

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

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

**The Red House, London Street,  
Whitchurch, Hampshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Andrew Munding and Pierre Manisse**

**Site Code: RHW17/189**

**(SU 4636 4818)**

# **The Red House, London Street, Whitchurch, Hampshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Regional Inns (UK) Ltd**

by Andrew Mundin, and Pierre-Damian Manisse

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code RHW 17/189

**July 2020**

## Summary

**Site name:** The Red House, London Street, Whitchurch, Hampshire

**Grid reference:** SU 4636 4818

**Site activity:** Archaeological Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 26th June to 12th February 2019

**Project coordinator:** Tim Dawson

**Site supervisor:** Tim Dawson, Ann Huvig and Pierre Manisse

**Site code:** RHW 17/189

**Summary of results:** Observations were carried out to the rear of the Red House Inn, for construction of a new access to the rear of the property and enlargement of the car park. Most of the existing carpark was made ground comprising brick demolition debris, probably from buildings fronting London Street. The tiled floor and walls of one of the latter were exposed. The main groundworks comprised further terracing of the sloping ground to the rear (north) of the carpark and to the north-east where a new staircase was installed. No deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were encountered.

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

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

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	Steve Preston ✓ 28.7.20

# **The Red House, London Street, Whitchurch, Hampshire An Archaeological Watching Brief**

by Andrew MUNDIN and Pierre-Damian MANISSE

**Report 17/189**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out to the rear of The Red House Inn, 21 London Street, Whitchurch, Hampshire, RG28 7LH (SU 4636 4818) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr James Clancy of Bell Cornwell Planners, on behalf of Regional Inns (UK) Ltd.

Planning permission (15/01604/FUL) has been granted by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council for the development of the land to the rear of Grade II Listed property, for the creation of a new car park levelled into the existing rear (north) escarpment. The permission is subject to a condition (21) relating to archaeology that required the implementation of a programme of archaeological work during groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Neil Adam, Senior Archaeologist with Hampshire County Council, the archaeological adviser to the Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Dawson and Pierre-Damian Manisse between 26th June and 10th July 2018. The site code is RHW 17/189.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Hampshire Cultural Trust in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located in the centre of Whitchurch (Fig. 1) on the north side of London Street (Fig. 2), with The Red House, on the south-east side of the plot, and the existing car park at the front and to the west. A gradient to the gardens at the rear (north) is present, and a series of terraces exist at the bottom of the parking area leading to a barbequing area in the north and stores immediately to the rear of the property. London Street lies within the east part of the historic core of Whitchurch. The River Test lies to the south. The underlying geology is mapped as head deposits (coarse sands and gravel) overlying Upper Chalk natural geology (BGS 1975). The site lies at a height of *c.* 73m above Ordnance Datum.

## **Archaeological background**

Whitchurch is a small market town c.10km east of Andover, in north Hampshire. Established on a late Saxon estate, it was created by St Swithun's Priory, Winchester as one of several regional 'planned towns' in the mid 13th century (Deveson 1999). Though its market would have competed with Overton, 4km away, this was, in theory, an ideally placed settlement on the road north from Winchester to the Midlands (Deveson 1998). Its charter from 1241 allowed a market north-east of the church, and it later became a borough (VCH 1911; Beresford and Finberg 1973). It was however, not particularly successful, and failed to develop beyond the size of a large village until the 17th century, with the increase in cloth and/or wool production. Most of the Listed properties, particularly on London Street, that have late 16th/17th century elements, seem to have been renewed or extended due to this development.

A handful of Listed properties are nearby. No. 29 London Street (Grade II; 1092678) is a 17th-century brick fronted property. Nos 30 and 32 London Street (Grade II; 1092677) are timber-framed with a 17th- or 18th-century single-storey front. The Red House itself (Grade II; 1302382) is also a 17th-century timber-framed building extended in the 18th century to a second storey. This part of Whitchurch has 'High Archaeological Importance' due to the presence of Medieval burgage plots on the east side of the historic core, at the western end of London Street. It is thought that Mill Street, or *Mulestret* as London Street was recorded at the time of the Borough Charter, contained seventeen burgage plots, with the southern properties contained by the river to the south (HCC 2002, map B). The northern properties of London Street backed onto Newbury Street's properties in the west but were probably limited by the base of the valley escarpment (HCC 2002, Map E).

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by any groundworks. This would involve the archaeological monitoring of all areas of intrusive groundworks, in particular any overburden stripping and the digging of foundation trenches and service trenches.

## **Results**

The groundworks comprised three components: further terracing of the rear of the car park, construction of a new garden staircase and refurbishment of the original car park.

### *The new staircase*

The new stairs were to provide access to the terrace at the rear of site (Fig. 3; Pl. 3). The original steps leading to the stores behind the Red House had been removed and the ground was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.2m. The base was deeper than the previous car park height (Pl. 3). The stratigraphy revealed the geological sequence of head deposits overlying chalk and it was clear that the natural geology for the southern, lower part had been truncated to construct the previous terrace, and levelled with rubble. The higher part of the terrace appeared to reveal an *in-situ* sequence with topsoil and subsoil intact, but no archaeological deposits were revealed.

### *The extension to the rear of the car park.*

An area of c. 15m x 10m was excavated into the slope at the rear of the plot to extend the car park to create a gradual slope leading to the ground level of the existing car park (Fig. 3, Pl. 4). This again revealed topsoil and subsoil overlying head deposits and chalk natural geology but no archaeological deposits were encountered.

### *The existing car park*

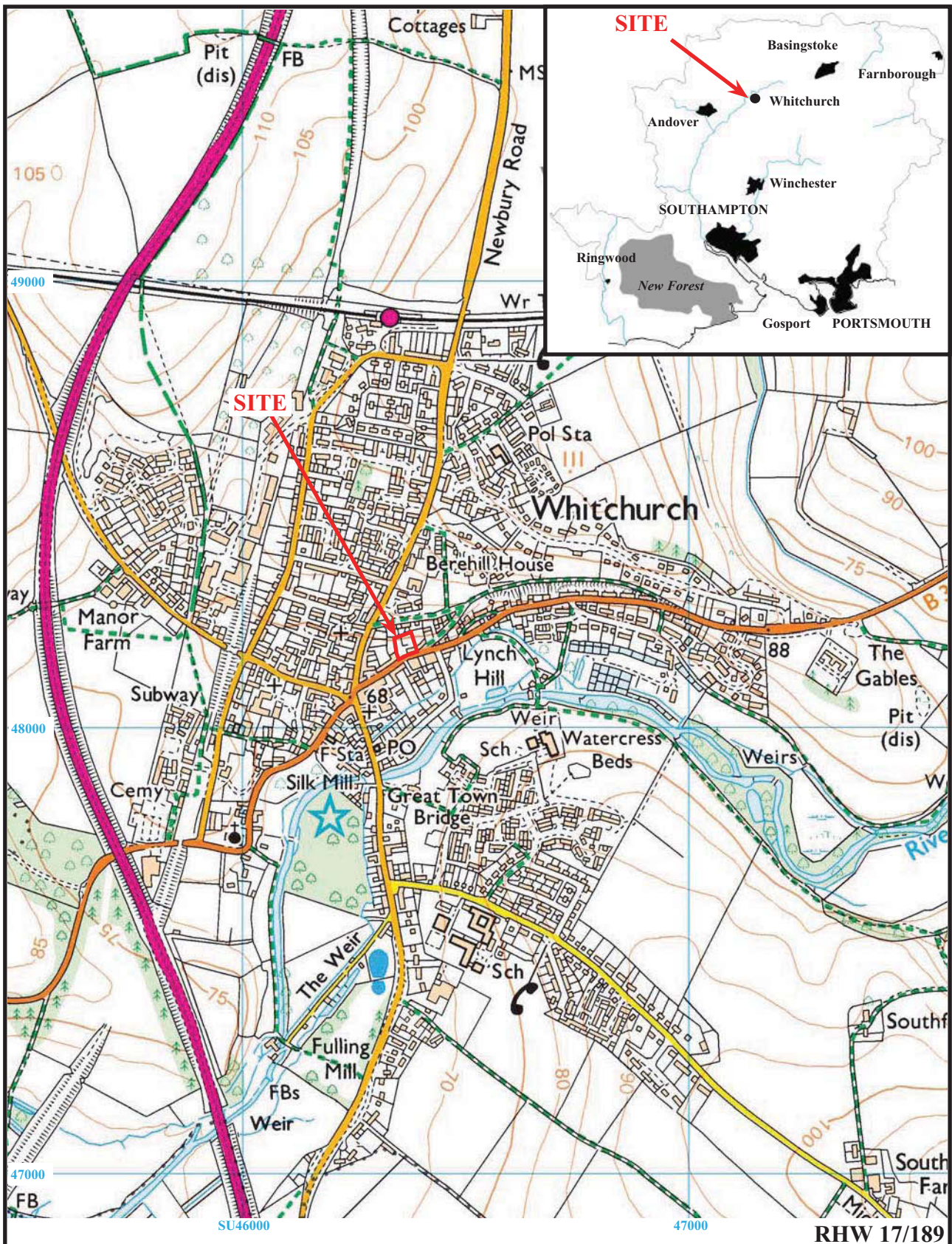
Approximately 6m west of The Red House, a machine dug trench 1m deep located the *in-situ* walls and floor of a brick-built structure (Pls 5 and 6). The machine trench otherwise revealed a considerable thickness (0.5m) of demolition debris overlying disturbed natural head geology, with the chalk not exposed. A single room of a building with walls surviving to a height of c. 1.2m was revealed, approximately 3.7m square. A doorway on the west wall was noted. The floor was tiled with three blocks of tile recorded. The main area was tiled with large tiles, 225mm square, with a block to the north with tiles 200x100mm and a third block of various sized tiles on the north side. A line of bricks flush with the tiles subdivided the areas. The upper parts of the walls were constructed of 'early modern' (19th century), unfrosted bricks with the best surviving wall being in a simple stretcher pattern. However, the lower parts of the wall on the west and south sides were constructed of brick and flint nodules. It is possible that the northern wall was for an extension. Despite the height of the surviving walls, no recesses for windows were noted, and it is possible that the structure was a basement.

## **Conclusion**

Observations were carried out during construction of the new car parking area for The Red House. No deposits of archaeological interest were revealed in the new terracing to the rear (north) of the site. However, the remains of a brick built structure were exposed close to the street frontage which might have been a basement. The lowest parts of the structure were built of both brick and flint which might indicate a construction date in the early 19th or 18th century, while what may be a second phase was probably later 19th century.

## References

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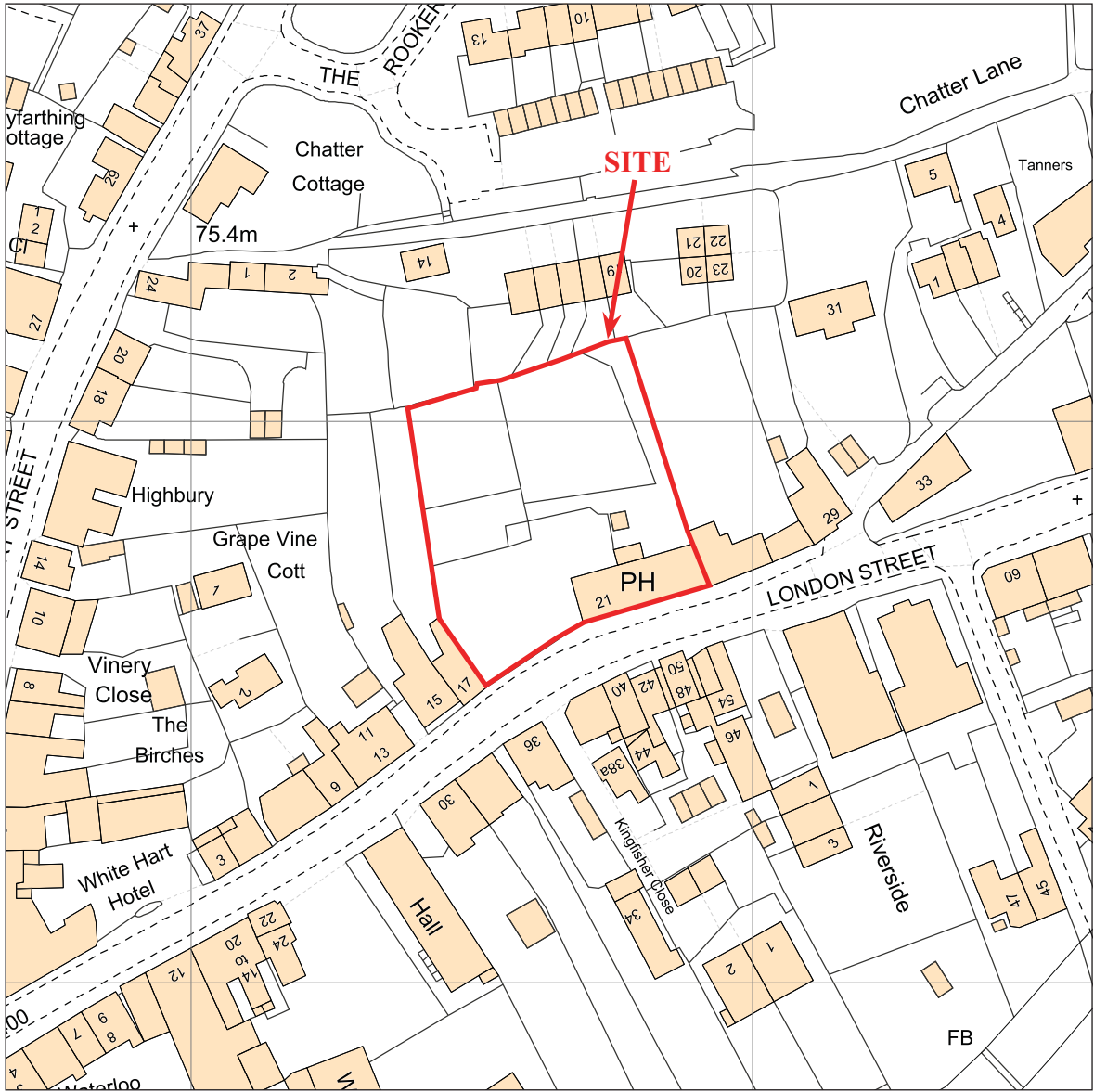
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Figure 1. Location of site within Whitchurch and Hampshire.

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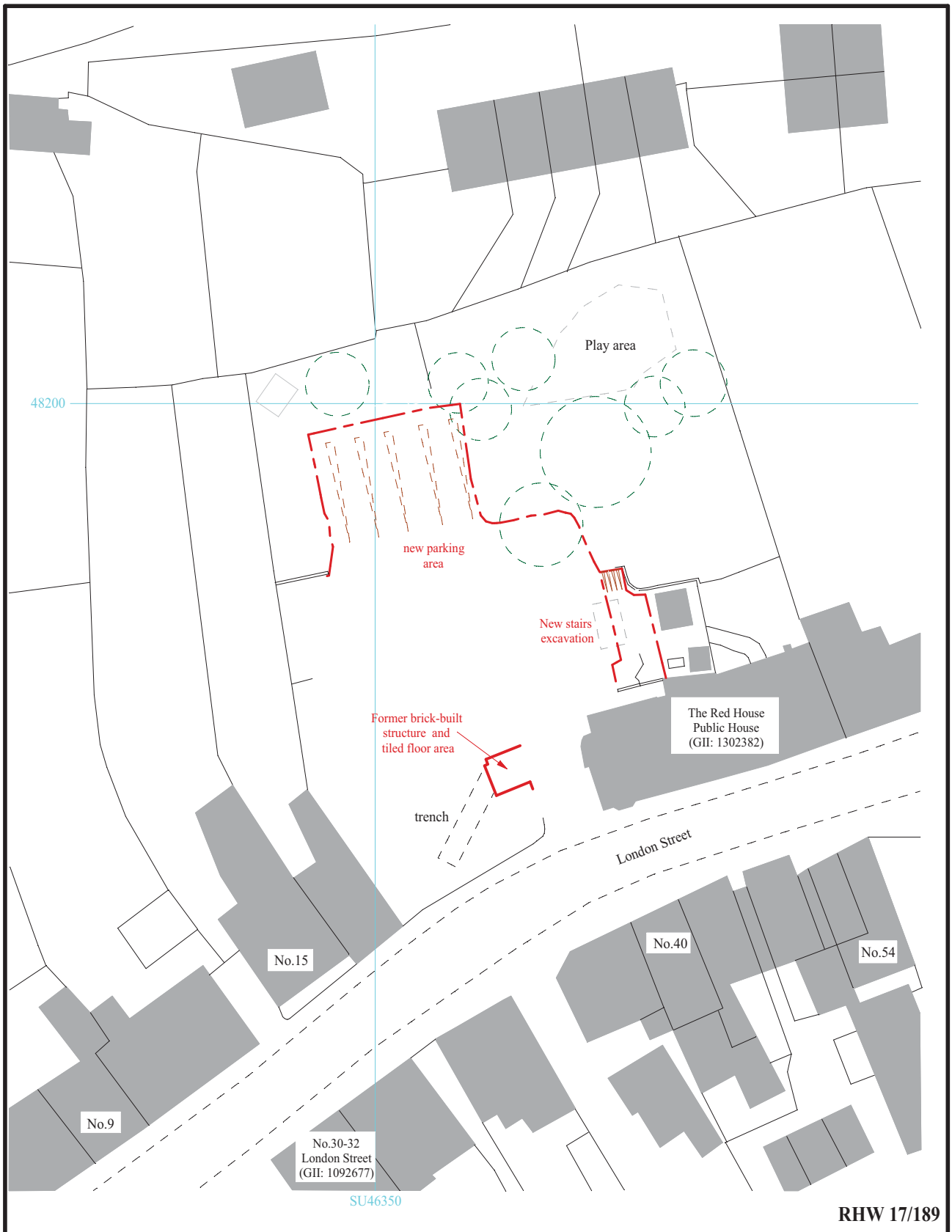
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off London Street.

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Figure 3. Location of observed areas.





Plate 1. View of site looking south, The Red House Inn is to the left.



Plate 2. View of former brick-built structure with tiled floor looking north west

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Plates 1 and 2.**

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Plate 3. Exposed section excavating the new stairs to north of site, looking north east, Scale: 1m.



Plate 4. Reduced ground to north of site for new parking, looking towards the rear of The Red House, looking south east.

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**The Red House, London Street,  
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Plates 3 and 4.

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Plate 5. Trench dug through existing car park looking south west, Scales: 1m.



Plate 6. Detail of brick-built structure looking south west, Scales: 1m

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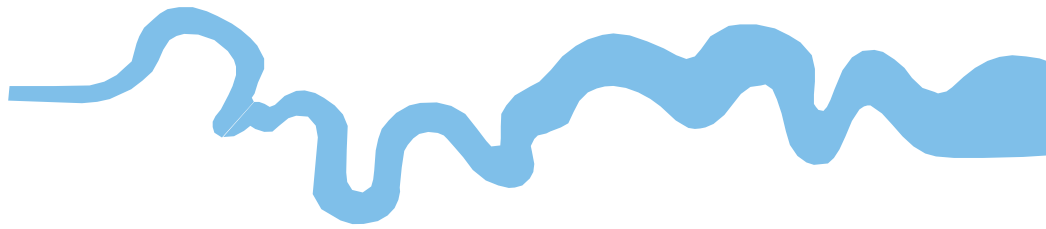
**The Red House, London Street,  
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Plates 5 and 6.

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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 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	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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