

**Red Lion Hotel, High Street,  
Wendover, Buckinghamshire**

An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Philip M. Lally Ltd

by Andy Taylor  
Thames Valley Archaeological  
Services Ltd

Site Code RWB 07/134

November 2007

## Summary

**Site name:** Red Lion Hotel, High Street, Wendover, Buckinghamshire

**Grid reference:** SP 8691 0781

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 16th October 2007

**Site supervisor:** Andy Taylor

**Site code:** RWB07/134

**Area of site:** 46 sq m

**Summary of results:** No deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were observed

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held by Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd, 47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading, RG1 5 NR, and will be deposited with Buckinghamshire Museum Service in due course.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 19.11.07
	Steve Preston ✓ 24.10.07

# Red Lion Hotel, High Street, Wendover, Buckinghamshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Report 07/134

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at the Red Lion Hotel, High Street, Wendover, Buckinghamshire (SP 8691 0781) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Martin Arkell of Philip M Lally Ltd. Building Contractors, Redhills Farm, Baldwins Gate, Newcastle, Staffordshire, ST5 5EA.

Planning permission (07/01122/AP) is sought from Aylesbury Vale District Council to erect a new kitchen extension following the demolition of an existing shed. The results of field evaluation have been requested, so as to inform the planning process as regards potential archaeological implications of the development.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the District's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr David Radford, Archaeological Officer with Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service, advisers to the District on matters relating to archaeology.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor and Aiden Colyer on the 16th October 2007 and the site code is RWB 07/134. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Buckinghamshire County Museum in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located at the rear of the Red Lion Hotel, High Street, Wendover, Buckinghamshire. Wendover lies c. 20km south-east of Aylesbury. The site consists of the demolished area of a former shed adjacent to the car park of the hotel (Fig. 2). The underlying geology consists of Lower Chalk, (BGS 1990), which was observed in the trench and the site lies at a height of c.122m above Ordnance Datum.

## Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site was highlighted by a brief prepared by Mr David Radford (Radford 2007). In summary the site lies within an area of archaeological potential as it is located within the historic core of the town and at the rear of a 17th-century inn (Grade II listed). Wendover is first recorded in Domesday Book (AD1086) (Williams and Martin 2002) and had late Saxon origins. In later medieval times it became a Borough.

A selection of historic maps have been examined for the site. The earlier maps such as Jefferys' map of 1770 (Fig. 4) show the site within Wendover only at a small scale and no detail can be determined. Later maps such as the Ordnance Survey first edition of 1877 (Fig. 5) show more detail. The general layout of the site can be discerned and is little changed to the present day. An extension to the hotel which now forms the northern side of the proposal site is not present but a small structure is partly occupies the site. Subsequently the extension is built and the small structure removed to be replaced by the temporary structure which recently occupied the proposal site.

A search of the County Historic Environment Record for the environs of the site revealed a small number of entries of archaeological interest. These comprised a Late Iron Age coin, various unidentifiable Roman coins, and Roman tesserae (mosaic floor tile). Medieval entries relate to documentary sources for various watermills. The majority of the entries relate to listed buildings of 16th-19th century date including that of the Red Lion itself.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development.

Specific aims of the project were;

To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site.

To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.

Establish whether there is evidence for Saxon or medieval occupation in this area.

Establish whether there is evidence for medieval or post medieval occupation, property boundaries, domestic, commercial or industrial activities.

A single trench measuring 7.00m in length was to be dug. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds. A contingency was included for excavation of the entire new building footprint (7.6m x 6m) if required.

## **Results**

The single trench measuring was dug as intended (Fig. 3) using a small 360° type machine fitted with a 1.20m wide toothless grading bucket and under constant archaeological supervision. The spoilheaps were monitored for finds. Detail of the trench giving length, breadth, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

### Trench 1 (Plate 1)

This trench measured 7.00m in length and was 0.65m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of brick rubble and chalk made ground, 0.30m deep, overlying a deposit of dirty chalk with flints, containing fragments of modern brick and tile, also 0.30m deep, overlying clayey chalk and flint natural. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed.

### **Finds**

No finds of an archaeological interest were observed, modern material was noted but not retained.

### **Conclusion**

Despite the potential for archaeological deposits being present on the site none were encountered. It is unlikely that any archaeological features or deposits would be damaged by the digging of footings during construction of the proposed extension.

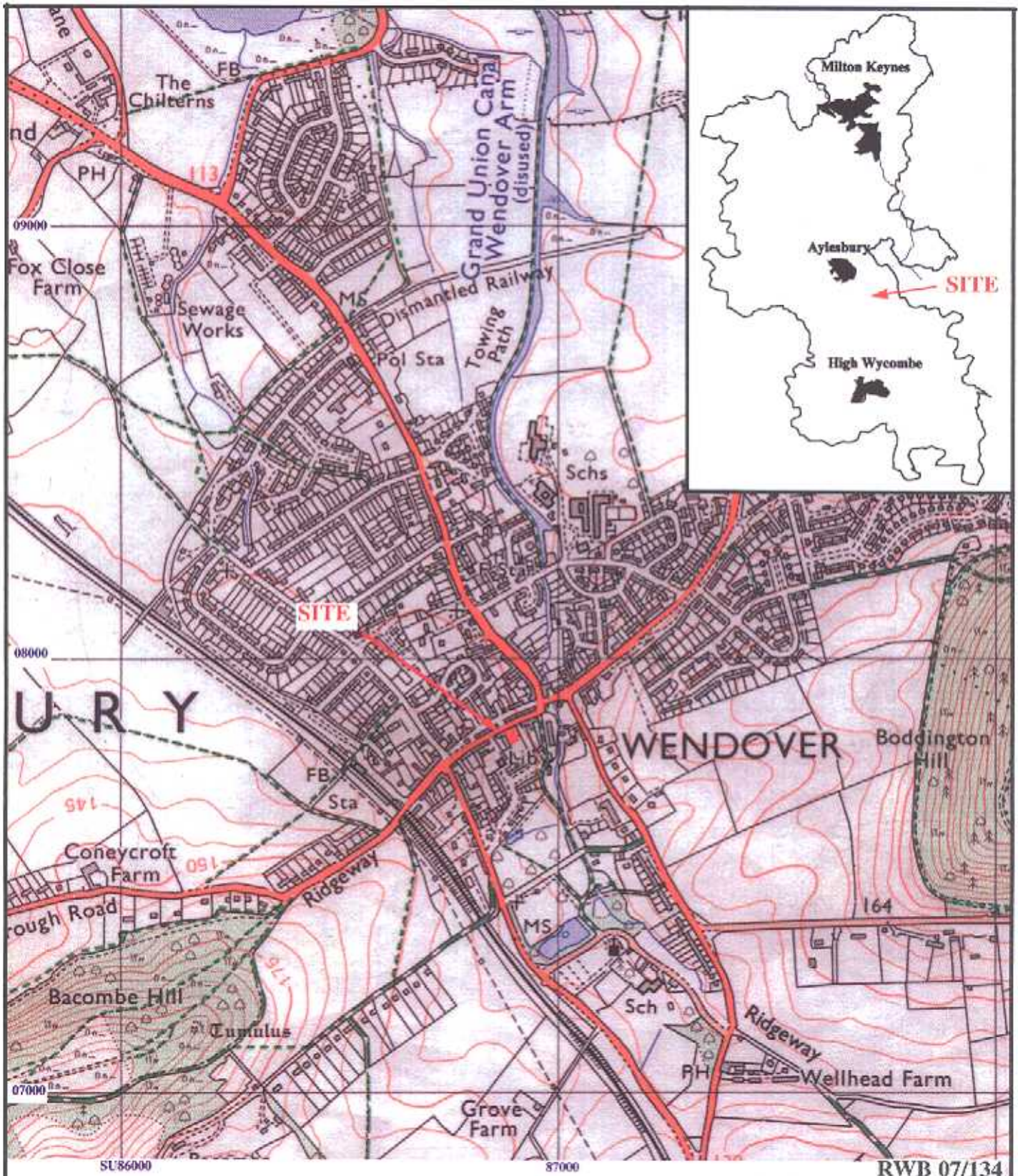
### **References**

- BGS, 1990, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 238, Drift Edition, Keyworth  
PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO  
Radford, D, 2007, 'Red Lion Hotel, High Street, Wendover, brief for Archaeological Trial Trenching',  
Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service, Aylesbury  
Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Domesday Book, a complete translation*, London

**APPENDIX 1: Trench details**

0m at S end

<i>Trench No.</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	7.00	1.20	0.65	0.00m-0.30m brick rubble and chalk made ground; 0.30m-0.60m dirty chalk and flint with CBM; 0.60m-0.65m+ clayey chalk natural.

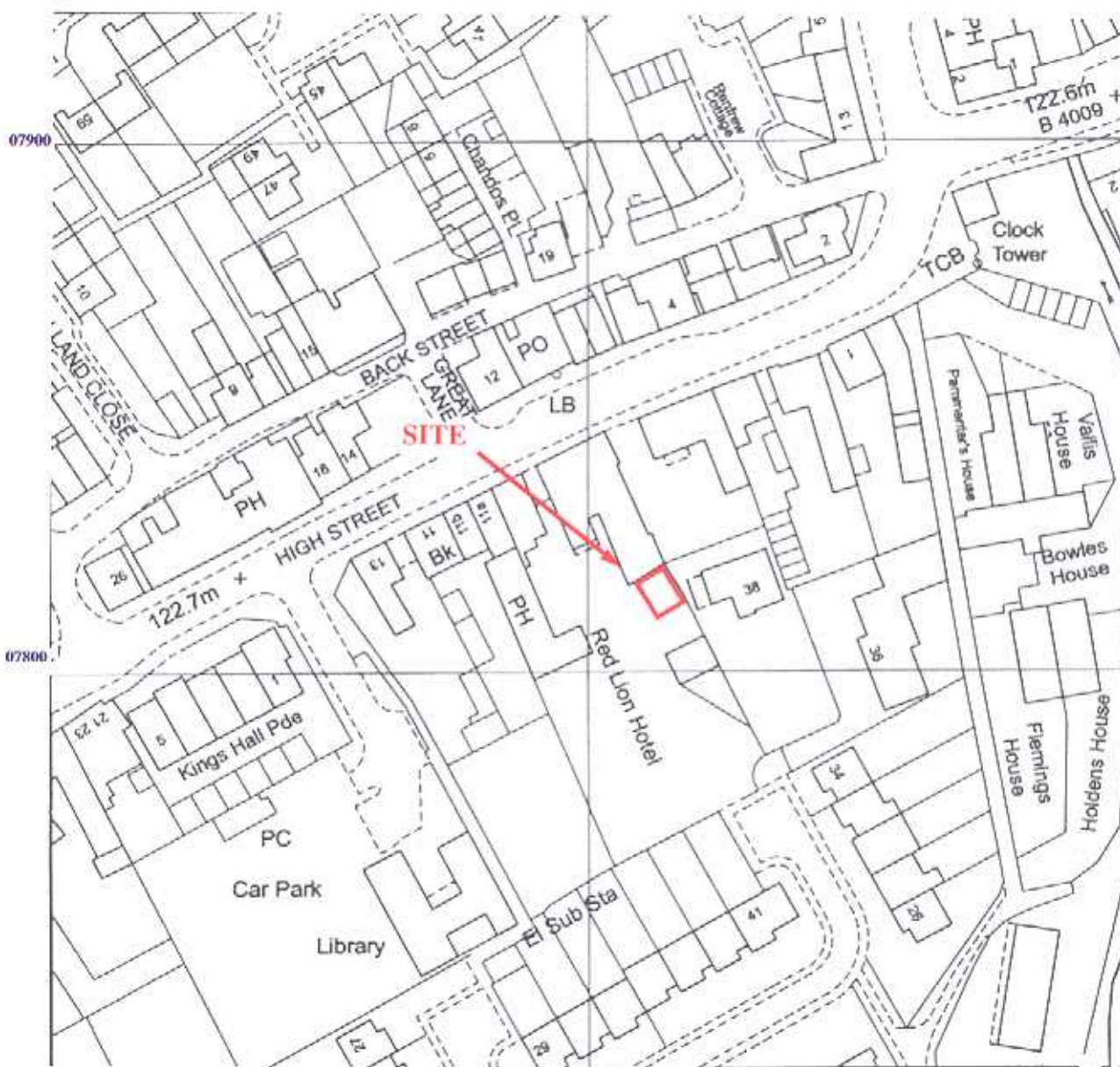


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Figure 1. Location of site within Wendover and Buckinghamshire.

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Figure 2. Location of site within Wendover.

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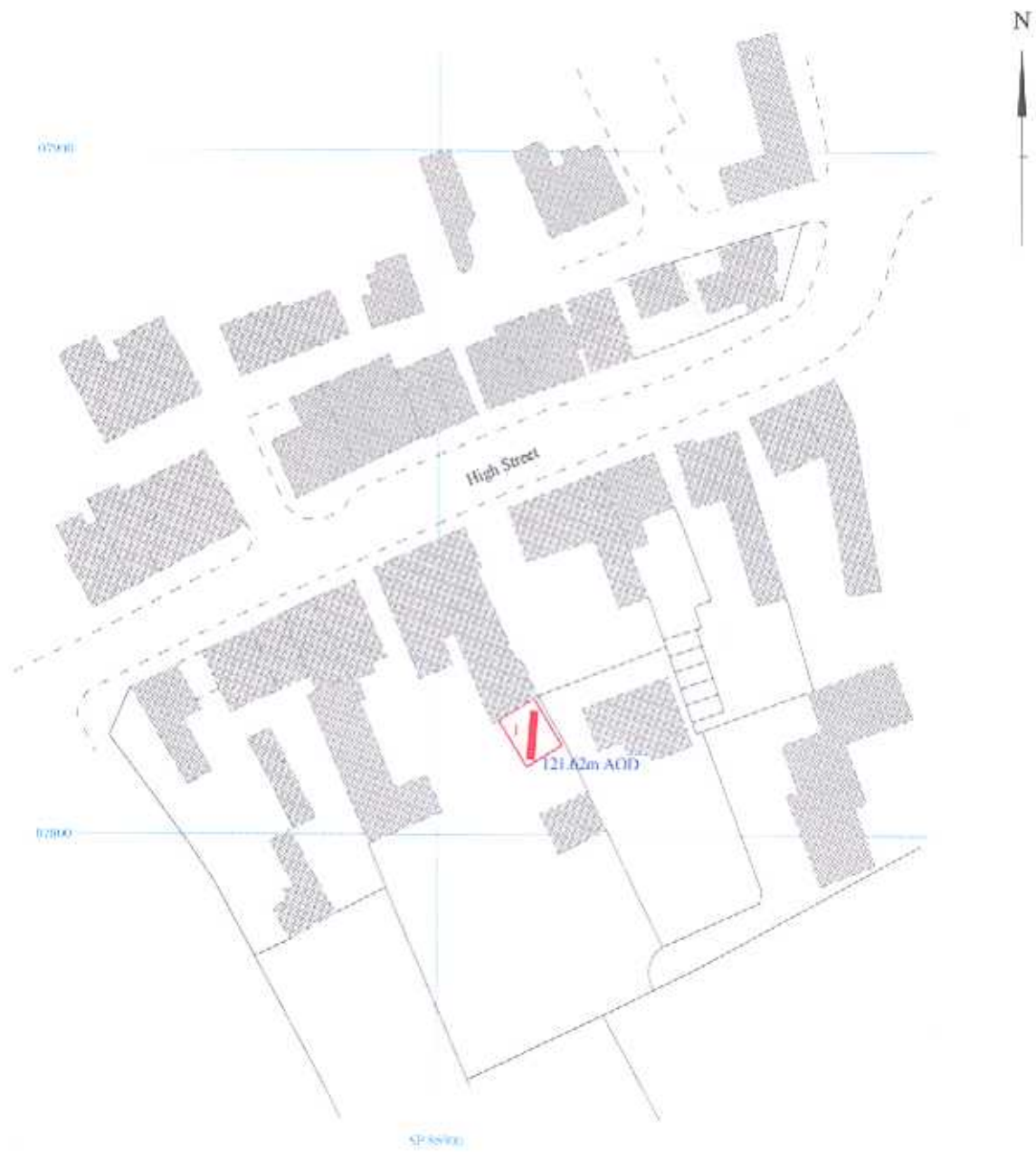
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0 100m

Figure 3: Trench Location

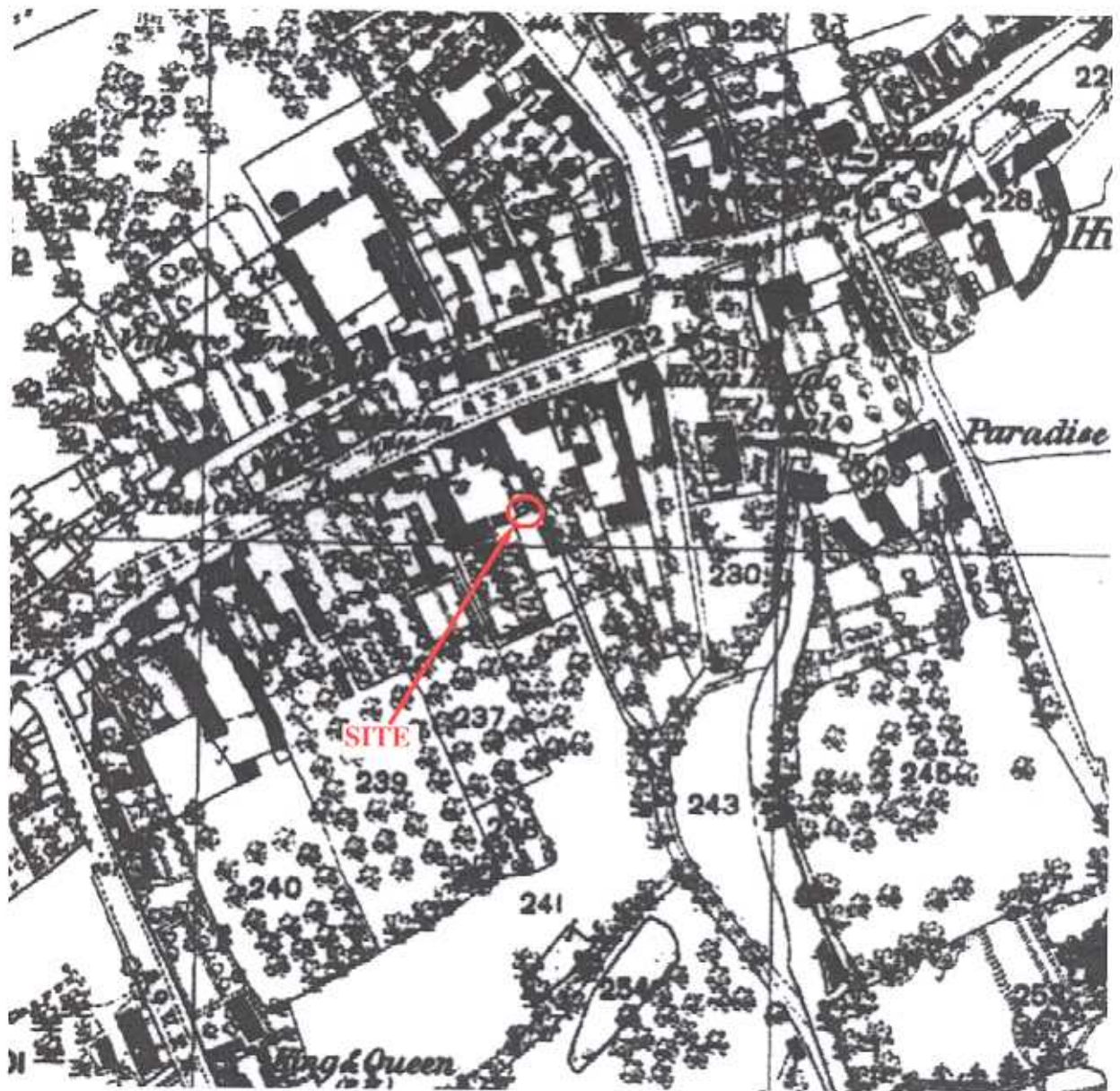


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Figure 4. Thomas Jefferys' map of Buckinghamshire  
1770

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Figure 5. Ordnance Survey First Edition 1877

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Plate 1. Trench 1 looking north, horizontal scales 2m and 1m.