



**REUBEN STRAKER**

**LAND AT TWICE BREWED INN**

**TWICE BREWED**

**BARDON MILL**

**NORTHUMBERLAND**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**

**March 2017**


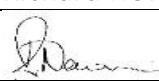

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DESK BASED ASSESSMENTS  
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION  
 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY  
 TOPOGRAPHIC AND LANDSCAPE SURVEY  
 HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING  
 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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## SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA) was commissioned by the client, Reuben Straker, to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Twice Brewed Inn, Bardon Mill, Northumberland (NGR: NY 75119 66876). The watching brief was required as a fulfilment of a condition of planning consent for the extension to the existing public house and hotel to accommodate a microbrewery and bar. A separate planning application is also being made for a new access from the car park onto the B6318 Military Road. The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) produced in response to advice given by Mike Collins acting as the archaeological planning advisor on behalf of Historic England and Chris Jones, archaeologist at Northumberland National Park Authority.

The archaeological watching brief monitored all excavations associated with the foundations and ground reduction of the footprints of the new extensions to Twice Brewed Inn. The excavations affected two areas to the immediate east of the existing inn, the microbrewery extension area which affected a rectangular area approximately 26.2m long and 8.8m wide and the kitchen extension area which measured approximately 9m in length and 3.3m in width.

The archaeological watching brief monitored all excavations associated with the future extensions for a microbrewery and additional kitchen space for the Twice Brewed Inn. Despite the high potential for earlier deposits to survive in the immediate vicinity, only a 20<sup>th</sup> century levelling deposit was encountered, the result of either the rebuilding of the public house in the 1930s, or levelling of the area for car parking between 1973 and 2002, or a combination of the two.

The development did not impact on any archaeological features associated with the Hadrian's Wall Roman Frontier, parts of which are protected as a scheduled monument, and all of which is included in UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Wardell Armstrong Ltd thanks Reuben Straker for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the groundwork stage of the project. Thanks also go to David Ord and the groundwork team undertaking the excavations. Also, WAA thank Chris Jones of Northumberland National Park and Mike Collins of Historic England for all assistance.

The watching brief was undertaken by Damion Churchill, Adam Mager and Cat Peters. Cat Peters also wrote the report, with Sue Thompson completing the finds section. The figures were produced by Helen Phillips. The project was managed by Frank Giecco and the report edited by Richard Newman.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Project Circumstances and Planning Background

1.1.1 In February 2017, Wardell Armstrong undertook an archaeological watching brief at the Twice Brewed Inn, Bardon Mill, Northumberland (NGR: NY 75119 66876). It was commissioned by the client, who intends to build two extensions to the existing public house and hotel building for the provision of a microbrewery. The site lies within an area of very high archaeological sensitivity due to its location in relation to the Hadrian's Wall Roman Frontier, parts of which are protected as a scheduled monument, and all of which is included in UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites. The development site lies within the world heritage site area (NHL 1000098). To the immediate north of the development site, is the vallum, a major Roman ditch system, which appears to denote the southern extent of the military zone associated with Hadrian's Wall, and to the south, a Roman camp. This section of the vallum, between the road to Steel Rigg car park and the road in Caw Gap in wall miles 39, 40 and 41, is protected as an ancient monument (NHL 1010974). To the south lies a Roman temporary camp (Northumberland HER N6571).

1.1.2 The advice from Historic England, was that, *"the residual risk to archaeology associated with the Roman frontier could be dealt with by means of a condition imposed on any permission issued, to require an archaeological watching brief on the excavations necessary for the development"* (Historic England North East letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016).

1.1.3 The written scheme of investigation, based on this advice, and approved by the Northumberland National Park Authority Archaeologist, Chris Jones, stated that *"all machine excavation will be done under the close supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist"* (Giecco 2017, 5).

1.1.4 A watching brief is defined as a programme of 'monitoring and investigation carried out during a non-archaeological activity within a specified area of land or development where construction operations may disturb or destroy archaeological remains' (CIFA 2014a).

### 1.2 Project Documentation

1.2.1 The project conforms to the WSI (Giecco 2017) which was produced to provide a specific methodology for the programme of archaeological mitigation implemented via a watching brief. This was approved by the Northumberland National Park

Authority Archaeologist. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).

- 1.2.2 This report outlines the work undertaken on site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this watching brief.



## **2 METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Standards and Guidance**

2.1.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken following the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (2014a), in accordance with the WAA fieldwork manual (2017) and the Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (ClfA 2014b).

### **2.2 Documentary Research**

2.2.1 Part of the scope of this work included an element of documentary research, to set out the archaeological and historical background of the site.

### **2.3 The Watching Brief**

2.3.1 The watching brief comprised the monitoring of all intrusive works associated with the current development, this comprised ground reductions in two rectangular areas to the east of Twice Brewed Inn, one for the microbrewery, which measured approximately 26.2m east to west and 8.8m north to south, and the other for the kitchen extension, which measured approximately 9m north to south and 3.3m east to west.

2.3.2 The general aims of the excavations occurring under archaeological monitoring were to:

- allow the monitoring archaeologist to signal that an archaeological find had been made before it was destroyed
- provide the opportunity for appropriate resource allocation if the archaeological find could not be dealt with under the watching brief remit
- determine the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains within the proposed development site
- determine the character, date, extent and distribution of any archaeological deposits and their potential significance
- determine the levels of disturbance to any archaeological deposits from past land use
- investigate and record all deposits and features of archaeological interest within the areas to be disturbed by the current development
- determine the likely impact on archaeological deposits from the proposed development

- disseminate the results of the fieldwork through an appropriate level of reporting.

- 2.3.3 Deposits considered not to be significant were removed by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket to maximise the chance for identification of archaeological remains should they be present. All intrusive groundworks were monitored under close supervision by a suitably trained archaeologist. Where potential archaeological remains were present the area were subsequently cleaned by hand. All possible features were inspected and all features were recorded according to the WAA standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (WAA 2015).
- 2.3.4 All finds encountered were retained and returned to the Carlisle office where they were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* was then produced for each stratified context under the supervision of the WAA Finds Officer, and the dates were used to help determine the broad date phases for the site. As the finds were of 20<sup>th</sup> century date, these were not retained with the site archive but discarded. No environmental samples were taken.
- 2.3.5 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project specification, and the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive (paper-only, no finds) will be deposited at Northumberland Archives, Woodhorn, Ashington, with copies of the report sent to the Northumberland County Council HER, available upon request. The project archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier: **TBN-A**.
- 2.3.6 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by WAA as a part of this national project. The OASIS reference for the project is: **wardella2-278485**.

### **3 BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 Location and Geological Context**

- 3.1.1 The site is located at (NGR NY 75119 66876) to the immediate east of Twice Brewed Inn. The groundworks occurred within an existing car park associated with the inn, to the immediate south of the B6318 Military Road. The wider area is predominantly agricultural land. The area to the east is currently under development for the new National Landscape Discovery Centre, The Sill. Twice Brewed itself is a small linear roadside settlement comprising half a dozen farmsteads and dwellings. The area of investigation lies at a height of c. 220m aOD (above Ordnance Datum) with the ground to the south beyond the area affected by groundworks sloping down to a ghyll.
- 3.1.2 The area monitored by the watching brief monitored excavations in two areas immediately to the east of the existing Inn and Hotel building within the western part of the existing car park for customers of Twice Brewed Inn.
- 3.1.3 The underlying solid geology is part of the Yoredale group, comprising limestone with subordinate sandstones and argillaceous rocks (BGS 2017). No drift geology is recorded in the evaluation area, but surrounding areas include glacial till and peat deposits accumulated in stream gullies.

#### **3.2 Historical and Archaeological Background**

- 3.2.1 This background is taken from the project's WSI (Giecco 2017), from a Conservation Management Plan compiled for the adjacent site (OAN 2014) and from information gathered through readily available cartographic sources and website resources. The National Heritage List (NHL) website hosted by Historic England, Northumberland's Historic Environment Record (HER) accessible through the Keys to the Past website and Northumberland Archive's (NA) online catalogue were key sources of information, and references to them are included in the text below.
- 3.2.2 The environs of the development site were very heavily affected by Roman occupation, the most prominent being that of the complex of boundaries associated with Hadrian's Wall. However, the earliest system of Roman military control was the *Stanegate*, a series of forts and fortlets built along the Roman road between Carlisle and Corbridge during the Flavian period (AD 69-96), designed to consolidate the rapid military occupation of Britain since initial invasion in AD 43. It is possible that the temporary camps (HER N6571) located to the south of the site was associated with increase in military activity building up to this period of consolidation. Further camps

are known to the south of this.

- 3.2.3 The early second century saw unrest in the region, with many forts and fortlets north of the Tyne-Solway line being destroyed by a hostile population (Daniels 1978). This led to the decision by Imperial authorities to build a definite, continuous and permanent frontier from the Tyne to the Solway, known as Hadrian's Wall; the primary phase of which was constructed in the AD 120s and was in the course of its use, frequently re-modelled and expanded.
- 3.2.4 A more detailed history of Hadrian's Wall is well documented elsewhere, (e.g. Breeze and Dobson 2000; Daniels 1978 and Birley 1961), and this is only a brief summary. The Wall itself is located approximately 500m to the north of the current development area following the geological ridge; but the stone barrier formed only part of the final frontier boundary. To the south of the wall there was a military road and to the south of this was a deep, wide, flat bottomed ditch bounded on each side by a bank (Vallum), creating a wide gap bounding the south of the militarised zone of the wall, only being crossed at the wall forts.
- 3.2.5 The Vallum typically comprises a steep-sided ditch, nominally 6m wide and 3m deep, with a flat bottom, flanked by two mounds, north and south, each set back some 9m from the ditch edges. For a great deal of its length a third mound, the so-called marginal mound occupies the south berm, right on the southern lip of the ditch. Features interpreted as representing the earliest phase of the southern vallum bank were encountered during an evaluation prior to the beginning of groundworks for the landscape visitor centre to the immediate east. In two evaluation trenches, a palaeosoil horizon was noted, sealed by the construction of an early bank of stacked turf (Slater and Jackson 2014, 26). This was encountered in trenches just south of the Military Road, and only approximately 120m north-east-north of the present development site.
- 3.2.6 The area of development lies within the medieval manorial lands of Henshaw, first recorded in the twelfth century (Hodgson 1840). It is likely from the presence of several sheilings in the wider landscape that sheep and cattle formed a strong element of the medieval economy. Ridge and furrow is known from the vicinity, possibly utilising the flat land of earlier Roman forts and a probable medieval farmhouse has been excavated 500m to the north-west.
- 3.2.7 The most dramatic post-medieval feature of the immediate landscape is the Newcastle to Carlisle Military Road, constructed between 1751 and 1759 following the

suppression of the Jacobite uprising of 1745/6. This was to ease future troop movement in the area, found to be difficult during the reiver encounters. A reminder of the defensive nature of the area can be seen by peel towers, defensive farmsteads. One is marked on the road to Steel Rigg car park on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1866 (Figure 5), and on modern mapping as 'The Peel Bothy', 570m to the north-east of the development site. Much of the masonry of Hadrian's Wall was used in the construction of the road and occasionally runs along the line of the wall itself. In the central section, the road follows the line of the Vallum, and, at Once Brewed the Military Road was built directly on top of the Vallum ditch. The 18<sup>th</sup> century road is still in use as the current B6318. A heavy degree of quarrying, exploiting the stone within the boulder clay adjacent to the road, was carried out during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with a large quarry shown to the north-east of the development site and labelled 'awarded quarry' on Sopwith's plan of the Manor of Henshaw and Melkridge of 1837 (Figure 4).

- 3.2.8 The Inn at Twice Brewed seems to have predated the construction of the Military Road, as *"in July 1751... the [road] builders arrived at a handily-sited inn, two and a half miles west of Housesteads, almost exactly halfway between Newcastle and Carlisle. Tired and thirsty, they entered said inn and ordered several pints of the local ale... The ale was terribly weak. The disappointed navvies demanded that the ale be brewed again and the place subsequently came to be known as the Twice Brewed Inn"* (The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy 2017). It was certainly in place by 1769, as it is depicted on Armstrong's Map of Northumberland of that date, labelled 'Twice Brewed Ale', with the road labelled 'New Military Road' (Figure 3).
- 3.2.9 Sopwith's Plan of the Manor of Henshaw and Melridge of 1837 (Figure 4) shows the area in more detail, and labels the inn, 'Old Twice Brewed', seemingly owned by Christopher Mallabarr'. It is no longer rectangular on this plan, having possible extensions to the south and west. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1866 (Figure 5) does not show as much detail, and labels the area as 'Low Winshield'. The Twice Brewed Inn building appears the same in plan as the earlier map (Figure 3).
- 3.2.10 By 1896 and the publication of the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 6), there are two southern extensions to the main rectangular east-west aligned roadside building, with further additions to the western side. A square area surrounding the eastern southern extension may be an enclosed garden area and may represent an area that had been terraced or levelled. It is no longer labelled as a public house, the

West Twice Brewed, to the west, is.

- 3.2.11 By 1921, the building is in use again as a public house, labelled 'Twice Brewed (P.H.)', with an additional enclosed south-western area shown (Figure 7). Between 1921 (Figure 7) and 1973 (Figure 8) the building seems to have been remodelled, potentially rebuilt. Northumberland Archives holds three records pertaining to alterations at the Twice Brewed Inn, one in May 1937 for "*alterations to shed and new pig sty*" (NA LHA/G2/D/26), and two for non-specified "*alterations*", one in December 1934 (NA LHA/G2/D/74) and one in June 1936 (NA LHA/G2/D/75) all for "*JG Anderson*" (Northumberland Archives 2017). Unfortunately it was not in the remit of this project to undertake original research, but it seems likely that the changes depicted on the 1973 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 8), i.e. the construction of an L-shaped building on the site of an 18<sup>th</sup> century linear one, with a smaller western extension, occurred in the 1930s. The 1973 map also includes dashed lines, which may represent the landscaping or levelling of a wider area to the south-west and east of the inn building.
- 3.2.12 Google Earth imagery from 31<sup>st</sup> December 2002 (Plate 1) indicates that the smaller western extension shown on the 1973 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 8), had been demolished and replaced with a new one to match the width of the main L-shaped building by 2002 (Plate 1). This image also shows that a levelled area had been provided to the east of the building, for car parking. At the time of the watching brief monitoring this area had been extended eastwards to the boundary with the adjacent visitor centre. The Google Earth image also shows a south-eastern projection from the eastern elevation of the building, constructed between 1973 (Figure 8) and 2002 (Plate 1).

## 4 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The watching brief was undertaken between Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February and Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017. The archaeological watching brief monitored all excavations associated with the ground reduction of the footprints for the new microbrewery and kitchen extensions and excavations for the foundations which followed the outline of the footprints for the new extensions (Figure 2).
- 4.1.2 The ground reduction of the footprints of the new extensions required the removed of material in two rectangular areas to the east of the Twice Brewed Inn building. The southernmost was for the new microbrewery building and measured 26.2m east to west and 8.8m north to south, and stretched from the southern extent of the existing eastern elevation of the building eastwards (Figure 2; Plate 2). The northern area, for the new kitchen extension, measured 3.3m east to west and 9m north to south, and was adjacent to the existing kitchen, stretching from the 1.9m from the northern extent of the eastern elevation of the building, southwards (Figure 2; Plate 3). A depth of between 0.4m (for the kitchen extension) and 0.48m (at the far north-eastern extent of the microbrewery extension area) of material was removed in these two areas. This comprised 0.05m of tarmac car parking surface (**100**), which lay above 0.05m of a yellow gravel levelling deposit (**101**), which was above 0.12m of a grey hardcore make-up deposit (**102**). Beneath these car park-related deposits was a mixed black silty deposit with brick, slate and sandstone inclusions (**103**). Finds retrieved from this deposit are detailed in Section 5.
- 4.1.3 The excavations for the foundations relating to the new extensions were undertaken along the western, southern, eastern and northern extents of the footprint area for the new microbrewery, and across the northern, eastern and southern extents of the footprint area for the new kitchen extension (Figure 2; Plates 4 and 5). These excavations were 0.7m in width and were excavated to a maximum depth of 1m from the car park ground surface level. They revealed a yellow-grey natural (**104**) beneath the mixed black silty deposit (**103**), natural being reached at an average depth of 0.6m (Plate 6). The south-western extent of the microbrewery area excavations and much of the kitchen extension area had been disturbed by modern services (Plates 5 and 3).

## 4.2 Results

- 4.2.1 Cartographic evidence has shown that an inn has existed at the site, probably since at least 1751, and that this earlier building seems to have been demolished and rebuilt in the 1930s. Landscaping of the area to the east of the building has been shown to have occurred between 1973 and 2002, providing a levelled surface for car parking for the inn.
- 4.2.2 The watching brief encountered a mixed black deposit (**103**) beneath modern car-park make-up deposits and a natural clay at a depth of c. 0.6m (**104**). The areas immediately east of the existing inn building had been greatly affected by modern services.



## **5 FINDS**

### **5.1 Introduction**

- 5.1.1 A total of two artefacts, weighing 3077g, were recovered from a single deposit during an archaeological watching brief on land at Twice Brewed, Northumberland.
- 5.1.2 All finds were dealt with according to the recommendations made by Watkinson & Neal (1998) and to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standard & Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (2014b). All artefacts have been boxed according to material type and conforming to the deposition guidelines recommended by Brown (2011), EAC (2014) and the Great North Museum.
- 5.1.3 The material archive has been assessed for its local, regional and national potential and further work has been recommended on the potential for the material archive to contribute to the relevant research frameworks.

### **5.2 Ceramic Building Material**

- 5.2.1 A brick weighing 3060g were recovered from context **(103)**. The brick is fairly unabraded, and in moderate to good condition. It displays little evidence of post-depositional damage.
- 5.2.2 The brick is made of a white fabric with frequent large inclusions. It is largely complete and has a shallow frog on both its upper and lower surface. The maker's mark of LILY is stamped on the upper surface. The Lily brickyard was established at Blaydon Burn in 1901 (Geograph 2017) when Priestman Collieries Ltd took over the Lily Drift coal mine at the nearby Rowlands Gill. The peak production period was in the mid-1950s when the brickworks were producing over 150,000 bricks per week (Penforma 2017).
- 5.2.3 No further analysis is warranted.

### **5.3 Ceramics**

- 5.3.1 A single fragment of white glazed wall tile weighing 17g was recovered from **(103)**. The sherd is in good condition and dates to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 5.3.2 No further analysis is warranted.

### **5.4 Conclusions**

- 5.4.1 The finds assemblage consists of a post-medieval brick, early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century in date and a single fragment of modern wall tile.

## 5.5 **Statement of Potential**

- 5.5.1 The finds are 20<sup>th</sup> century in date, and recovered from a mixed made-ground deposit, and are therefore of low archaeological interest.
- 5.5.2 The finds will not therefore be retained with the archive.

## **6 CONCLUSIONS**

### **6.1 Interpretation**

6.1.1 The mixed black deposit (**103**) encountered uniformly across the site contained finds of 20<sup>th</sup> century origin. It could be that this mixed deposit, which also contained slate, brick and sandstone fragments, may have been the result of the demolition of the earlier building on the site in the 1930s, and the spreading of that demolition material across the area, though this may have been mixed with more recent material from the vicinity. This may have been added to and further levelled between 1973 and 2002 to provide a levelled area for car parking facilities for the inn. No earlier deposits were encountered during the watching brief, despite the recent discovery of features relating to the southern bank of the vallum found during archaeological investigations associated with neighbouring developments.

6.1.2 The archaeological watching brief monitored all excavations associated with the future extensions for a microbrewery and additional kitchen space for the Twice Brewed Inn. No pre-20<sup>th</sup> century deposits were encountered, despite the high potential for earlier deposits to survive in the immediate vicinity.

### **6.2 Development Impact**

6.2.1 The development did not impact on any archaeological features associated with the Hadrian's Wall Roman Frontier, parts of which are protected as a scheduled monument, and all of which is included in UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites.

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## APPENDIX 1: PLATES



*Plate 1: Google Earth Imagery, 31<sup>st</sup> December 2002*



*Plate 2: Excavations in the footprint of the microbrewery area, facing west*



*Plate 3: Excavations in the footprint of the kitchen extension area, facing north*



*Plate 4: Completed excavations in the microbrewery area, facing north-east*





*Plate 5: Completed excavations in the kitchen extension area, facing south*



*Plate 6: Sample section showing deposits revealed in foundation trench excavations*



## APPENDIX 2: FIGURES

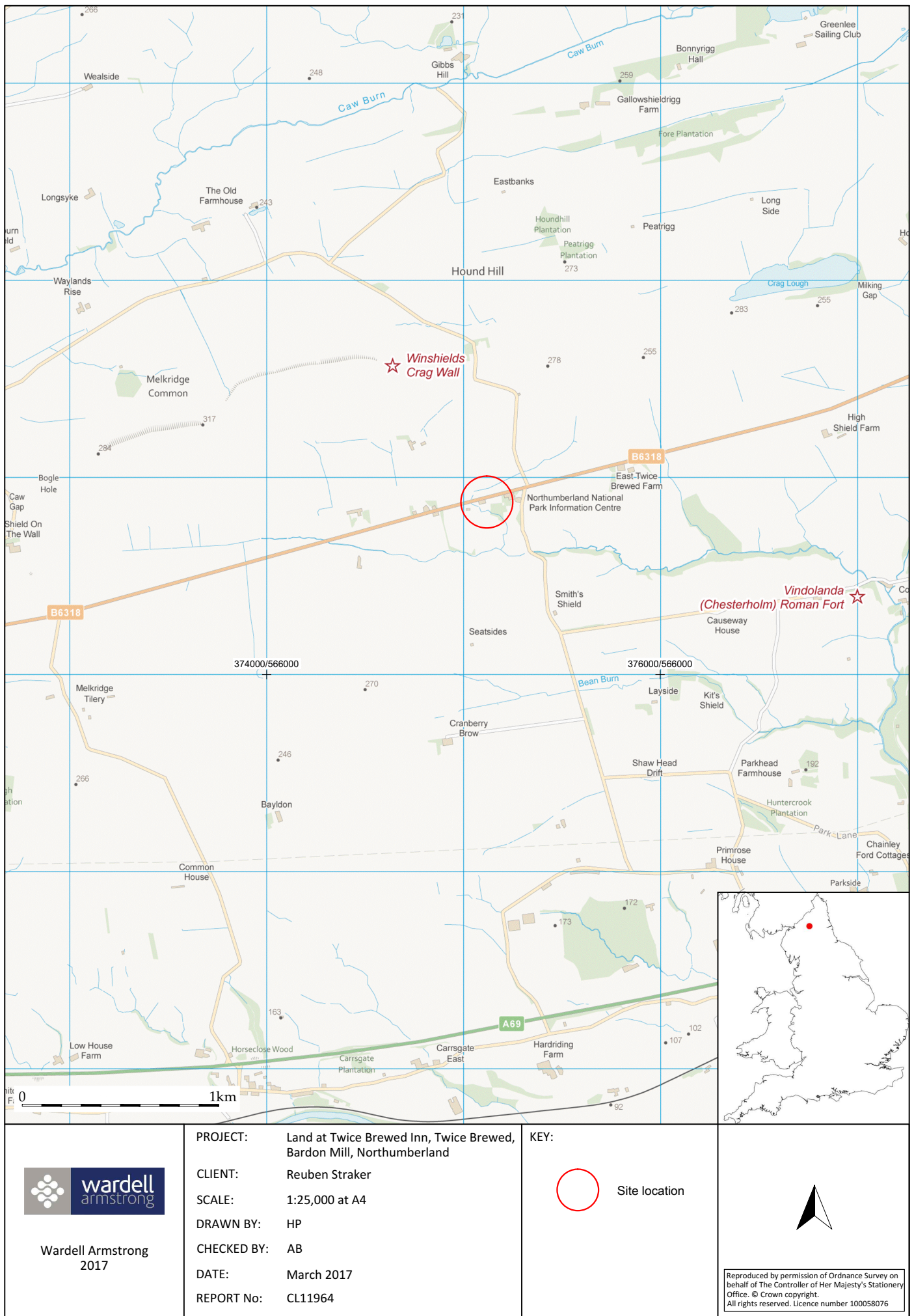


Figure 1: Site location.

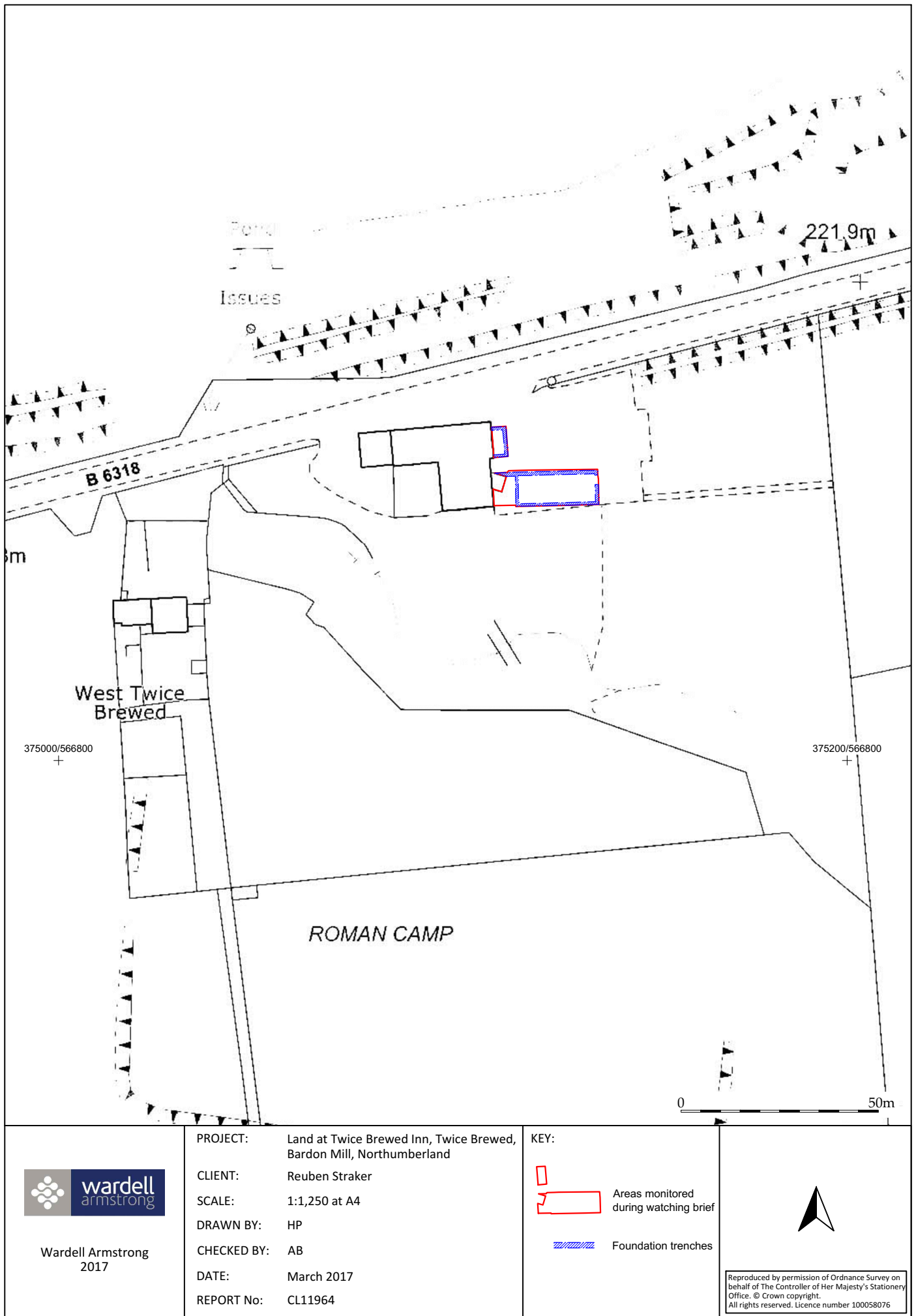


Figure 2: Location of watching brief.








 <p>Wardell Armstrong 2017</p>	<p>PROJECT: Land at Twice Brewed Inn, Twice Brewed, Bardon Mill, Northumberland</p> <p>CLIENT: Reuben Straker</p> <p>SCALE: Not to scale</p> <p>DRAWN BY: HP</p> <p>CHECKED BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: March 2017</p> <p>REPORT No: CL11964</p>	<p>KEY:</p> <div data-bbox="938 1877 1153 1966">  Site location </div>	
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Figure 3: Armstrong's Map of Northumberland, 1769.



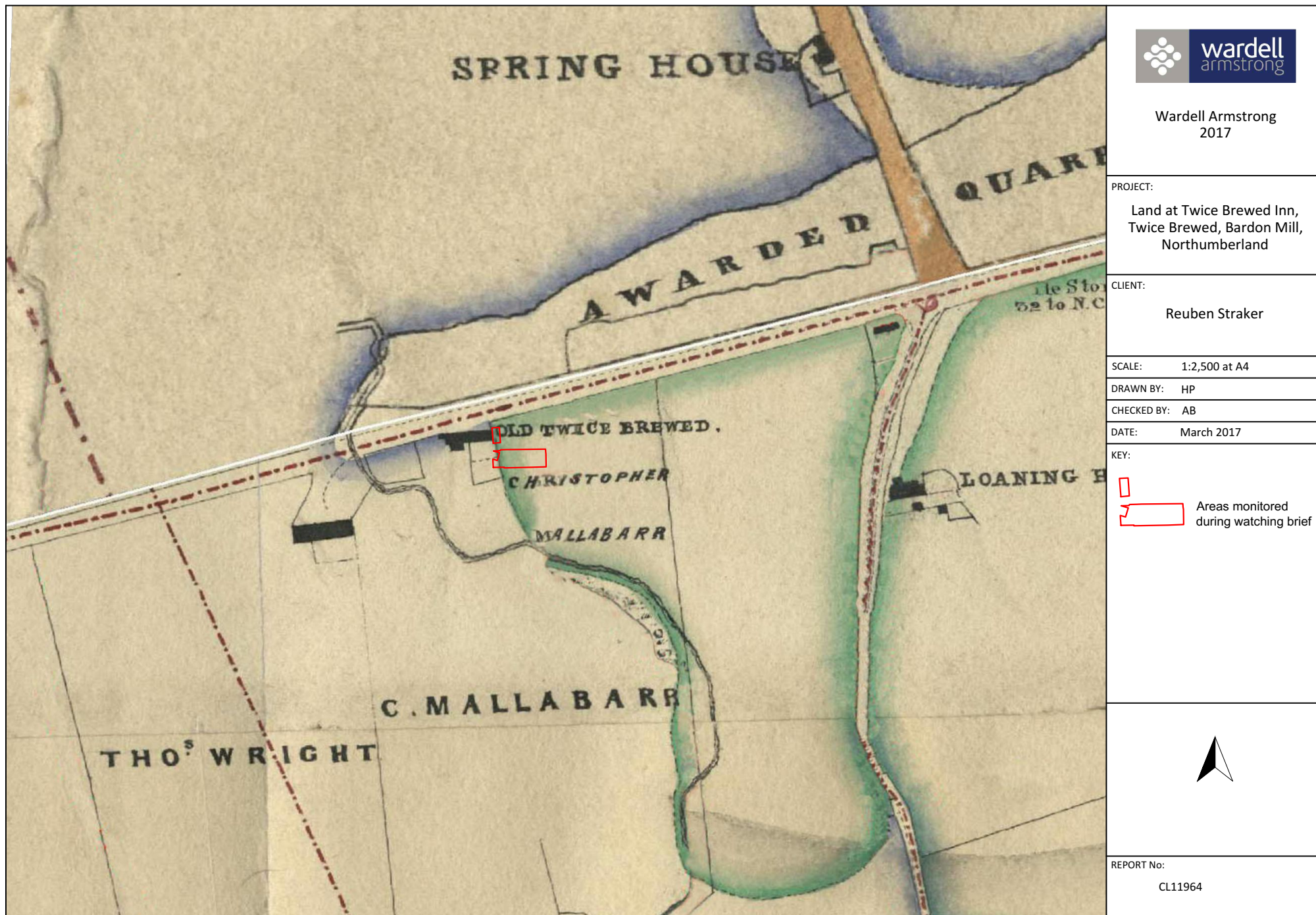


Figure 4: Extract from Sopwith's Plan of the Manor of Henshaw and Melkridge, 1837.



Figure 5: First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1866 (6 inches to 1 mile scale).



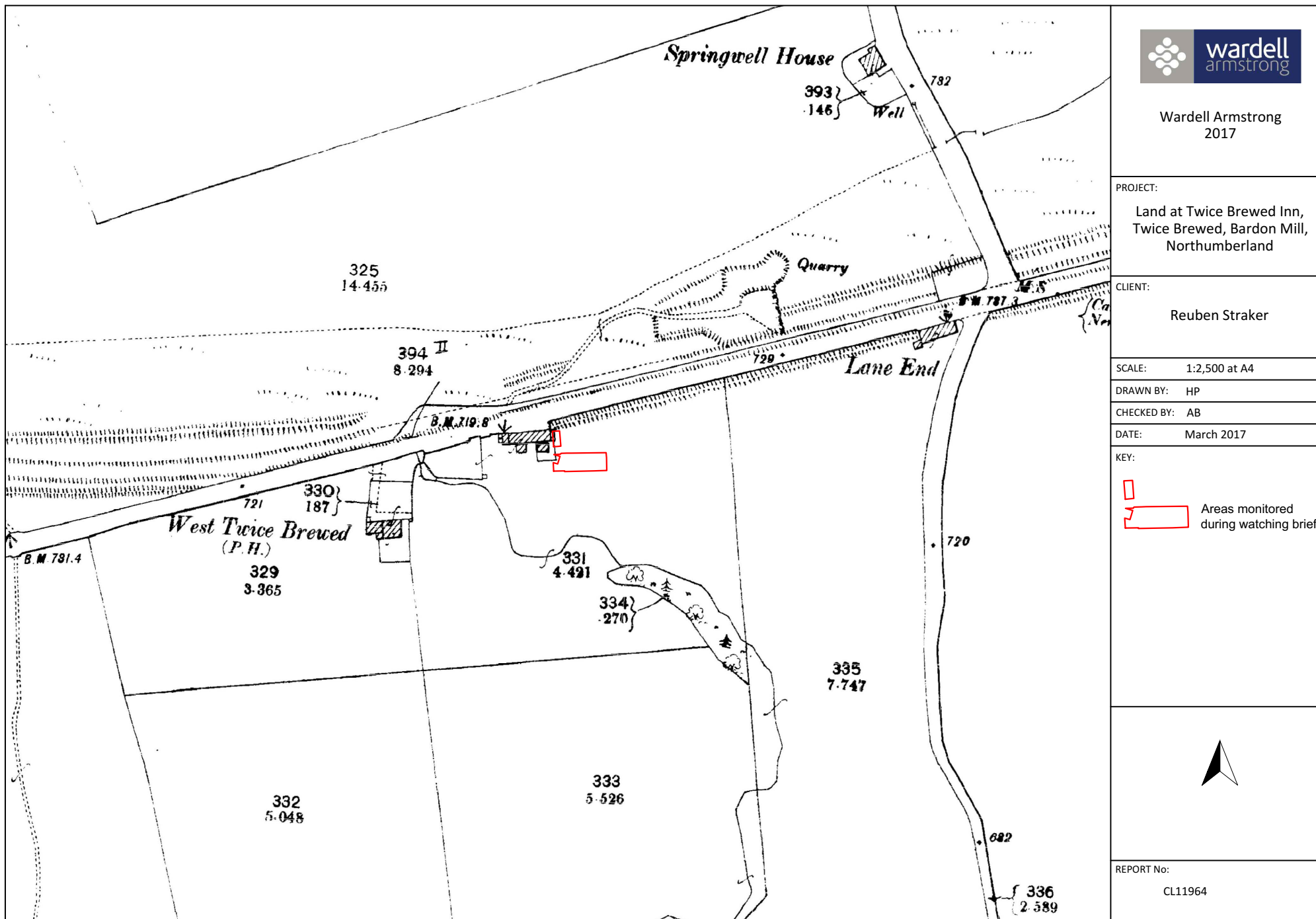


Figure 6: Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1896 (25 inches to 1 mile scale).

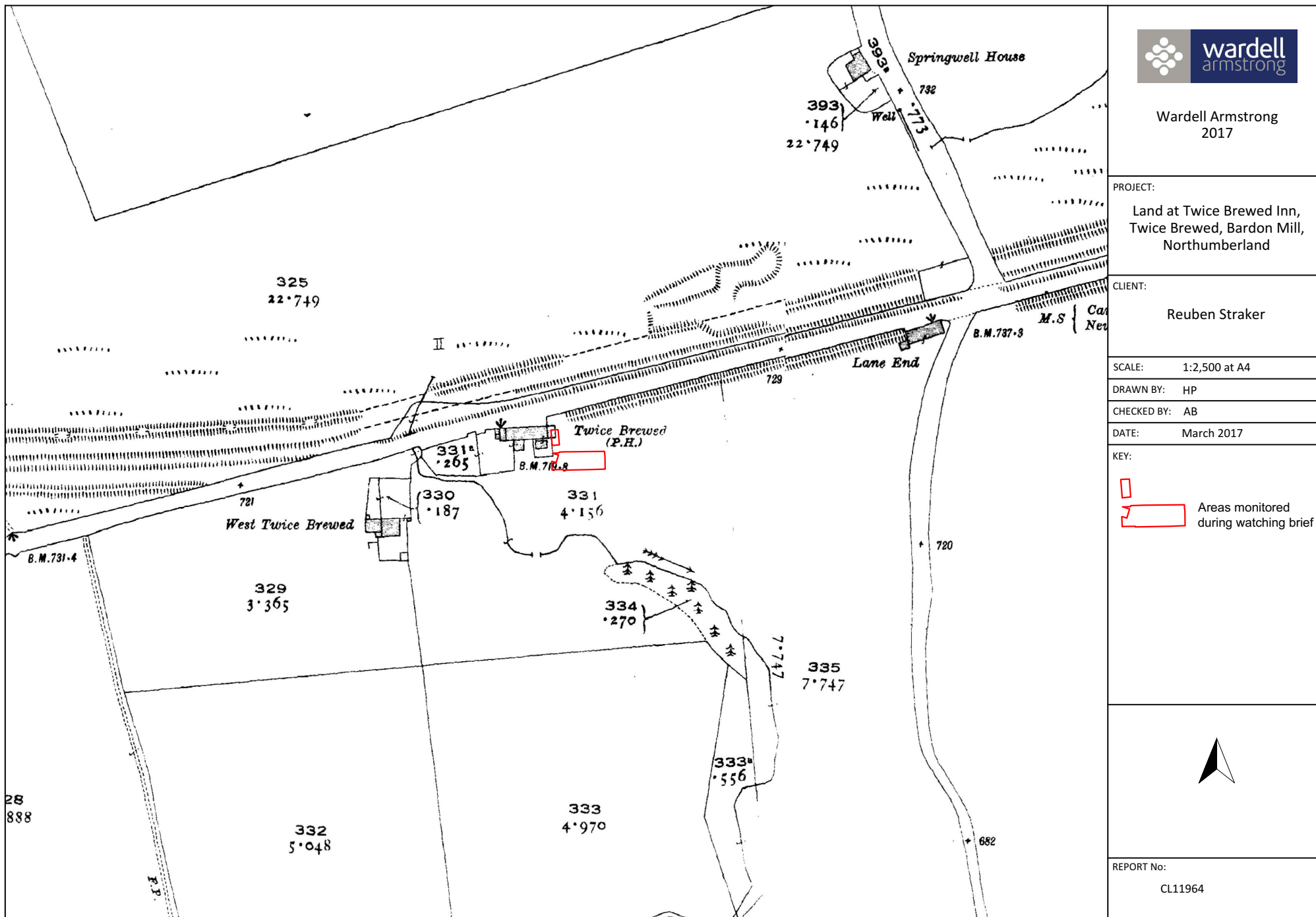


Figure 7: Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1921 (25 inches to 1 mile scale).



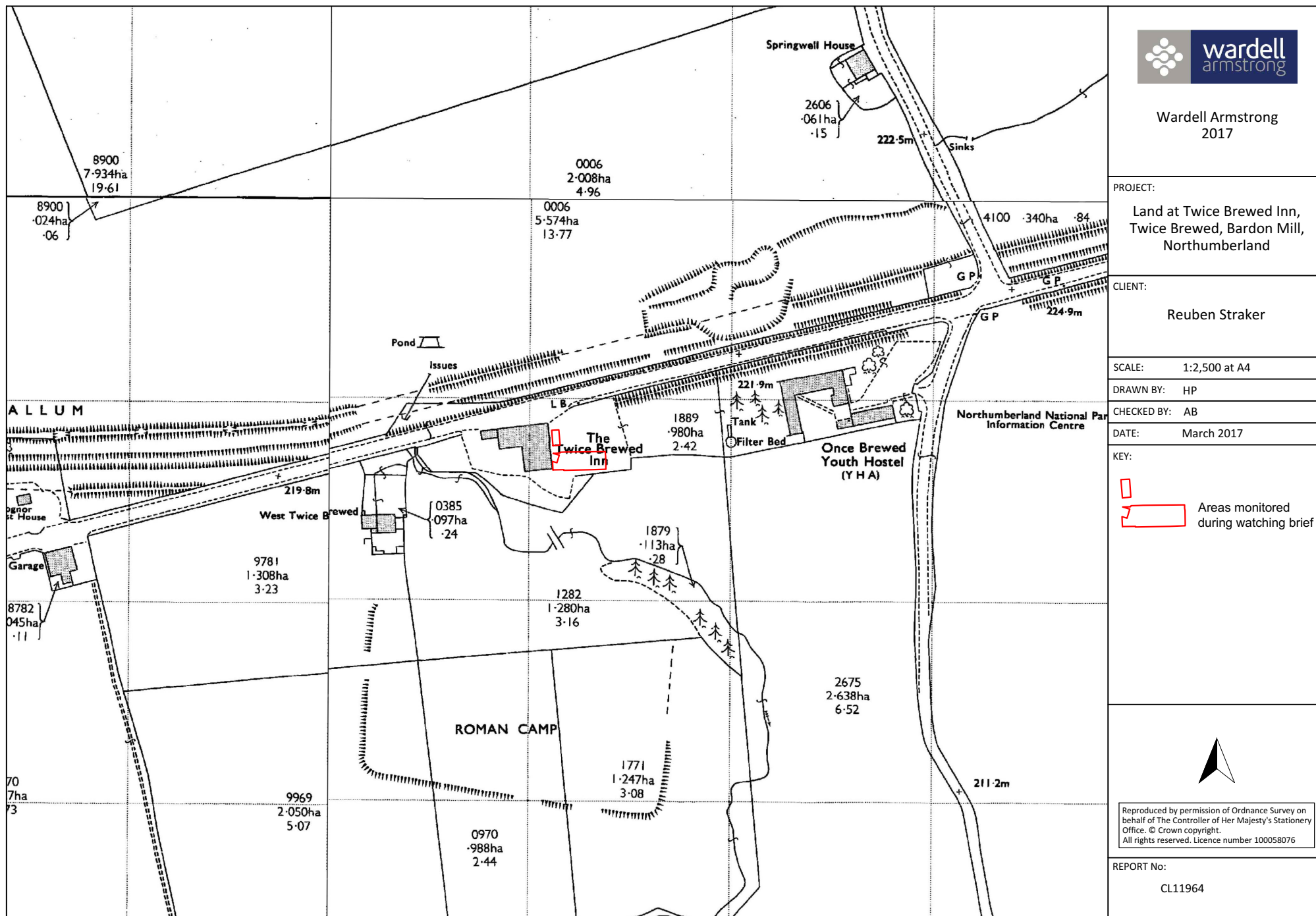


Figure 8: Ordnance Survey Map, 1973 (25 inches to 1 mile scale).

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