

**JACKSON'S CORNER, 1-9 KINGS
ROAD, READING, BERKSHIRE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF REPORT**

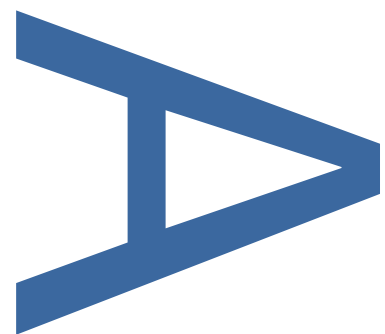
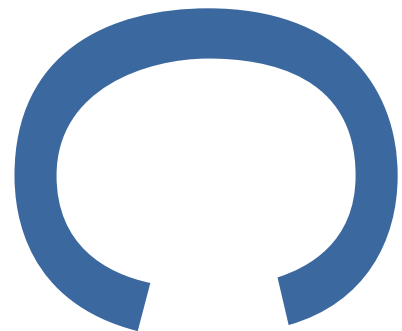
**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
READING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBERS:
160849**

PCA REPORT NO: R13710

SITE CODE: SJKR17

JUNE 2019



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

**JACKSON'S CORNER, 1-9 KINGS ROAD, READING, BERKSHIRE:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**

Issue 1: For Approval

Site Code: SJKR17

Local Planning Authority: Reading Borough Council

Central NGR: SU 71740 73411

Planning Reference: 160849

Commissioning Client: CgMs Consulting

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DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

Site Name: Jackson's Corner, 1-9 Kings Road, Reading, Berkshire

Type of project: Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Report: R13710

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code		K5869
Text Prepared by:	T Hayes	
Graphics Prepared by:	R Murphy	
Graphics Checked by:	M Roughley	
Project Manager:	T Hayes	

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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1 ABSTRACT

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by CgMs, to carry out an archaeological watching brief, at Jackson's Corner, 1-9 Kings Road, Reading, Berkshire. The site is the subject of a proposed redevelopment.

The Site is located to the north of Kings Road and to the eastern side of the junction with Market Place.

The watching brief was conducted in one visit, on the 22nd November 2018. The majority of groundworks had already been undertaken before PCA were made aware that works were ongoing. No archaeological remains were observed during the course of the watching brief.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Project Background

2.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by CgMs Consulting, to carry out an archaeological watching brief, at Jackson's Corner, 1-9 Kings Road, Reading, hereafter 'the site' (**Figure 1**). The site is the subject of a proposed redevelopment.

2.1.2 The archaeological watching brief, and this report, was required by planning permission for the development of the site, granted by the Local Planning Authority, Reading Borough Council (planning ref. 160849). These requirements are based on the advice of the Council's Archaeological Advisor and reflect the potential of the site to contain archaeological resources that may be put at risk by the development.

2.1.3 This document provides a report on the results of the watching brief, carried out in November 2018 and has been prepared in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs (CIfA 2014) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (Historic England, 2015).

2.2 Location, Topography and Geology

2.2.1 The Site is located to the north of Kings Road and to the eastern side of the junction with Market Place. The solid geology of the immediate area of the study site is shown by the Institute of Geological Sciences (IGS 1979) comprising Chalk of the Cretaceous period

2.2.2 Further detail is provided by Geological Survey Sheet 268 (Reading: 2000) which confirms that Reading occupies an area on the southern boundary of an extensive outcrop of Chalk. Within the historic core of Reading, the Chalk is masked by glacial gravels which are classified as part of the Taplow Terrace. (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

2.2.3 The historic core of Reading occupies a tongue of land formed between the River Thames and the River Kennet as they flow east to a confluence a short distance east of the town centre. The line of the Holybrook stream flows on a southwest-northeast alignment immediately southeast of the site. The site is generally level with a spot height of 38.3m AOD.

2.3 Proposed Development

2.3.1 The proposed development includes the retention and enlargement of commercial space on the ground floor and basement levels, and the conversion of upper areas to 18 residential units. Demolition of commercial ancillary accommodation to rear will be followed by the construction of a new residential block of 16 units, together with the creation of a central courtyard.

2.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.4.1 The archaeological and historic background to the site is detailed in the Archaeological Desk Based Assessment². The following represents a brief summary of the archaeological potential of the site, as presented in that report:

Whilst it is recognised that river valleys provided attractive environments for prehistoric occupation and habitat exploitation during the prehistoric periods and that, more generally, the absence of HER evidence is not always a valid indicator of absence of occupation evidence (especially within urban areas where little or no archaeological systematic survey or investigation has taken place), in this instance the absence of prehistoric activity evidence from the area is considered sufficient to accord the site a generally low potential for prehistoric remains

From the available information it would appear that during the Roman period the site lay to the south of known/postulated activity. The potential of the site for the Roman period can be identified as low to moderate.

Although the location of any early Saxon settlement remains to be established, late Saxon settlement is thought to have developed around St Mary's Church in the area around Minster Street and Broad Street to the west of the site. In view of the available information the study site can be considered likely to have a low to moderate potential for the Anglo-Saxon period.

From a review of the available information, during the Medieval period the site lay immediately beyond the Abbey precinct, within the extent of the developing Medieval town. The archaeological potential of the study site for the Medieval period can therefore be identified as moderate to high.

The archaeological potential of the study site for the Post Medieval and Modern periods can be categorised as invested in the development of buildings present and formerly present.

2.5 Archaeological Evaluation Results

2.5.1 The evaluation comprised four test pits positioned across the northern side of the site focussing on the area of the proposed basement (Figure 2). Natural deposits were encountered in all four Test Pits. Test Pits 2, 3 and 4 demonstrated that the underlying geology comprised chalk, whilst Test Pit 1 revealed a layer of Taplow Gravel at its lower limit.

2.5.2 Test Pit 1 (the northern-most test pit) contained layers of modern material and truncation including the construction cut for the northern wall of the Jackson's Corner building. Below the modern material were the remnants of an earlier cobbled surface, an earlier drainage pipe, potential levelling deposits and a thick layer of material, overlying natural Taplow gravels at a depth of 41.45m.

- 2.5.3 Within both Test Pits 2 and 3 the natural chalk was seen at a height of 38.43m and 39.29m respectively and was in both cases capped by modern levelling and floor surfaces.
- 2.5.4 Test Pit 4 contained modern levelling and floor layers, below which were several layers of made ground under which the natural chalk was recorded at a height of 38.90m. The chalk was truncated to the north-west by a potential cut feature which continued beyond the north and western limits of excavation (LOE) and below the final depth of the test pit at a height of 38.65m.

3 AIM

3.1 Archaeological Watching Protection

3.1.1 The watching brief aimed to address the following primary objectives:

- To determine the natural topography of this area of the site;
- To establish the nature, date and survival of activity relating to any archaeological periods at the site;
- To further elucidate the nature, function and date of the apparent cut feature identified within evaluation Test Pit 4;
- To establish the extent of all past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource.
- To synthesise the results and findings from the site with those in the wider vicinity.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following presents a summary of the watching brief results based upon the Site archive, which comprises a Site diary and digital photographs. The archive of the archaeological work is held at PCA's Winchester office under the site code **SJKR17** and will in due course be deposited with the appropriate repository.

4.2 Methodology

4.2.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken following the methodology detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (PCA 2017), which was approved by the Local Planning Authority in advance of the works.

4.2.2 The watching brief comprised visiting the proposed development.

4.3 Watching Brief Results

4.3.1 The watching brief was conducted in one visit, on the 22nd November 2018. The majority of groundworks had already been undertaken before PCA were made aware that works were ongoing.

4.3.2 The wide space to the north of the site, originally highlighted as the proposed watching brief area, had already been reduced to the new slab level, with no further ground works proposed. Basement excavations in the western part of the central area had already been undertaken, with concrete poured and building works commencing (**Figure 2 and Plate 1-9**).

4.3.3 While on site a small area was being mechanically excavated immediately to the north of the original shop frontage. This was being undertaken in order to 'grub out' the remains of a modern intrusion. No archaeological remains were identified.

4.4 Conclusion

4.4.1 No archaeological remains were observed during the course of the watching brief.

5 ARCHIVE PRERARATION AND DEPOSITION

5.1 The Site Archive

5.1.1 The Site archive, to include all project records and cultural material produced by the project, will be prepared in accordance with 'Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage' (UKIC 1990) and the Institute for Archaeologists 'Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives' (ClfA 2014). On completion of the project PCA will arrange for the archive to be deposited with the appropriate repository.

5.2 Copyright

5.2.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. The Novium however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003. Further distribution and uses of the report either in its entirety or part thereof in paper or electronic form is prohibited without the prior consent of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.

5.2.2 The licence extends to the use of all documents arising from this project in all matters relating directly to the project, as well as for bona fide research purposes.

5.2.3 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the content of this report. However, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd cannot accept any liability in respect of, or resulting from, errors, inaccuracies or omissions this report contains.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd is grateful to CgMs for commissioning the watching brief and liaising with their clients.

The watching brief was carried out by Thomas Hayes, PCA Ltd.

7 REFERENCES

PCA, 2017, "*WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT JACKSON'S CORNER, 1-9 KINGS ROAD, READING BERKSHIRE*".

Appendix 1: Plates (direction of view shown in figure 3)



Plate 1 View to the east



Plate 2 View to the east, across reduced area



Plate 3 View to the south-east



Plate 4 View to the south-west of basement excavations



Plate 5 View to the south



Plate 6 View to the south



Plate 7 View to the south-east



Plate 8 View to the south of grubbed out area



Plate 9 View to the north

Appendix 2: OASIS

8 OASIS ID: preconst1-354819

Project details

Project name	JACKSON'S CORNER, 1-9 KINGS ROAD, READING, BERKSHIRE
Short description of the project	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by CgMs, to carry out an archaeological watching brief, at Jackson's Corner, 1-9 Kings Road, Reading, Berkshire. The site is the subject of a proposed redevelopment. The Site is located to the north of Kings Road and to the eastern side of the junction with Market Place. The watching brief was conducted in one visit, on the 22nd November 2018. The majority of groundworks had already before PCA were made aware that works were ongoing. It is concluded that no archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the watching brief.
Project dates	Start: 22-11-2018 End: 22-11-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	SJKR17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	BERKSHIRE READING READING JACKSON'S CORNER, 1-9 KINGS ROAD, READING, BERKSHIRE
Postcode	RG1 4AE
Site coordinates	SU 71740 73411 51.454638920027 -0.967385140846 51 27 16 N 000 58 02 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0m Max: 0m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA Winchester
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	Tim Bradley

Project director/manager	Paul McCulloch
Project supervisor	Thomas Hayes
Type of sponsor/funding body	Consultant
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs

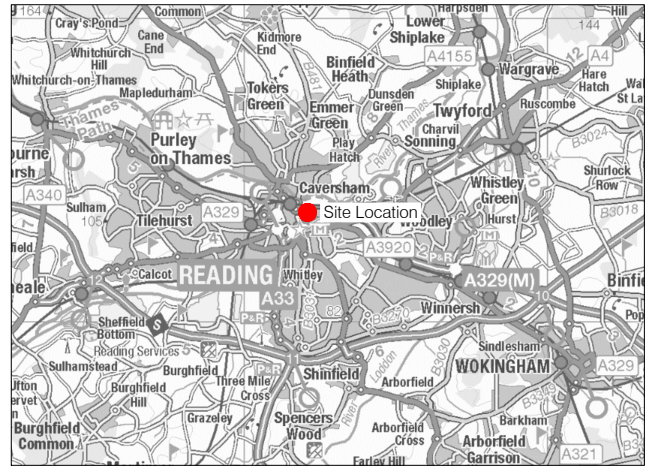
Project archives

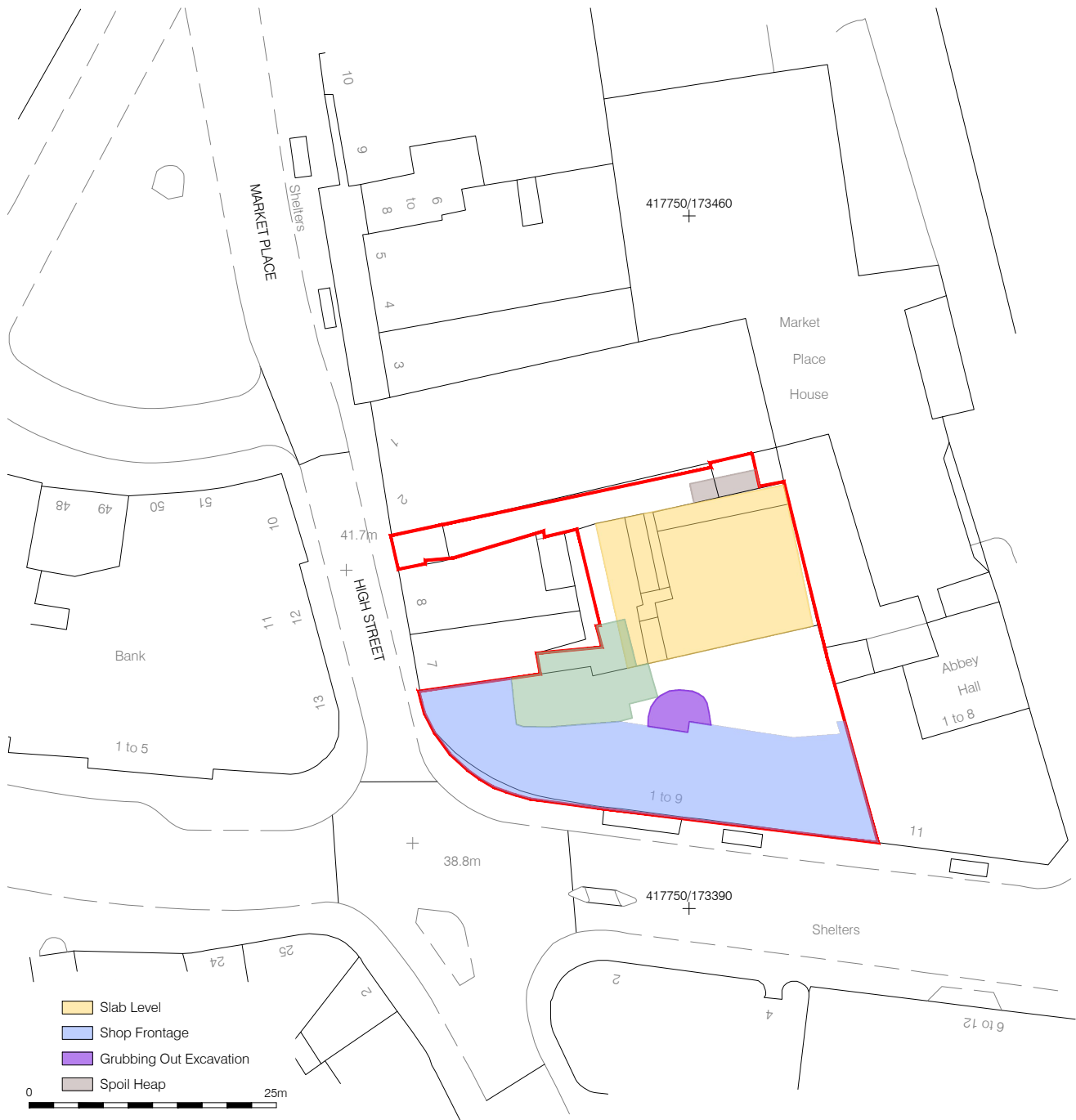
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive Exists?	No

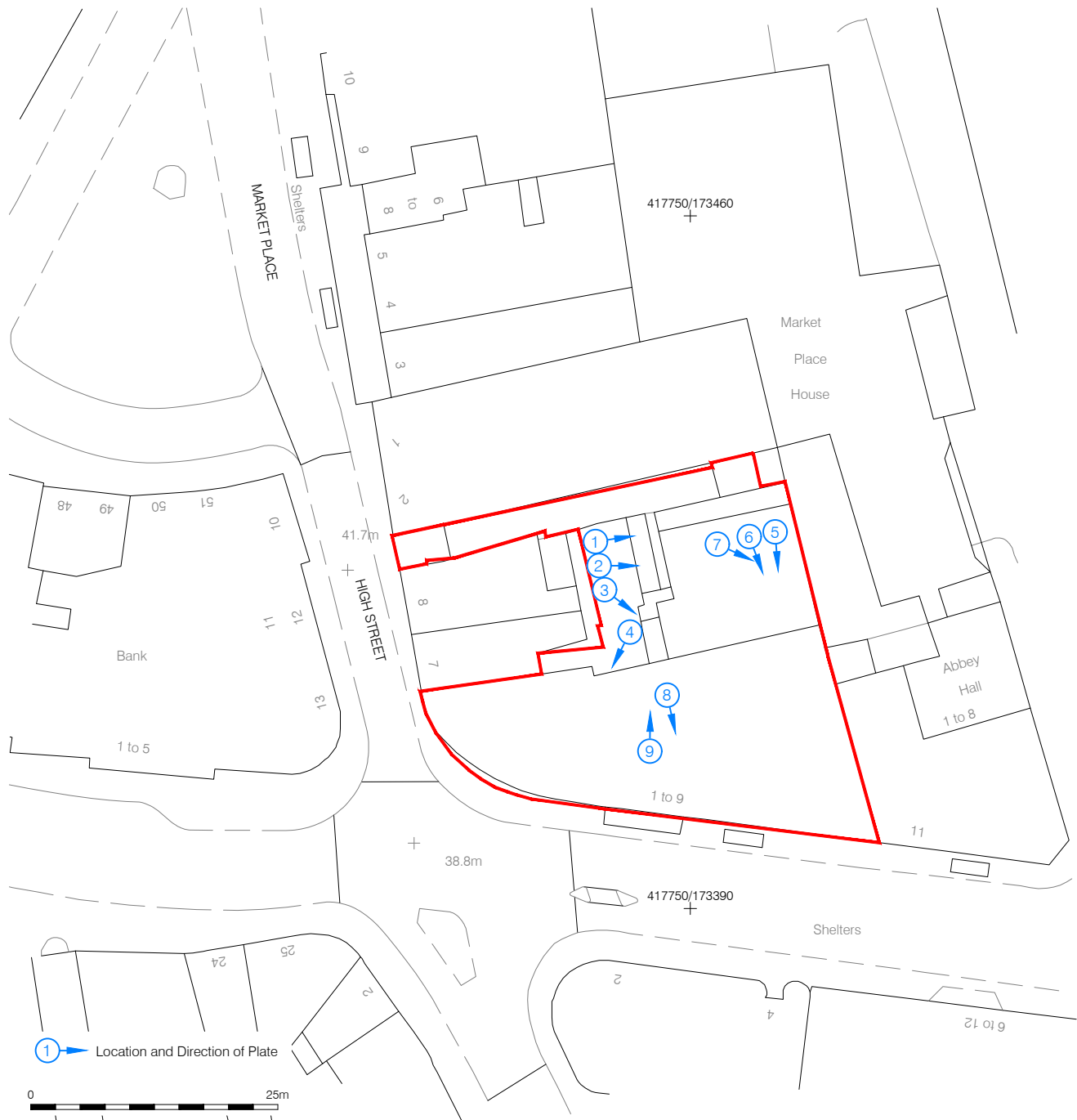
Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Jackson's Corner, 1-9 Kings Road, Reading, Berkshire: Archaeological Watching Brief Report
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