depicting St. Helen's House, Simson's map of 1826 and Chatterton and Stanwick's map of 1819 (Figure 5). It is clear by comparing the two maps that though the one of Simson was published later than that of Chatterton and Stanwick it was either based on a map that pre-dated 1819 or was originally drawn before this date.

Simson's map indicates that prior to 1819 the south-east corner of St. Helen's House had been extended at the rear, probably a service wing, creating an L-shaped building. The rooms from this phase probably include the corridor SHG8 and SHG15 and incorporate elements of SHG7 and SHG11 and the subsequent rooms above. The cellar may also have been expanded at this time. The house was still attached to the building range fronting Bridge Street but had been remodelled.

The next phase of development was the construction of the staircases and extensions to rooms SHG4, SHF6 and SH25 creating the core footprint of St. Helen's House as it currently appears. The map of Chatterton and Stanwick indicates that this phase had been completed by 1819. The house had been separated from the building range to the south-east by this point in time and St. Helen's House substantially extended again to the rear creating a larger service range.

A comparison between the map of Chatterton and Stanwick and the Third Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1914 (Figure 6) clearly shows that about a third of St. Helen's House, comprising the majority of the early 19th century rear service wing, was lost during the widening of Arthur Street in the late 19th century. This

necessitated the re-modelling of the rear of the house. Rooms SHG12-SHG14 were also added, probably at the turn of the century.

11. CONCLUSIONS

St. Helen's House is a late-Palladian Revival house which was built in 1767 for John Gisbourne. The house was substantially expanded on two occasions reaching its greatest extent by 1819. William Strutt purchased the house in 1803 from the Thomas Gisbourne, the son of John Gisbourne who had inherited the house from his father in 1779. It is known that Strutt greatly expanded the house to the rear with the construction of a service range though the map evidence would suggest that either he undertook two building programmes between 1803 and 1819 or that the earlier building phase was commissioned during the ownership of the Gisbourne family.

After the house was purchased from William Strutt's son, Edward, by the Governors of Derby School in 1863 the building and grounds underwent significant changes. Much of the rear service range was demolished and remodelled and the front forecourt lost due to alterations made to the road network. The school undertook a major building programme in the late 19th and early 20th century in the grounds of St. Helen's House with the construction of the Chemistry Laboratory, the Chapel, the Headmasters House and the only building of note, the neo-Classical Pearson Building.

12. REFERENCES

Books

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Morris, K., 2008 *St. Helen's House, King Street, Derby, Derbyshire. An Outline Architectural and Archaeological Assessment* Mercian Heritage Series No. 385

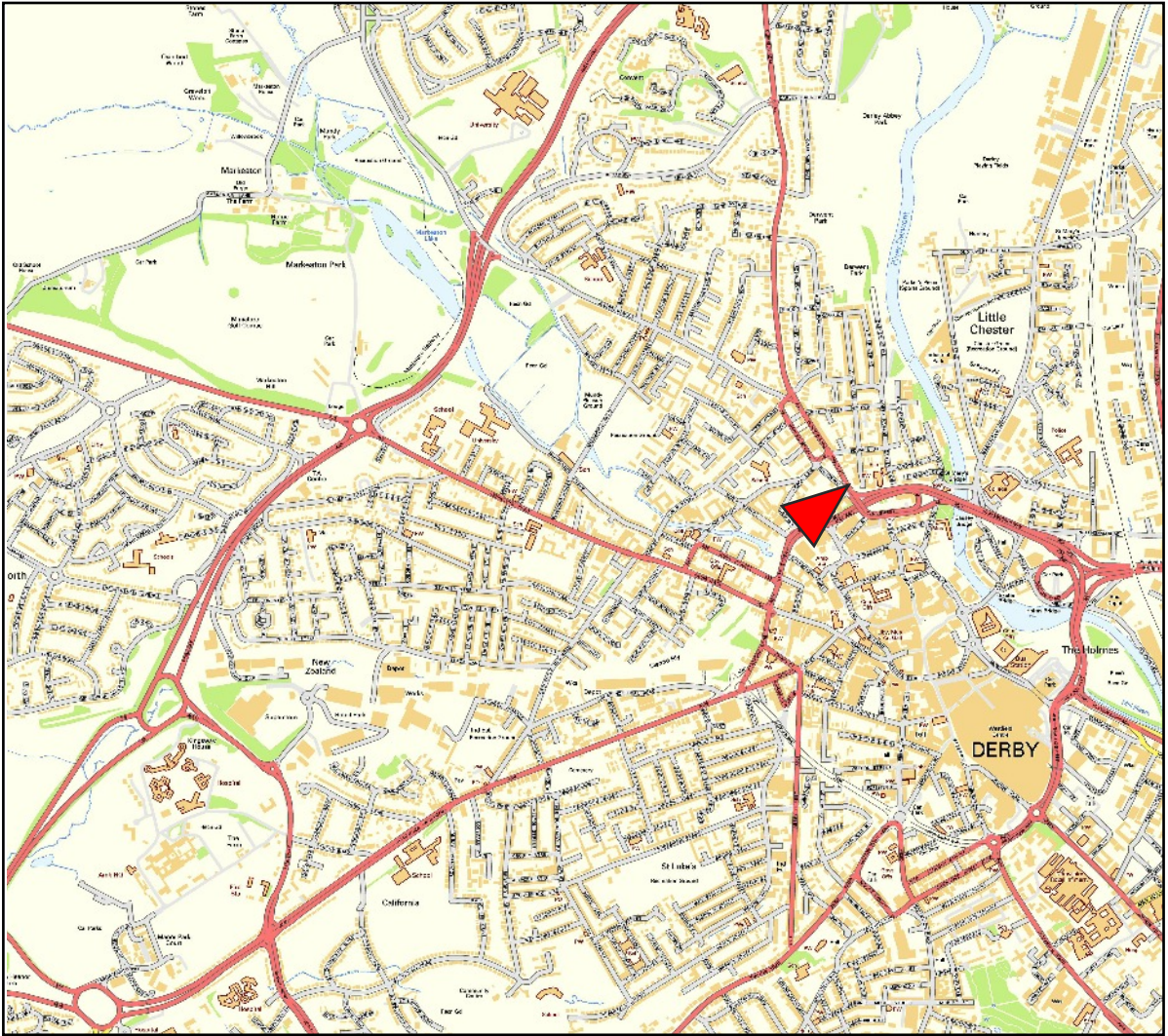
Maps

Burdett, P, P: Derbyshire. Surveyed 1767 one inch to one mile LSL8559 (1st ed 1767, 2nd ed 1791), DLSL

Chatterton and Stanwick, 1819 *Map of Derby*, DLSL, BA912

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Simson, R., 1826 Plan of Derby in Simson, R., 1826 *History of Derby*

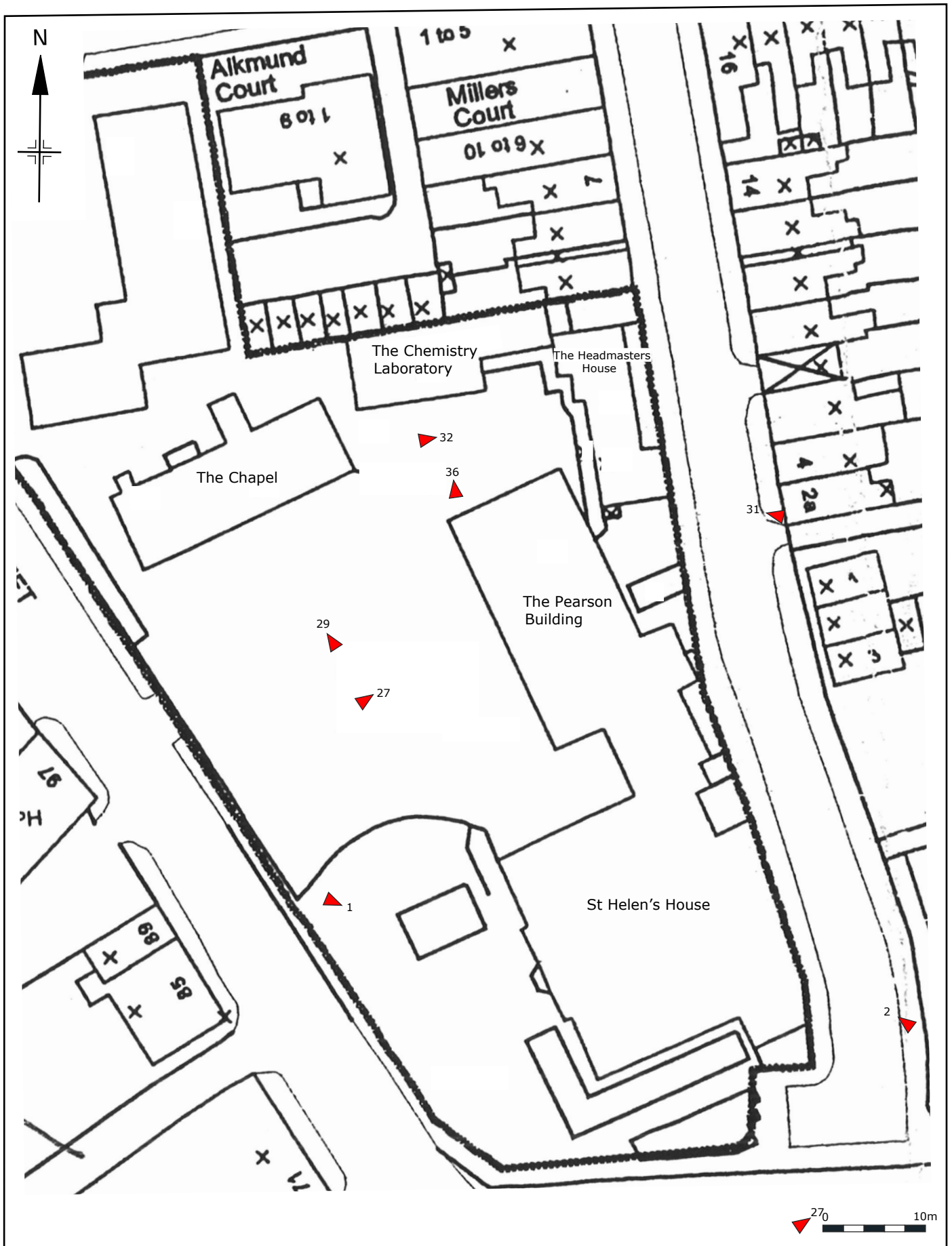


SHD St. Helen's House, Derby, Derbyshire

Figure 1: Site location plan

Scale 1:25,000 at A4

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SHD St. Helen's House, Derby, Derbyshire
 Figure 2: Plan of St. Helen's House and buildings within its curtilage
 Scale 1:500 at A4

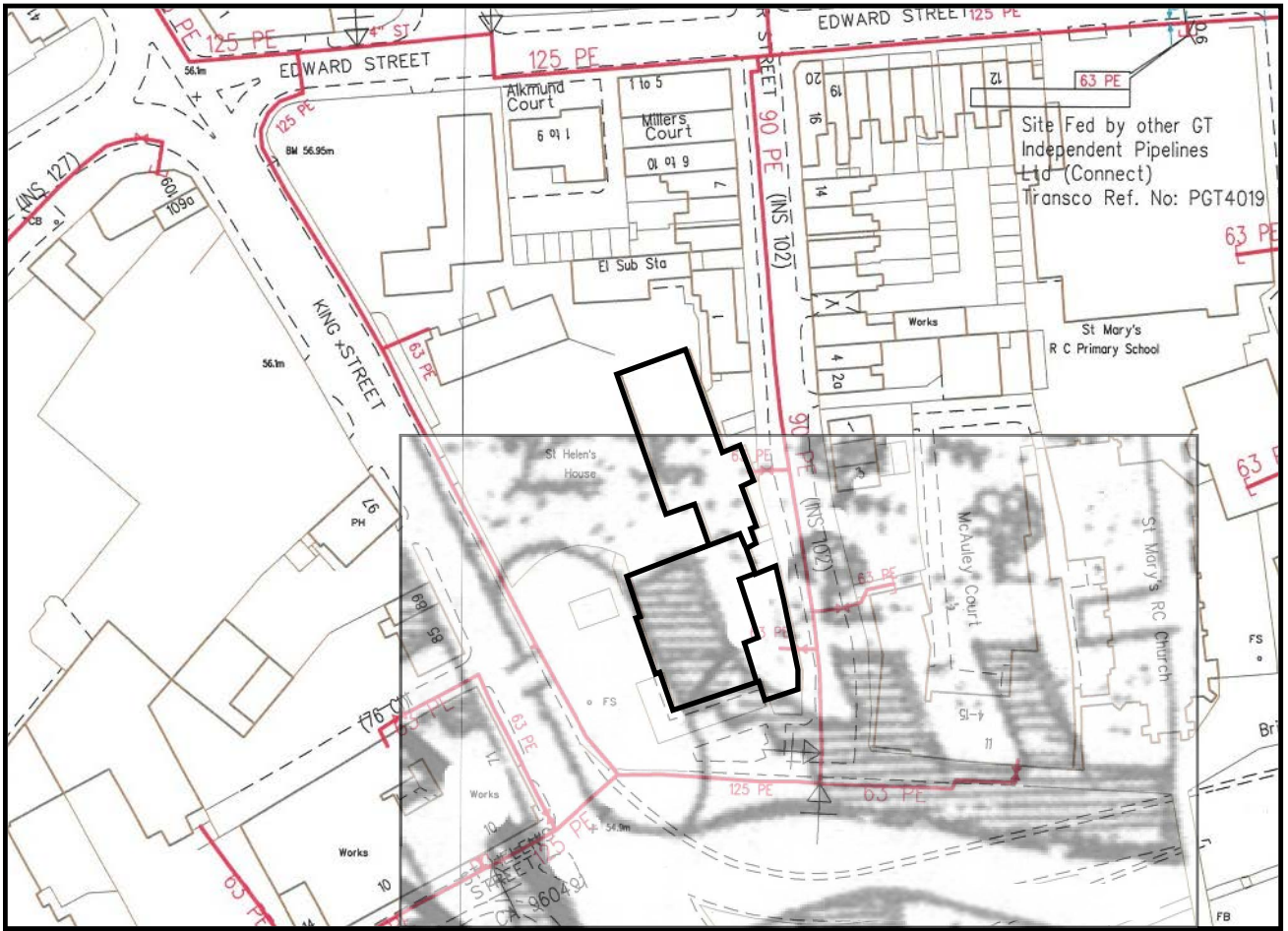


Figure 3: A modern map overlaid by a section of Burdett's map of 1767. Not to scale.

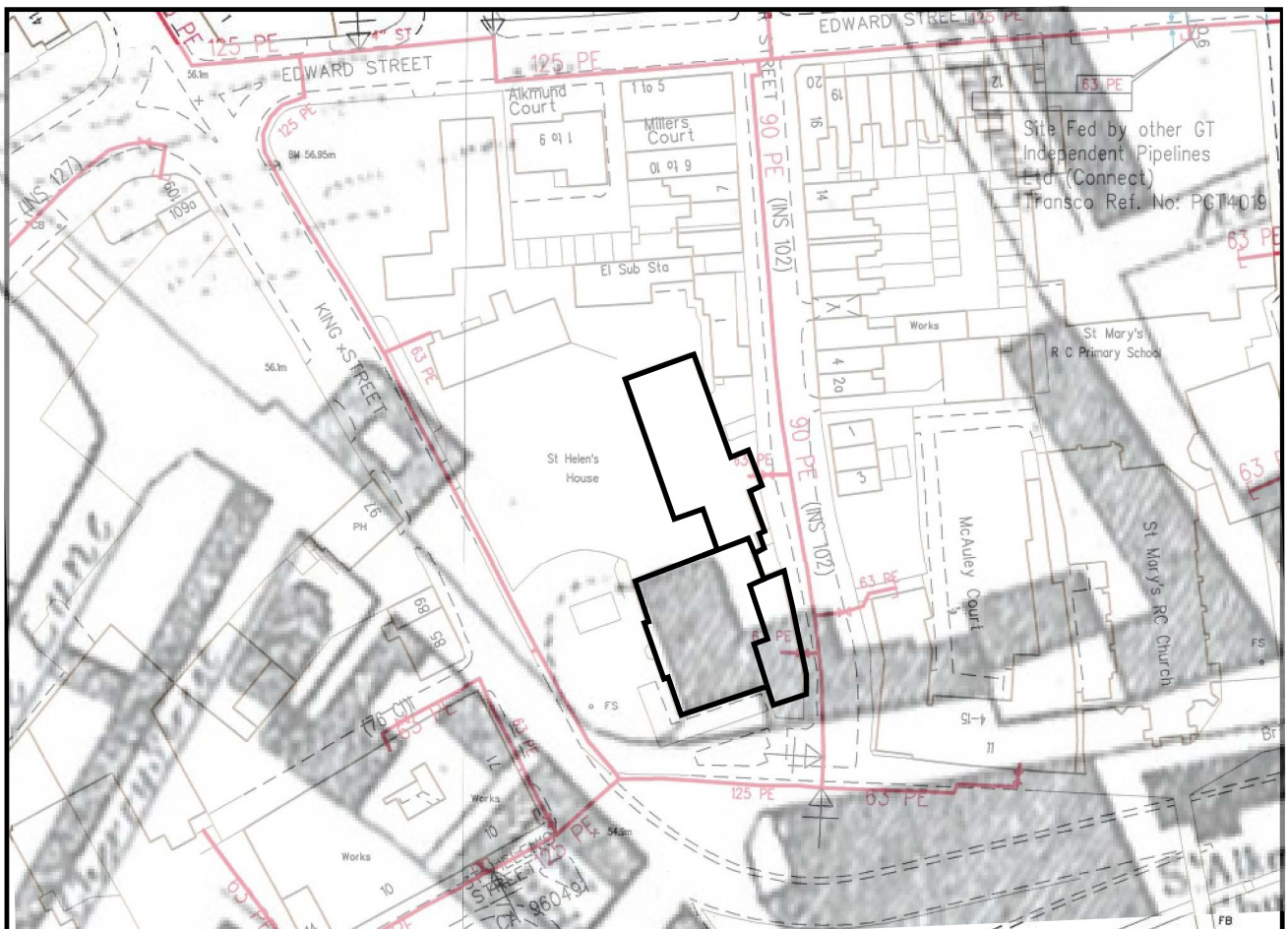


Figure 4: A modern map overlaid by a section of R. Simson's map published in 1826. Not to scale.

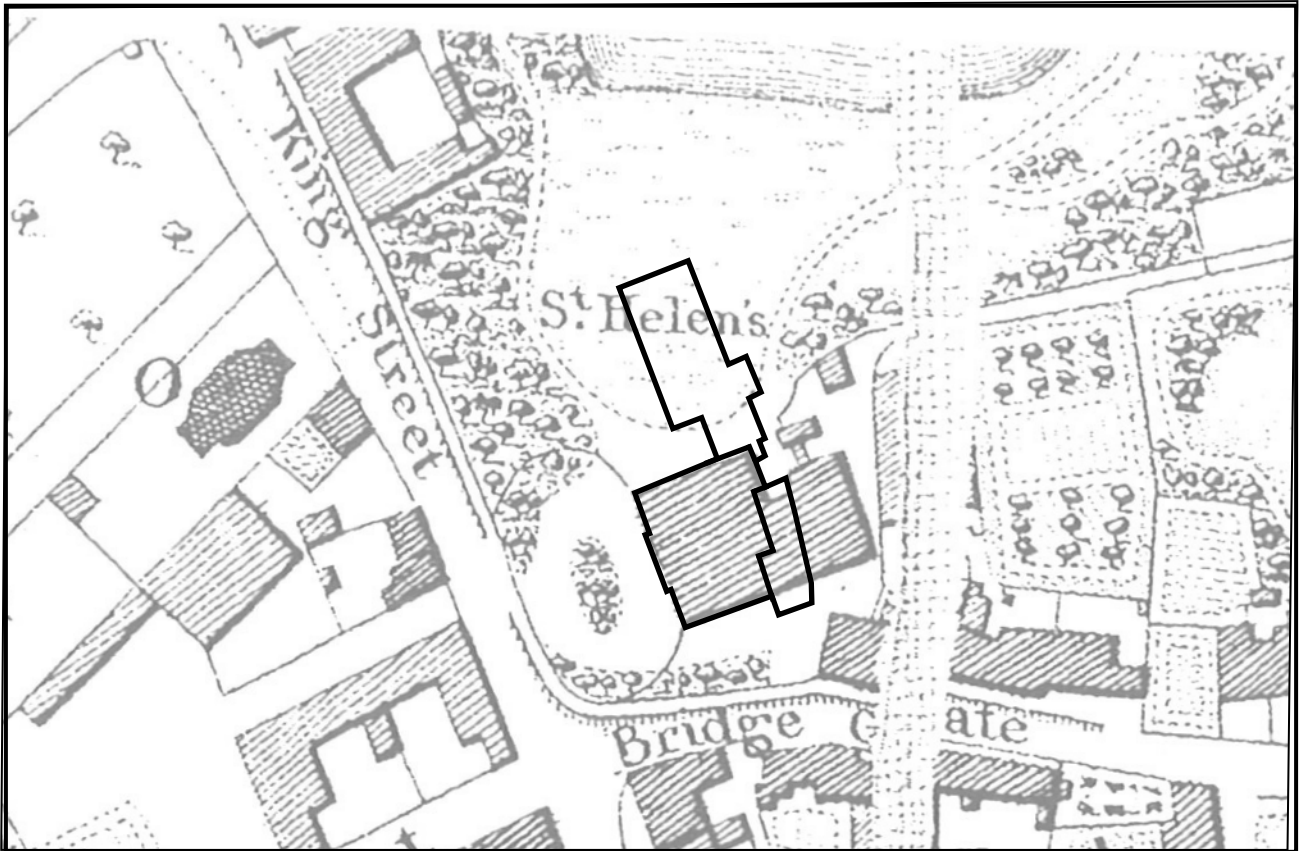


Figure 5: St. Helen's House on Chatterton and Stanwick's 1819 map of Derby. Not to scale.

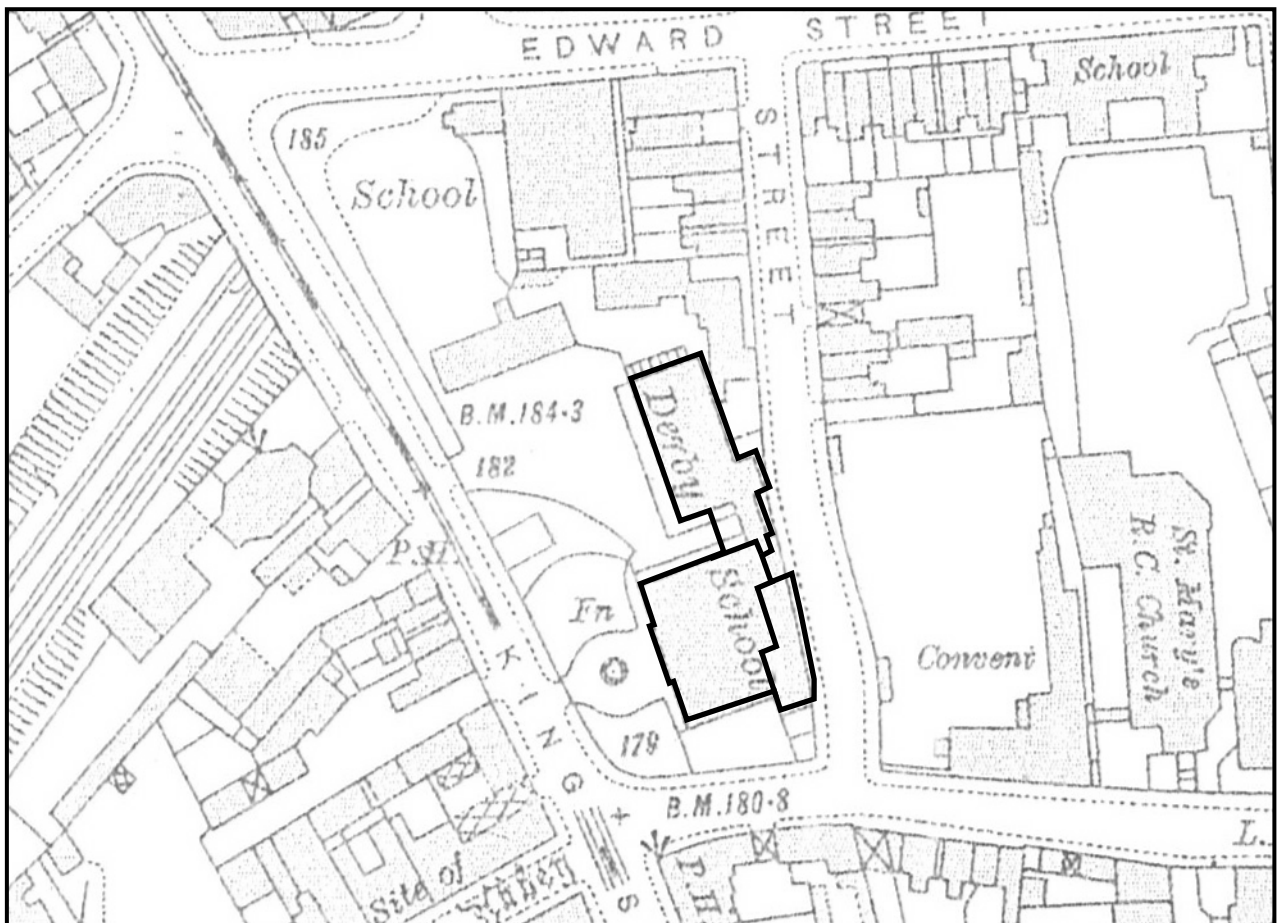
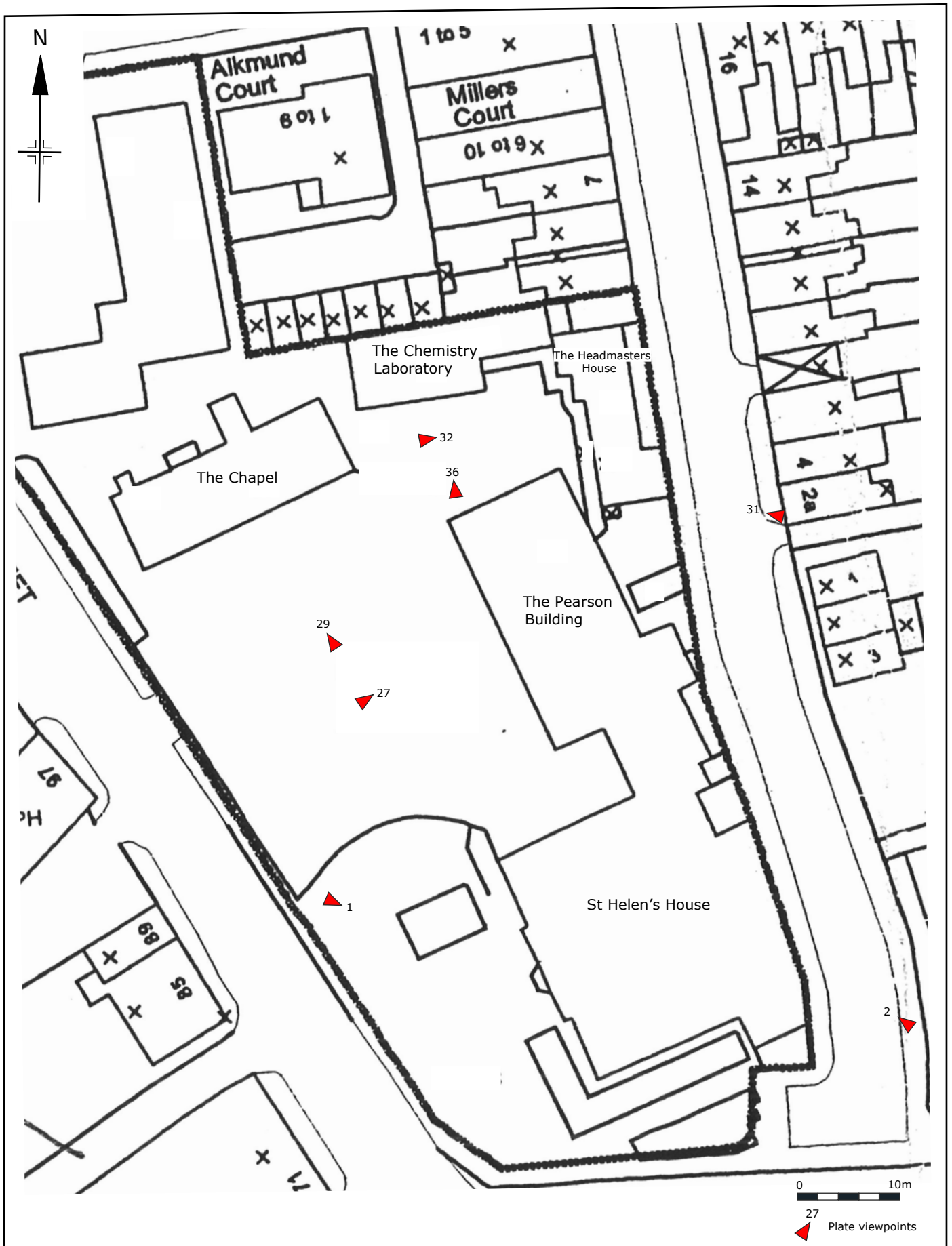


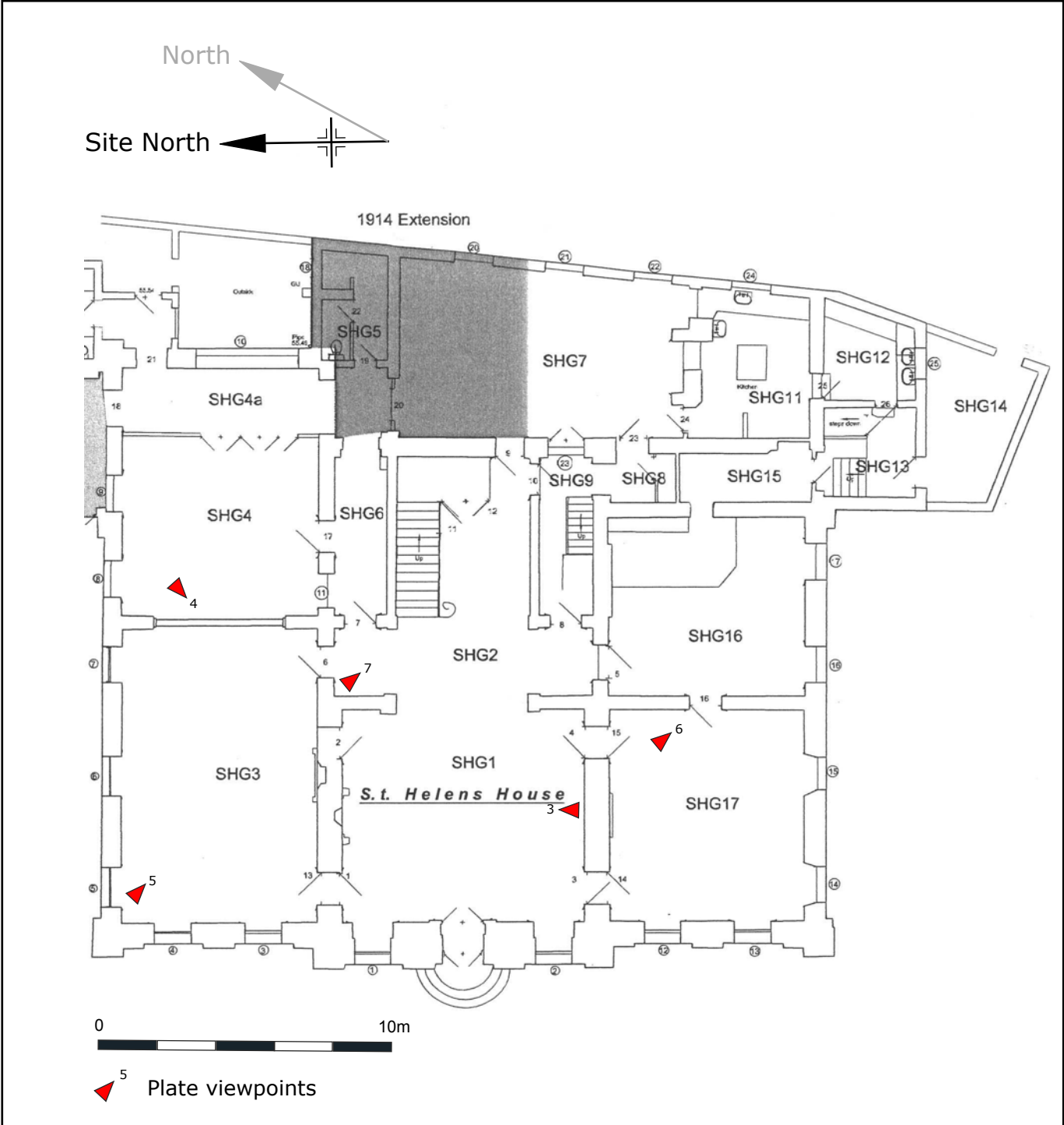
Figure 6: St. Helen's House shown on the Third Edition Ordnance Survey 25 inch scale map of 1914 map. Not to scale.



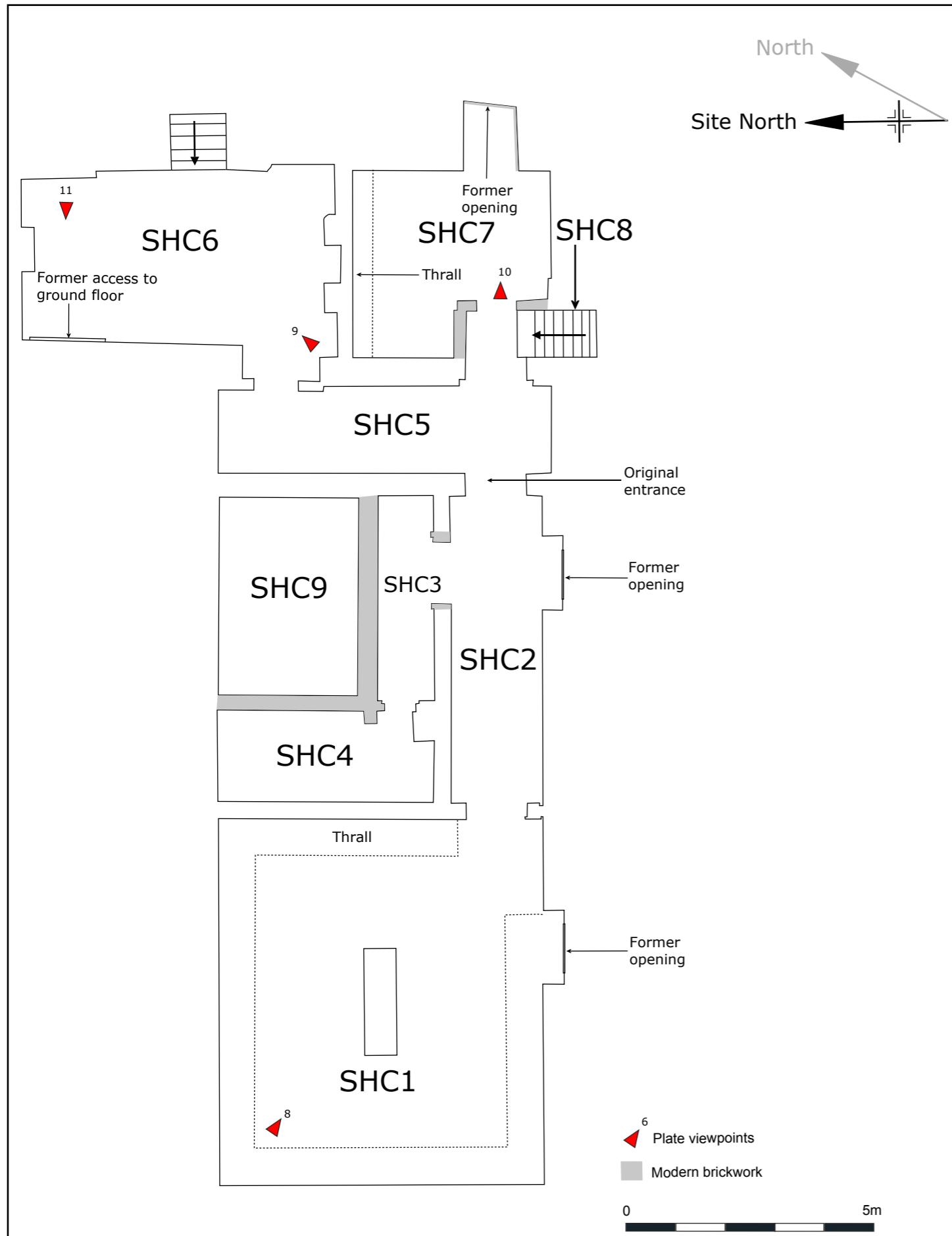
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Figure 7: External photographic plate viewpoints of St. Helen's House and buildings within its curtilage

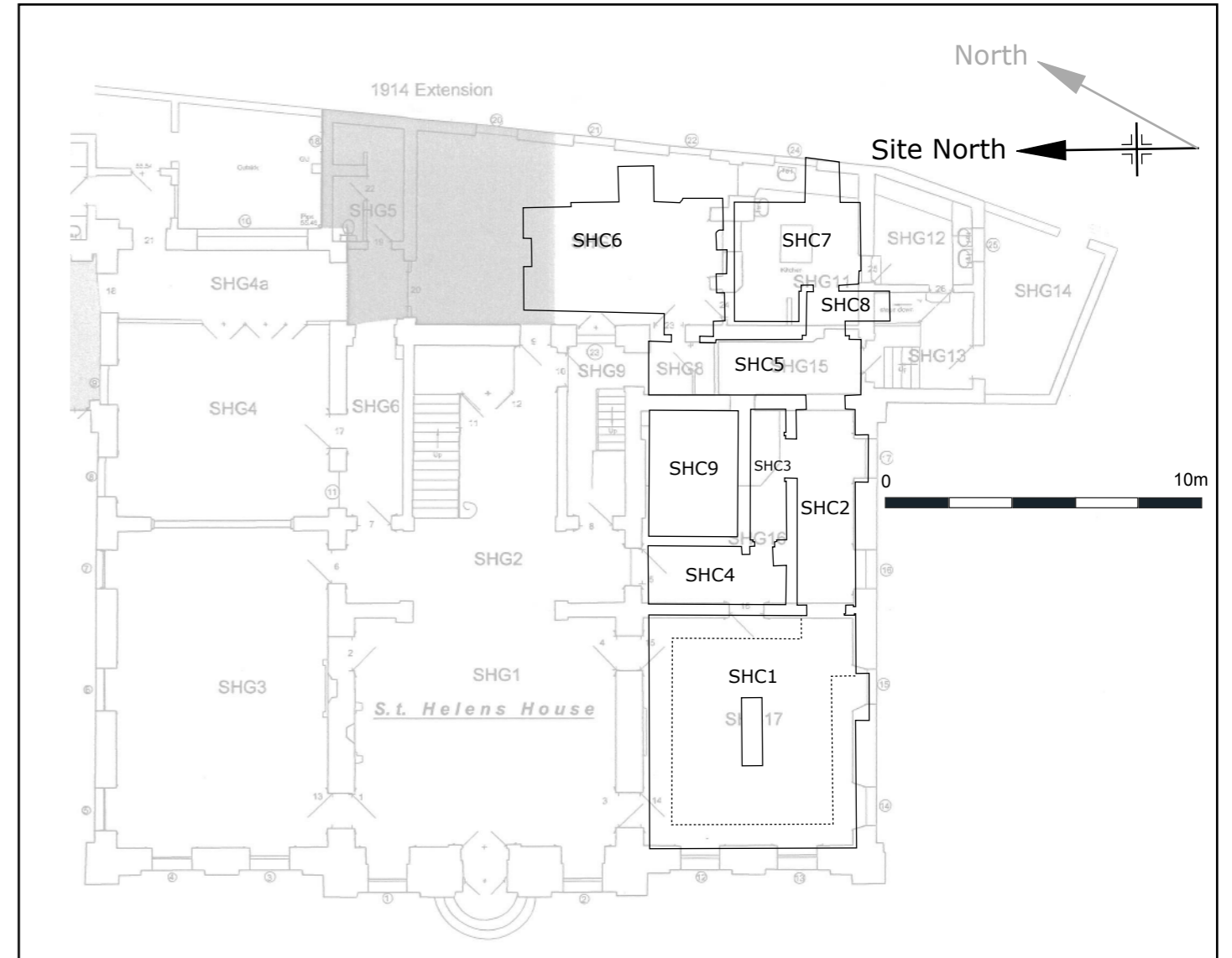
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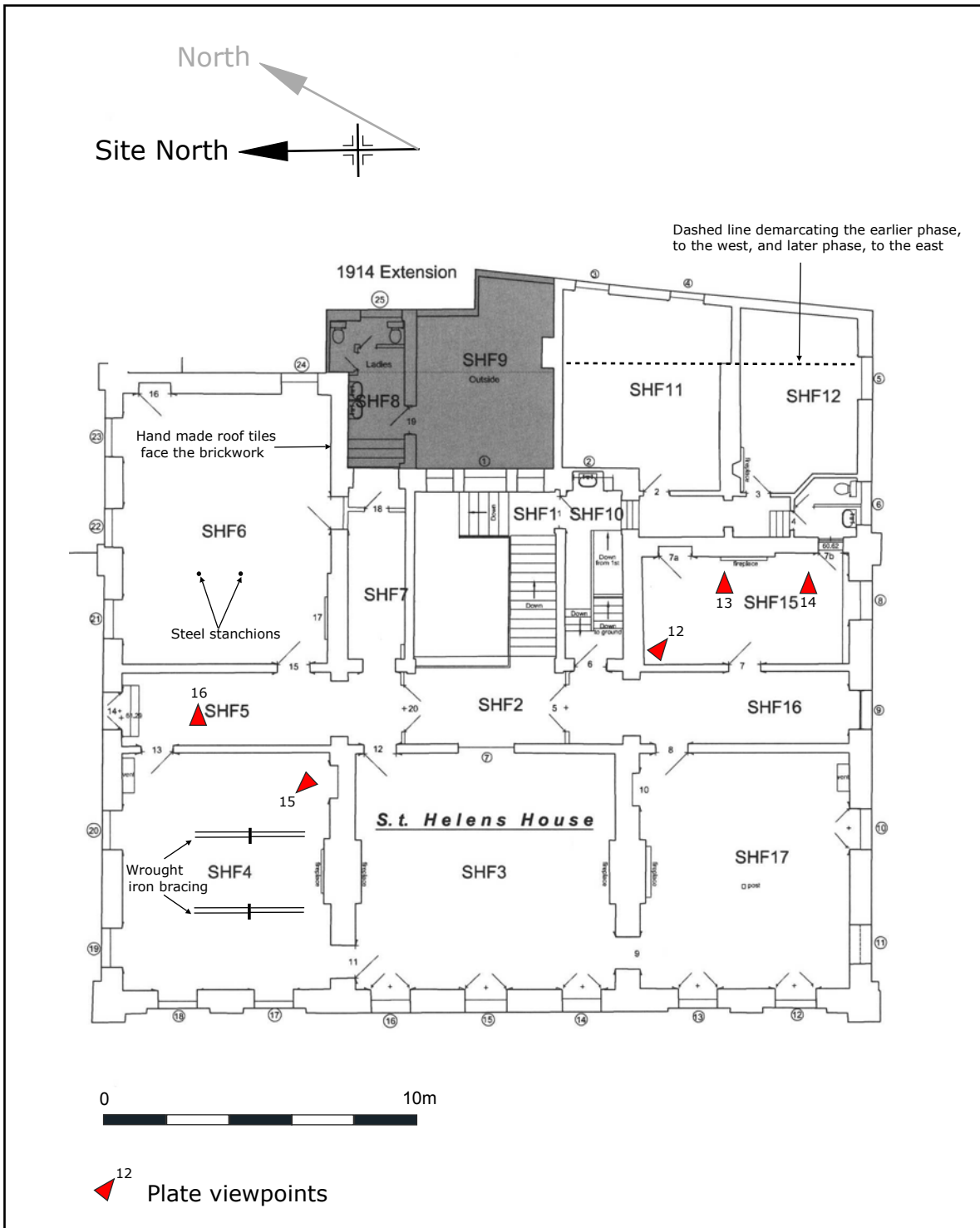
SHD St. Helen's House, Derby, Derbyshire
 Figure 8: Ground floor plan and plate viewpoints St. Helen's House
 Scale 1:200 at A4



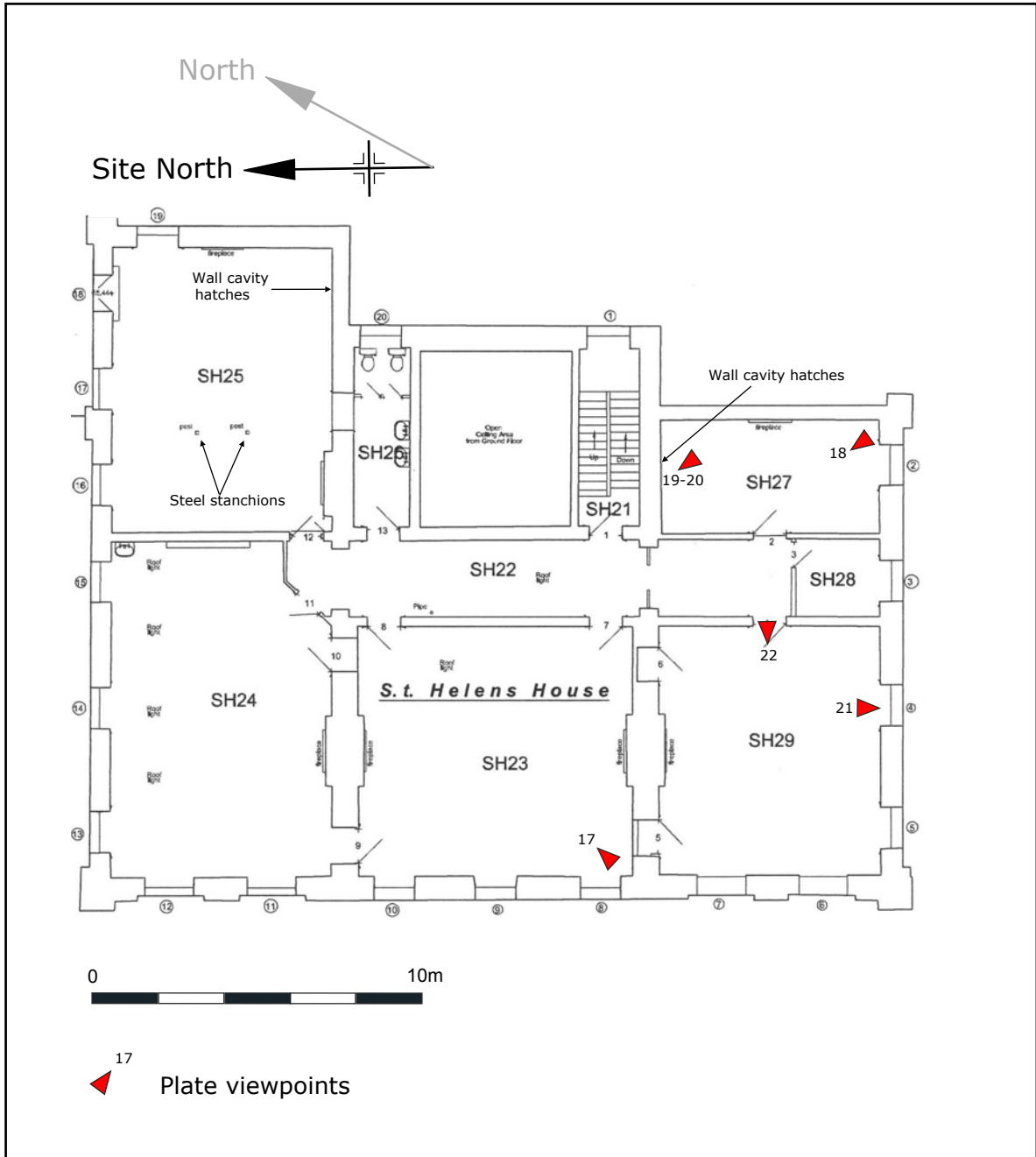
SHD St. Helen's House, Derby, Derbyshire
 Figure 9: Plan of the cellar in St. Helen's House and plate viewpoints
 Scale 1:100 at A3



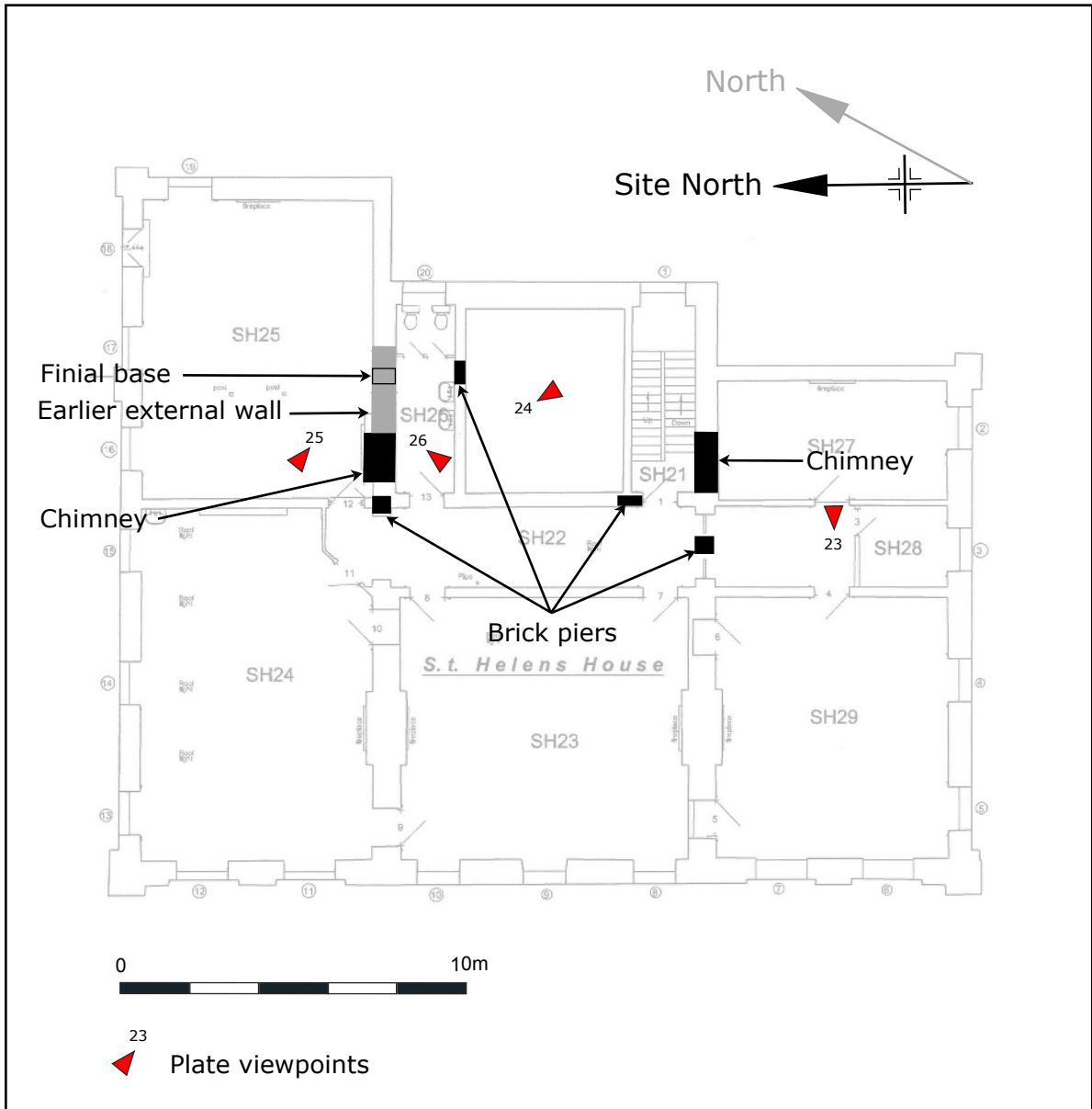
SHD St. Helen's House, Derby, Derbyshire
 Figure 10: Cellar in relation to the ground floor of St. Helen's House
 Scale 1:200 at A3



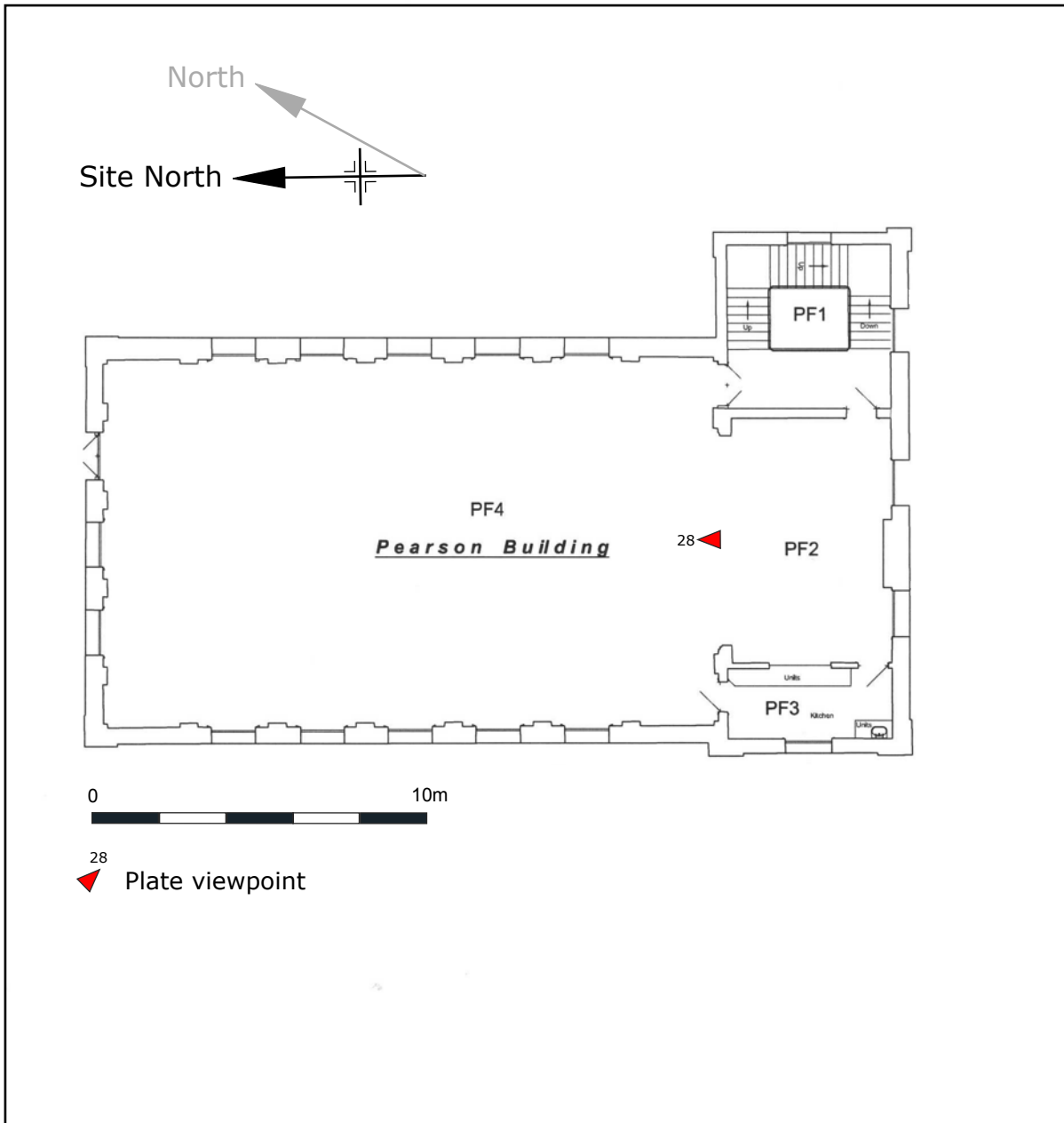
SHD St. Helen's House, Derby, Derbyshire
 Figure 11: First floor plan and plate viewpoints in St. Helen's House
 Scale 1:200 at A4



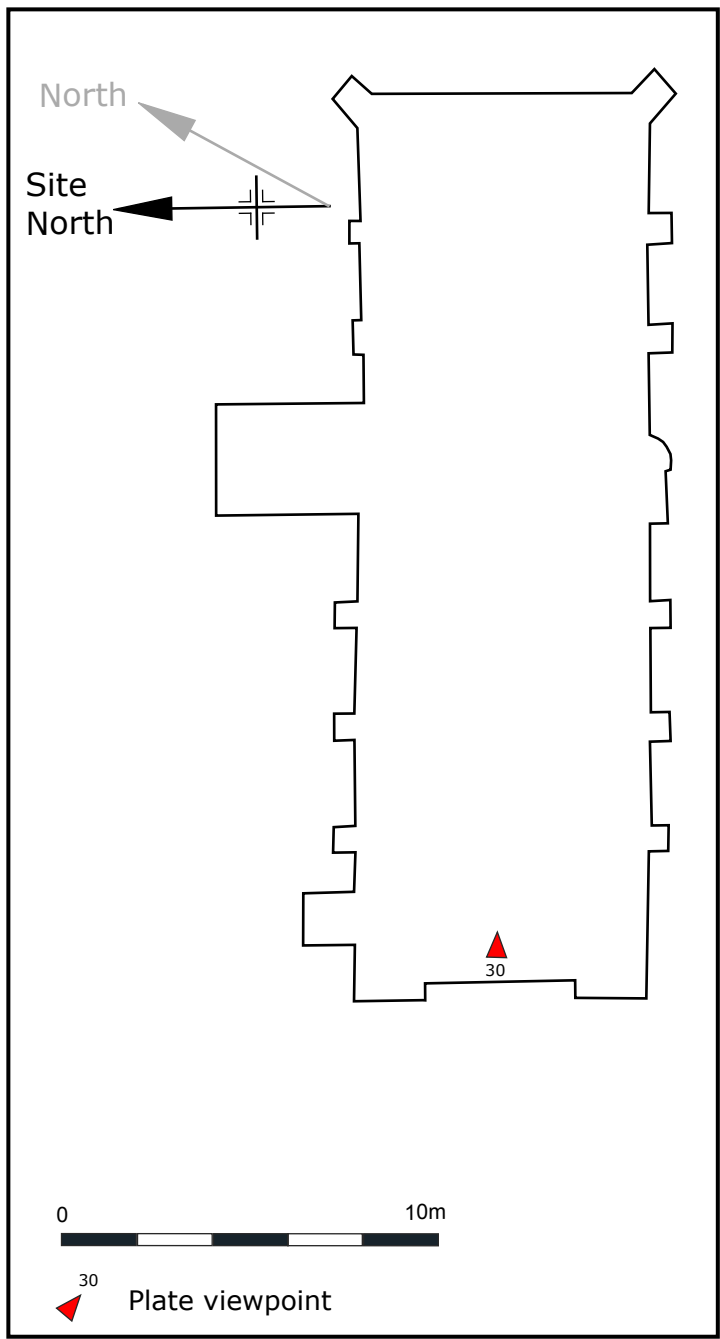
SHD St. Helen's House, Derby, Derbyshire
 Figure 12: Second floor plan and plate viewpoints in St. Helen's House
 Scale 1:200 at A4



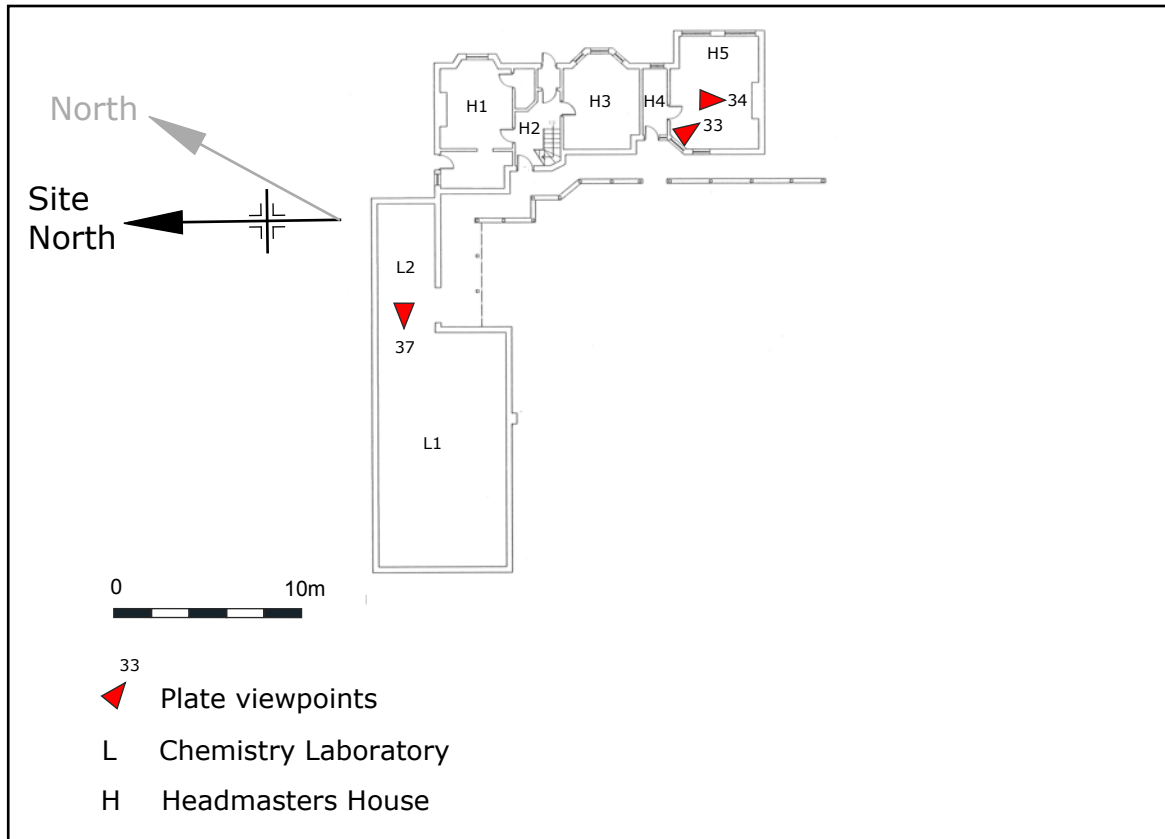
SHD St. Helen's House, Derby, Derbyshire
 Figure 13: Plan of the brick features in the roof space
 Scale 1:200 at A4



SHD St. Helen's House, Derby, Derbyshire
 Figure 14: First floor photographic viewpoints in the Pearson Building
 Scale 1:200 at A3



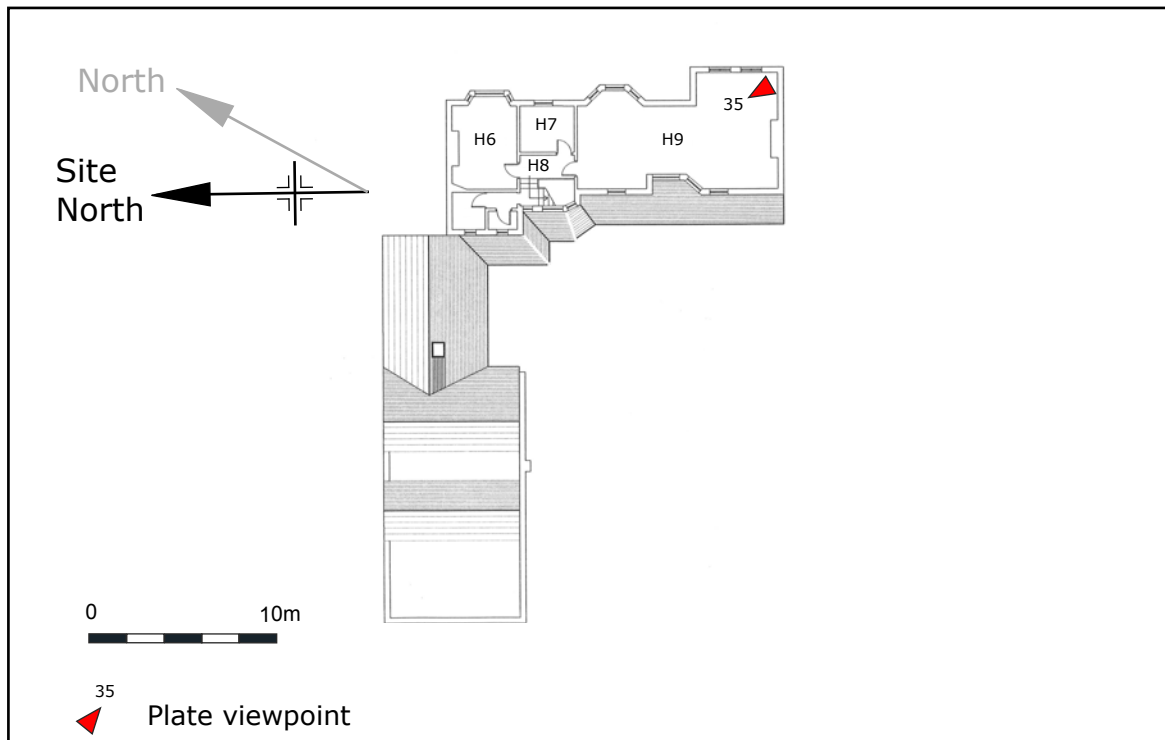
SHD St. Helen's House, Derby, Derbyshire
Figure 15: The Chapel ground floor plan and plate viewpoint
Scale 1:200 at A4



SHD St. Helen's House, Derby, Derbyshire

Figure 16: Ground floor plan and plate viewpoints of the Headmasters House and Chemistry Laboratory

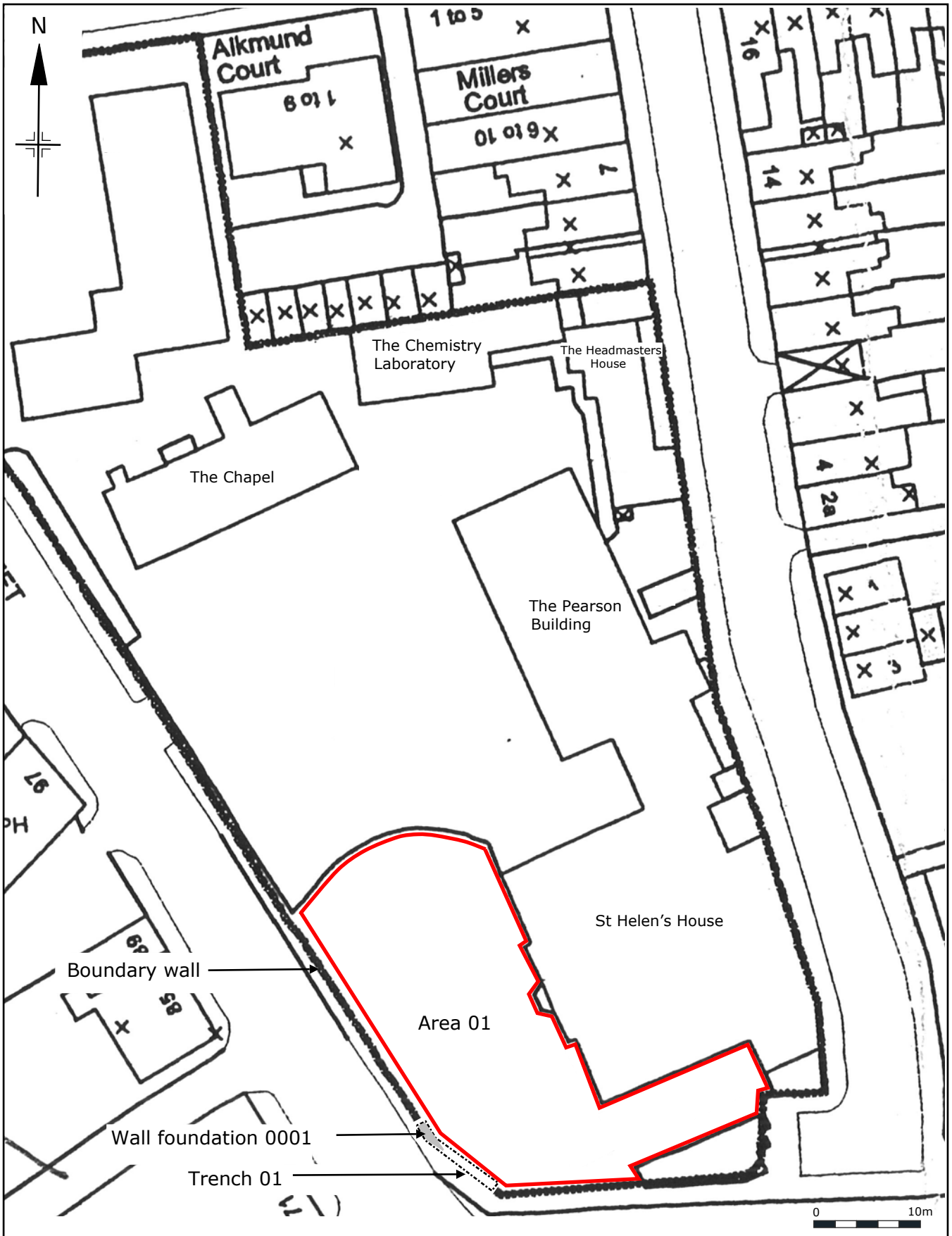
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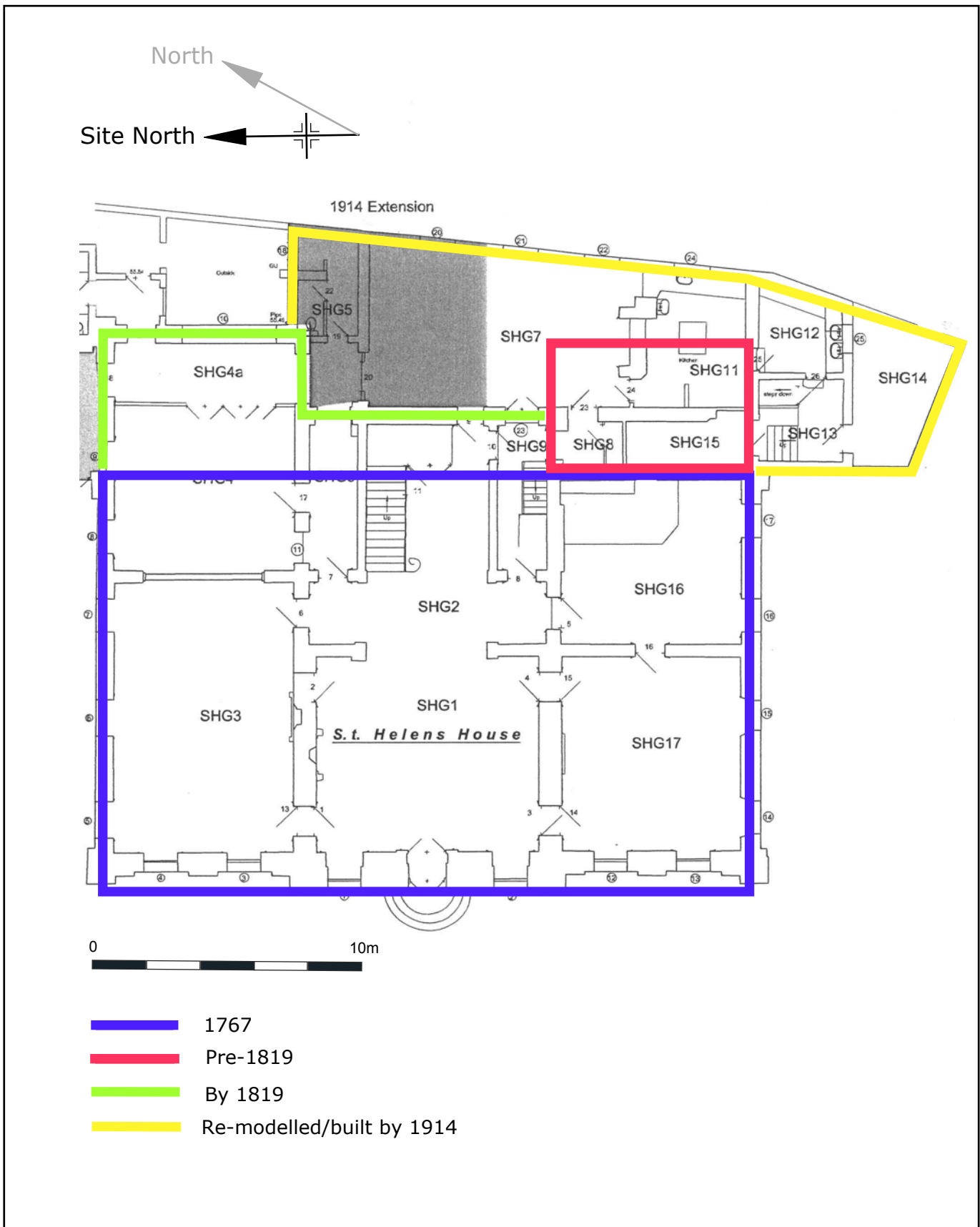
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Figure 17: First floor plan and plate viewpoints of the Headmasters House

Scale 1:100 at A4



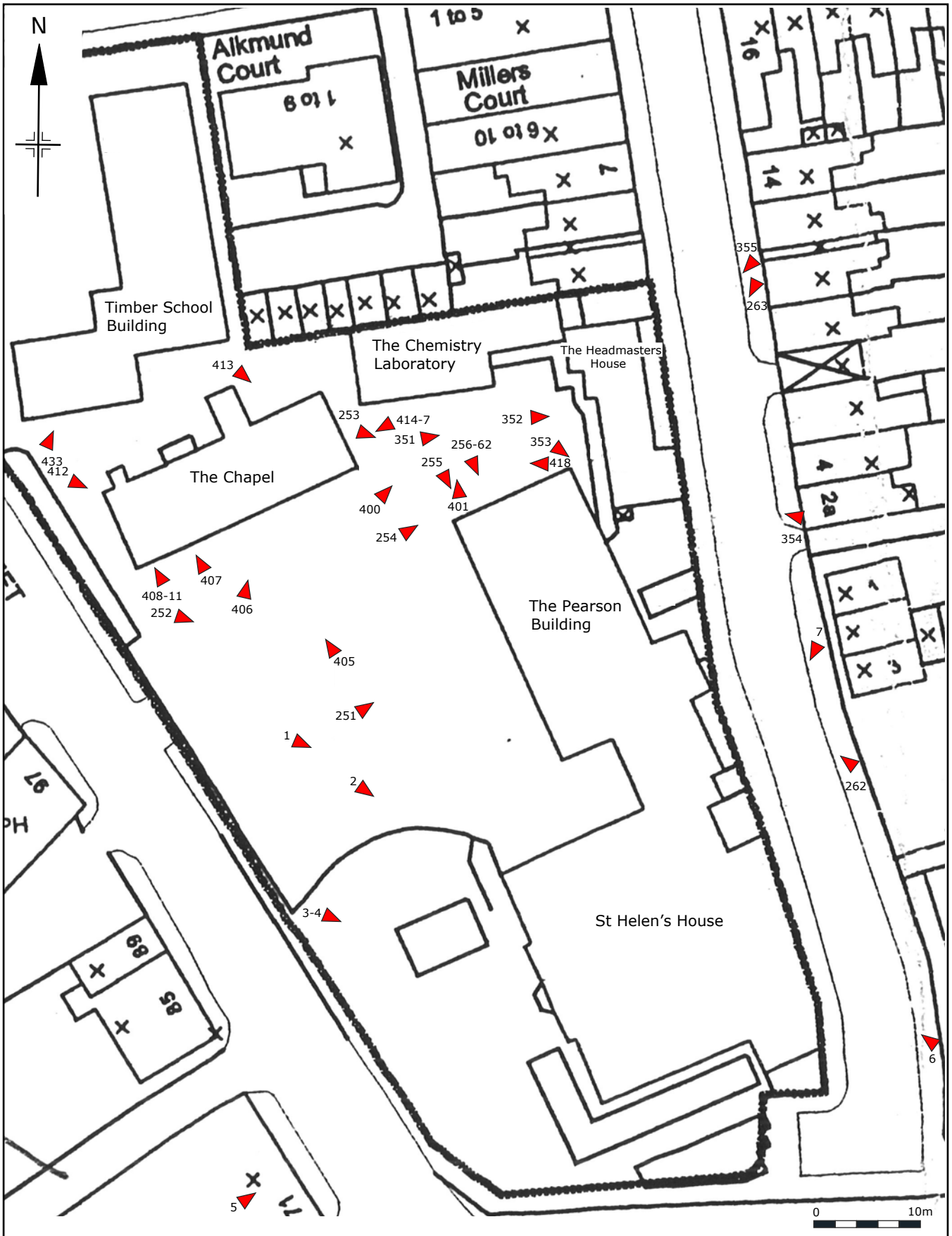
SHD St. Helen's House, Derby, Derbyshire
 Figure 18: Location of Area 01 and Trench 01
 Scale 1:500 at A4



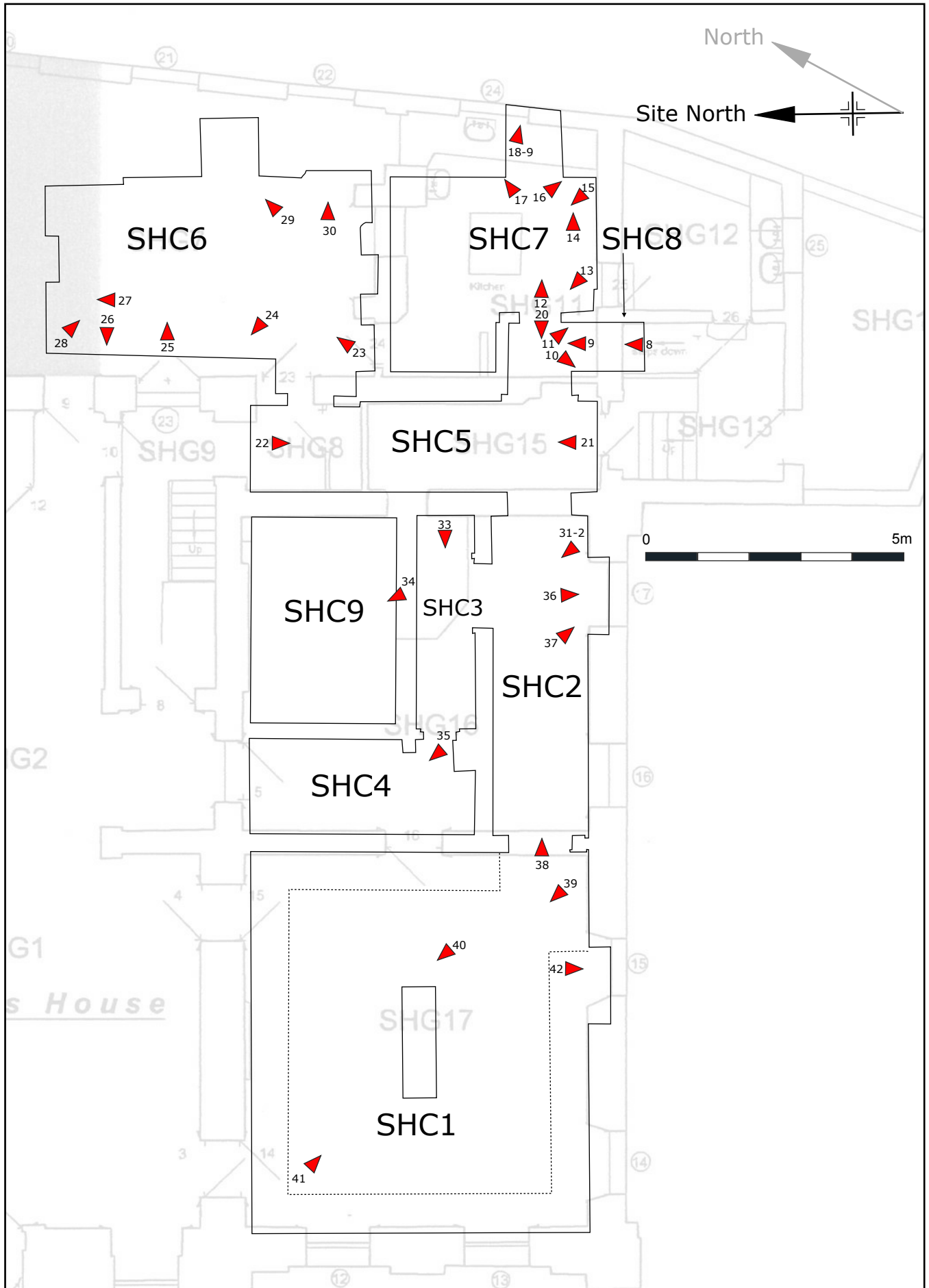
SHD St. Helen's House, Derby, Derbyshire

Figure 19: Suggested historical development of St. Helen's House overlying the modern ground floor plan

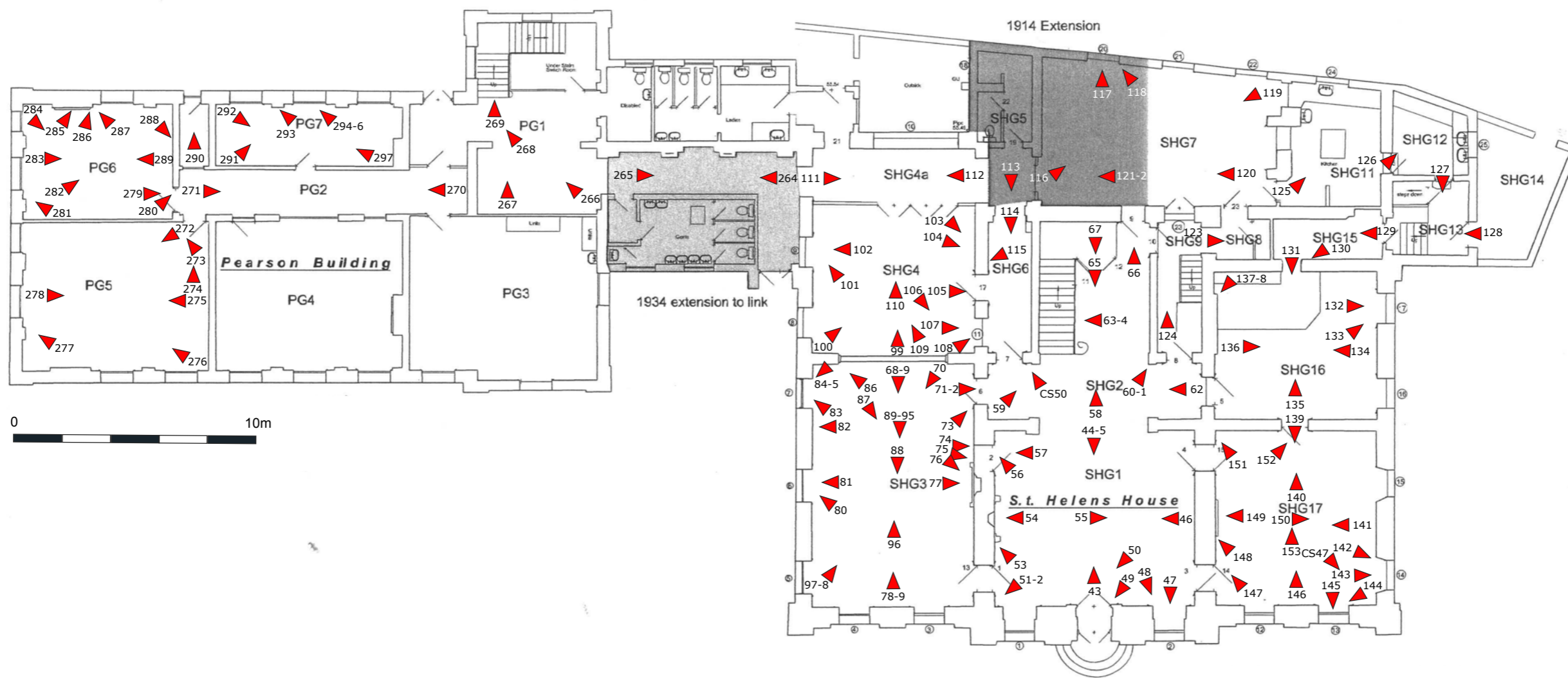
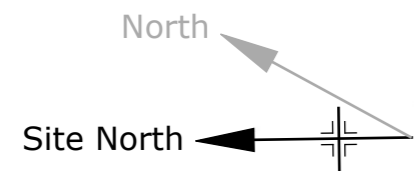
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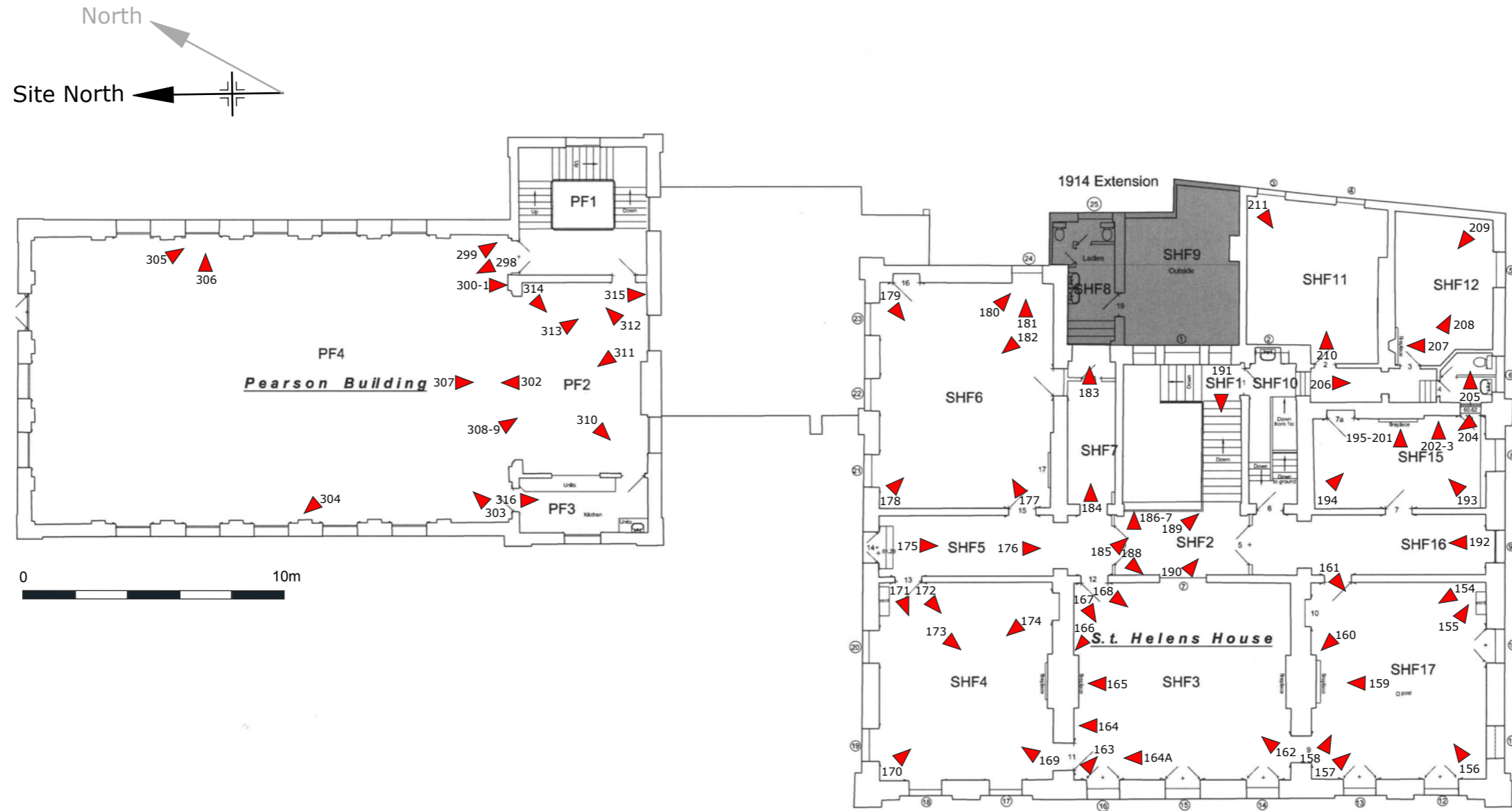
SHD St. Helen's House, Derby, Derbyshire
 Figure 20: External photographic viewpoints of St. Helen's House and associated buildings
 Scale 1:500 at A4



SHD St. Helen's House, Derby, Derbyshire
 Figure 21: Cellar photographic viewpoints in St. Helen's House
 Scale 1:100 at A4



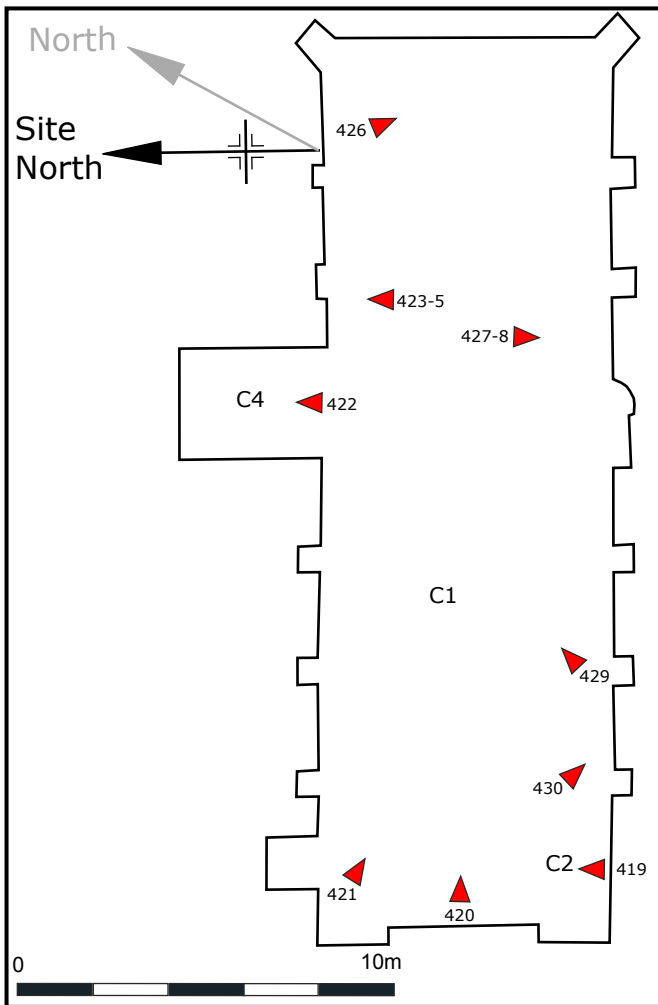
SHD St. Helen's House, Derby, Derbyshire
Figure 22: Ground floor photographic viewpoints in St. Helen's House and the Pearson Building
Scale 1:200 at A3



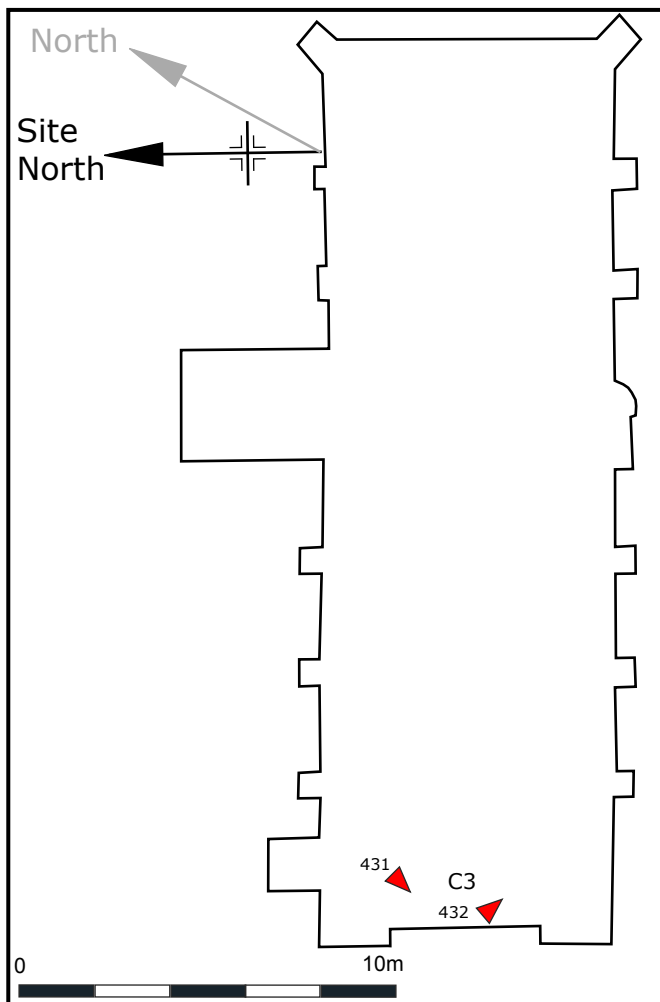
SHD St. Helen's House, Derby, Derbyshire
 Figure 23: First floor photographic viewpoints in St. Helen's House and the Pearson Building
 Scale 1:200 at A3



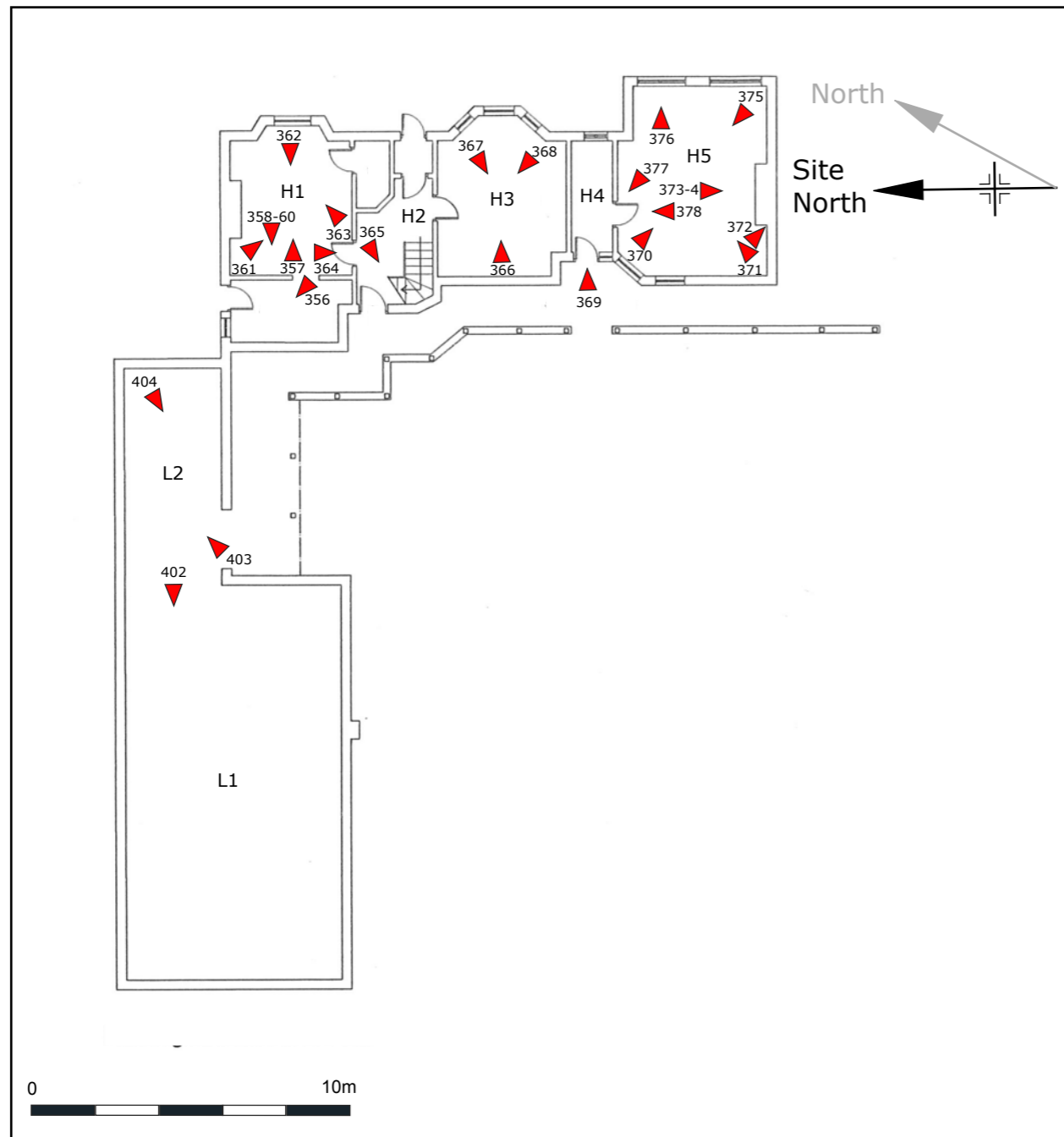
SHD St. Helen's House, Derby, Derbyshire
 Figure 24: Second floor photographic viewpoints in St. Helen's House and the Pearson Building
 Scale 1:200 at A3



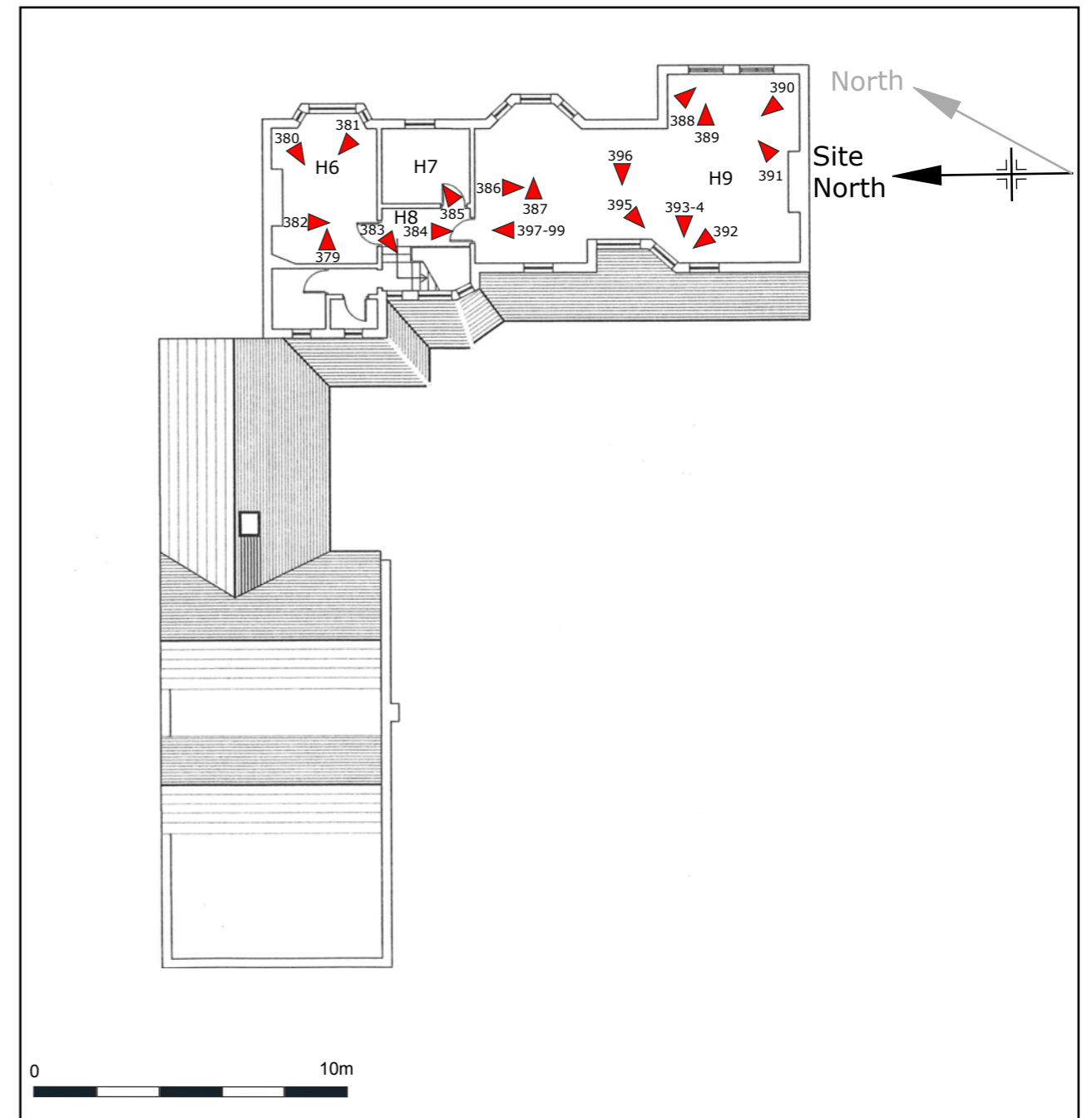
SHD St. Helen's House, Derby, Derbyshire
 Figure 25: Ground floor photographic viewpoints in the Chapel
 Scale 1:200 at A4



SHD St. Helen's House, Derby, Derbyshire
 Figure 26: First floor photographic viewpoints in the Chapel
 Scale 1:200 at A4



SHD St. Helen's House, Derby, Derbyshire
 Figure 27: Ground floor photographic viewpoints of the Headmasters House and Chemistry Laboratory
 Scale 1:200 at A3



SHD St. Helen's House, Derby, Derbyshire
 Figure 28: First floor photographic viewpoints of the Headmasters House
 Scale 1:200 at A3



Plate 1: West elevation of St. Helen's House, viewed looking south-east.



Plate 2: South elevation of St. Helen's House, viewed looking north-west.



Plate 3: North wall of room SHG1, viewed looking north.



Plate 4: General view of room SHG3, viewed looking north-west.



Plate 5: Detail of the plaster ceiling of room SHG3, viewed looking south-west.

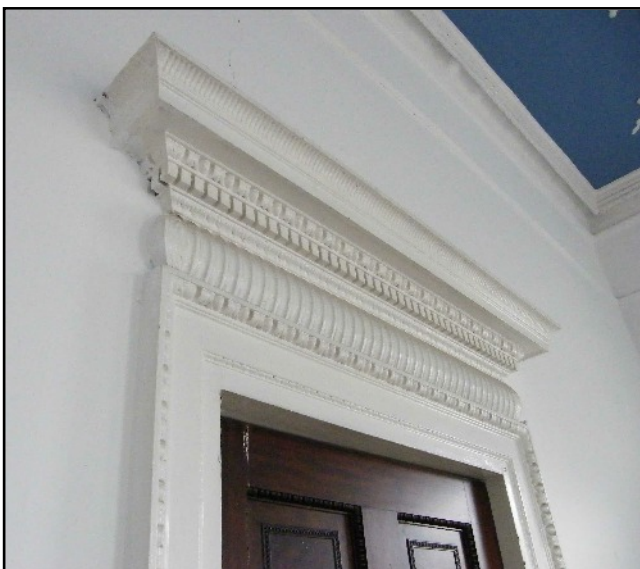


Plate 6: The surround of the east door of room SHG17, viewed looking south-east.



Plate 7: The Main Stairs SHG2, viewed looking south-east.



Plate 8: General view of cellar SHC1, viewed looking south-east.



Plate 9: General view of cellar SHC6, viewed looking south-east.



Plate 10: Former opening for the delivery of stock in the east wall of SHG7, viewed looking east.



Plate 11: Former entry point from the cellar into the service wing in the west wall of room SHC6, viewed looking west.



Plate 12: General view of room SHF15, viewed looking south-east.



Plate 13: Graffiti dating to when the house was a school on the fireplace in room SHF15, viewed looking east.



Plate 14: Surviving early wallpaper in room SHF15, viewed looking east.



Plate 15: The bracing mechanism in room SHF4, viewed looking north-west.



Plate 16: The brick arch in room SHF5, viewed looking east.



Plate 17: Room SH23, viewed looking north-east.



Plate 18: Metal hatches in the north wall of room SH27, viewed looking north-west.



Plate 19: Metal hatch in the north wall of SH27, viewed looking north-east.



Plate 20: Metal hatch in the north wall of SH27, viewed looking north-east.

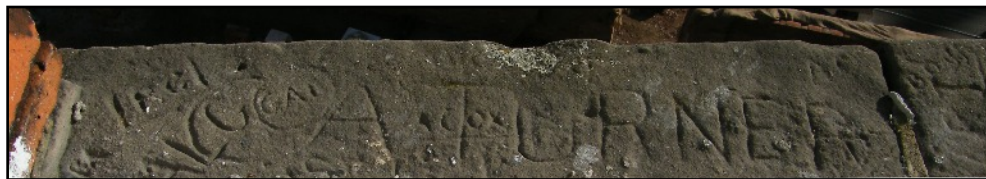


Plate 21: Graffiti on the south window sill of room SH29, viewed looking south.



Plate 22: The south window, in the west wall, room SH29 during renovation, viewed looking west.



Plate 23: Roof over room SH29, viewed looking west.

Plate 24: Northern chimney within the roof space with a brick pillar used to support the purlin to the west and part of the early external wall to the east, viewed looking north.



Plate 25: Northern face of the early external wall with the finial base to the east and chimney to the west, viewed looking south-east.

Plate 26: Southern face of the early external wall, viewed looking north-east.





Plate 27: West elevation of the Pearson Building, viewed looking east.



Plate 28: First floor room PF4, viewed looking north.



Plate 29: South elevation of the Chapel, viewed looking north.



Plate 30: The nave and chancel, viewed looking east.



Plate 31: The east elevation of the Headmasters House, viewed looking north-west.



Plate 32: The west elevation of the Headmasters House, viewed looking west.



Plate 33: Room H5, viewed looking south-east.



Plate 34: Chimney piece in the south wall of Room H5, viewed looking south.



Plate 35: Room H9, viewed looking north-west.



Plate 36: The south elevation of the Chemistry Laboratory, viewed looking north.



Plate 37: The interior of room L1, viewed looking west.



Plate 38: The foundations 0001 and 0002 for the western boundary wall of St. Helen's House, viewed looking south-west.



Plate 39: Machine stripping in Area 01, viewed looking south-east.