

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**S E R V I C E S**

**Rear of 19-21 Market Place,  
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire**

**Building Recording**

**by Sean Wallis**

**Site Code 19MSH11/41**

**(SU 76006 82592)**

**Rear of 19–21 Market Place,  
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire**

**Historic Building Recording**

**For Lovibonds Brewery Ltd**

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological

Services Ltd

Site Code 19MSH11/41

**June 2011**

## Summary

**Site name:** Rear of 19–21 Market Place, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire

**Grid reference:** SU 76006 82592

**Site activity:** Building Recording

**Date and duration of project:** May 2011

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Project supervisor :** Sean Wallis

**Site code:** 19MSH 11/41

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Oxfordshire HER in due course.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 10.06.11
	Steve Preston ✓ 31.05.11

# Rear of 19–21 Market Place, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire Building Recording

by Sean Wallis

Report 11/41

## Introduction

This report documents the results of building recording undertaken to the rear of 19-21 Market Place, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire (SU 76006 82592) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Jeff Rosenmeier of Lovibonds Brewery Ltd, 19–21 Market Place, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, RG9 2AA.

Planning consent (P10/E1828/LB) has been gained from South Oxfordshire District Council for the refurbishment of the existing Listed Building to the rear of 19–21 Market Place. The planning consent is subject to condition requiring building recording prior to alterations affecting the building. This is in accordance with and guided by the Department for Communities and Local Government's Planning Policy Statement, *Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5 2010) and the District Council's policies on the historic environment. The fieldwork was undertaken by Sean Wallis on 5th May 2011, and the site code is 19MSH11/41.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Oxfordshire HER, and a copy sent to the National Monuments Record, in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is centred on SU 76006 82592, and is located to the rear of 19–21 Market Place, Henley-on-Thames, within the town centre. It consists of a number of interconnected buildings, which are currently occupied by the Lovibonds Brewery. The ground floor of the buildings is used for various processes connected with the brewing of beer, and includes a tasting area. The upper floor is currently used as an office. There are garden and car parking areas to the south of the buildings, and the site is bounded to the south by a municipal car park. The site lies at a height of approximately 35m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey, the underlying geology consists of younger Coombe deposits (BGS 1980).

## Methodology

The project was carried out in accordance with guidelines set out by the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments (England) for a photographic survey (RCHME 1996; English Heritage 2006). Although some

photographs of the entire complex were taken, the survey was most concerned with an area of flooring within one of the rooms. The objectives of the project were :

To record the inside of the building to show historic features including the floors.

To produce a detailed plan showing the location of all photographs taken

To produce a brief report on the building.

The survey comprised a comprehensive photographic survey. The building has been recorded photographically on 35mm format using colour print, and black and white media, along with digital photographs, all of which are catalogued (Appendix 1). Figures 3 and 4 show the locations and directions of view of the photographs taken.

## **Description**

### *External*

The brewery operates within the southern part of a long rectangular building, and within a large extension built to the west of this structure (Fig. 2). Both buildings are constructed from red bricks, although the upper part of the extension is timber framed and covered with weatherboards (Pl. 1). A number of historical features were noted on the main building, including blocked doors and windows, but not recorded in detail as part of this project. The extension building had also clearly been altered in the past, with the most obvious changes being visible in the south-facing elevation, where several phases of rebuilding were evident. One of the most striking was the blocking up of an earlier entrance, through which railway tracks had originally run. A section of the surviving rails was visible to the south of the extension. However, once again, these parts of the building were not recorded in detail.

### *Interior*

Only the southern part of the main building is occupied by the brewery. The ground floor is currently used for bottling, and a staircase leads to the first floor which acts as an office. These areas were not recorded in detail during the survey.

The extension building is rectangular in plan, and the timber roof structure is clearly visible. The walls are constructed from red bricks, although the roof space is timber framed, and covered with external weatherboards. A window and door in the timber framing in the north-east corner of the building suggests that the extension once had a partial first floor, which was presumably supported on the wooden beams still visible along the eastern part of the extension. However, the building was not recorded in detail as part of this project.

## *Floors*

The project was primarily concerned with the floor in the north-west part of the extension building. It is currently proposed to cover this surface with wooden flooring, thus preserving the original floor beneath. However, due to the uneven nature of the original surface, it is possible that it may be replaced in the future by a more permanent concrete floor.

Much of the extension building already has wooden flooring, suspended above the earlier floor surface. The only place where the earlier surface is still visible is in the north-west corner of the building, where a separate room has been created between the existing external walls, a central brick wall and a modern partition to the south. This surface is very uneven in places and is composed of several different materials, indicating that it has been well used, and that it has been necessary to repair or replace parts of the floor in the past (Pl. 2). The earliest elements of the floor consist of red bricks laid flat. No apparent pattern is discernible, and the upper surfaces of most of the bricks are badly worn. The bricks are unfrosted and measure 210mm by 110mm, although it was not possible to record their thickness. Due to the lack of any visible characteristic features, it is difficult to date the bricks accurately, although they are likely to be from the late 18th or early 19th century. There were no traces on mortar on the upper surface of the bricks to indicate that they had been reused, although it is possible that any such traces would have worn off over the years. These bricks only survived in the central part of the room, and were in noticeably better condition towards the western wall, presumably because this area had previously been used for storage. There were further red bricks in the south-west corner of the room, although these had been badly affected by a much later concrete surface.

Much of the southern part of the room was covered with dark bluish grey stable bricks, which had a diamond pattern on their upper faces. These measured 253mm x 125mm x 50mm, which equates to 10" x 5" x 2" in imperial measurements. These bricks were produced from the Victorian period onwards, and were specifically manufactured to cover floor surfaces. The grooves within the diamond pattern were designed to expel water easily, and as a result they were frequently used outside, and within farmyards and stables, hence their name. As well as covering much of the southern half of the room, they also appeared along part of the eastern edge. A drainage channel, constructed from purpose-made tiles, crossed the centre of the room, although this feature was badly damaged in places (Pl. 3). It is interesting to note that the old red bricks appeared to the north of this channel, with stable bricks to the south (Pl. 4).

The surface in the northern part of the room has been replaced by a concrete floor, and there is more concrete in the south-west corner of the room, with isolated patches elsewhere probably reflecting areas where the original surface had to be repaired.

## **Conclusion**

The survey carried out in May 2011 successfully recorded the surviving floor in the north-west corner of the extension building. Although at least three phases could be identified, interpretation of how and why the floor looks as it does now is difficult, due to the amount of damage caused through former use.

## **References**

BGS, 1980, British Geological Survey, Sheet 254, Solid and Drift Edition, 1:50000, Keyworth  
EH, 2006, *Understanding Historic Buildings*, English Heritage, London  
PPS5 2010, *Planning for the Historic Environment*, Planning Policy Statement 5, TSO, London  
RCHME, 1996 *Recording Historic Buildings, A Descriptive Specification* Third Edition

## APPENDIX 1: Photographic Catalogue

### A. Digital

<i>No.</i>	<i>Description</i>
1	Interior, view of floor, looking NW
2	Interior, view of floor, looking N
3	Interior, view of floor, looking S [PI. 1]
4	Interior, general view of room in NW corner of extension, looking N
5	Interior, general view of room in NW corner of extension, looking SW [PI. 4]
6	Interior, view of floor, looking S
7	Interior, view of floor, looking S
8	Interior, view of floor, looking S
9	Interior, general view of room in NW corner of extension, looking S
10	Interior, view of floor in SW corner of room, looking SW
11	Interior, general view, looking NE
12	Interior, view of floor and drain, looking E [PI. 3]
13	Interior, view of floor, looking N
14	Exterior, general view, looking N [PI. 2]
15	Exterior, view of main building, looking NE
16	Exterior, view of blocked door into main building, looking E
17	Exterior, view of extension and main building, looking NE
18	Exterior, general view of buildings and railway tracks, looking NE
19	Interior, general view, looking N
20	Interior, view of timber framing, looking NE
21	Interior, view of upstairs room, looking S
22	Interior, view of extension, looking N

### B. Colour Prints

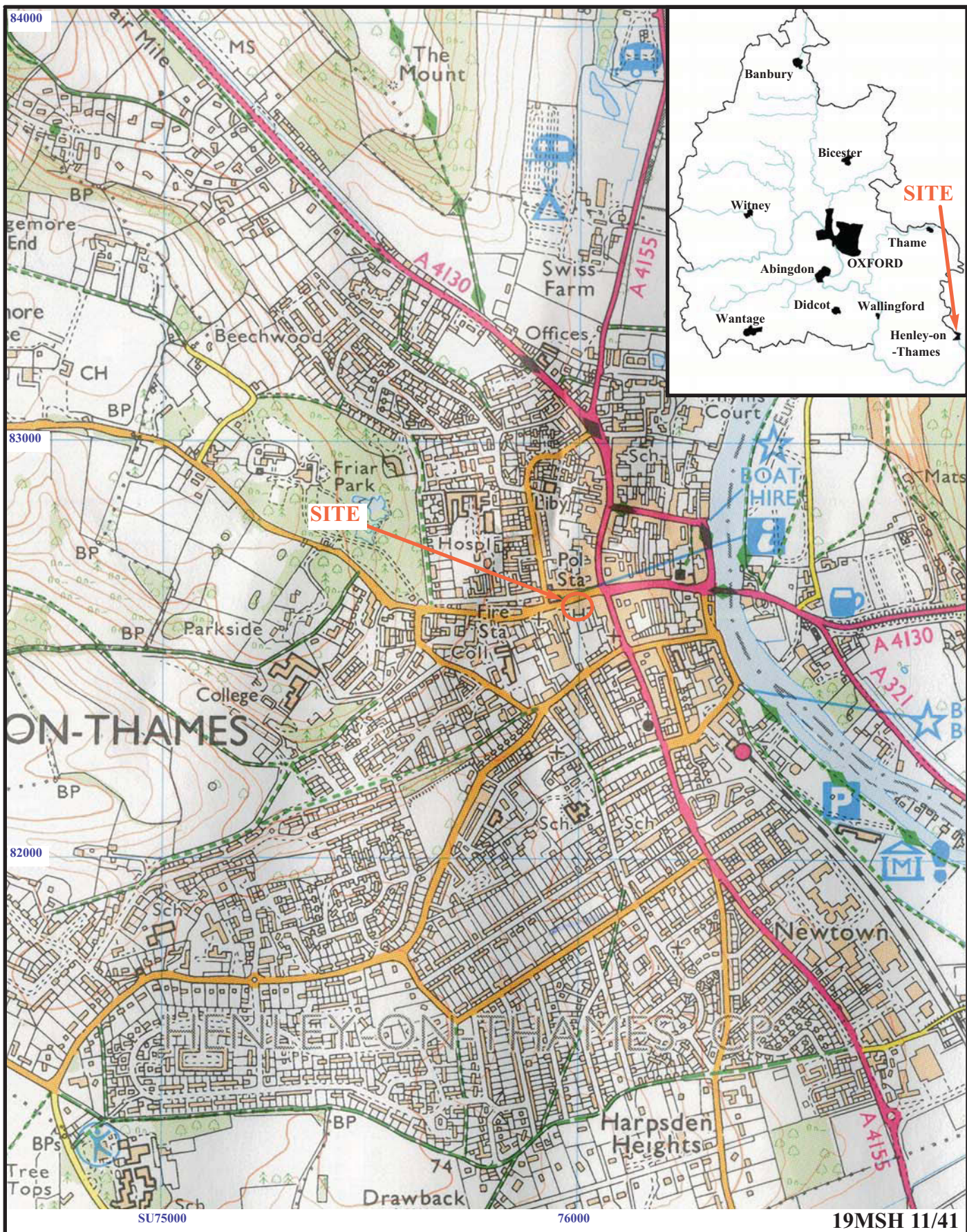
<i>No.</i>	<i>Description</i>
1	Interior, view of floor, looking NW
2	Interior, view of floor, looking N
3	Interior, view of floor, looking S
4	Interior, general view of room in NW corner of extension, looking N
5	Interior, general view of room in NW corner of extension, looking SW
6	Interior, view of floor, looking S
7	Interior, view of floor, looking S
8	Interior, view of floor, looking S
9	Interior, general view of room in NW corner of extension, looking S
10	Interior, view of floor in SW corner of room, looking SW
11	Interior, general view, looking NE
12	Interior, view of floor and drain, looking E
13	Interior, view of floor, looking N
14	Exterior, general view, looking N
15	Exterior, view of main building, looking NE
16	Exterior, view of blocked door into main building, looking E
17	Exterior, view of extension and main building, looking NE
18	Exterior, general view of buildings and railway tracks, looking NE
19	Interior, general view, looking N
20	Interior, view of timber framing, looking NE
21	Interior, view of upstairs room, looking S
22	Interior, view of extension, looking N

### C. Monochrome Images

<i>No.</i>	<i>Contact sheet ref.</i>	<i>Description</i>
1	889/24	Interior, view of floor, looking NW
2	889/23	Interior, view of floor, looking N
3	889/22	Interior, view of floor, looking S
4	889/21	Interior, general view of room in NW corner of extension, looking N
5	889/20	Interior, general view of room in NW corner of extension, looking SW
6	889/19	Interior, view of floor, looking S
7	889/18	Interior, view of floor, looking S
8	889/17	Interior, view of floor, looking S
9	889/16	Interior, general view of room in NW corner of extension, looking S
10	889/15	Interior, view of floor in SW corner of room, looking SW
11	889/14	Interior, general view, looking NE
12	889/13	Interior, view of floor and drain, looking E



<i>No.</i>	<i>Contact sheet ref.</i>	<i>Description</i>
13	889/12	Interior, view of floor, looking N
14	889/11	Exterior, general view, looking N
15	889/10	Exterior, view of main building, looking NE
16	889/9	Exterior, view of blocked door into main building, looking E
17	889/8	Exterior, view of extension and main building, looking NE
18	889/7	Exterior, general view of buildings and railway tracks, looking NE
19	889/6	Interior, general view, looking N
20	889/5	Interior, view of upstairs room, looking S
21	889/4	Interior, view of extension, looking N
22	889/3	Interior, view of timber framing, looking NE



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Figure 1. Location of site within Henley and Oxfordshire.

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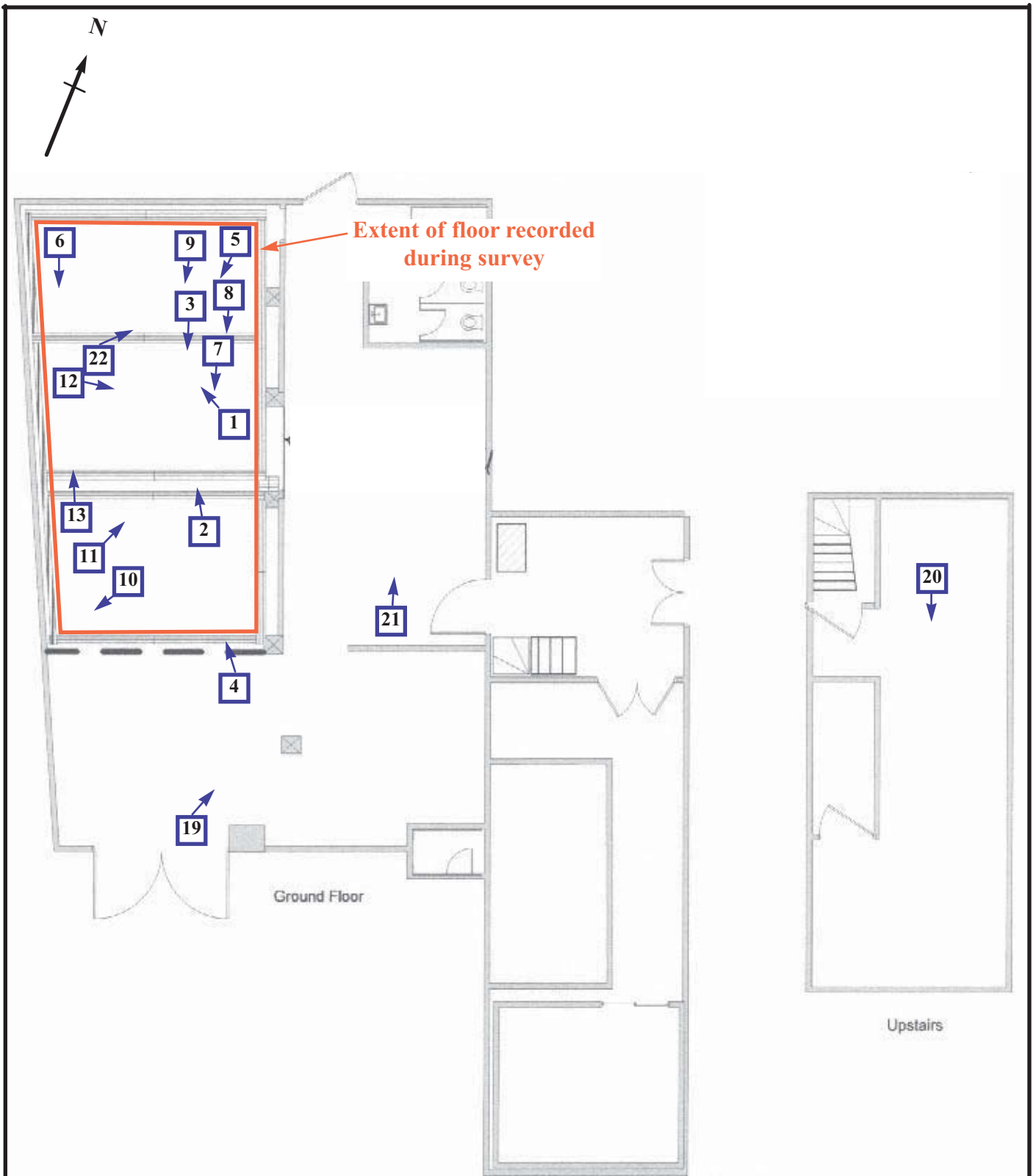


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Market Place.

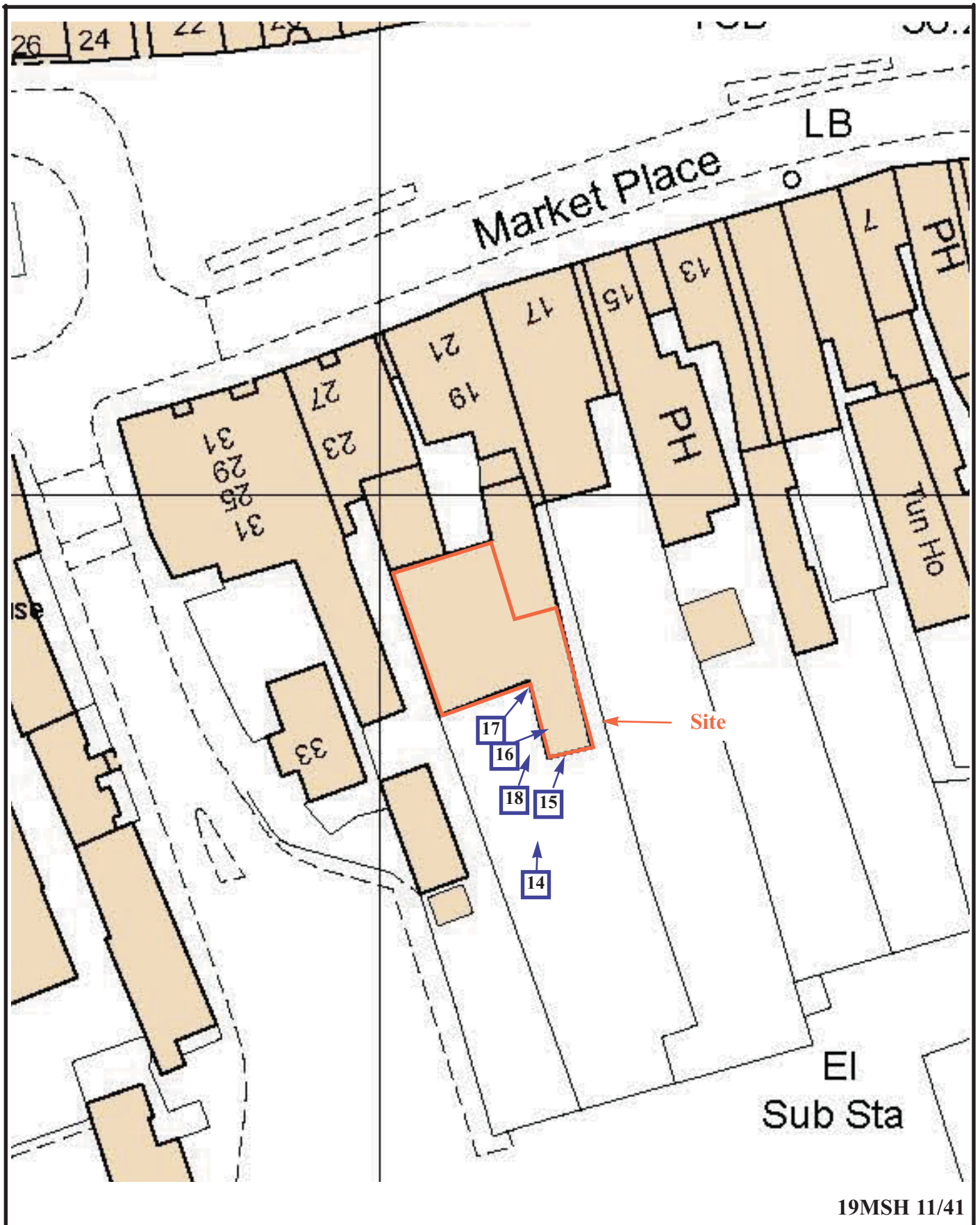
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Figure 3. Plan of building showing the location of interior photographs taken.



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Figure 4. Plan of building showing the location of exterior photographs taken.



Plate 1. Exterior, general view, looking north



Plate 2. Interior, view of floor, looking South; Scale: 2m

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Plates 1 and 2.

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Plate 3. Detail of drain, looking east



Plate 4. General view of room in NW corner of extension, looking SW; Scale: 2m

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Plates 3 and 4.

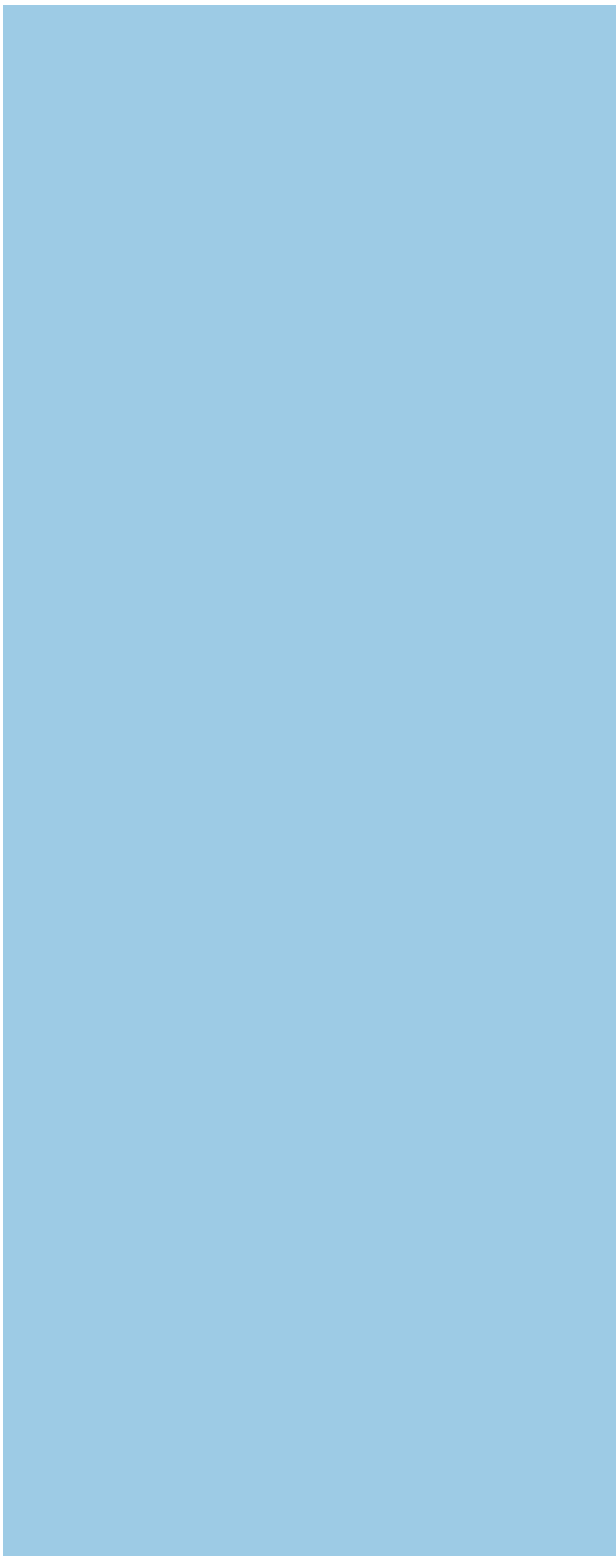
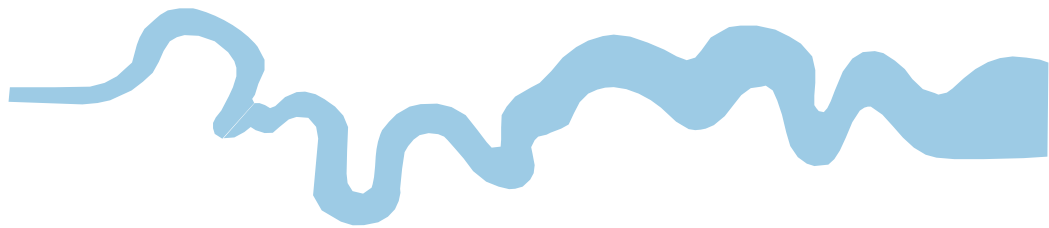
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## TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late -----	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle -----	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early -----	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late .....	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early .....	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late .....	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early .....	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper .....	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle .....	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower .....	2,000,000 BC







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