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# The White Hart, 53 High East Street Dorchester, Dorset

Archaeological Mitigation Report



Planning Reference: 1/D/12/000578  
Ref: 102340.01  
November 2014



**The White Hart, 53 High East Street  
Dorchester, Dorset**

**Archaeological Mitigation Report**

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## Archaeological Mitigation Report

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# **The White Hart, 53 High East Street Dorchester, Dorset**

## **Archaeological Mitigation Report**

### **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology were commissioned in 2013 by Executive Property Developments Ltd to carry out an English Heritage Level 1 standard photographic building survey at the White Hart Public House, 53 High East Street, Dorchester. The site was subsequently acquired by Burton Property Ventures Ltd. and in October 2014 Wessex were instructed to complete the required archaeological mitigation works for the site, in the form of a single evaluation trench.

This Site has always been at the eastern limit of central Dorchester, from Roman times. Buildings may have been present along the street frontage since the medieval period, with the first defined buildings within the site boundary shown on a map dated 1771. The former buildings of the White Hart and ranges to the rear may have contained some elements of the c.1771 buildings and also evidence for earlier buildings possibly related to the County Jail which stood on the neighbouring plot to the west.

The archaeological interventions and recording work produced a record of the various buildings that abutted either side of the western boundary of the Site as well as wall footings and elements relating to the west ranges of the Hotel. It is likely that the west boundary wall, recorded by rectified photography, contained elements of stonework that may relate to buildings associated with the neighbouring County Jail as depicted on a plan dated 1771.



# **The White Hart, 53 High East Street Dorchester, Dorset**

## **Archaeological Mitigation Report**

### **Acknowledgements**

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Andrew Sinclair who commissioned the final stages of fieldwork and reporting on behalf of Burton Property Ventures Ltd.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Luke Jarvis, Amy Green, Tom Burt and Bob Davis. This report was written by Simon Flaherty and Rosemary Thornber. The report illustrations were drawn by Rosemary Thornber, Bob Davis and Nancy Dixon. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Andy King and Gareth Chaffey.





# The White Hart, 53 High East Street Dorchester, Dorset

## Archaeological Mitigation Report

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology were commissioned in December 2013 to undertake a programme of archaeological mitigation at the site of the White Hart public house, 53 High East Street, Dorchester, Dorset centred on NGR 369517 090789, hereafter referred to as 'the Site' (**Figure 1**). In early 2014 the property was sold and the remaining mitigation works were funded by Burton Property Ventures Ltd (the Client).

1.1.2 The development proposals for the site comprised demolition of the existing buildings on site and erection of residential accommodation with associated parking (Ref.1/D/12/000578).

1.1.3 Planning permission for the proposals was granted by West Dorset District Council (WDCC) subject to certain conditions. Condition 14 states that:

*(14) No development, other than the above-ground demolition of the existing buildings, shall commence until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which shall first have been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority. The scheme shall cover archaeological fieldwork together with post-excavation work and publication of results. Thereafter, the development shall proceed in accordance with such scheme of investigation as is approved.*

Reason:

*To ensure that archaeological remains of potential County significance are safeguarded in accordance with West Dorset District Local Plan policy SA24 (SITES OF REGIONAL OR COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE).*

1.1.4 The Dorset County Archaeological Officer (adviser to West Dorset District Council) recommended that a basic photographic recording of the White Hart public house and outbuildings prior to demolition, a watching brief during demolition and site clearance, and a targeted excavation would be an appropriate, mitigated response to the proposed development.

#### 1.2 The Site

1.2.1 The Site is located at the north-eastern extent of Dorchester on the north side of High East Street (B3150) and 11m north-east of the Swan Bridge. The site was occupied by the White Hart public house, the external appearance of which indicated construction in the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and associated outbuildings. The public house stood on the High East Street frontage but was set back from the line of neighbouring properties to the west.



- 1.2.2 To the north of the public house, outbuildings, largely of a similar age, were arranged around a small courtyard. To the east is a canalised tributary of the River Frome, known locally as the Mill Leat.
- 1.2.3 The western edge of the site is a historic property boundary, which before its demolition comprised a multi-period stone wall incorporating blocked doorways, beam-slots, and a chimney breast towards the street frontage standing to over 3m in height. This stone wall had been incorporated within outbuildings adjoining the pub.
- 1.2.4 In plan the site covers an area of roughly 650 square metres. The ground surface is generally level, at an approximate height above Ordnance Datum (aOD) of 55m. The underlying geology of the Site is mapped as River Terrace Deposits (BGS).

## **2 METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Aims and objectives**

2.1.1 The aims of the archaeological mitigation works were:

- *To provide a long-term record of the form, layout and appearance of the standing buildings prior to demolition;*
- *to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains, and should remains be present, to ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard;*
- *to confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;*
- *to determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains;*
- *to determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains;*
- *to determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present;*
- *To carry out palaeoenvironmental analysis if appropriate; and to prepare a report on the results of the archaeological mitigation works.*

### **2.2 Fieldwork methodology**

2.2.1 The archaeological mitigation was conducted according to the agreed WSI (WA 2013) and comprised: a record of the standing buildings to be demolished, a watching brief during the demolition of the buildings and grubbing out and clearance of foundations and a single evaluation trench placed within the site.

### **2.3 Building recording**

2.3.1 A photographic record was made of the standing buildings, prior to the commencement of the proposed works. A brief on-site written description was made of those parts of the site affected by the demolition.

2.3.2 The building recording included a brief description, high-quality digital photographic record and drawn record that consisted of annotated measured floor plans and elevations. This was commensurate with the scope of a Level 1 record, as defined in *Understanding Historic Buildings; a guide to recording practice* (English Heritage 2006). The photographic record was made using a Canon 5D digital camera (with 12 megapixel capability) to an appropriate level of detail commensurate with a Level 1 photographic



survey. A photographic scale of appropriate size was included in detailed views where appropriate.

## 2.4 Watching brief and Evaluation

- 2.4.1 The watching brief and evaluation were carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008) and *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation* (IfA 2009).
- 2.4.2 The watching brief was maintained during the demolition of the standing building and grubbing out clearance of the foundations. A single 10m x 2m evaluation trench was placed at the west of the site. The location of this trench has been indicated in **Figure 1**.
- 2.4.3 Prior to machining the site was scanned using a cable avoidance tool. The watching brief and evaluation trenches were completed under constant archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator employing a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.4.4 All potential features and deposits of possible archaeological origin were partially excavated to ascertain their nature and function and were fully recorded using WA's *pro forma* record sheets. All deposits were assigned a unique number.
- 2.4.5 A full photographic record was maintained during the fieldwork using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images were subject to managed quality control and curation processes which embedded appropriate meta data within the image to ensure long term accessibility of the image set. A full graphic record was maintained. The site drawings were drawn at an appropriate scale, typically 1:10 for sections and 1:20 for plans.
- 2.4.6 Site survey was carried out using a Leica Viva series GNSS unit using the OS National GPS Network through an RTK network with a 3D accuracy of 30mm or below. All survey data was recorded using the OSGB36 British National Grid coordinate system.
- 2.4.7 During the watching brief and evaluation, the normal Wessex Archaeology strategies for artefact recovery and environmental sampling would have been used, had the need arisen.

## 2.5 Research

- 2.5.1 The research carried out to establish the historic and archaeological origins of the site and the development of the building required consultation of the following sources:
- *National heritage datasets including the National Heritage List for England (NHLE), Images of England, PastScape, Viewfinder, NMR Excavation Index, and Parks and Gardens UK;*
  - *Historic manuscripts, surveyed maps, and Ordnance Survey maps held at the Dorset History Centre; and*
  - *Relevant primary and secondary sources held at the Dorset History Centre and in Wessex Archaeology's own library. Both published and unpublished archaeological reports relating to excavations and observations in the area around the Site were studied.*



## 2.6 Best practice

- 2.6.1 This assessment has been carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (IfA 1996, revised September 2001 and October 2008).

## 2.7 Assumptions and limitations

- 2.7.1 Data used to compile this report consists of secondary information derived from a variety of sources, only some of which have been directly examined for the purposes of this Study. The assumption is made that this data, as well as that derived from other secondary sources, is reasonably accurate.

## 2.8 Copyright

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## 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT

### 3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 This section of the report provides the archaeological and historic background to the Site and its locality, using information gathered from the sources listed in Section 2.5 above.

### 3.2 Archaeological Potential

#### *Neolithic*

- 3.2.1 Evidence for Neolithic activity within Dorchester town comes from a number of sites and monuments. Maumbury Rings henge monument is located, c.942m south-west of the Site. It survives as a rough circular enclosure bank with an internal diameter of up to 64m and a single entrance to the north east. Part of the henge structure was destroyed by the construction of a Roman amphitheatre at the site and the later construction of English Civil War earthworks. Further ceremonial and monumental sites of the Neolithic period are known from within Dorchester, at Greyhound Yard (Lawson 1990, 277), at Poundbury Camp located c.930m to the north-west and at Mount Pleasant Hill located 1.6 km to the south east.

#### *Bronze Age*

- 3.2.2 Evidence for bronze Age activity nearby includes two possible round barrows on South Walks and a round barrow at Masonic Hall, Prince's Street.

#### *Iron Age*

- 3.2.3 Evidence for the Iron Age within Dorchester includes: Flagstones Lare Iron Age Cemetery, settlement and pits, a pair of Iron Age brooches reportedly found on South Street, Alington Avenue Iron Age enclosure system c.1.1km south-west of the Site and an early Iron Age inhumation and horse burial near High Street Fordington c.380m south-east of the Site.

#### *Romano-British*

- 3.2.4 The Site lies within the the Roman town of *Durnovaria*. As a *civitas* or tribal capital, *Durnovaria* is thought to have been established around AD60 with enclosing defences

dating from the 2<sup>nd</sup>-century AD (RCHM 1970; Woodward et al. 1993). The eastern defences are located c. 175m to the south of the Site.

- 3.2.5 Roman sites within 250m of the Site include: Foundry Yard on High Street Fordington, Greyhound Yard, Wollaston Bath house, Channon's Garage Roman building on High East Street, Roman building at 18 Icen Way, Wessex Court on Charles Street, and Roman cemetery at the Pound in Fordington, to name but a few. The remains of the Roman street plan is also in evidence as metalised surfaces in this location.

#### *Saxon and Medieval*

- 3.2.6 Very little definite post-Roman activity has been found within the walls of the Roman town, though post-Roman structures and burials have been recorded in the wider area.
- 3.2.7 Dorchester is thought to derive from the British *Doric* (bright and splendid place) and the Old English term for a Roman station *ceaster* (Ekwall 1960, 148). It is referenced in Bede's 8<sup>th</sup>-century writings as *Doric* or *Dorciccaestrae*. Documentary evidence suggests that Dorchester was a royal residence by the 7<sup>th</sup>-century AD and Fordington, lying outside the Roman town walls, is recorded as a royal manor at the time of the Domesday survey (1086).
- 3.2.8 The medieval town was centred on High Street, South Street and the area occupied by the castle (Wessex Archaeology 2005). The castle was first mentioned in 1137 and lies just to the north of High Street and is the present location of Dorchester Prison. Large areas of the town were not built up but retained as field, gardens and orchards. This pattern of occupation continued into the post-medieval period. A reconstructed map c.1400 shows a large house of two storeys in the approximate location of the Site (WDDC 2003, 9). Whether this was a precursor to the County Jail, it is not known.

#### *Post-medieval to 1800*

- 3.2.9 The earliest cartographic evidence consulted for this study is an insert to John Speed's map of Dorset dated to 1610 (**Figure 2**). This shows the Site as undeveloped land approximately located to the east of a walled garden, at the east end of High East Street (although the street is not named), with what appears to be a raised bank to the east, running along the east extent of the town, and the River Frome to the east. The raised bank by the river continues around the town and is labelled as "The ruins of the ould wall", which are roughly the remains of the Roman walls. Three or four houses are shown fronting onto High East Street and a structure straddles the street, which is labelled as the "Stocking Bridge". The walled garden is depicted as five trees, one placed at each corner and a central tree, with a fence or hedge defining an inner enclosure, which is a common convention on maps of this period.
- 3.2.10 A map dated 1771 drawn for the Mayor of Dorchester (**Figure 2**) depicts the County Jail, annotated 'h', immediately west of the Site. Churches and other public buildings, were not shaded on this map. It appears that there is a building in plot 'h' that fronts onto the street, with possibly another block behind, to the north and a third irregularly-shaped block to the north of this, with formal gardens behind.
- 3.2.11 The Site itself is shown as being developed with a range of buildings orientated along the street frontage with projections to the north at the west end and to the south at the east end, a similar layout to that shown on the map of 1610. Behind the street frontage is a second substantial east-west range spanning the entire width of the plot and with a slim north-south range abutting the boundary with the County Jail. At the north end of the plot. A third range of buildings extends to the riverbank and thus forms an enclosed yard.

- 3.2.12 It is noted in the RCHME *Inventory of Historic Monuments of Dorset volume 2* (1970, page 104ff) that the County Gaol was erected in 1784 and was used until 1794. As this is 13 years after the mention of the 'jail' on the 1771 map, it must have either replaced or formalised buildings on this site, or the reference on the map may have marked a site selected for a future gaol. This gaol had a hanging ground, which was visible from the bank of the river and Thomas Hardy famously witnessed the hanging of Martha Brown, on which it is thought he based *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* (Harman, 2013). The gaol was replaced by a prison that was begun in 1790, on the site of the old 12<sup>th</sup>-century castle, as it was considered that the Jail was unsatisfactory. William Blackburn, the famous 18<sup>th</sup> - century prison reformer, was responsible for the 1784 Jail, according to the *RCHME Inventory*. This does not refute the presence of a jail in 1771 and it ties in with his work building a new wing at Oxford Prison around this time, to replace the medieval and inhumane jail there. This also does not go against the fact that a whole new prison was commenced in 1790, as continued accommodation, but with better conditions, was still seen as required as soon as possible, prior to the completion of the new modern prison.
- 3.2.13 The *RCHME Inventory* states that the site of the old gaol was sold in 1794 and in 1795, Nos. 49-52 High East Street were built.

#### 1800-1900

- 3.2.14 The Site is not shown on the 1840 Tithe Map of Dorchester Holy Trinity, as the map does not extend far enough east. Pigot's Directory of Dorsetshire, 1830, lists the White Hart under 'Taverns' and occupied by Ann Beasant (<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~fordingtondorset/index.html> accessed 12/11/2014). The census for All Saints parish dating from 1851 lists the White Hart Inn on High East Street, occupied by Richard Gaulton, innkeeper, age 50 and his wife Elizabeth, age 51 (*ibid.*). The 1861 census lists the White Hart Hotel at no.53, run by Charles Dunn hotel keeper, age 42 and his wife Jane, age 35, with children (*ibid.*). The 1891 census lists the hotel as no.52, with the proprietor as Mark Sellars, age 31 and his wife Emily Rose, age 25 (*ibid.*).
- 3.2.15 The Ordnance Survey (OS) town plan of 1888 at 1:500 scale (**Figure 3**) shows that the range along the street frontage had been removed by this time. The remaining building to the north of this had been retained and a cart entrance had been introduced on the east side by the riverbank. It is labelled as "White Hart (P. H.)" meaning public house, rather than hotel. The central open yard has been partially infilled by expansion of the north range. The former jail plot is shown as containing four terraced houses that extend north from the street frontage. A north-south range is shown to the north of the terraced house abutting the rear range of the hotel.
- 3.2.16 A photograph from 1890 (**Figure 3**) shows the front range of the hotel as a four or five bay timber-framed building, of two-storeys, with dormer windows lighting an attic. A two-storey house, again with an attic, adjoins the west end of the front range and the roof of the western range is just visible extending north. A single-storey foyer extension had been added across the front range and house, to give a more unified street frontage, with a large statue of a hart placed on the roof above the main entrance. From the style of the front range of the hotel and the adjoining three-storey house, it appears that they could date from the 18<sup>th</sup> century or earlier, as they appear quite modest, with dormer windows to light an attic space. The stone-built house to the west side of the photograph is one of the houses constructed c.1795 in the neighbouring plot and whether it utilised the stonework of the former County Jail, or if it used the west gable wall of the three storey house as a party wall, it is not clear.

1900 – Present Day

- 3.2.17 The second edition OS map from 1902 (not reproduced) shows little change to the hotel on the Site, or to the terraced house to the west. The north-south range to the rear of the neighbouring terraced house has gone and a stub of wall remains to the west of the rear range of the hotel.
- 3.2.18 It is noted that there was a fire in 1926 at the hotel (Pearce, 2011) and that it was rebuilt in its last form, prior to demolition. In addition, Wessex Archaeology was informed, during the watching brief, that in 1926 the new hotel building was built upon a concrete slab, laid on top of made ground. However, the 1926 rebuilding would not have been able to lay a concrete slab as this would have required complete clearing of the Site, as part of normal building techniques of the period. Furthermore, the footprint of the hotel and rear ranges shown on the 1929 edition OS map exactly match those of the 1902 and 1888 edition maps. Also from the recent photographs, it appears that the general plan-form of the building was retained. Therefore, it is possible that the ranges were rebuilt as much as possible after the fire. Damp-proof courses seen in the archaeological interventions along the west boundary, may have been added within brick built walls abutting earlier stone-built walls of the period, during this period of rebuilding.
- 3.2.19 An aerial photograph from the 1920s (**Figure 4**) may have been taken before the fire, as it shows the street front range at the left side, as a double pile building of two parallel gabled ranges. The three storey house to the west of the front range, in the left side of the photograph. The large C-shaped building in the middle of the photograph may be the ones that infilled the central courtyard space, as shown on the 1888 map.
- 3.2.20 The 1956 OS map (**Figure 5**) shows that the range adjacent to the east boundary by the riverbank had been removed, while the infilling C-shaped range had also been removed or reduced, revealing the footprint of the north-south range along the west side of the Site once more. A new range had been added to the north of the terraced house to the west of the Site, infilling the space by the remnant of standing wall. The map shows the post-1926 planform of the building, with a line of wall extending south and returning to the east. This may be the remains of stone-built wall of the three storey house
- 3.2.21 The 1971 OS map (not reproduced) shows the hotel and neighbouring terraced house as much the same in arrangement. The 1982 plans drawn up for improvements to the hotel (**Figure 6**) show that some features remained that could have existed from the building shown on the 1771 map. These include two splayed windows within the thick west wall of the west range, the back to back fireplaces in the kitchen of the west range, and a third splayed window in the east wall of north range. It also details the removal of part of the south wall of the north range, where it joined the east range. The east wall of this east range is shown as of similar thickness to the north range and therefore may be a remnant of a building dating between 1771 and 1888.
- 3.2.22 The 1988 edition (**Figure 5**) shows that the neighbouring house had been demolished between 1971 and this time. However it seems that the rubble stone wall that formed the east wall of the house was retained, possibly as it formed a party wall with the front range and west range of the hotel.
- 3.2.23 A new three storey terraced house was constructed after 1988, and the rubble stone wall sat between it and the post-1926 hotel building, as seen in a photograph from c.2010 ([http://www.closedpubs.co.uk/dorset/dorchester\\_whitehart.html](http://www.closedpubs.co.uk/dorset/dorchester_whitehart.html) accessed 12/11/2014). The hotel was finally demolished in 2013, and the stone rubble wall was photographed prior to its removal in 2014.



### 3.3 Recent investigations on the Site

- 3.3.1 Previous archaeological evaluation trenching on the Site in 2004 exposed palaeosols containing 2<sup>nd</sup>-century AD Romano-British artefactual material, at a depth of over approximately 500mm below current ground level (Heaton 2004). Part of a pit was also uncovered, containing a 3m length of rubble stone wall together with fragments of Roman tile. A stratigraphically complex and varied sequence of Romano-British deposits and Post-medieval deposits and structural features dating from the late 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century, were identified in the western half of the existing forecourt and in the northern part of the inner courtyard of the site, away from the standing buildings.
- 3.3.2 Medieval cultural deposits were not identified within the three evaluation trenches, a similar sequence was recorded at the site of Channon's Garage immediately to the south of the Site (Gent 2001). In 2004, the excavator implied that the site was not occupied prior to the construction of the Mill Leat immediately to the east, which controlled flooding in this area. The presence of post-medieval rubbish pits relatively close to the street frontage also indicates a vacant plot.
- 3.3.3 Extensive modern services had caused disturbance to a depth of 500mm below ground level within the area of the 2004 evaluation trenches. Preservation was postulated as being best towards the west of the existing forecourt and in areas not affected by mains sewer trenches or cellars that may exist beneath the pub.

### 3.4 Geotechnical works

- 3.4.1 Geotechnical borehole samples have been completed within the Site. Although a detailed report has not been issued, the borehole logs indicate the tarmac (0.3m) overlies extensive made ground deposits within the Site.
- 3.4.2 An archaeological watching brief was not maintained during the geotechnical works and the results are therefore considered with a degree of caution, as it can on occasion be difficult to differentiate made ground and archaeological deposits.

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND BUILDING RECORDING RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 These results combine the findings of a watching brief and a building recording equivalent to English Heritage Level 1. The recording on the Site consisted of three evaluation trenches that had been dug in 2004 by ASI Heritage and were labelled on the site location plan within the 2013 written scheme of investigation (WSI) by Wessex Archaeology as T1, T2 and T3. The WSI was written prior to the watching brief that was conducted by Wessex Archaeology during late 2013-early 2014. Two areas of the Site were recorded in January 2014 and numbered 1 and 2. A fourth trench was dug in October 2014 and named Trench 4 (see **Figure 1**). The results of these investigations are presented below.

### 4.2 Area 1 Results

- 4.2.1 Area 1 was located adjacent to the standing jail / boundary wall. In the field notes for this area it states that a concrete slab was removed prior to examination of Area 1. This slab may have been a modern screed floor of the kitchen range, rather than a whole foundation slab. Remnants of the west wall of the hotel were at the south end of Area 1, which might have been part of the west range situated along the western boundary of the Site. Brick footings were seen to project east beyond the line of the wall, which may have formed part of the kitchen (**Plate 1**). Two stubs of east-west walls were observed projecting east from the western boundary wall (**Plates 2 and 3**). The south stub equates



to the dividing wall between the kitchen and the Ladies toilets, as shown on the 1982 plans. Some modern white tiles were present in this location. The north stub is located within the kitchen and is rendered the same colour as the west wall in this location and may have been part of a larder or other such partition within the kitchen.

### 4.3 Area 2 Results

- 4.3.1 Area 2 was located in the centre of the Site, in the approximate position of the proposed new buildings. The area contained no archaeological remains of the hotel buildings.
- 4.3.2 During the works in January 2014, the west wall was taken down and the north end was clearly built of stonework (**Plate 4**). This indicates that this end of the range had been less altered over time, unlike the brick insertions of the south end.

### 4.4 Trench 4 Results

#### *Deposits and soil sequences*

- 4.4.1 The deposit sequence across the site comprised of 0.45m of a mid grey-black silty clay overburden overlying the natural chalk.

#### *Archaeological Deposits*

- 4.4.2 At the west end of Trench 4 a brick built footing for the wall, **406**, was encountered. It was 0.35m thick and stepped out 0.3m from the wall (**Plate 5**). It was faced with a limestone mortar that obscured any coursing or bonding. The footing is in the approximate location of the kitchen chimney, which may account for the blackened and soot-rich deposits surrounding it. The grey deposit in the foreground may also have contained ash, resulting in its colour. The upstanding wall to the west of the footing appears to be a late 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup>-century construction of stretcher bonding and containing a damp-proof course and therefore may have faced onto the east face of the original wall, which is seen from the west face as built of stonework and 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick (see Figure 7). The trench was placed to find the west boundary wall dating to between 1610 and 1771, which was not found as it was thought to be located behind the modern wall.
- 4.4.3 Within Trench 4 a large irregularly shaped feature was encountered (**403**) (**Plate 6**). It was not fully exposed but within the trench measured 6.4m by 2.47m and was 0.3m deep. It contained frequent amounts of ceramic building material and tarmac fragments which show it was modern in origin.

### 4.5 Artefactual and Environmental Evidence

- 4.5.1 No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the course of the fieldwork that were suitable for environmental sampling. No diagnostic artefacts were gathered during the fieldwork.

### 4.6 Building survey

- 4.6.1 The hotel building is situated between a row of terraced houses and the River Frome (**Plate 7**). The main front range on High East Street is a two-storey building of four bays, with a gabled roof orientated east-west (**Cover**). Unlike the building of the 1890 photograph, the range had a continuous roofline from east to west. There was a single storey projection on the south elevation which reflects the position of one shown in the 1890 photograph. The range appears to have largely replaced the two ranges shown on the left side of the 1920s aerial photograph (**Figure 4**), that formed the original hotel building, and the three-storey house at the west end of those ranges.

- 4.6.2 A section of rubble stone wall was preserved between the 1926 rebuilt hotel and the terraced house to the west of the Site (**Plate 8**). From viewing the west face of the wall (**Figure 6**), the 1890 photograph (**Figure 3**) and the 1920s aerial photograph (**Figure 4**), it seems that the section of wall was the west gable end of the three-storey house. The brickwork chimneystack set at the south end of the west facing elevation (**Figure 6** and **Plate 9**), is the westernmost chimney of the house, as seen in the 1890 photograph. The voussoirs within the chimney indicate that there was a first floor fireplace on the west side of the house. This fireplace may have been inside a two-storey outshut, which is seen to the back of the terraced house to the west, in the aerial photograph. The scar of the roof of the outshut is also seen as the base of some grey render above stone walling (**Figure 6** and **Plate 9**). It appears that a flue was built up against the existing chimney and a new section of the stack was added above the roofline, creating a weak spot where the stack later cracked. This means that there must have been some shared ownership of the chimney between the two properties. When the hotel front range was rebuilt in 1926, it did not incorporate the gable wall of the three storey house, possibly because the outshut of the terraced house was still using the chimney and gable wall. When the terraced house was replaced by a new townhouse after 1988, the gable wall remained preserved as a historic remnant of the previous buildings.
- 4.6.3 The foyer extension entrance had a doorcase of brick, rendered in a rusticated style with a round-headed arch and surmounted by a large statue of a white hart, which may be a replacement for the one in the 1890 photograph (**Cover** and **Plate 10**). The ground floor windows were three lights, with central arched panes and small square margined panes. The first floor windows were sashed with six panes in the top lights, above a single-paned bottom light. The sills of the first floor windows were formed of soldier courses of rounded bull-nosed bricks. The eaves of the roof protruded some way beyond the walls and decorative moulded brackets were situated in pairs to either side of each window and at regular intervals (**Plate 11**). The building was constructed of brick with a pebble-dash render applied above the sills of the ground floor windows, up to the eaves. There was a chimney near the centre of the building and a second at the east gable end and a third to the rear of the building (**Plate 12**). The stacks and the stack of the west gable end wall all matched, which indicates that they were all contemporary, possibly of 1926 build, thereby replacing any original stacks.
- 4.6.4 Internally, there was a small foyer with a lounge bar to the west (**Plate 13**) and a public bar to the east (**Plate 14**). The thickness of the north wall of the lounge bar is shown on the 1982 plans (**Figure 6**) as similar to the exterior walls and it may indicate the line of the north wall of the original front range. The staff area was in centre of the hotel, with access to the cellar and ladies toilets to the north of the Lounge Bar. Upstairs on the first floor, there was a centrally-placed east-west corridor (**Plate 15**) with bedrooms along the street front (**Plate 16**).
- 4.6.5 There was a north-south orientated range along the west boundary of the Site (**Plate 17**), which may be sitting on the footprint of, or incorporate elements of, the range on the 1771 map (**Figure 2**). This range appears to be made up of three blocks, with differing ridgelines, as seen in the 1920s aerial photograph (**Figure 4, Plate 18**). The northernmost block is abutted by a north range, also present on the 1771 map. It is shown on the 1888 map (**Figure 3**) and the 1920s aerial photograph, as returning south and then west to form a C-shape. By the 1956 OS map (**Figure 5**), these two returns had been reduced to a single storey small range along part of the east side of the Site.
- 4.6.6 The kitchen was located within the west range along the west boundary of the Site, which was not entered due to the demolition in progress. From the 1982 plans, the back to back fireplaces were located in the middle of the room and a chimney which was just present in

the 1920s aerial photograph and covered with ivy in the west elevation (**Figure 4**) was seen in the present day prior to demolition (**Plate 17**). The kitchen sat in the position of the original west range, but its east wall was either replaced, or re-faced with brown brickwork laid in stretcher bond, with soldier courses as lintels and sills. This brickwork continues within the inward-looking walls of the north and east ranges.

- 4.6.7 The north range was largely empty, save for the remains of a wooden plank-boarded partition in the north-west corner (**Plate 19**), noted as a bar service area for the function room on the 1982 plan (**Figure 6**). The plan labels the north splayed window in the east wall as having louvers and a grille and this was just seen in the west end of the north range. The windows were set high in the wall, at least 1.5-2m above the internal floor level (**Plate 20**), which must indicate that the floor was lowered since the original construction, or that there was a basement floor which was amalgamated with the ground floor.
- 4.6.8 The range situated on the east boundary of the Site contained a skittle alley along the east side, formed of floorboards providing a slippery surface (**Plate 21**). A wooden plank-boarded ledge ran along the east wall from floor to approximately 1m height. The 1982 plans show that a wall had been removed, which would have been the south wall of the original east-west range as shown on the 1771 map (**Figure 3**). The west end stub of the wall was retained for supporting the join to the later east range added after 1771.
- 4.6.9 The east range may be a rebuild of the range shown on the 1888 map (**Figure 3**). The east elevation by the River Frome shows stone courses of the original build present at the base of the north-east corner of the north range, (**Plate 22**). To the south of this, the lower roof of the added range is just seen (see **Plate 18**).

#### 4.7 The West Boundary Wall

- 4.7.1 The west boundary wall was examined from the west side, prior to the demolition of the hotel buildings. Photographs were taken, which were rectified using survey data (see Methodology in Section 2.4 above), and an elevation of stitched together photographs was formed (**Figure 7**). This elevation consisted of the following, from north to south:
- 4.7.2 At the north end of the wall, two windows were present, with wooden lintels. They correspond with two windows shown on the 1982 plan as two splayed windows within the stone-built wall. They were within the Function Room as it was labelled, in the north-west corner of the north-south range where it returns to the east. As the windows were splayed, it is possible that they were original to this range, dating from between Speed's map of 1610 and the 1771 map. Their high position is not reflected in the exterior elevation, suggesting that since the construction of the range, its floor level has been lowered.
- 4.7.3 To the south of the windows was a stone-blocked doorway, which is not shown on the 1982 plan. It would have led into either this range or into the County Jail on the west side and may pre-date this range. The use of the stonework rather than brickwork may suggest an earlier phase.
- 4.7.4 South of this was another substantial interruption in the wall, which may have been a blocked doorway into a section of the west range between the Function Room to the north and the Kitchen to the south. Beamslots in this wall may indicate that a floor was present. On the 1888 map, there is a range to the west, outside of the Site, which may have had two floors.



- 4.7.5 South of this is a roof scar within some render overlying the stone-built wall, above which brickwork continues. This indicates a lean-to within the neighbouring plot built up against the stone wall, and the brickwork at first floor level within the Site, that continues along this length of the boundary.
- 4.7.6 There is a straight joint of brick, from the ground level to the top of the wall, in the approximate position of the chimney of the Kitchen, as labelled on the 1982 plans. The kitchen contained back to back fireplaces for cooking on, which would have been normal for the 18<sup>th</sup> century or earlier. The deposits seen in Trench 4 are consistent with the presence of the chimney.
- 4.7.7 The position of the chimney equates with the change in roof height, between the two sections of the west range, as seen in **Plate 17** (where the chimney is seen as covered in ivy). This might mean that the kitchen was a later insertion and would also explain the straight joint at the south end, between the brickwork and the stonework to the south (see Figure 7). There are two round-headed areas of render set into a string course of rendered brick and below which are two doorways blocked up with rubble stones. It is possible that these two doorways are remnants of a Jail building, with fanlights above, and that the brickwork of the kitchen range was constructed after this part of the Jail went out of use, prior to 1771.
- 4.7.8 The stonework of the narrow section between the south corner of the Kitchen and the flue of the chimney to the south, has coursed, shaped blocks. It has corner blocks that return to the east, indicating that it forms the west face of a building set within the Site boundary. Whether this is the north-west corner of the three storey building, it is not certain. The rendering hides whether this stonework was part of the stonework beside the blocked doorway to the north. Modern concrete blocks fill the flue up to the first floor fireplace level and separate this stonework from that to the south, formed of uncoursed rubble stones. The difference in stonework indicates a different period of build.
- 4.7.9 At first floor level, the coursed stonework stops and steps in to the east, continuing as rubble stonework and also in brickwork that rises up to a scar of a pitched roof in the render and a flat modern roof above. The stepping in of the wall indicates that the brickwork was built up against the east face of the stone wall and the rubble stones may be the rubble core of the stone wall itself.
- 4.7.10 The chimney appears to have a flue on the west face and the first floor fireplace indicates that it served a room outside and to the west of the Site. The outshut present in the 1920s aerial photograph could have been served by this chimney and incorporated the west gable wall of the three storey building, which is why it could not be demolished or re-used during the 1926 rebuilding works of the Hotel.

#### 4.8 Phasing of the Site buildings

- 4.8.1 As a result of the historic mapping, the archaeological intervention works and the building recording, the following rough phases have been assigned to the Site:
- **Phase 1 up to 1610:** A building is shown in the location of the Site on the c.1400 reconstruction map of Dorchester, which may be related to the County Jail. No buildings were shown on the Site on the 1610 map and the Site was close to what appears to be a bank along the riverbank, which are labelled on the west side of the map as “The ruins of the ould wall”, therefore forming land just inside the town walls. Buildings are shown on the street frontage, together with what could be an eastern town gate.



- **Phase 2 1610-1771:** The 1771 map shows a long building on the street frontage, which could have been present in 1610. The County Jail is labelled as existing to the west. The round-headed fanlights and doorways could relate to a Jail building that existed post-1610 and was blocked up when the kitchen range of the Hotel was constructed. The coursed stones may have formed the north-west corner of the three storey house, constructed prior to the addition of the kitchen range. There may have been a stone-built range on the west boundary, with beamslots of a first floor providing two storeys with low ceilings, that may have been a Jail building. A rubblestone blocked doorway may have led out of this building. To the north of this, there was a stone-built range on the Site by 1771 that had two splayed windows. When the kitchen range was constructed, the fireplaces were built, resulting in the ash and sooty deposit seen in Trench 4.
- **Phase 3 1771-1888:** The 1888 map shows the Hotel with the street front range removed and a covered cart entrance range to the east by the river. The terraced houses to the west had replaced the Jail buildings by 1795. The house neighbouring the Site had a long outshut to the rear, which utilised the chimney of the three storey house that formed part of the Hotel front range. A second building to the north of the outshut abutted the west range of the Hotel. The first floor of brickwork might have been added above the stone walling of the west range by this time, and may have continued to ground level on the east side, lining the stone wall. This phase of brickwork and continuing to the 1920s could have included the footings seen in Area 1. The 1890 photograph shows that a low single-storey range had been added to form the front room or foyer of the Hotel, with the White Hart statue above the doorway. The ground level within the Site appears to have been lowered, which may have occurred in this phase, with the construction of the infill ranges. The splayed windows of the north range were close to the ceiling of the altered north range as a result.
- **Phase 4 1888-1920s:** The 1920s aerial photograph was taken prior to the rebuilding after the 1926 fire. It shows the two front ranges in existence and the large C-shaped range on the east of the Site and the close proximity of the ranges.
- **Phase 5 1926-1956:** Following the fire, the C-shaped range was reduced to the north range, with a more modest east range and space between it at the new Hotel building. The Hotel front range had a single-storey foyer reflecting that of the C19<sup>th</sup>-century one, with a grander doorcase and either the original or a new statue on top. A stub of wall was left to the south, possibly as this formed part of the outshut of the neighbouring house to the west. The walls of the ranges facing into the Hotel courtyard were rebuilt using brown bricks.
- **Phase 6 1957-1982:** Plans from 1982 attest to the existence of the splayed windows of the west range, together with the removal of a south wall of the north range to join the east range and the formation of a skittle alley, although the alley may have been constructed from 1926.
- **Phase 7 1956-1988:** The neighbouring house was cleared and the stub of the gable wall was retained.
- **Phase 8 1988-2013:** The Hotel closed in 2006 and demolition started in 2013.



## 5 CONCLUSIONS

### 5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 In summary, the west boundary wall that was recorded by rectified photography contained elements of stonework that may relate to buildings associated with the County Jail, these might have predated the kitchen range and possibly the three storey house. Although the RCHME notes that the Jail was constructed in 1784 to the designs of Blackburn, it is not impossible that jail buildings existed here previously.
- 5.1.2 The 1771 map shows that a range or group of ranges ran along the west boundary of the Site, back to back with the County Jail buildings. The north boundary range of the Hotel may have existed on the Site some time before 1771, due to its splayed windows and the two parallel ranges of the Hotel itself may also be 1750s or earlier.
- 5.1.3 The majority of the red brickwork on the west boundary is likely to date from the mid-late 19<sup>th</sup> century, with the addition of first floors and internal walls. The lowering of the ground level within the Site may also have occurred during this period.
- 5.1.4 The post-1926 rebuild employed as much of the existing buildings as possible, thereby largely retaining their plan-forms. It did result in the rebuilding of the front two parallel ranges into one range and also the use of brown bricks throughout this new build and also on the walls facing into the courtyard, thereby masking the earlier origins of the ranges.

## 6 STORAGE AND CURATION

### 6.1 Museum

- 6.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Dorset County Museum. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **102340**. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

### 6.2 Archive

- 6.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Dorset County Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 6.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the code **102340**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

- *01 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts & ecofacts, ordered by material type*
- *01 files/document cases of paper records & A3/A4 graphics*

### 6.3 Discard policy

- 6.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.



6.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002).

## 6.4 Copyright

6.4.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The Museum, 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*.

## 6.5 Security Copy

6.5.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

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## 8 APPENDICES

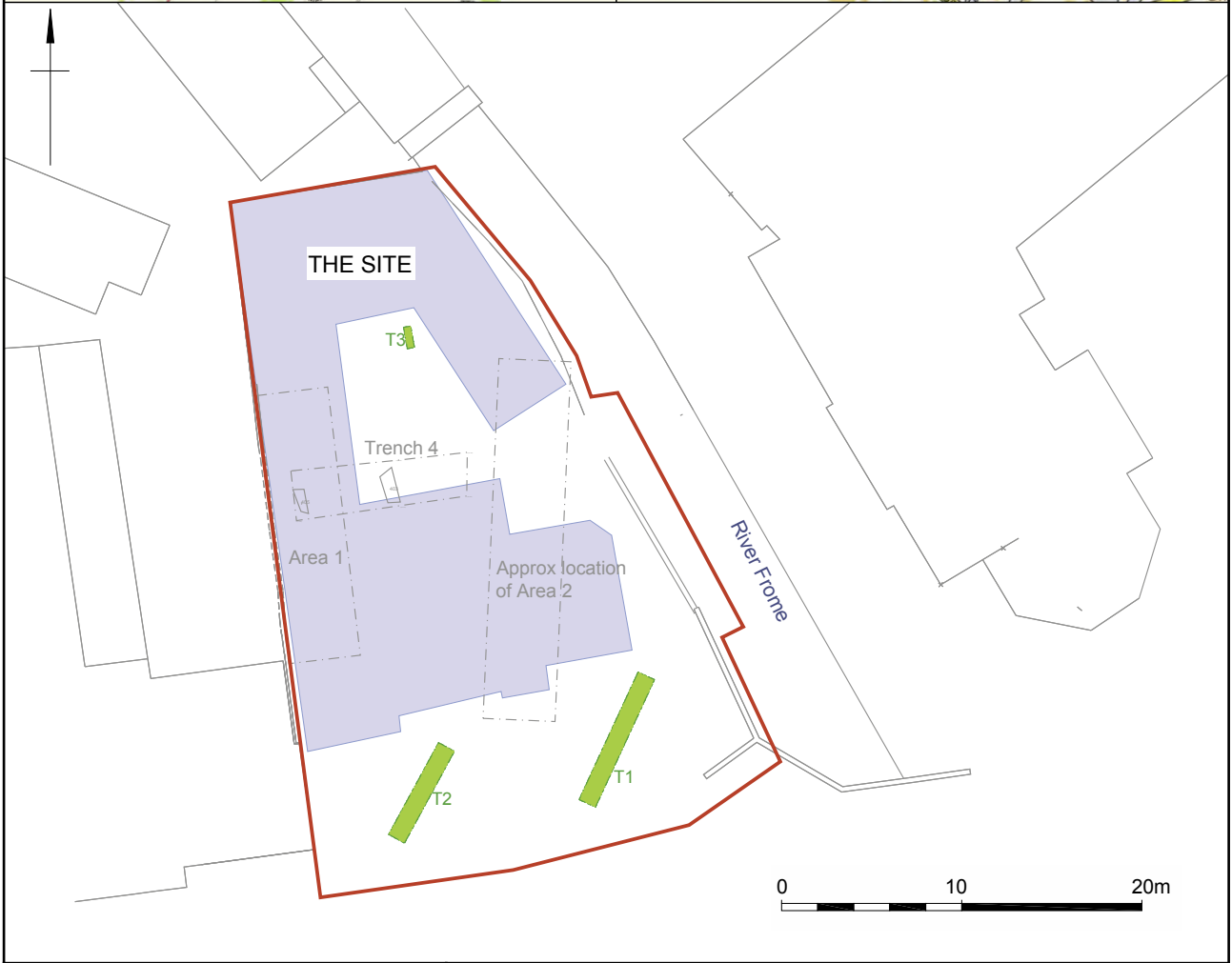
### 8.1 Appendix 1: Trench 4 details

Trench 4	Dimensions: 10m x 2m x 0.55m		
	Land use:		
	Coordinates:		
Context	Category	Description	Depth\ Thickness
401	Layer	Overburden- Mid grey black silty clay with stone inclusions < 70mm, sub angular, poorly sorted,	0-0.45m





		moderate density. Ceramic Building Material < 100mm sub angular, poorly sorted moderate density with chalk flecking.	
402	Layer	Natural- Mid white chalk	0.45m+
403	Cut	Cut of modern disturbance filled with 404	0.3m
404	Fill	Deliberate backfill, modern in origin, Grey mixed silty gravel clay with frequent brick and tarmac fragments throughout.	0.3m
405	Cut	Cut for wall footings	0.35m
406	Wall	Footings for wall of former 1920's pib onsite. The footings are stepped out at 0.3m and 0.35m thick. Limestone mortar that obscures the coursing.	0.35m



	<p>1771 building from the map of 'Dorchester' extracted from The History and Antiquities of the County of Dorset by John Hutchins</p> <p>Digital site data supplied by Client</p> <p>Contains Ordnance Survey open data © Crown Copyright and database right 2014</p> <p>This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction</p>			
	Date:	17/11/2014	Revision Number:	01
	Scale:	1:25000, 1:10000 & 1:400	Illustrator:	SEJ/KMN/RT
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Site location showing mitigation interventions

Figure 1



1610 map of Dorchester by John Speed with approximate location of site



1771 map of Dorchester for Mayor Kingston with western boundary highlighted

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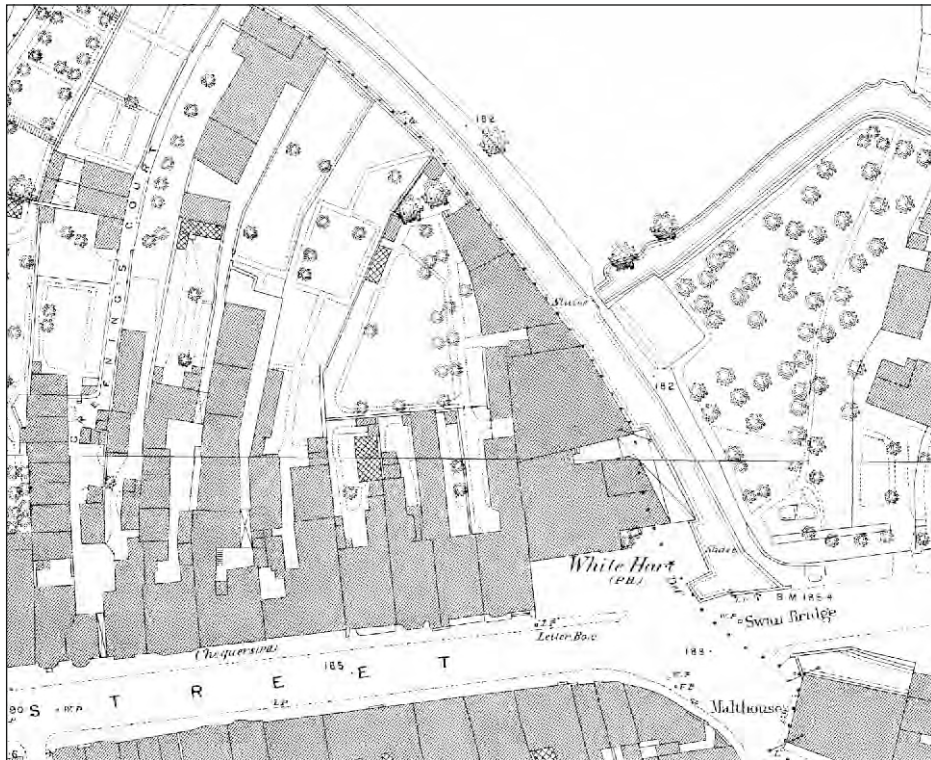
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1888 Ordnance Survey Town Plan of Dorchester at 1:500 scale



Chimney that served this building and the outshot of the neighbouring house

1890 photograph of the front elevation of the White Hart

Reproduced from the 1888 Ordnance Survey map © Crown copyright.

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Chimney of three-storey house shared with neighbouring outshut

Original front range of hotel, with second range behind

Covered cart entrance range on 1888 map



Outshut of terraced house

Kitchen chimney

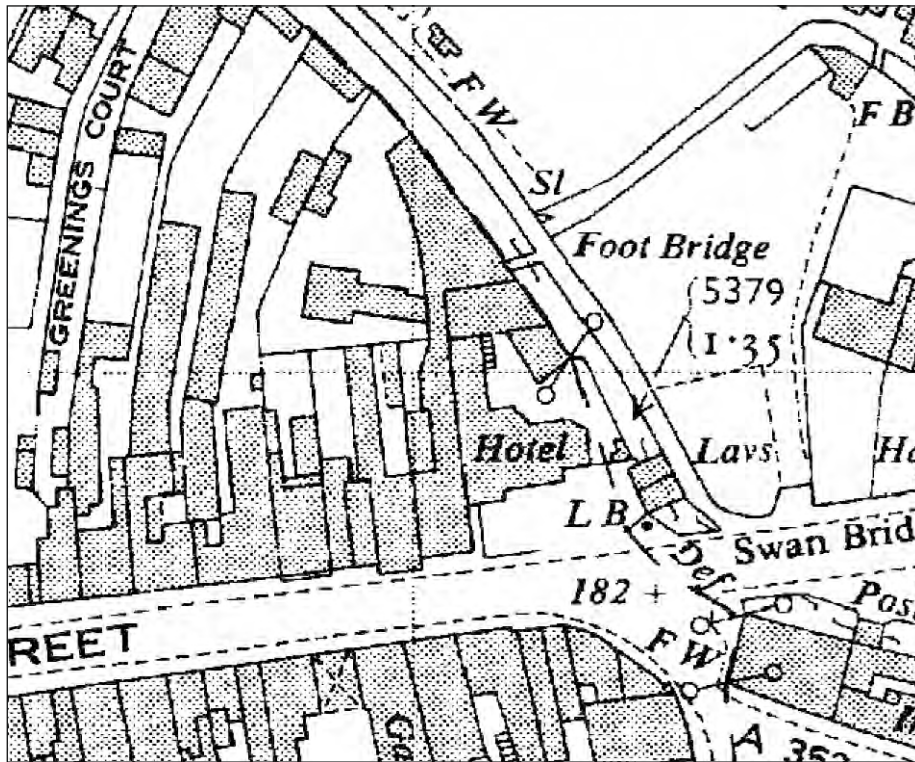
Location of north range on 1771 map

Infill ranges on 1888 map

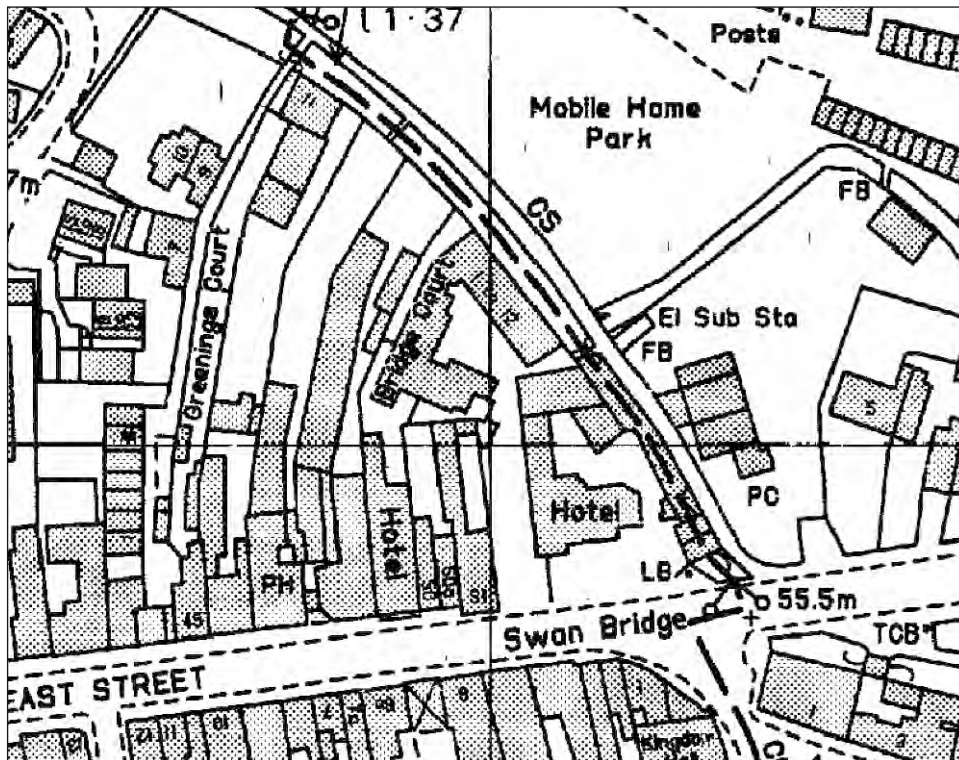


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1956 Ordnance Survey map at 1:2500 scale



1988 Ordnance Survey map at 1:2500 scale

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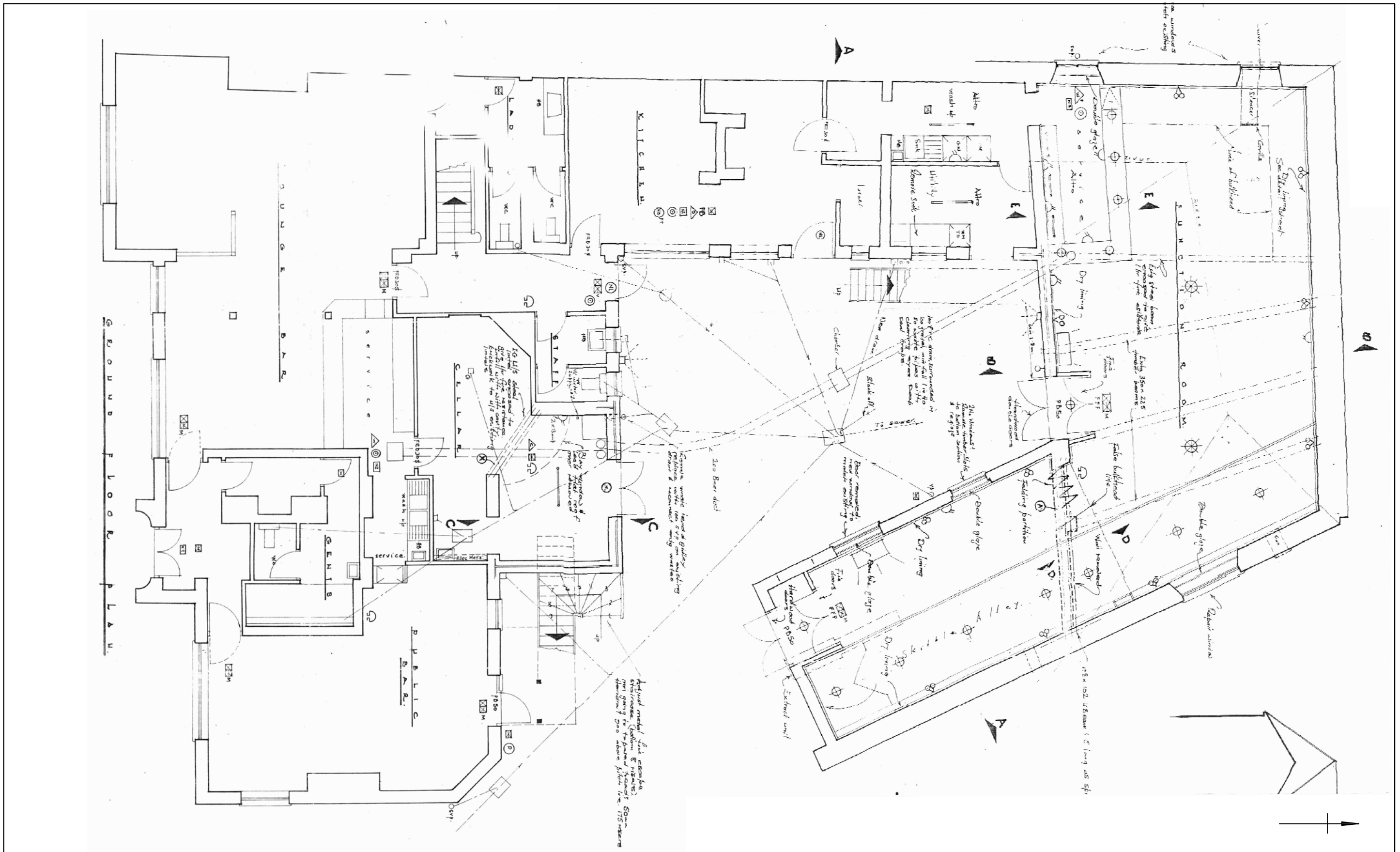
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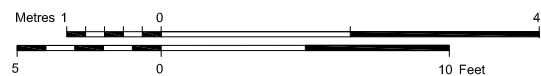
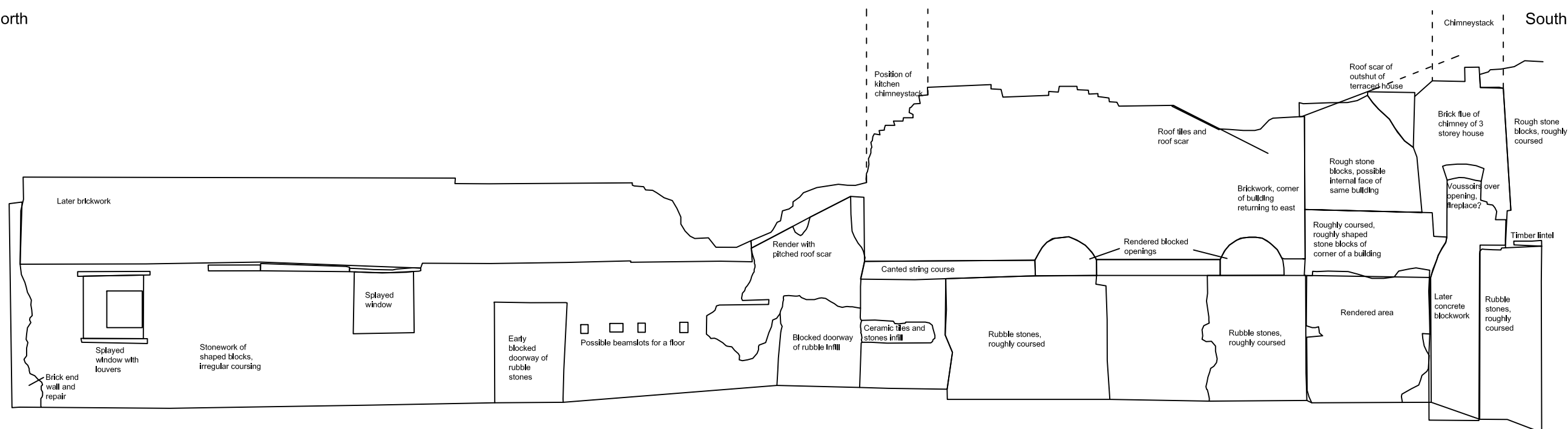
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North

South



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Scale:	1:80 at A3	Illustrator:	RT
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West Face of West Boundary of Site

Figure 7





Plate 1: Brick footings by west boundary wall, looking south



Plate 2: Part of kitchen wall and two partition wall stubs, built up against western stone boundary wall, looking west


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Plate 3: Area 1 against west boundary, looking north-west



Plate 4: North end of west range with stone wall, looking south-west


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Plate 5: West end of Trench 4, looking west



Plate 6: Modern drainage feature in Trench 4, looking east


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Plate 7: The White Hart, looking north-west



Plate 8: Stub of west gable wall, looking north


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Plate 9: West boundary wall, looking south-east



Plate 10: White Hart statue, looking north


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Plate 11: South-east corner of Hotel, looking north-west



Plate 12: Rear elevation of front range, looking south


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Plate 13: Lounge Bar, looking north-west



Plate 14: Gentlemen's Bar, looking north-east


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Plate 15: First floor corridor, looking east



Plate 16: Front bedroom, looking south-east


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Plate 17: West range of Hotel, looking west



Plate 18: West, north and east ranges, looking north-west


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Plate 19: North end of west range, looking west



Plate 20: Louvered window and bar area of west range, looking west



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Plate 21: East range, looking north



Plate 22: North-east corner of north range, looking south-west

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