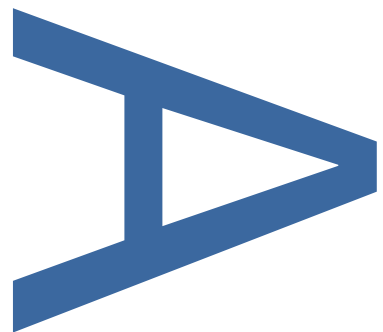
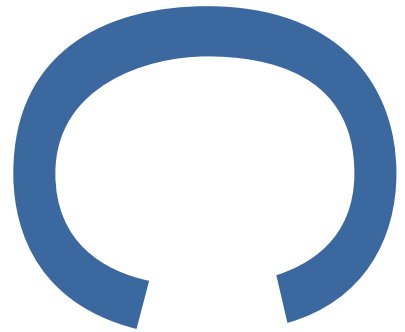


**HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING
OF THE
FORMER UNION CINEMA,
GORDON STREET,
LUTON,
BEDFORDSHIRE
LU1 2QP**



PCA REPORT NO: R13125

DECEMBER 2017

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

**Historic Building Recording of the Former Union Cinema, Gordon Street,
Luton, Bedfordshire, LU1 2QP**

Ordnance Survey NGR: TL 08931 21370

Planning Reference: 16/02195/FUL

Commissioning Client: Archaeology Collective on behalf of the Overall Client

Report compiled by: Adam Garwood and Alfred Hawkins

Site Code: FGSL17

HER Ref No. 201718/206

Luton Culture Entry No. LTNMG 1316

Contractor:

**Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Unit 54 Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
Brockley**

Tel:

London SE4 2PD

Fax:

020 7732 3925

E-mail:

020 7732 7896

Web:

cmatthews@pre-construct.com

www.pre-construct.com

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

December 2017

© The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent. Whilst every effort has been made to provide detailed and accurate information, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies herein contained.

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

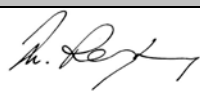
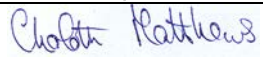
Site Name

Former Union Cinema,
Gordon Street,
Luton,
Bedfordshire,
LU1 2QP

Type of project

Historic Building Recording

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code		K5278	
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Report Number		R13125	
	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Adam Garwood and Alfred Hawkins		15/12/2017
Graphics Prepared by:	Hayley Baxter		15/12/2017
Graphics Checked by:	Mark Roughley		15/12/2017
Project Manager Sign-off:	Charlotte Matthews		15/12/2017

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved
1	18/12/2017	Charlotte Matthews	Charlotte Matthews

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Unit 54
Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
London
SE4 2PD

CONTENTS

1	NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY	5
2	INTRODUCTION	6
3	PLANNING BACKGROUND	8
4	METHODOLOGY	9
5	HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	11
6	BUILDING DESCRIPTION	14
7	DISCUSSION	17
8	BIBLIOGRAPHY	18
9	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	19
10	OASIS FORM	20

Figures

Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Detailed Site Location

Figure 3: GOAD Insurance Map of Luton 1895

Figure 4: Ordnance Survey 1922

Figure 5 GOAD Insurance Map of Luton 1929

Figure 6: Ordnance Survey 1964

Figure 7: Ordnance Survey 1983

Figure 8: Ground Floor plan

Figure 9: First Floor plan

Figure 10: Second Floor plan

Figure 11: Third Floor plan

Figure 12: Existing front elevation

Historic Plates

Plate No.	Description
Historic Plate 1	Welch and Sons Limited in 1899 looking north-west from Upper George Street along Gordon Street (© Luton Borough Council, 2003)
Historic Plate 2	Photograph taken c.1900 looking west along Upper George Street from its corner with Gordon Street with Welch & Son's on the right
Historic Plate 3	Early 20th century photograph taken before 1922 of the Site (Welchs) looking north from Upper George Street with Gordon Street on the right
Historic Plate 4	Photograph taken c.1937 looking north-west from Gordon Street showing demolition of properties along Gordon Street, prior to the construction of the Union Cinema
Historic Plate 5	Photograph taken c.1937 showing the steel frame for the roof and seats of the Union Cinema during construction
Historic Plate 6	Photograph taken in 1937 of the front elevation of the Union Cinema upon opening
Historic Plate 7	Photograph taken in 1937 of the interior of the Union Cinema, Gordon Street, Luton
Historic Plate 8	Wurlitzer Organ installed at the Union Cinema, Luton (Internet Source 3)
Historic Plate 9	Aerial photograph taken c.1955 of Luton Town Hall with the Ritz Cinema, Gordon Street behind
Historic Plate 10	Photograph taken in the 1950s of the Ritz Cinema, Gordon Street, Luton
Historic Plate 11	Photograph taken c.1958 of the Ritz Cinema, Gordon Street, Luton
Historic Plate 12	Photograph taken c.1958 of the interior of the Ritz Cinema, Gordon Street, Luton
Historic Plate 13	Aerial photograph taken c.1963 of Luton Town Hall with facade the Ritz Cinema, Gordon Street behind
Historic Plate 14	Aerial photograph taken c.1963 of Luton Town Hall with facade the Ritz Cinema, Gordon Street behind
Historic Plate 15	The former Union Cinema, Gordon Street as the Coliseum Nightclub in 1988 (© Ian Grundy : Internet Source 2)
Historic Plate 16	The former Union Cinema, Gordon Street as the Coliseum Nightclub in 1988 (© Ian Grundy: Internet Source 2)
Historic Plate 17	The former Union Cinema, Gordon Street as The Zone Nightclub, 1999
Historic Plate 18	The former Union Cinema, Gordon Street as The Zone Nightclub, 1999
Historic Plate 19	The former Union Cinema, Gordon Street as Chicago's before 2006
Historic Plate 20	The former Union Cinema, Gordon Street as Liquid Envy Nightclub c.2016

Plates

Plate No. Description

Plate 1	Front (east) elevation of the Former Union Cinema looking south-west
Plate 2	Northern end of the front (east) elevation of the Former Union Cinema looking west
Plate 3	View along Gordon Street to the north-west
Plate 4	Entrance and oriel window
Plate 5	Entrance to Liquid
Plate 6	Entrance to Envy
Plate 7	Entrance to Chicago Rock Café
Plate 8	Detail of Faience tiles
Plate 9	Moulded pilasters
Plate 10	Memorial plaque
Plate 11	Southern elevations from yard to the rear of Upper George Street
Plate 12	Rear elevation viewed from Lancrets Path, looking south
Plate 13	Rear elevation viewed from Lancrets Path, looking north
Plate 14	Reception counter (Liquid nightclub foyer)
Plate 15	Replacement stair to nightclubs Liquid and Envy
Plate 16	Stair from first floor looking to reception
Plate 17	Cold storage area on ground floor
Plate 18	Original brick and concrete fire stair at second floor level
Plate 19	Chicago Rock Café ground floor bar area
Plate 20	Chicago Rock Café, mezzanine level
Plate 21	Panorama
Plate 22	Kitchen area
Plate 23	Modern steel fire escape stair
Plate 24	Gear mechanism in present stairwell
Plate 25	Envy dance floor and bars
Plate 26	Envy dance floor and bars
Plate 27	Liquid dance floor
Plate 28	Liquid Bar area
Plate 29	Bespoke spiral stair to Liquid Lounge
Plate 30	Liquid Lounge bar
Plate 31	External terrace
Plate 32	Remains of original steel superstructure
Plate 33	Section of roof truss

1 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited was commissioned by the Archaeology Collective on behalf of the overall Client to carry out historic building recording of the former Union Cinema, Gordon Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 2QP.
- 1.1.2 The present building is a purpose-built cinema constructed as the Union Cinema in 1937, to the designs of Kemp and Tasker and on the site of the former Welch & Sons Straw Hat Factory, which had previously stood since the mid 19th century. The Union Cinema was known as the Ritz Cinema from 1949 to 1971. In 1971, it was turned into a bingo hall. During the 1980s it became a nightclub. As a nightclub, it had a variety of names including Sands, Tropicana Beach, Coliseum and The Zone. It was refurbished in 1999 and 2006. It has most recently been used as three nightclubs known as Chicago Rock Cafe, Liquid and Envy.
- 1.1.3 The building recording has highlighted the extent to which these later renovations have impacted on the original fabric of the building, considerably removing all evidence of cinema architecture, original spatial layouts and former fittings and decor. This however does not extend to the façade which, being unaltered in any major sense, remains as a locally important example of a modernist purpose-built cinema.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

2.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Archaeology Collective on behalf of the overall Client to carry out historic building recording of the former Union Cinema, Gordon Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 2QP prior to its partial demolition (**Figure 1**). The building is bounded to the east by Gordon Street and Lancrets Path to the west and is accessible from both roads (**Figure 2**). Commercial properties fronting onto Gordon Street bound the northern and southern limits of the building. The former cinema lies just within the northern part of the Luton Town Centre Conservation Area, although it is not a Listed Building.

2.1.2 The Heritage Statement (Driscoll, 2016) provides the following history. The cinema was designed by Leslie H. Kemp in 1934 and opened on the 11th October 1937. More recently the building has been used as a nightclub and is now standing derelict. The building is constructed in brick in English bond. The façade displays a first floor balcony with multi light window, embellished with fluted ionic columns supporting a relief. Fluted vertical pilasters divide the remainder of the exterior, which is otherwise plain. There are very few windows in the façade, with just seven small openings at the southern end of the elevation and two at ground level to the north (**Figure 12**). A decorative unglazed brick lattice vent is preserved in the northern part of the façade. Internally, the building has been stripped of original fixtures and fittings to facilitate its conversion to a nightclub.

2.1.3 Planning permission (App. No. 16/02195/FUL) has been granted by Luton Borough Council for the 'Erection of a 4-6 storey building comprising of 29 one bedroom and 30 two bedroom flats and 2 commercial units (A1) on ground floor with associated external works after part demolition of existing building'. This will involve the retention of the façade of the former cinema and redevelopment to the rear of the plot and to the north. An historic building recording condition (19) attached to the planning permission states:

'19. No demolition or development shall take place until a written scheme of building recording has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The said development shall only be implemented in full accordance with the approved building recording scheme'.

19. Reason: To record and advance understanding of the heritage assets with archaeological interest which will be unavoidably affected as a consequence of the development. This condition is pre-commencement as a failure to secure appropriate archaeological investigation in advance of development would be contrary to paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) that requires developers to records and advance of understanding of the significant of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) as a consequence of the development. To accord with the requirements of Policy ENV6 of the Luton Local Plan.

2.1.4 This condition was placed on the planning permission on the advice of the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeology Team (Archaeological Advisor to Luton Borough Council; hereafter the Curator), who explain in a letter commenting on the planning application to the Development Control Manager at Luton Borough Council dated 18 January 2017:

'The former Union Cinema was designed by Kemp and Tasker architects who were responsible for a number of cinemas built in south east England in the 1930s. Its Art Deco design was typical of cinemas built in the 1930s, the heyday of cinema construction in England. Although the cinema is not a listed building it is of considerable local importance as part of the early 20th century townscape of Luton and an example of a purpose-built entertainment venue. The Heritage Statement notes that the interior of the building has lost most of its original features as a result changes of use to the building once it ceased to be used as a cinema. However, the shell of the building, including its imposing frontage on Gordon Street, survives....

The development proposal includes the demolition of much of the former cinema building although the important Gordon Street frontage will be retained as the façade for the new development. However, the proposal will radically alter the retained façade by inserting rows

of windows in what is presently a large blank wall from which the building derives much of its character.

The proposed development will 'result in partial demolition and substantial alteration to the historic cinema building which will cause a loss of significance of that heritage asset. On balance this does not present an over-riding constraint on the development providing that the applicant takes appropriate measures to record and advance understanding of the heritage assets...This will be achieved by...the recording of the historic cinema building before demolition or development begins.'

2.1.5 The Curator has identified the following:

'Given that most the building, except the Gordon Street façade, will be demolished...recording the cinema should be done to the standard set in Historic England (2016) *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*:

Photography – Items 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6

Drawings – Item 1

Written Record – Items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6

The record of the present structure should also be related to any of the architect's drawings that survive.'

2.1.6 The building recording was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Matthews, 2017) approved in advance by the Curator.

2.1.7 Site Location and Description

2.1.8 The former Union Cinema is located within central Luton (**Figure 1**), to the west of the Town Hall and St Georges Square, to the north-east of Dunstable Place and on the northern side of Stuart Street (A505). The former cinema is located along the western side of, and fronts onto, Gordon Street and backs onto Lancrets Path (**Figure 2**). It is centred at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference TL 08931 21370. Commercial properties fronting Gordon Street bound the northern and southern limits of the building.

2.1.9 The former cinema is now redundant following a succession of failed nightclub ventures including Sands, Tropicana Beach, Coliseum, The Zone, Chicago Rock Cafe, Liquid and Envy. It still retains its imposing frontage to Gordon Street, which incorporates a first floor balcony, with multi-light patent glazing, embellished with fluted Ionic columns supporting a fake stone relief. Fluted vertical columns divide the remainder of the exterior, which is otherwise plain. There are very few windows in the façade, with just seven small openings at the southern end of the elevation and two at ground level to the north (**Figure 12**).

2.1.10 The former Union Cinema is not protected as a listed building nor is it locally listed, but is located just within the Luton Town Conservation Area and is considered to be of significant local importance, as part of the early 20th century townscape of Luton, and a good example of a purpose-built entertainment venue.

3 PLANING BACKGROUND

3.1.1 Introduction

3.1.2 National legislation and guidance relating to the protection of historic buildings and structures within planning regulations is defined by the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. In addition, local planning authorities are responsible for the protection of the historic environment within the planning system and policies for the historic environment are included in relevant regional and local plans.

3.1.3 Legislation and Planning Guidance

3.1.4 Statutory protection for historically important buildings and structures is derived from the Planning (Listed and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. Guidance on the approach of the planning authorities to development and historic buildings, conservation areas, historic parks and gardens and other elements of the historic environment is provided by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which was adopted on 27 March 2012

3.1.5 The requirement for archaeological work is in accordance with NPPF Paragraph 141. The purpose of the work was to complete an appropriate level of historic building recording of the affected structures and their setting. This was to pay specific attention to those elements where demolition/conversion and/or alteration were proposed. The work was to be undertaken to a standard that would allow the future interpretation of the buildings within the context for which they were originally designed as well as later uses. An archive and report was to be created as a result of the survey.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Aims and Objectives

- 4.1.1 The aim of the building recording as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Matthews, 2017) was to provide a record of the former Union Cinema prior to its partial demolition and alteration. This record was to be in accordance with that requested by the Curator (Section 2.1.5). The aim was to provide a better understanding of the building, to compile a lasting record, to analyse the results and to disseminate the results.

4.2 Documentary Research

- 4.2.1 Documentary research was carried out at Luton Local Studies Library. A search of historic maps, photographs and secondary sources was undertaken. The results of this research are included in Section 5 of this report.

4.3 On-Site Historic Building Recording

- 4.3.1 The building recording was carried out on 9th November 2017 prior to the commencement of works. A photographic survey comprising high resolution digital images and black and white film was maintained throughout the project and a selection of these photographs have been included in this report (**Plates 1 to 33**). **Figures 2, 8 to 11** show the location and direction of the plates.
- 4.3.2 Proposed scaled architect's plans dated 2006 by Design At Source were used as the existing building plans (**Figures 8 to 11**).
- 4.3.3 The historic building recording was undertaken in accordance with Historic England (2016) *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* and included the following:

Photography – Items 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6

Drawings – Item 1

Written Record – Items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6

- 4.3.4 This involved a full photographic record, accompanied by sketch plans and a full descriptive account.

Photographic Record:

1) A general view or views of the building (in its wider setting or landscape, if the views noted in 2 below are also adopted).

2) The building's external appearance. Typically a series of oblique views will show all external elevations of the building, and give an overall impression of its size and shape. Where an individual elevation embodies complex historical information, views at right angles to the plane of the elevation may also be appropriate.

4) The overall appearance of the principal rooms and circulation areas. The approach will be similar to that outlined in 2 above.

5) Any external or internal detail, structural or decorative, which is relevant to the building's design, development or use and which does not show adequately on general photographs. When photographing details it can be helpful to include a clearly marked and suitably sized scale next to the subject and parallel to one edge of the photograph.

6) Any machinery or other plant, or evidence for its former existence.

The Drawn Record:

1) Sketched plan, section, elevation or detail drawings (if a more thorough drawn record is not made). Sketches may be roughly dimensioned.

The Written Account:

- 1) The precise location of the building, by name or street number, civil parish, town, etc, and National Grid reference and details of listing or scheduling.
- 2) A note of any statutory designation (listing, scheduling or conservation area). Non-statutory designations
- 3) The date when the record was made, and the name(s) of the recorder(s).
- 4) A summary (if no further details are called for) of the building's type or purpose, historically and at present, its materials and possible date(s), in so far as these are apparent from a superficial inspection.
- 6) An expansion of 4, if appropriate, summarising the building's form, function, date and sequence of development. The names of architects, builders, patrons and owners should be given if known. The purpose of such an expansion is to describe the building when no fuller record is necessary, to serve as an introduction to the more detailed body of the record that may follow, and to satisfy those users who may need no more than a summary of the report's findings.

4.4 Project Archive

- 4.4.1 A full and ordered archive including written, drawn, survey and photographic records will be completed in accordance with guidelines defined in ClfA (2014a); Taylor and Brown (2009) and UKIC and ADS guidelines for the preparation of archaeological archives for long term storage. The archive will be provisionally stored in Pre-Construct Archaeology's Cambridge Office before being transferred to the Luton Museum.

4.5 Guidance

- 4.5.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with standards set out in:

ClfA (2014b) *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures*

English Heritage (now Historic England) (2005) *The Presentation of Historic Building Survey in CAD*

Historic England (2016) *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*

5 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1.1 A map of Luton dated 1815 (not illustrated here; Driscoll, 2016, fig.5) shows that at that time the main area of development in Luton was along both sides of George Street and Park Road (now Park Street) and branching southwards down London Road (now Castle Street) and north-east, towards Saint Mary's Church on Church Street (*ibid.* 17). The site at this time appears to be undeveloped and Gordon Street is not shown. The town with buildings along George Street appear to have been built as far west as Lancrets Path.
- 5.1.2 The hat industry in Luton was already established by the early 19th century (Luton Borough Council, 2014). At the beginning of the 19th century the Napoleonic Wars blocked imports of straw plait and hats from the continent, so large and small factories were set up in Luton to supply local and national markets with straw hats (women's hats and bonnets) (*ibid.*). As a result, the town expanded significantly in size and population from the mid-19th century onwards (*ibid.*).
- 5.1.3 The 1840s Tithe map (not illustrated here; Driscoll, 2016, fig.6) shows the Site in more detail occupying part of Plot 1416 described in the Apportionment as 'Farm Homestead etc' owned by the Rev Richard Lucas and occupied by Elizabeth Gregory and part of Plot 1460 described in the Apportionment as 'House, Warehouse and Gardens' owned and occupied by John Jones. Neither Gordon Street nor Lancrets Path are shown on this map.
- 5.1.4 In 1867/1868 the Midland railway establish a link from Bedford to London, through Luton. The 1880 Ordnance Survey map (not illustrated here; Driscoll, 2016, fig.7) shows the Site occupied by large warehouses surrounded by terraced houses and gardens. Lancrets Path is shown as an unnamed path on this map although Gordon Street is not shown. Gordon Street is described as a new street in a document dated 1888. Between the mid-19th and mid-20th centuries the hatting industry dominated the town (Luton Borough Council, 2014). Around 1900 the hat industry was at its zenith and dominated the life of the Luton (*ibid.*).
- 5.1.5 The Goad Insurance Plan of Luton dated 1895 (**Figure 3**) shows that the Site was occupied by 'Welch & Sons Straw Hat Factory' with 'Plait Warehouses', 'Workrooms', 'Bleach House: Steam and Air Drying Over', 'Sulphur Chamber', 'Offices' and a 'Plait Bleaching Ground'. This plan is the first to show Gordon Street and 'Lancret's Path' is labelled for the first time. Two photographs taken in 1899 and c.1900 shows Welch & Son's on the corner of Upper George Street and Gordon Street (**Historic Plates 1 and 2**). Another photograph taken in the early 20th century and before 1922 (compare with **Figure 4**) shows the Site occupied by the buildings of 'Welchs of London, Luton and Paris' (**Historic Plate 3**).
- 5.1.6 The 1922 Ordnance Survey map (**Figure 4**) shows an increase in the number of buildings on the Site since the 1895 Goad Insurance Plan (**Figure 3**) as well as the early 20th century photograph (**Historic Plate 3**). A small 'Cinema' is shown to the north of the Site at 12 Gordon Street. This cinema, the Anglo American Electric Picture Palace in Luton, was the first permanent cinema in the county of Bedfordshire when it opened on 16th October 1909 (Internet Source 1). It was owned by County Electric Pavilions Ltd, and soon sold to Luton Electric Theatres Ltd, when it was renamed Luton Electric Theatre (*ibid.*). By 1914 it had been re-named County Electric Pavilion (*ibid.*). It was re-named Gordon Street Cinema in 1927 when it was taken over by a Mr Dicker (*ibid.*). Sound films were introduced in early-September 1929, but an arson attack in October 1929 caused a great deal of damage (*ibid.*). The wrecked building was sold in April 1930 and, by that August, a furniture shop had opened on the site (*ibid.*).
- 5.1.7 After the First World War fashions changed and the straw hat industry went into a decline. By the 1930s engineering had replaced hats as the chief employer in Luton (Luton Borough Council, 2014). The Goad Insurance Plan of 1929 with 1932 updates (**Figure 5**) demonstrates that whilst many of Welch's Hat Factory buildings remained the Site was no longer in their possession. The Site now comprised offices, an electrical engineers shop, a large garage, a small hat factory (north end) amongst a range of otherwise disused or unspecified buildings. A note records that some of the buildings were 'Vacant Jan. 1932.' The small cinema at 12 Gordon Street to the north of the site is labelled as a 'Furniture Shop'.
- 5.1.8 These former factory and warehouse buildings were completely demolished during the mid

1930s to make way for the construction of the new Union Cinema (**Historic Plate 4**). Its steel seating frame and lattice girder roof trusses were photographed during its construction in 1937 (**Historic Plate 5**).

5.1.9 The Union Cinema was designed by Leslie H. Kemp in 1934. Leslie H. Kemp and Frederick E. Tasker were English architects who practiced in the 1930s as Kemp & Tasker. They are best known for their cinemas, although they are responsible for a number of notable buildings in South London and Kent. In 1934 a Kemp and Tasker house design won the Daily Mail's Ideal House Competition and was erected temporarily at Olympia in the 'Village of Tomorrow' at the Ideal Home Show the following year (Ryan, 1997). Morrell's glossy brochure advertised that it could be built to order anywhere. They designed the following cinemas:

- 1932 Regent Cinema, Station Square, Paignton, Devon (demolished)
- 1933 Odeon Cinema, Whalebone Lane, Chadwell Heath, Essex (demolished)
- 1934 Union Cinema, Gordon Street, Luton
- 1935 Embassy Cinema, Braintree, Essex
- Towers Cinema, Hornchurch, Essex
- 1935 Savoy Cinema, Petersfield, Hampshire
- 1936 Ritz Cinema, Belfast, Northern Ireland
- 1940 Regal Cinema (ABC from 1961), Camberwell (closed 1973)
- Commodore Cinema, High Street, Orpington, Kent (demolished)
- Odeon Cinema, Greenwich, London (demolished)
- Odeon Cinema, Hornchurch, Essex
- Odeon Cinema, Romford, Essex
- Odeon Cinema, St Albans, Hertfordshire
- Odeon Cinema, Stepney, London
- Rex Cinema, Wood Green, London

5.1.10 Union Cinema Co. Ltd was set up as a company in June 1928 by wool firm magnate, David Bernhard, who made his son, Charles Frederick Bernhard, Managing Director. The company bought and built many family sized cinemas based on local needs. Most were named the Ritz. During the 1930s many of the cinemas were the Cine-Variety type, where a visit to the cinema would include two films, usually a main feature and a supporting shorter film called a B film, trailers for next week's show, plus a newsreel, a cartoon and a full stage show, often with a large organ being raised regally on a lift from the orchestra pit to accompany the artists. Those featured, were often stars of film, radio, or variety theatre (Lang, 2011).

5.1.11 The Union Cinema (**Historic Plate 6**) in Luton opened with Robert Douglas in "Our Fighting Navy" on 11th October 1937, just 3 days before the entire Union Circuit was acquired by Associated British Cinemas (ABC) on the 14th October 1937 (Internet Source 2). Presumably the plans for ABC's own cinema in Luton, the Savoy Cinema, were too advanced as the 2nd ABC controlled large super-cinema opened almost exactly one year later. Perhaps ABC just wanted a theatre with a better location (*ibid.*). The Union Cinema originally had 2,104 seats (**Historic Plate 7**) and was equipped with a Wurlitzer 3 manual 8 rank organ (**Historic Plate 8**). The organ console had a 'pillar & vase' illuminated surround and was opened by Robinson Cleaver (*ibid.*; Internet Source 3). There were also two other Luton cinemas in Union control which became part of the ABC circuit, the Empire Cinema, of 900 seats which closed in 1938 and the Alma Theatre, a 1,664 seat theatre which closed 1948 (*ibid.*).

5.1.12 The Union Cinema was renamed Ritz Cinema in July 1949 (*ibid.*). It played a secondary role to the Savoy Cinema (designed by William R. Glen), which took the pick of the new releases, even though the Ritz Cinema was larger by some 200 seats (*ibid.*). An aerial photograph taken c.1955 shows the Ritz Cinema with the surviving Welch and Sons buildings to the south on the corner of Gordon Street and Upper George Street (**Historic Plate 9**). Photographs taken in the 1950s and c.1958 show its façade and the staircase (with canaries in cages) in the Ritz Cinema, Gordon Street (**Historic Plates 10 to 12**). Two aerial photographs taken c.1963 show the Ritz Cinema still with the surviving Welch and Sons buildings to the south on the corner of Gordon Street and Upper George Street (**Historic Plates 13 and 14**). It is

annotated as the 'Ritz Cinema' on the Ordnance Survey map of 1964 (**Figure 6**).

- 5.1.13 The Ritz Cinema, Gordon Street, closed as a cinema in 1971 when the Savoy Cinema (by then renamed ABC) was enlarged and tripled (three screens) in the same year (*ibid.*). It was converted into a bingo club in 1971, retaining the Wurlitzer organ (**Historic Plate 8**) and later became a discotheque. The former Ritz Cinema is unnamed on the Ordnance Survey map of 1983 (**Figure 7**). Two photographs taken in 1988 show that it was the Coliseum Nightclub at that time (**Historic Plates 15 and 16**). In 1999, the building was completely gutted for a major refurbishment as a nightclub (*ibid.*). As a nightclub it has also been known as Sands, Tropicana Beach, The Zone (**Historic Plates 17 and 18**) and most recently Chicago Rock Café (**Historic Plate 19**), Liquid and Envy (**Historic Plate 20**). Chicago's closed in 2013 followed by Liquid and Envy in 2015 (Internet Source 4).

6 BUILDING DESCRIPTION

6.1 External Descriptions

- 6.1.1 The Union Cinema was built during 1934-1937 (**Historic Plate 5**) on the site of Welch & Sons Hat Factory (**Historic Plate 3**) and to the designs of Leslie H. Kemp, whose architectural practice, Kemp and Tasker (Fredrick E. Tasker), specialised in the design and construction of cinemas, during the heyday of cinema building, between the two World Wars.
- 6.1.2 The cinema presents its principal elevations to Gordon Street (**Figure 12; Plates 1 to 8**) with much plainer and utilitarian elevations to the rear, backing onto Lancrets Path (**Plates 12 and 13**) and to the south-west, to a small enclosed yard behind the properties fronting onto Upper George Street (**Plate 11**).
- 6.1.3 The principal elevations are built up to the pavement and in-line with the building line of Gordon Street (**Plates 1 to 8**). The main elevation rises to a height of four storeys, and incorporates a taller, forward-set section, above the main entrance bays, to the south (**Plate 4**) and a simple two-storey range with carriageway, to the north and where it adjoins no. 14 Gordon Street (**Plate 2**).
- 6.1.4 This imposing frontage is predominantly a single phase construction built using brickwork, ranging in colour from a mid red/brown to purple brick, laid in regular courses and in a cream coloured lime based mortar in English bond. The brickwork employs queen closers to openings and angles and generally simple on-edge or soldier courses as sills or heads to window and door openings. Window openings are concentrated at the southern end of the building, lighting the stairwells and public foyers, while the remainder of the elevation, to the former auditorium, is mainly blind and un-fenestrated (**Figure 12**). This expanse of brickwork is sub-divided into seven equal sized bays by prominent and narrow faux stone (concrete) pilasters, rising from a similar faux stone string course or band (**Plate 9**). The pilasters, embellished using a deep fluted moulding, project the full height of the elevation (above the band) to terminate at the level of the parapet. The latter (parapet) is a constant feature of the roofline, extending around the full circuit of the building. The southernmost of the seven bays is pierced by two small window openings while the northernmost bay incorporates a large brick-built ventilator in open arabesque fretwork. A tall integral chimney stack, with over-sailing courses, forms the northernmost end of the seven bay section (**Figure 12**). The wall line thereafter to the north is recessed back and includes a large brick-blocked former opening into which a modern stone plaque reading: '1937-1949 UNION CINEMA & 1949-1971 RITZ CINEMA' (**Plate 10**) had been inserted (**Figure 12**).
- 6.1.5 The lower wall, below the seven bays and towards the northern end of the range, is clad using three to four courses of square cream coloured glazed faience terracotta tiles, which step down in courses as the land falls away along Gordon Street (to the north; **Plate 8**). The tiles are deeply bevelled on four sides, apart from those forming the edging courses, which are part bevelled, to leave a flush outer surface. Later alterations in this area include the insertion of three new fixed glazed window openings at ground floor level and a fully glazed entranceway to the newly formed Chicago Rock Café (**Plate 7**). The elevation around the three windows and the entrance is finished using a plain modern cladding, painted purple.
- 6.1.6 The entrance bays at the southern end of the building are on architectural grounds more elaborate, with the principal feature taking the form of a tall first floor window opening with an integral and purely decorative balconette (**Plate 4**). The oriel window is of tripartite design with a pair of fluted faux stone (cast concrete) Ionic columns forming the mullions to a central forward-set light, flanked on each side by narrower (half width) lights of the same height. The 'balcony' is solid with plain, square section balusters set in relief onto a background of incised cross-hatch. The columns rise to a faux stone (concrete) lintel (now covered using timber boards) and to a central relief of a classical or mythological standing figure within a fluted border terminating in scrolls. The figure displays the same 'dynamic' stance typical of classical art and the Art Deco movement. The window glazing appears to be set into mild steel casements of either 4x2 (outer) or 4x4 (central) rectangular panes. The window lies central to the southern bay and above a plain faux stone (concrete) floor band, which also extends across the bay to the north and above the modern fascia over the main entrances

into the Liquid and Envy nightclubs (**Plates 5 and 6**). This fascia and the entrance doorways are all modern work and replace the projecting, cantilevered canopy seen on the 1937 and 1950s photographs (**Historic Plates 6, 10 and 11**). The three window openings in the adjacent bay to the oriel window bay align vertically to (formerly) light a stairwell.

- 6.1.7 The southern end elevations, as seen from a small yard to the rear of Upper George Street, are clearly convex in form across the ground and first floor, terminating to the west (rear) with a two storey stairwell of a more conventional square plan (**Figures 8 and 9; Plate 11**). The upper floors are set back by a whole bay, thus providing a terrace above the first floor level, bound by a low parapet wall (**Figure 10**). The brickwork for these less visible elevations uses a lower quality, standard construction Fletton brick. The lower convex elevation is pierced by three tall and narrow window openings built with soldier heads and patent glazing, which have latterly been blocked-in (internally using blockwork) although the glazing was left in place. The upper floors were barely visible, obscured in part by large ducting pipes associated with the air-conditioning system.
- 6.1.8 The rear elevations facing onto Lancrets Path were also built using lower quality Fletton brickwork laid in English bond. In common with the facade, the window openings are grouped together at the southern end of the building (**Plate 13**), with the area of the main auditorium built blind (**Plate 12**). It too was sub-divided with a seven bay section defined by shallow external brick pilasters and recessed panels. Door and window opening followed the norm, built with patent glazing and either plain flat brick soldier heads or concrete lintels (**Plate 12**).

6.2 Internal Descriptions

- 6.2.1 It has been documented that the cinema was extensively 'gutted' during its refurbishment into a series of nightclubs during 1999 and once again around 2006. These works entailed the sub-division of the former cinema into three distinct entertainment venues, (latterly) Liquid, Envy and the Chicago Rock Cafe, each with their own entrances from Gordon Street (**Plates 5 to 7**) and all three on different internal levels within what was once the main auditorium (**Figures 8 to 10**). Accordingly most, if not all of the present floor structures, internal spatial arrangements and decoration, can be directly correlated with these modern works. Whilst no evidence of original decor and very little of the internal spatial arrangement of the cinema has survived, parts of the building's core fabric, specifically the steel lattice girders used to brace the top of the building and support the roof structure (**Historic Plate 5**) were retained along with a shallow pitched corrugated roof covering and the external walls.
- 6.2.2 Entry into the building through the main (Liquid) entrance (**Plate 5**) led into a modern foyer and to a large circular plan reception counter with a back projected glass screen (**Figure 8; Plate 14**). This area had been extensively remodelled, the walls to the public area rebuilt using concave or convex light partitions to assimilate with the curving profile of the principal stair. This stair is a modern steel construction with a stainless steel balustrade which rises up to the bars and dance floors on the first and second floors (**Plates 15 and 16**). To the rear (west) of the foyer were the utility rooms including the cold stores (**Plate 17**), beer cellar and two rear stairs, including an inserted modern steel back stair and an original concrete and brick-built dog-leg stair, the latter forming the original provision for egress in the case of fire (see **Plate 18** on the second floor).
- 6.2.3 To the north of the Liquid entrance (on Gordon Street; **Plate 5**) is the main entrance to the Envy nightclub (**Plate 6**), which leads to the first floor nightclub (**Figures 8 and 9**) and again to the north of the Envy entrance is the fully glazed entrance into the Chicago Rock Café (**Plate 7**). The Chicago Rock Cafe (CRC), which extends across the remainder of the ground floor (north of Liquid and Envy entrances; **Figure 8**) comprises a full height open area built over two storeys, with a large rectangular island-type bar counter, circular dance floor and seating cubicles at ground floor level, and a series of stairs leading up to another bar and mezzanines above (**Plates 19 to 21**). A large block of male and female toilets are situated at the northern end of the ground floor, in the area of the former screen, while utility areas including kitchens, hot and cold cellar and bottle stores, were built to the southern and western sides of the bar/dance floor area (**Figure 8; Plate 22**). All decor, fixtures and fittings were modern. Emergency fire escape from the mezzanine level of CRC (and the Liquid nightclub above) was provided by a pair of modern stairwells situated at the northern end of the building. Both comprised the same style of open riser and open well steel fire escape stair

- (**Plate 23**). A large cast-iron bracket supporting a single toothed gearwheel, survived bolted to the external wall of eastern stairwell. Given that the stairs were a modern addition, this apparatus, which only partially survived, may have formerly been part of the mechanism used to open and close the curtains to the screen/stage (**Plate 24**).
- 6.2.4 The southern end of the building at first floor level mainly comprised the Envy nightclub (**Figure 9**). This was accessed directly from either the flight of stairs from Gordon Street or via the principal staircase from the Liquid nightclub foyer/reception (**Figure 8**). The Envy nightclub comprised a central dance floor, flanked by bars at each end (**Plates 25 and 26**). WCs were located to the south and on each side of the principal staircase, a small reception/cloakroom was located adjacent to the Gordon Street entrance (**Figure 8**) while a modern steel open well public fire escape stair was positioned along the rear, west wall. It was built next to an original fire-escape stair, retained to provide distinct fire escape from the south-west corner of the Liquid nightclub on the second floor. This dogleg stair was constructed using concrete flights and half landings (see **Plate 18** on the second floor), lit by small openings with mild steel patent glazing.
- 6.2.5 The rest of the first floor level, to the north of the Envy nightclub comprised the upper mezzanine level and bars serving the CRC (see **Plates 20 and 21**).
- 6.2.6 The second floor is mainly reserved as the Liquid nightclub (**Figure 10**). This includes a large circular dance floor with DJ desk to the south, flanked by bars to on each side (**Plate 27**). A smaller bar area is situated to the south of the dance floor (**Plate 28**), with male and female WCs along the eastern and western flank walls. Two modern fire stairs are located at the northern end of the floor, flanking a non-public area comprising stores, catering and an artist changing room, plus more WCs. A bespoke 'fantasy' spiral staircase (**Plate 29**) with shaped stainless steel treads around a newel post rises from the nightclub (this level) up to the more exclusive Liquid Lounge on the third floor. This area included a small dance floor off-set to the west (**Plate 30**), a bar and WCs along the south wall and two fire exits along the east and west walls. A lobby at the south-eastern corner of the lounge led into a room with a roll-type door opening onto a small external smokers' terrace (**Plate 31**).
- 6.2.7 A private doorway along the western side of the lounge provided entry into a void between the internal walls of the nightclub and the original western flank wall of the cinema. Whilst this area was dominated by ducting, conduit and wiring, part of the steel superstructure of the original cinema building was visible (**Plate 32**). This structure included lattice girders comprised of L-section and H-section steel joists bolted together using triangulating raking and vertical struts. The load carrying L-section joists were doubled back to back to form T-sections, while plate gussets were incorporated at junctions for additional strength and stiffness. The pitched roof structure (**Plate 33**) was built using the same style of steel extrusion, supporting lighter steel purlins, to which the corrugated panels of the roof covering were fixed using threaded hooked retainers. This steel structure is visible in the 1937 photograph showing the construction of the cinema (**Historic Plate 5**).

7 DISCUSSION

- 7.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited was commissioned to carry out historic building recording of the former Union Cinema, Gordon Street, Luton, prior to proposals to re-develop the site for commercial and residential use, entailing the retention of the modernist Gordon Street facade and the demolition of the rest of the building to the rear (west).
- 7.1.2 Union Cinemas was set up as a company in June 1928 by wool magnate, David Bernhard, who appointed his son, Charles Frederick Bernhard as Managing Director. The Union Cinema in Gordon Street was designed by the architectural firm of Kemp and Tasker, specifically Leslie H. Kemp who produced plans for the 2,104 seater cinema in 1934. The practice specialised in the design and construction of cinemas and was responsible for the design of 14 other cinemas in the south-east of England between 1932-1940. These arenas of entertainment were built at a time of hope, following the horrors of the Great War and on the back of technical developments and popularity of film, which had matured into mass entertainment. Many new auditoriums were built influenced by the popular international modern movement style of architecture, which at the time was at its height. The exterior of the Union Cinema adhered to those principles of the movement, which rejected excessive ornament and embraced function over form.
- 7.1.3 It is this rather utilitarian and imposing facade which survives as the most important component of the present building, as the cinemas later uses for bingo and particularly its latter conversion and internal sub-division into three nightclub venues has removed almost all of its original spatial layout and evidence of decorative schemes, fixtures and fittings. The only original parts of the building were the internal structural steel frame, roof trusses and a fire-escape in the south-western corner. Otherwise the current internal layouts and decorative schemes were driven by the requirements and aesthetics of a modern nightclub.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

ClfA (2014a) *Standard and Guidance for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives*.
Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

ClfA (2014b) *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures*

Driscoll, S. 2016 *Heritage Statement for Former Union Cinema, Gordon Street, Luton* HPS
Professional Archaeological Services Unpublished Document

English Heritage (now Historic England) (2005) *The Presentation of Historic Building Survey in CAD*

Grabham, E. (2007) *'From Grand to Grove: Entertaining South Bedfordshire'* (The Book Castle)

Historic England (2016) *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*

Lang, M. 2011 *Cine-Variety: Memories of a Forgotten Era* <https://mikelangcinevariety.files.wordpress.com/>

Luton Borough Council (Museum Service) 2003 Luton: Hat Industry 1750 to 2000 https://www.lutonculture.com/uploads/documents/1339774056_HatIndustry.pdf

Luton Borough Council, 2014 *Luton's Heritage – Hats off to Luton: a guide to the town's hat industry: The Luton Hat Trail* https://www.luton.gov.uk/Transport_and_streets/Lists/LutonDocuments/PDF/Luton%20Hat%20Trail%20Leaflet.pdf

Matthews, C. 2017 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Historic Building Recording of the Former Union Cinema, Gordon Street, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU1 2QP* Pre-Construct Archaeology Unpublished Document

Ryan, D. 1997 *The Ideal Home Through the 20th Century: "Daily Mail" Ideal Home Exhibition*, (Hazar Publishing)

Taylor, J. with Brown, G 2009, *Fieldwork Induction Manual: Operations Manual 1*, Pre-Construct Archaeology

Further Online Resources

Internet Source 1: <http://cinematreasures.org/theaters/44152> (David Simpson)

Internet Source 2: <http://cinematreasures.org/theaters/6247> (Ian Grundy)

Internet Source 3: <http://stories-of-london.org/the-theatre-organ-part-two-builders-23/>

Internet Source 4: <https://www.lutontoday.co.uk/news/crime/updated-30-staff-affected-as-closure-of-liquid-envy-nightclub-is-announced-1-6752245>

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Archaeology Collective on behalf of the overall client for commissioning the historic building recording. The help and assistance of the staff at Luton Local Studies Library is gratefully acknowledged.
- 9.1.2 The project was managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited by Charlotte Matthews. Alfred Hawkins carried out the historic research and compiled the historical background. The on site recording was carried out by Adam Garwood, Strephon Duckering and Alfred Hawkins. This report was written by Adam Garwood and the figures prepared by Hayley Baxter.

10 OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-302077

Project details

Project name	Historic Building Recording of the Former Union Cinema, Gordon Street, Luton,
Short description of the project	Pre-Construct Archaeology was commissioned carry out an historic building survey of the former Union Cinema, prior to its partial demolition. The Union Cinema was designed by the architectural firm of Kemp and Tasker, specifically Leslie H. Kemp who produced plans for a 2,104 seater cinema in 1934, during the heyday of cinema building. Many new auditoriums were built influenced by the popular international modern movement style of architecture, which at the time was at its height. The exterior of the Union Cinema adhered to those principles of the movement which rejected excessive ornament and embraced function over form. It is its utilitarian and imposing facade which survives as the most important component of the present building, as the cinemas later uses for bingo and particularly its latter conversion and internal sub-division into three entertainment venues has removed almost all of its original spatial layout and evidence of decorative schemes, fixtures and fittings.
Project dates	Start: 09-11-2017 End: 09-11-2017
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	FGSL17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Building Recording
Site status	Conservation Area
Monument type	CINEMA Modern
Methods & techniques	'Photographic Survey', 'Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure'
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	BEDFORDSHIRE LUTON Former Union Cinema, Gordon Street, Luton, Bedfordshire
Postcode	LU1 2QP
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 08931 21370 51.879794113643 -0.417288516428 51 52 47 N 000 25 02 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Martin Oake
Project design originator	Charlotte Matthews

Project director/manager	Charlotte Matthews
Project supervisor	Adam Garwood
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Archaeological Collective on behalf of the overall Client

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Media available	"Microfilm"

Project bibliography 1

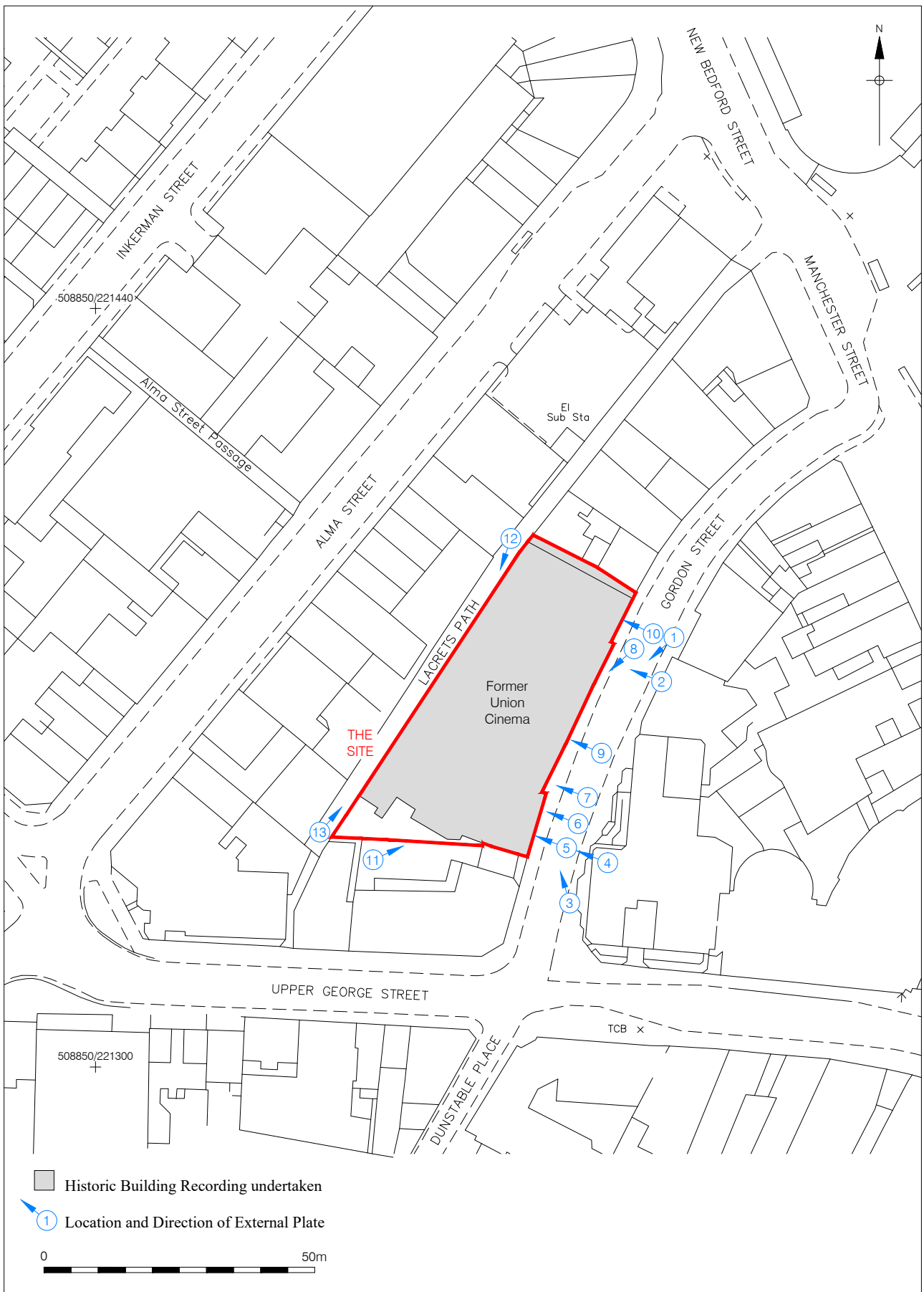
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Historic Building Recording of the Former Union Cinema, Gordon Street, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU1 2QP
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Garwood, A
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Place of issue or publication	Brockley, London
Description	A4 PDF

Entered by	Charlotte Matthews (cmatthews@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	15 December 2017



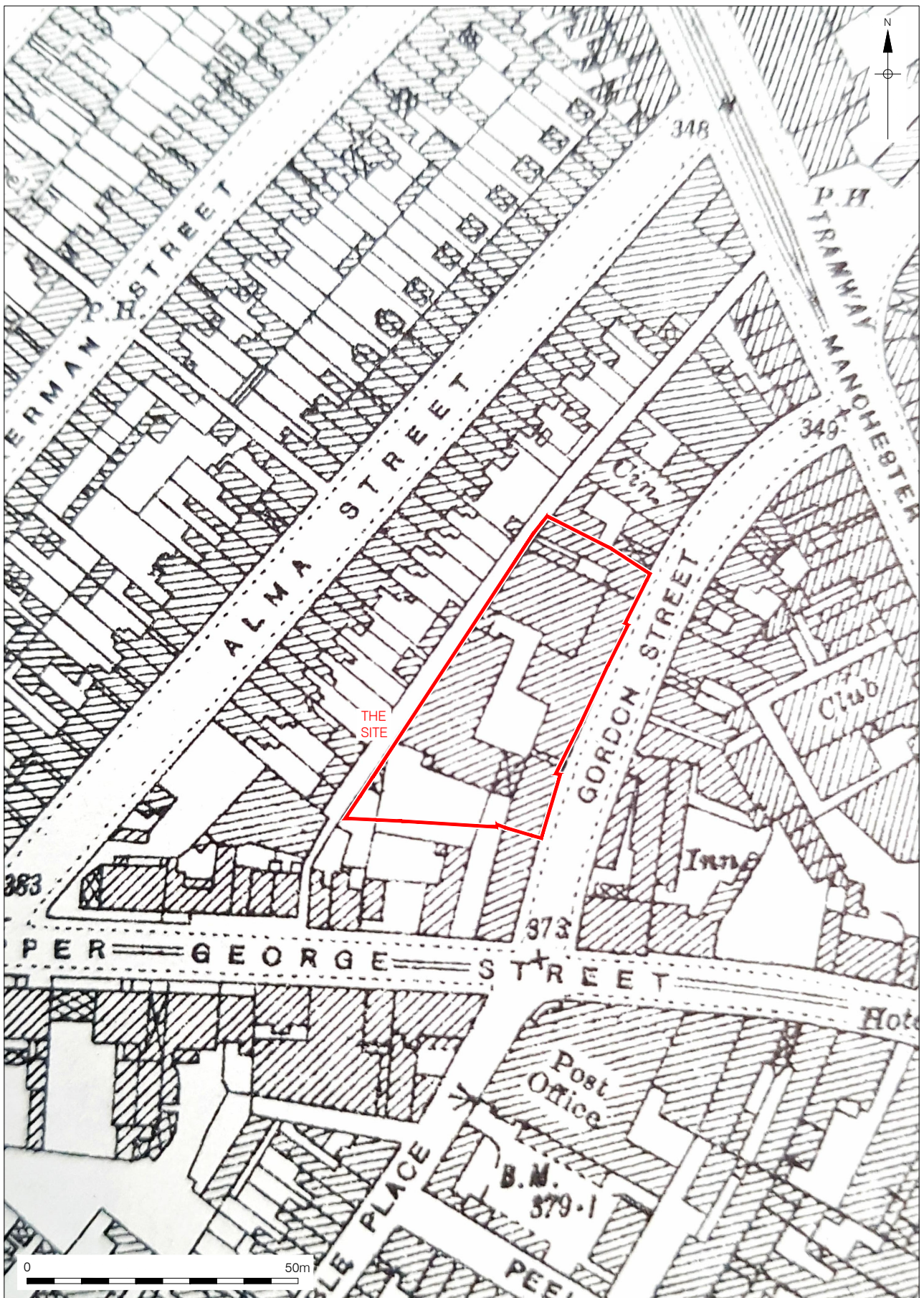
Contains Ordnance Survey data ©Crown copyright and database right 2017
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2017
 05/12/17 HB

Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:2,000,000; 250,000 & 12,500 at A4



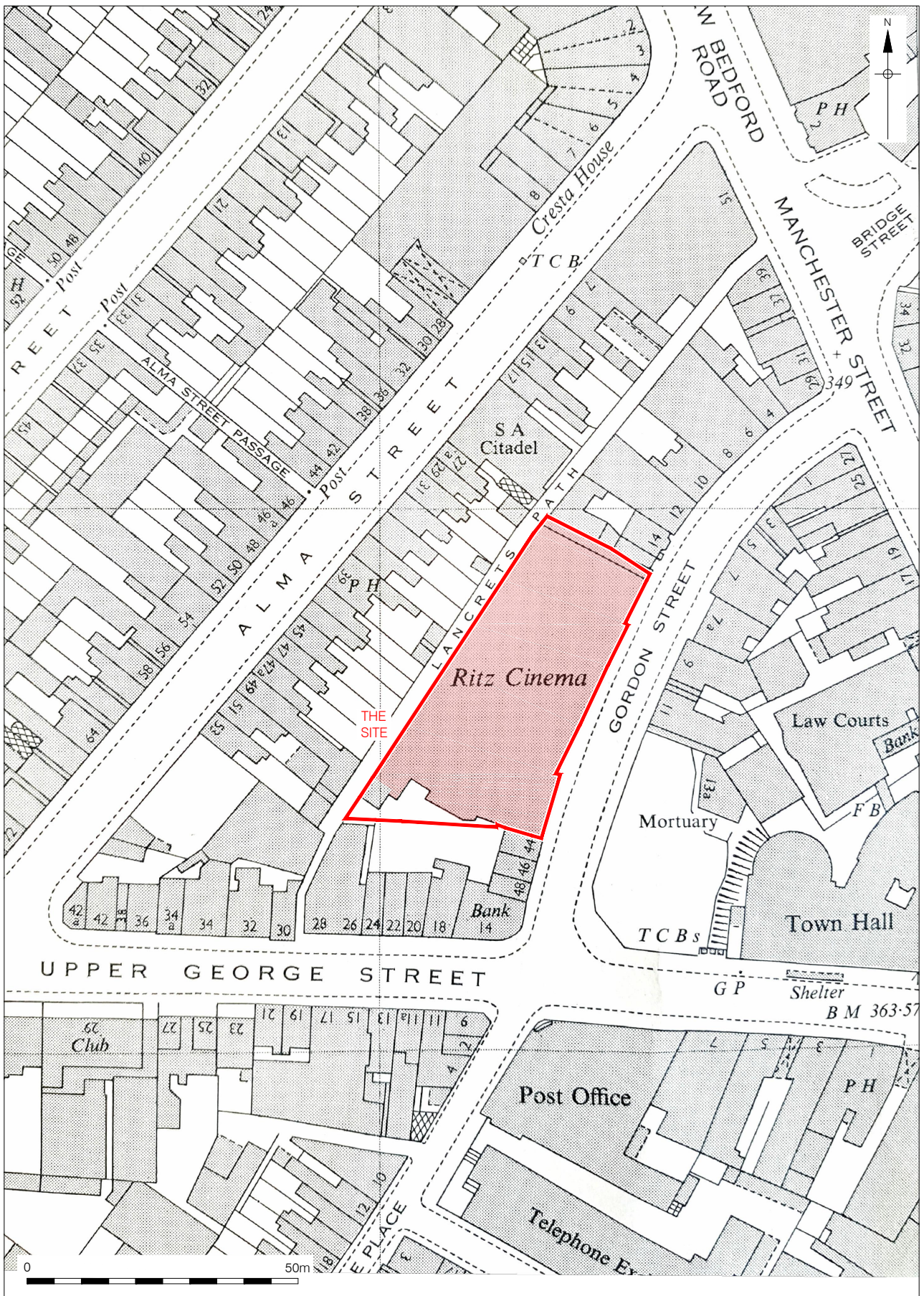
© Crown copyright 2017. All rights reserved. License number PMP36110309
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2017
 05/12/17 HB

Figure 2
 Detailed Site Location
 1:1,000 at A4



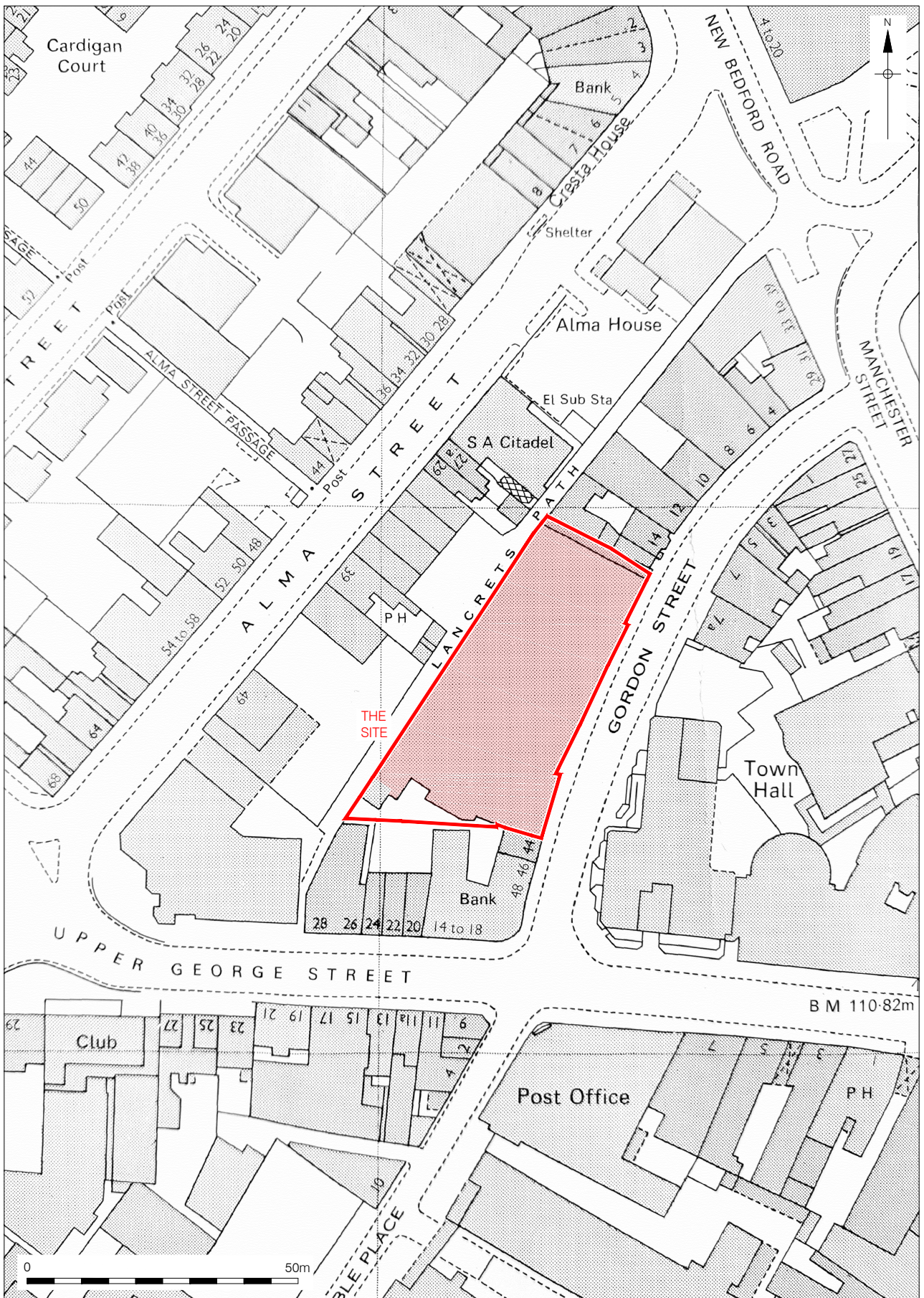
© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2017
05/12/17 HB

Figure 4
Ordnance Survey, 1922
1:1,000 at A4



© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2017
 05/12/17 HB

Figure 6
 Ordnance Survey, 1964
 1:1,000 at A4

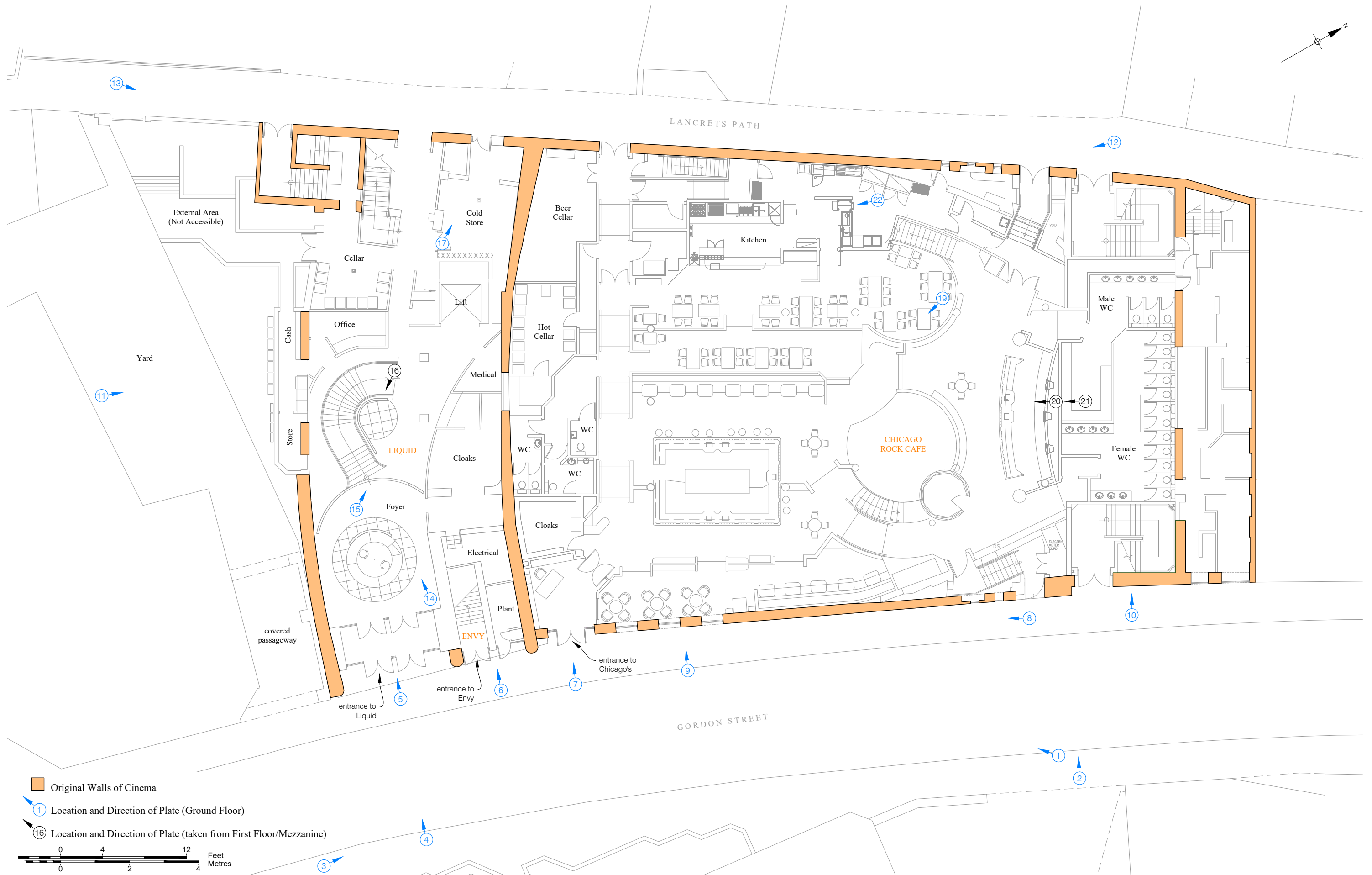


© Crown copyright 1983. All rights reserved. License number 36110309

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2017

05/12/17 HB

Figure 7
 Ordnance Survey, 1983
 1:1,000 at A4



Based on Ground Floor Plan (job no: 1098; dwg no: 04) supplied by Design At Source Ltd & Topographical Survey supplied by MK Surveys
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2017
 06/12/17 HB

Figure 8
 Ground Floor Plan
 1:200 at A3

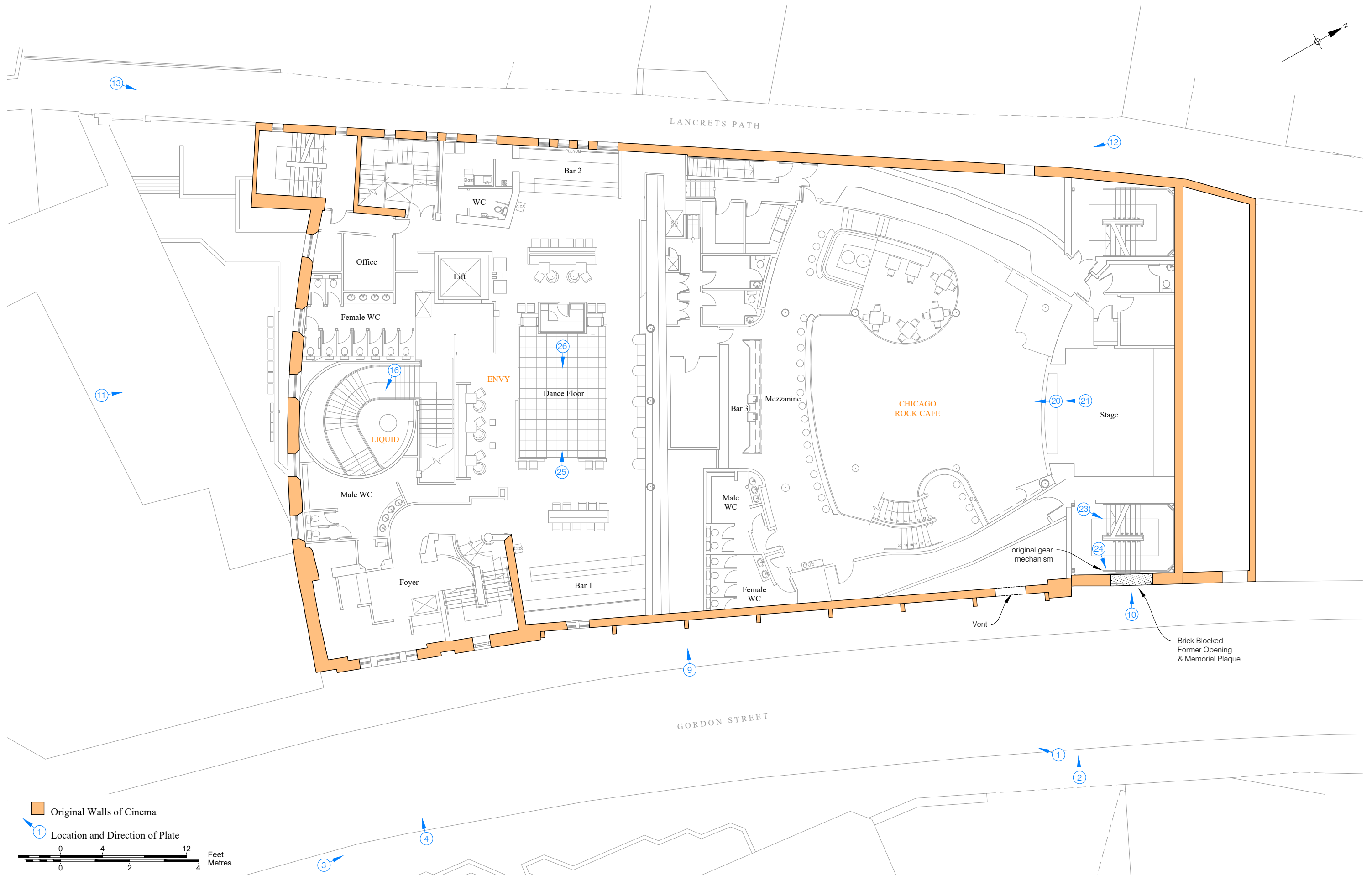
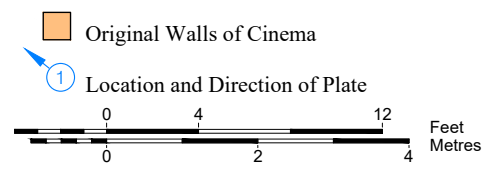
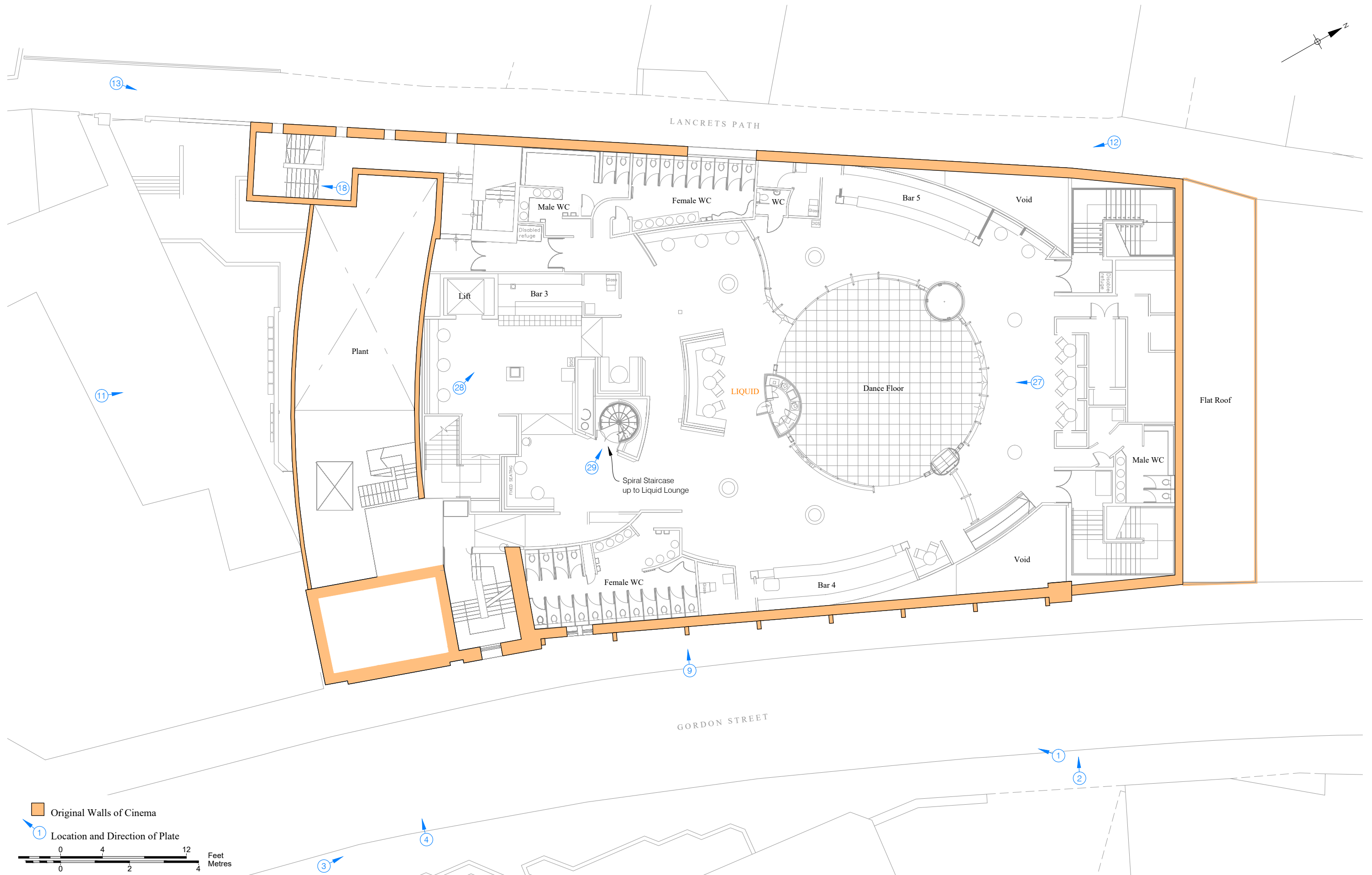
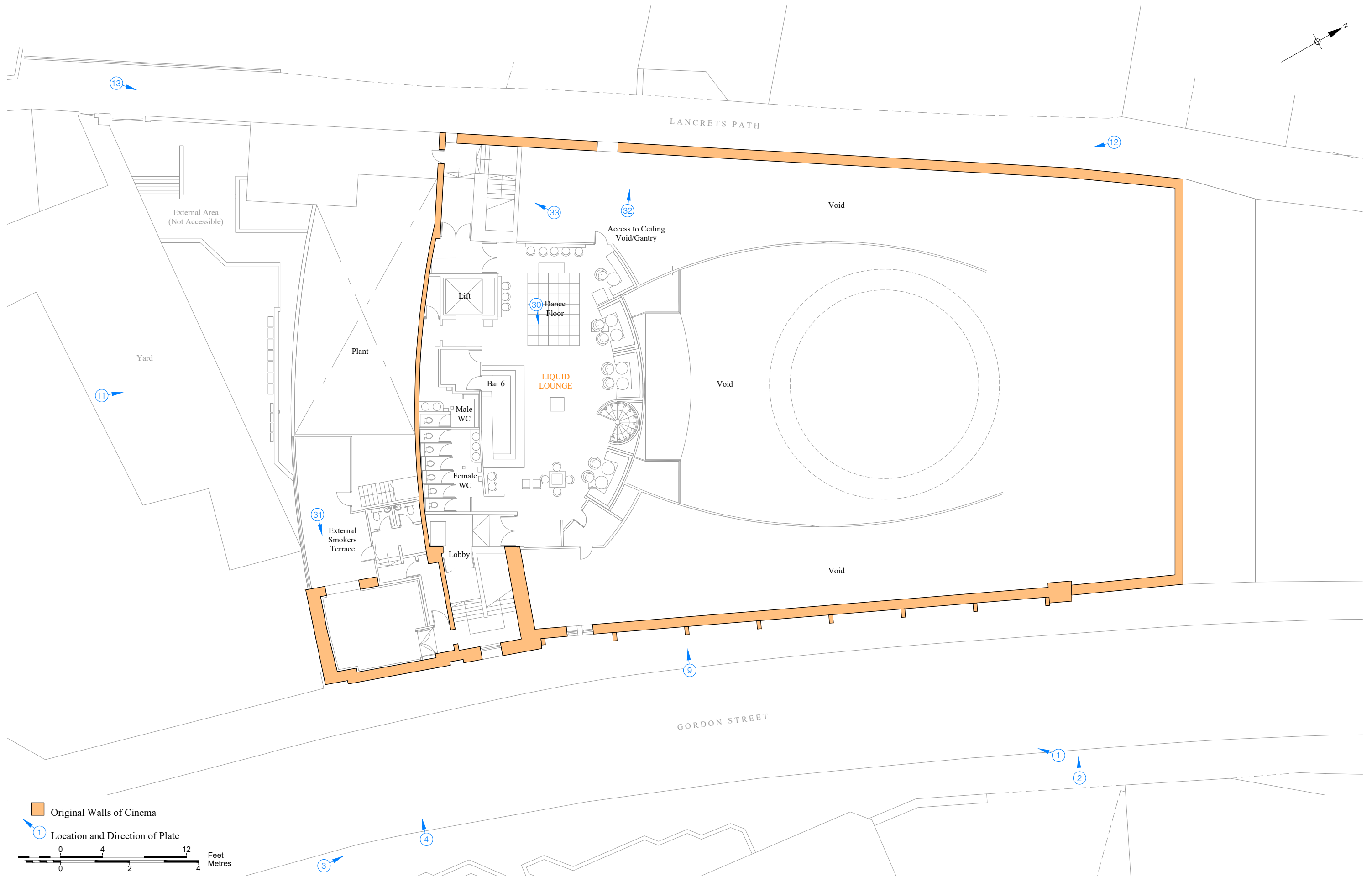


Figure 9
First Floor Plan
1:200 at A3



Based on Second Floor Plan (job no: 1098; dwg no: 04) supplied by Design At Source Ltd & Topographical Survey supplied by MK Surveys
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2017
 06/12/17 HB

Figure 10
 Second Floor Plan
 1:200 at A3

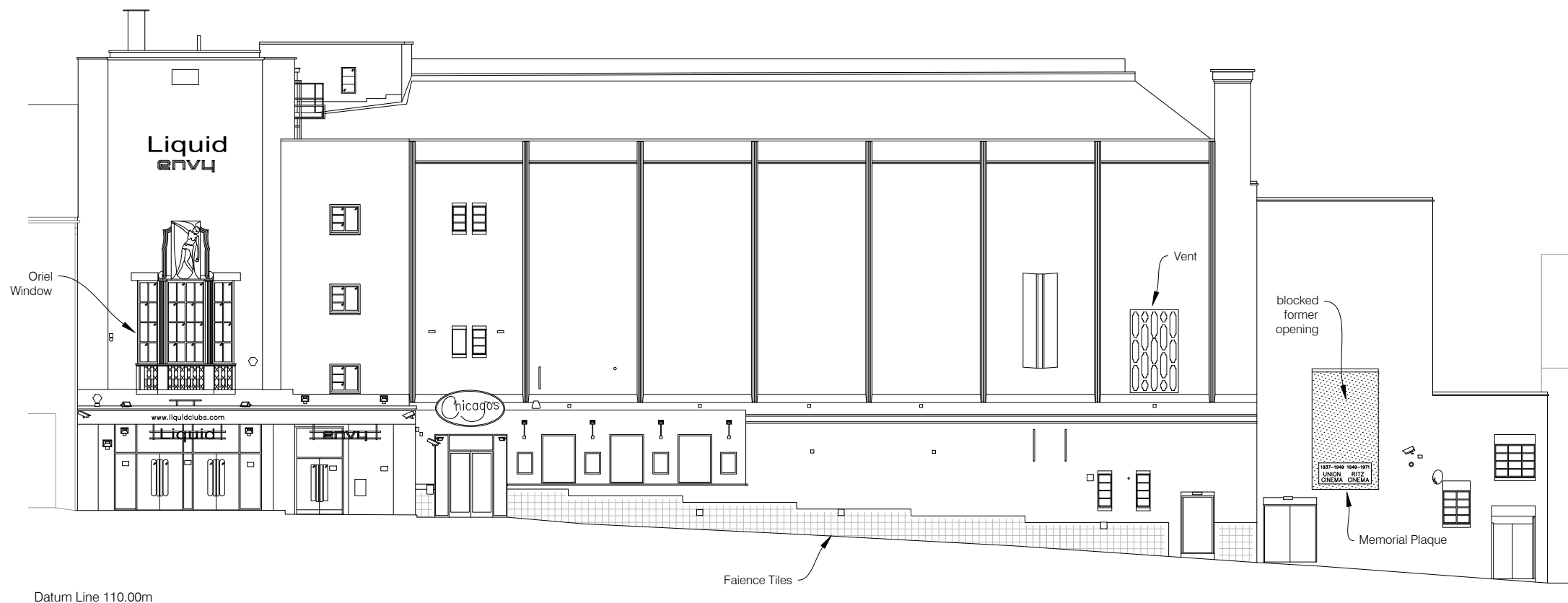


Based on Third Floor Plan (job no: 1098; dwg no: 04) supplied by Design At Source Ltd & Topographical Survey supplied by MK Surveys
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2017
 06/12/17 HB

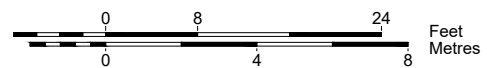
Figure 11
 Third Floor Plan
 1:200 at A3

SW

NE



Existing Front Elevation
Looking North West



Based on Existing Elevation drawing (Project no.22520, sheet no.2) supplied by MK Surveys
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2017
 05/12/17 HB

Figure 12
 Existing Front Elevation
 1:200 at A3



Historic Plate 1: Welch and Sons Limited in 1899 looking north-west from Upper George Street along Gordon Street (© Luton Borough Council, 2003)



Historic Plate 2: Photograph taken c.1900 looking west along Upper George Street from its corner with Gordon Street with Welch & Son's on the right



Historic Plate 3: Early 20th century photograph taken before 1922 of the Site (Welchs) looking north from Upper George Street with Gordon Street on the right



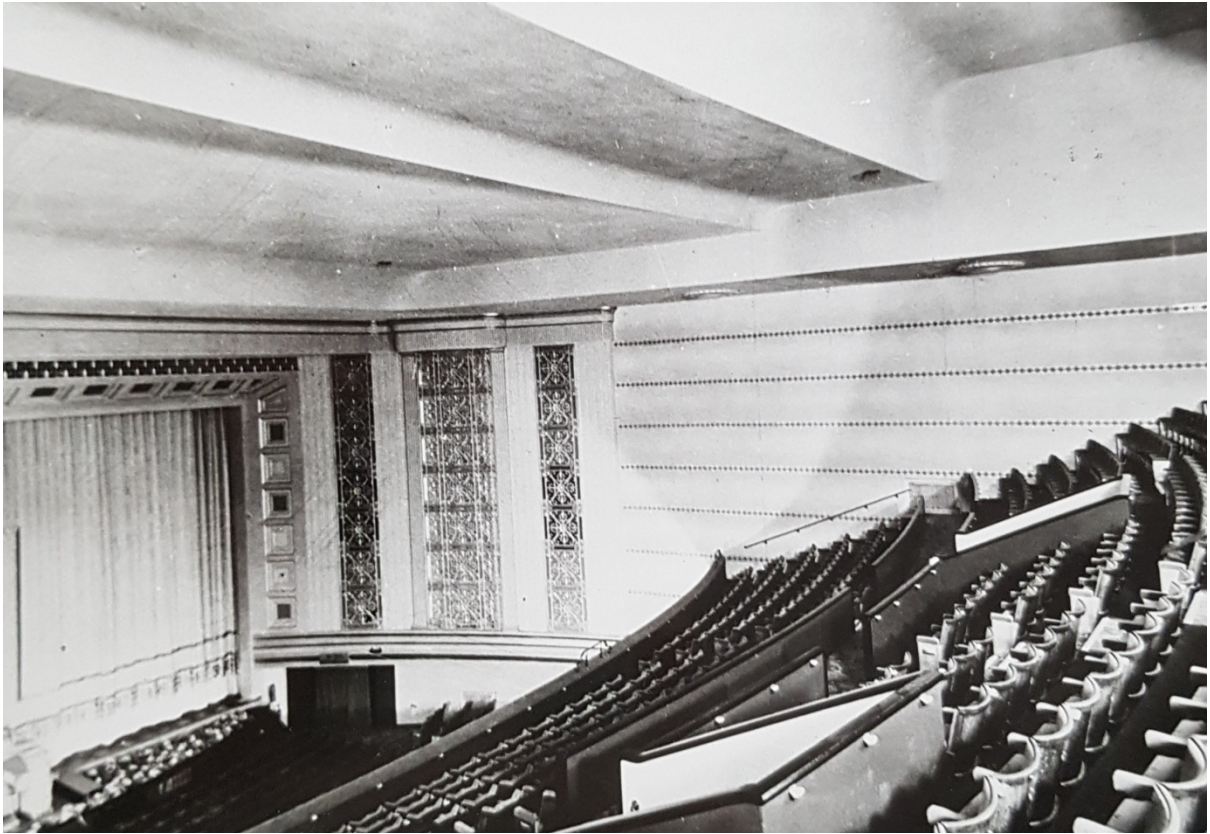
Historic Plate 4: Photograph taken c.1937 looking north-west from Gordon Street showing demolition of properties along Gordon Street, prior to the construction of the Union Cinema (© Grabham, 2007)



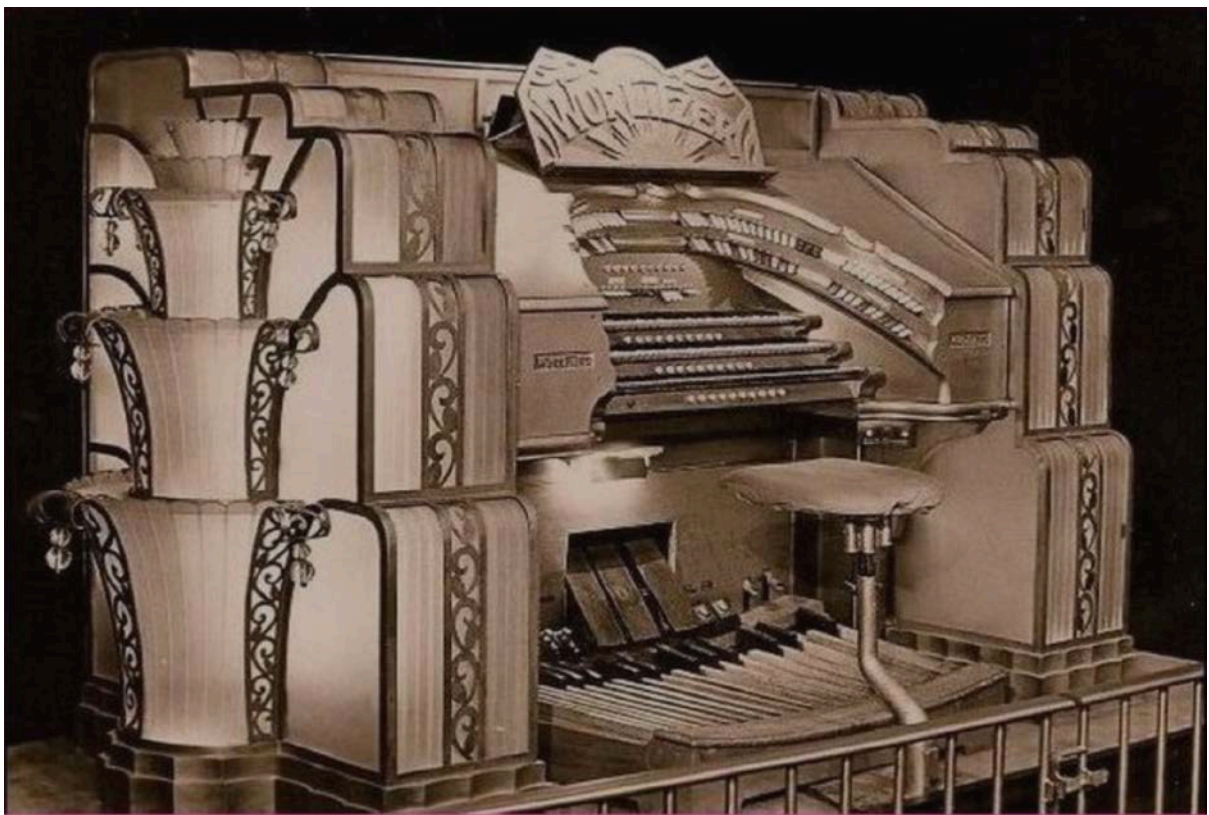
Historic Plate 5: Photograph taken c.1937 showing the steel frame for the roof and seats of the Union Cinema during construction (© Grabham, 2007)



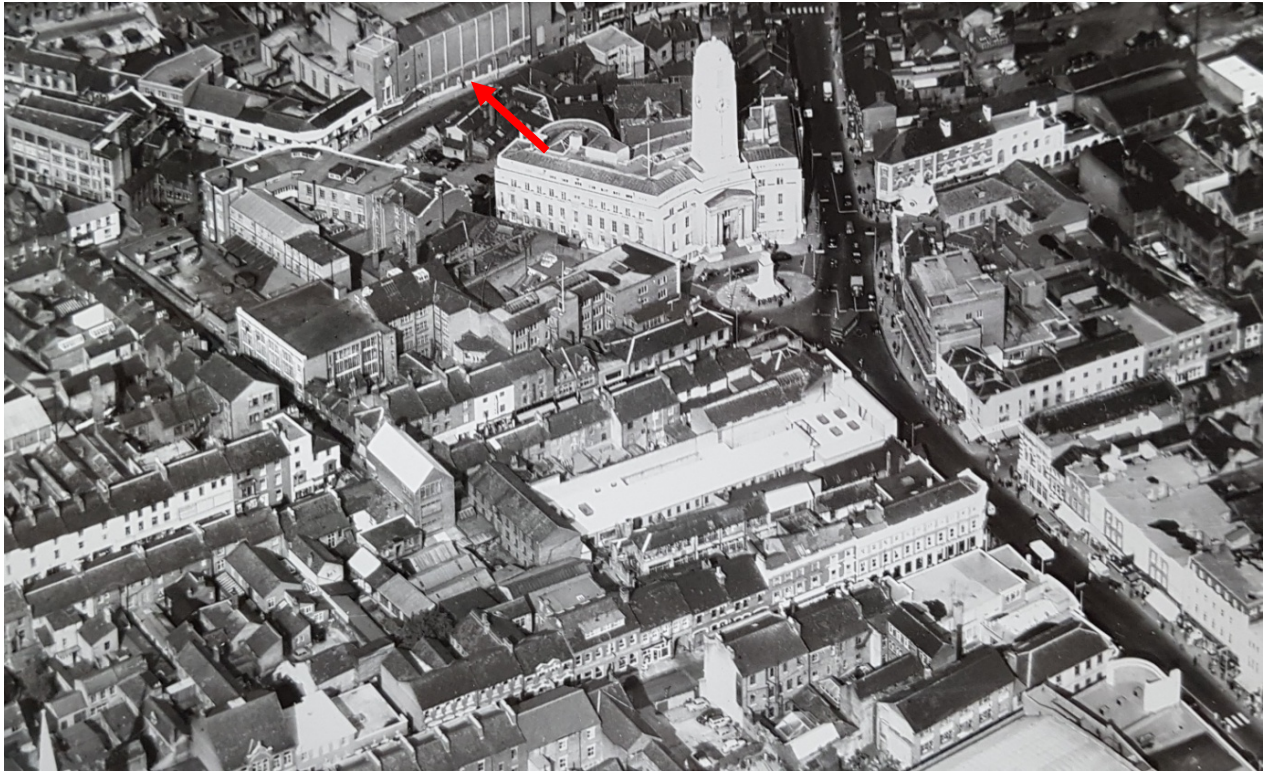
Historic Plate 6: Photograph taken in 1937 of the front elevation of the Union Cinema upon opening



Historic Plate 7: Photograph taken in 1937 of the interior of the Union Cinema, Gordon Street, Luton



Historic Plate 8: Wurlitzer Organ installed at the Union Cinema, Luton (Internet Source 2)



Historic Plate 9: Aerial photograph taken c.1955 of Luton Town Hall with the Ritz Cinema, Gordon Street behind



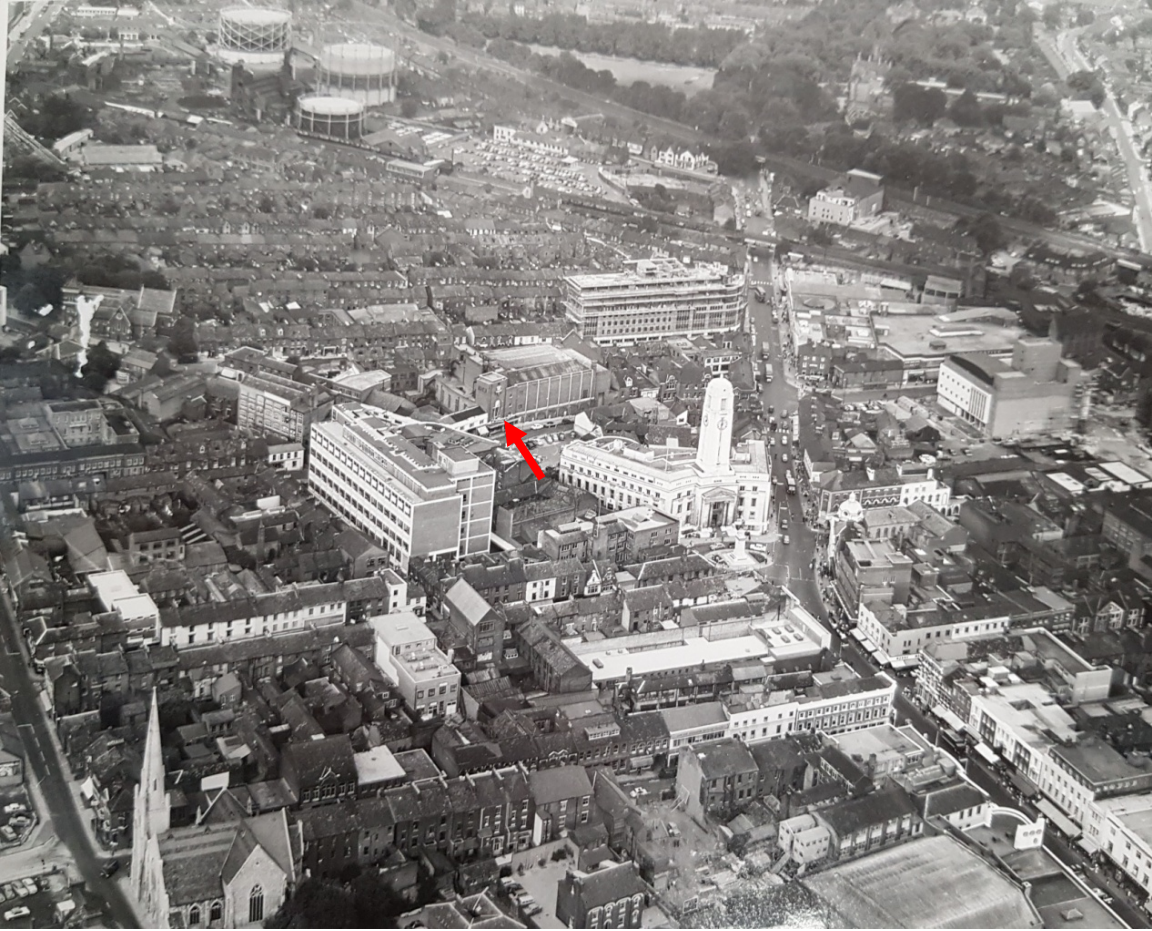
Historic Plate 10: Photograph taken in the 1950s of the Ritz Cinema, Gordon Street, Luton



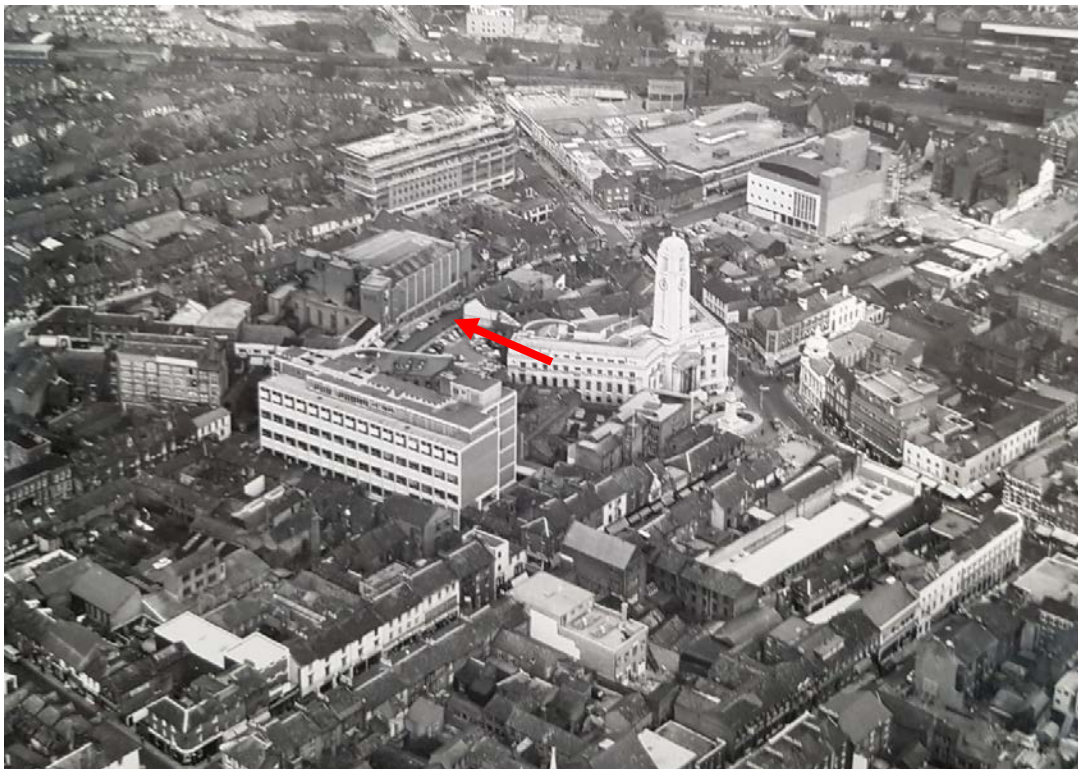
Historic Plate 11: Photograph taken c.1958 of the Ritz Cinema, Gordon Street, Luton



Historic Plate 12: Photograph taken c.1958 of the interior of the Ritz Cinema, Gordon Street, Luton



Historic Plate 13: Aerial photograph taken c.1963 of Luton Town Hall with facade the Ritz Cinema, Gordon Street behind



Historic Plate 14: Aerial photograph taken c.1963 of Luton Town Hall with facade the Ritz Cinema, Gordon Street behind



Historic Plate 15: The former Union Cinema, Gordon Street as the Coliseum Nightclub in 1988 (© Ian Grundy : Internet Source 2)



Historic Plate 16: The former Union Cinema, Gordon Street as the Coliseum Nightclub in 1988 (© Ian Grundy: Internet Source 2)



Historic Plate 17: The former Union Cinema, Gordon Street as The Zone Nightclub, 1999



Historic Plate 18: The former Union Cinema, Gordon Street as The Zone Nightclub, 1999



Historic Plate 19: The former Union Cinema, Gordon Street as Chicagos, before 2006



Historic Plate 20: The former Union Cinema, Gordon Street as Liquid Envy Nightclub c.2016



Plate 1 Front (east) elevation of the Former Union Cinema looking south-west



Plate 2 Northern end of the front (east) elevation of the Former Union Cinema looking west



Plate 3 View along Gordon Street to the north-west

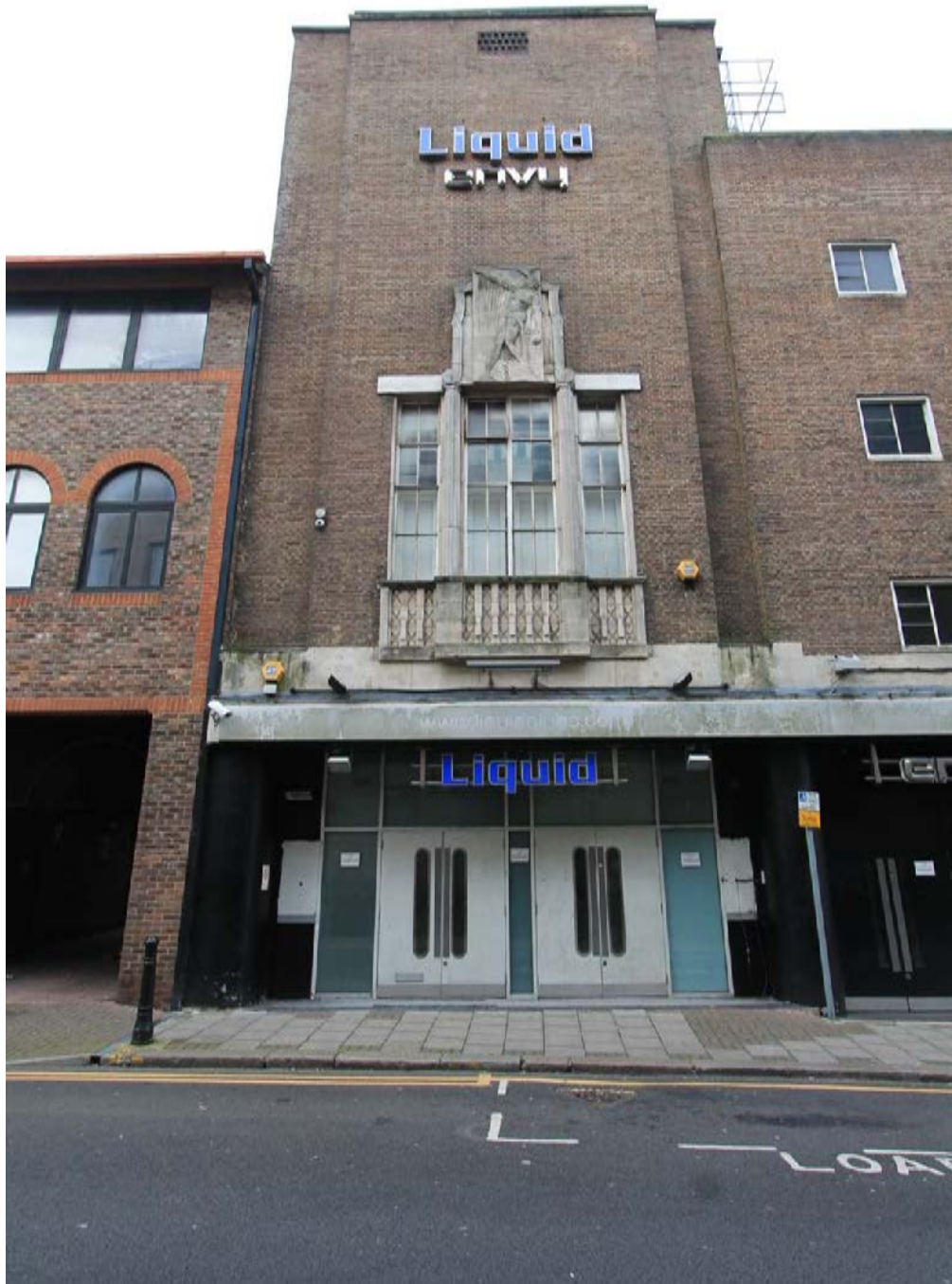


Plate 4 Entrance and oriel window



Plate 5 Entrance to Liquid



Plate 6 Entrance to Envy



Plate 7 Entrance to Chicago Rock Café

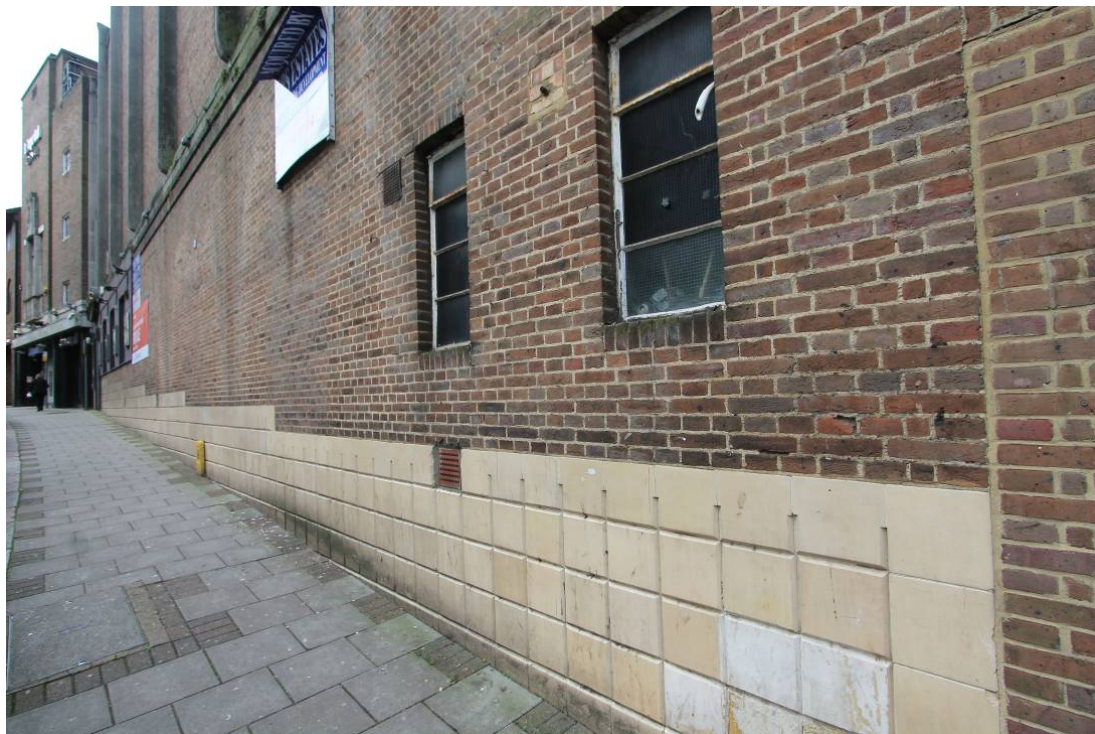


Plate 8 Detail of Faience tiles



Plate 9 Moulded pilasters



Plate 10 Memorial plaque



Plate 11 Southern elevations from yard to the rear of Upper George Street



Plate 12 Rear elevation viewed from Lancrets Path, looking south



Plate 13 Rear elevation viewed from Lancrets Path, looking north



Plate 14 Reception counter (Liquid nightclub foyer)

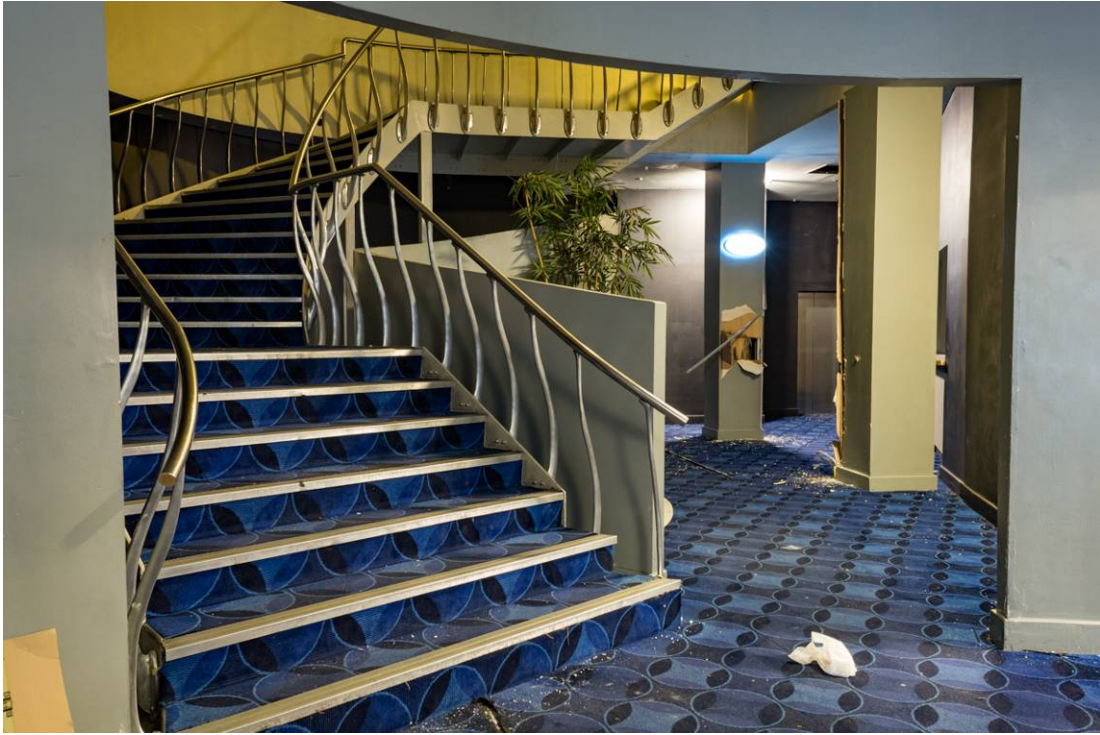


Plate 15 Replacement stair to nightclubs Liquid and Envy



Plate 16 Stair from first floor looking to reception



Plate 17 Cold storage area on ground floor



Plate 18 Original brick and concrete fire stair at second floor level



Plate 19 Chicago Rock Café ground floor bar area



Plate 20 Chicago Rock Café, mezzanine level



Plate 21 Panorama



Plate 22 Kitchen area



Plate 23 Modern steel fire escape stair



Plate 24 Gear mechanism in present stairwell



Plates 25 and 26 Envy dance floor and bars





Plate 27 Liquid dance floor



Plate 28 Liquid Bar area



Plate 29 Bespoke spiral staircase to Liquid Lounge



Plate 30 Liquid Lounge bar



Plate 31 External terrace



Plate 32 Remains of original steel superstructure



Plate 33 Section of roof truss

PCA

PCA CAMBRIDGE

THE GRANARY, RECTORY FARM
BREWERY ROAD, PAMPISFORD
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 3EN
t: 01223 845 522
e: cambridge@pre-construct.com

PCA DURHAM

UNIT 19A, TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK
TURSDALE
DURHAM DH6 5PG
t: 0191 377 1111
e: durham@pre-construct.com

PCA LONDON

UNIT 54, BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE
96 ENDWELL ROAD, BROCKLEY
LONDON SE4 2PD
t: 020 7732 3925
e: london@pre-construct.com

PCA NEWARK

OFFICE 8, ROEWOOD COURTYARD
WINKBURN, NEWARK
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NG22 8PG
t: 01636 370410
e: newark@pre-construct.com

PCA NORWICH

QUARRY WORKS, DEREHAM ROAD
HONINGHAM
NORWICH NR9 5AP
T: 01223 845522
e: cambridge@pre-construct.com

PCA WARWICK

UNIT 9, THE MILL, MILL LANE
LITTLE SHREWLEY, WARWICK
WARWICKSHIRE CV35 7HN
t: 01926 485490
e: warwick@pre-construct.com

PCA WINCHESTER

5 RED DEER COURT, ELM ROAD
WINCHESTER
HAMPSHIRE SO22 5LX
t: 01962 849 549
e: winchester@pre-construct.com

