

Hinds Head Hotel Aldermaston West Berkshire

Historic Building Recording



Report prepared for:
Fuller Smith & Turner Plc

CA Project: AN0206

CA Report: AN0206_1

October 2020



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SUMMARY

In September 2020 Cotswold Archaeology was commissioned by Fuller Smith and Turner Plc to undertake a programme of Historic Building Recording in respect of The Hinds Head Hotel, Aldermaston, West Berkshire. The Historic Building Recording was undertaken to form a record of those parts of the Building to be altered by approved works to the Building. The recording was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to Listed Building Consent for the 're-build of failing boundary wall' and the 'support of defective beam at ground floor ceiling to restaurant' (20/00113/LBC2). The beam appears to be of the same appearance as the beams used within the core of the 17th-century structure and the proximity of the beam to the 17th-century core suggests that it may form a structural component of the earliest part of the Hinds Head. The beam therefore contributes to the evidential and historical (illustrative) value of the Hinds Head as a prominent coaching inn with 17th century origins. The boundary wall along Basingstoke Road is predominantly of Flemish Garden Wall bond, which was popular from the 18th century and indicates that the wall likely has 18th-century origins.

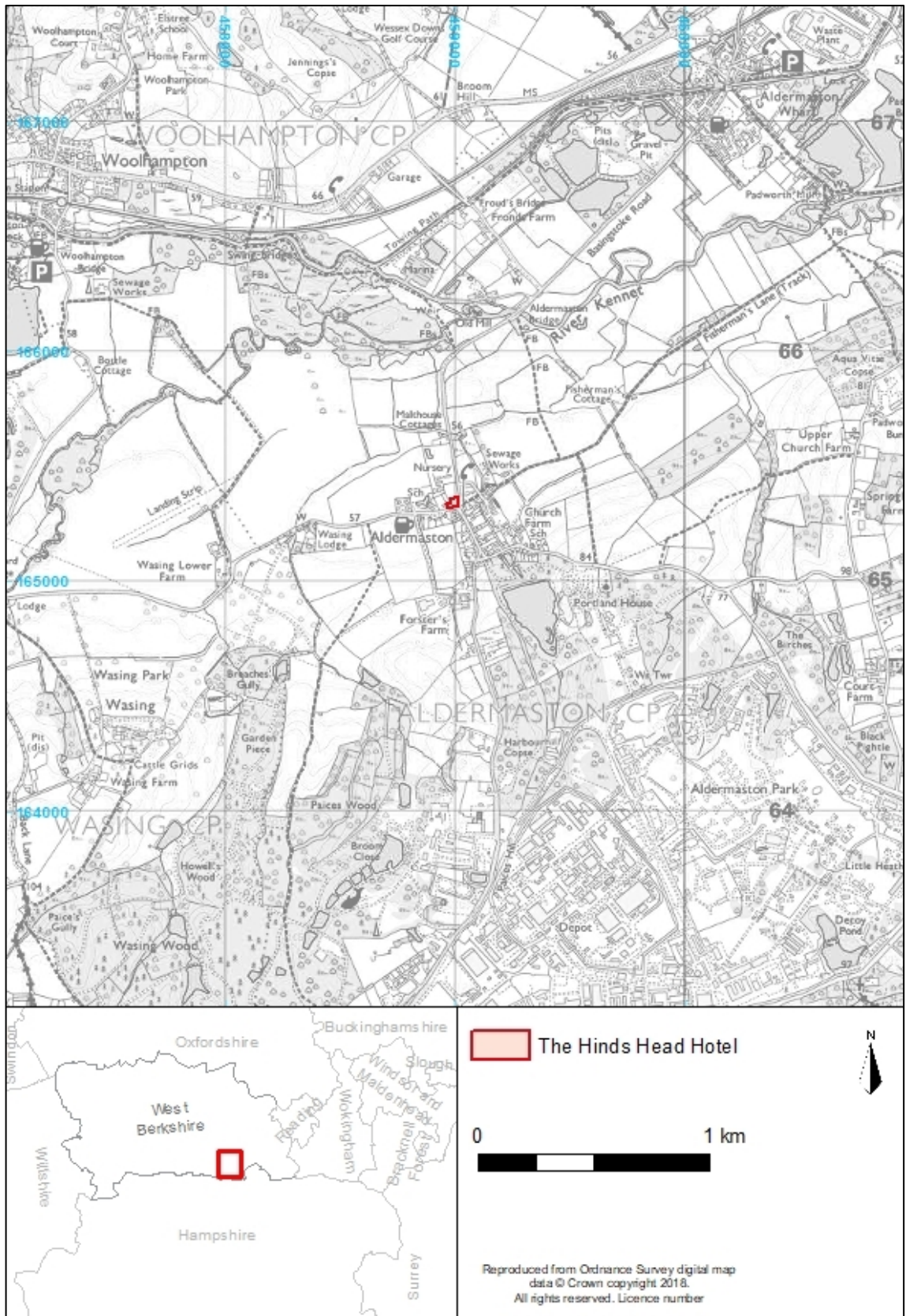


Figure 1: Site Location Plan

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. In August 2020 Cotswold Archaeology was commissioned by Fuller Smith and Turner Plc to undertake a programme of Historic Building Recording in respect of The Hinds Head Hotel, Aldermaston, West Berkshire (henceforth referred to as ‘the Building’). The Building is Grade II Listed (NHLE: 1319502) and has 17th-century origins, with flanking 18th-century additions. The Building is presently in use as a public house and hotel accommodation, and is situated at the northern extent of the village of Aldermaston and to the north-west of the junction of Basingstoke Road and Wasing Lane (NGR: 459003, 165333; Figure 1).

1.2. The recording was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to Listed Building Consent for the ‘re-build of failing boundary wall’ and the ‘support of defective beam at ground floor ceiling to restaurant’. Listed Building Consent (20/00113/LBC2) Condition No. 6 stated that:

No site works shall take place within the application site until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of building recording in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Thereafter the development shall incorporate and be undertaken in accordance with the approved statement.

Reason: To ensure that an adequate record is made of these buildings of architectural, historical or archaeological interest. This condition is imposed in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (February 2019) and Policies CS14 and CS19 of the West Berkshire Core Strategy (2006-2026).

Objectives and professional standards

1.3. Cotswold Archaeology (CA) is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). This report has been prepared in accordance with the ‘Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation of standing buildings or structures’ (CIfA, 2019) and a Written Scheme of Investigation (Cotswold Archaeology, 2020).

1.4. The objective of the recording is to produce a record of the parts of the Building, in their current state, which will be altered by the approved works. The record comprises annotated, plans, photographs and a written description of the Building in its current state prior to the approved works. The objective of the recording is to understand the structural and functional history of the Building and to provide a clear record of its

significance. The building survey equates to a Level 3 standard (an analytical record) as defined in 'Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice' (Historic England 2016).

Consultation

- 1.5. This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), formalising the adopted scope and methodology (Cotswold Archaeology 2020). The WSI was submitted to Debra Inston, Principal Conservation and Design Officer, West Berkshire Council for review, comment and approval. The WSI was approved on 15 September 2020.

2. METHODOLOGY

Data collection, analysis and presentation

- 2.1. The Historic Building Assessment was guided in its composition by the Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings and Structures (ClfA 2020); and Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice (Historic England 2016). The building recording was undertaken to a Level 3 standard as defined in the latter document.
- 2.2. The key objectives of the Historic Building Recording were to produce a concise description of the significance of the Building, and to produce a record of the parts of the Building which are to be altered, as a form of mitigation for the approved works to be undertaken on the Building. The areas of the Building which have been subject to detailed recording are:
- The failing beam within the western extent of the ground floor cellar bar, and;
 - The boundary wall along the course of Basingstoke Road.
- 2.3. The Building survey included the following elements:
- The completion of a photographic survey, to Historic England Level 3 standards, focussing on the areas and components of the Building which will be altered.
 - Detailed recording of any structural features that are of significance.
 - The production of floor plans establishing an accurate record of the historic development of the Building, informed by historic cartographic sources, planning history and the building inspection.
- 2.4. The recording focussed on creating a detailed record of the areas of the Building which will directly be altered by the development. This approach has been agreed with Debra Inston, Principal Conservation and Design Officer, West Berkshire Council, through the submission and approval of a Written Scheme of Investigation in accordance with a condition attached to Listed Building Consent for the 're-build of failing boundary wall' and the 'support of defective beam at ground floor ceiling to restaurant'.

Drawn Record

- 2.5. A drawn record was made utilising existing measured floor plans, indicating the form and function of any structural features and/or detail of historic significance including any evidence for fixtures and fittings of significance. Existing floor plans were used

during the assessment and have been annotated depicting the chronological phasing of the Building, features of architectural value and photographic locations (Figure 3). These existing floor plans are considered sufficient to illustrate the phased construction of the Building along with areas of significance.

Photographic Record

- 2.6. The photographic record includes general shots of the overall appearance of the principal areas within the Building which will be altered by the development and includes photographs of the overall appearance of these rooms along with photographs of specific architectural details that relate to date, alteration or function. A selection of the photographs have been used to illustrate the written description within this report, the locations of which are depicted on Figures 2 and 3. The photographic archive is held by Cotswold Archaeology but can be made available upon request. A copy of the archive will be deposited with an appropriate local depository if required and details of the project will be added to the OASIS database, in accordance with the WSI (Cotswold Archaeology, 2020).
- 2.7. The photographic survey comprises digital images of the Building and has been created in compliance with Historic England guidance. Select photographs were taken using a Digital Single Lens Reflex (DSLR) Camera with a sensor of a minimum of 20 megapixels. A compact digital camera was used for more general shots and working shots. Lenses were chosen to reflect the requirements of the particular feature/features being recorded.
- 2.8. Images have been saved in TIFF format. At the current time TIFF formatting is regarded as the best format for archiving. Some files have been converted to .jpeg format for use in the report, but original RAW or TIFF versions have been maintained in the project archive.

Written Record

- 2.9. The written account includes the location of the Building, designations, the date and circumstances of the record and name of recorder; an account of the buildings form, function, date and development sequence; and the names of architects, builders, patrons and owners will be given, where known.
- 2.10. Details of the history and development of the Building were derived from available secondary sources as well as through consultation of the West Berkshire Historic Environment Record (HER). Hannah Shaw, Historic Buildings Consultant, visited the

Building on 21 September 2020 to assess its significance in accordance with appropriate Historic England guidance and the approved WSI.

- 2.11. The Building was surveyed with a particular focus upon those elements to be altered by the development and upon those elements considered to date to the original construction phase, and includes analysis of external or internal details, structural or decorative, which are relevant to the Building's design, development or use.

Limitations

- 2.12. There was sufficient access to the Building to undertake the necessary recording and to assess its significance. Access was possible to most areas of the Building although it should be noted that the record specifically focusses upon those parts of the Building to be directly altered by the development. All areas of direct importance, relating to the proposed alterations, were fully inspected.

3. HISTORIC BACKGROUND

- 3.1. The Building is described in its Listing description (dating to 25 October 1951, NHLE 1319502) as:

Inn. C17 with flanking C18 additions. Red brick with tiled roof, large central rendered gable with clock flanked by 2 gabled dormers with leaded casements. Central wooden cupola with ball and lead cap with fox weathervane, end stack to right and stack to left at rear. 2 storeys and attic; leaded casements. 3 first floor cross windows, with blank window to left and blank circular window to far left; central 2-light ground floor window with 3-light window to left and 4-light window to right. Block to right: 2 storeys with one 3-light casement on each floor and half glazed door to left with fluted architrave and bracketed flat hood. Block to left: gambrel roof, 2 dormers with glazing bar sashes, and stack to rear. 2 storeys and attic, 3 bays, glazing bar sashes with exposed wooden boxes. 6-panelled door to right with glazed upper panels, and doorcase with fluted pilasters supporting frieze and cornice.



Photo 1: The southern elevation of The Hinds Head from the south-east.

- 3.2. The Building is situated towards the northern extent of the village of Aldermaston and is situated to the north-west of the road junction of Basingstoke Road, Wasing Lane and The Street. According to the Victoria County History (Page & Ditchfield, 1923):

The village of Aldermaston lies on the road from Basingstoke to Oxford. It is a mile and a quarter south of the railway station and consists principally of a wide street

sloping up to the gates of Aldermaston Park. Its appearance suggests that the place was once more considerable than it is now, and this is borne out by its history. The houses are mainly of brick or brick and half-timber with tiled roofs. At the bottom of the main street stands the 'Hind's Head', a large picturesque inn of the 17th century, with later additions on either side. It is a two-storey brick Building with dormers lighting the attic in the roof, while over the central gable is a small wooden bellturret. The windows have wooden transoms and mullions filled in with casements, while in the gable is a clock face.

- 3.3. The West Berkshire Historic Environment Record entry (HER Reference: MWB 17859) for the Hind's Head describes the Building as follows:

The Hind's Head Inn is a picturesque brick building of 17th century origins, with later additions. The oldest part has a central gable with a clock flanked by two gabled dormers. There is a central cupola with ball and lead cap with a fox weathervane. The inn lies at one end of Aldermaston village's main road, The Street, with the North Lodge of Aldermaston Court at the other end. Historical pub research found the Hinds Head documented in the 1830 Pigots directory and a mid-19th century travellers guide to the area describes the 'Congreve Arms' as a large and commodious inn and posting house. This is the Hinds Head as it is said to be at the furthest extremity of the village on the road to Wasing.

- 3.4. The pub was named the Congreve Arms during the early 19th century as it was owned by the Congreve family who were also the owners of Aldermaston Manor from the mid-18th century until the mid-19th century (Readers Digest Association 1990). The current name of the pub derives from the crest of the Forster family who occupied Aldermaston Manor from the late 15th century until the 18th century and thus given the 17th century origins of the pub, it was constructed whilst Aldermaston was owned by the Forster family.
- 3.5. On top of the Building is a large black and gold clock set into the gable with a small bellturret upon which is a gilt fox-shaped weather vane. According to Ingram et al, 'the bell was intended to be rung as an air-raid siren during the Second World War. In the early 19th century the pub's signboard carried the arms of the Congreve family, as well as branding for a company named "Adams".... By 1850 the pub brewed beer on-site and a brewery was built as an out-Building behind the main pub now the pub's kitchen' (Ingram et al 1976).

The Development of The Hind's Head Hotel

- 3.6. The earliest part of the Hinds Head comprises the central four bay range with the central gable and decorative clock and weather vane (Figure 3, Photos 1 and 2) which dates to the 17th century. The interior of the 17th century core comprises of a single large room against the southern elevation which currently serves as a bar area and contains exposed ceiling timbers (Photo 5). The northern extent of the 17th-century core has been altered as a result of the opening up of the north-western extent of the Building to form a large glazed lobby area (Figure 3, Photos 4 and 8).



Photo 2: The southern elevation of The Hinds Head with the 18th century wing to the west of the 17th century building.

- 3.7. During the 18th century the Building substantially expanded with the addition of a triple gable ended range in Flemish Bond (Photos 1 and 3) to the east of the 17th-century core which comprised a single bay range to the east of the southern elevation (Photo 1) with three large rooms to the interior (Photos 6 and 7). A further extension was constructed to the west of the 17th-century core during the 18th century and comprises a three bay range with a mansard roof which projects above the 17th-century core (Photo 4). A further two bay red-brick structure situated against the northern gable end of the painted northern gable end of the 17th-century structure may form an additional 18th-century extension (Photo 4). The Hinds Head Hotel was subsequently extended in the mid-19th century with the construction of a large single-

storey brewery abutting the northern elevation of the 17th-century structure (Figure 3, Photo 4), this structure has since been converted into a kitchen.



Photo 3: The eastern elevation of The Hinds Head.



Photo 4: The northern elevation from the north-west.



Photo 5: Ceiling timbers within the rooms at the southern extent of the 17th century structure.



Photo 6: Overview of room within the north-eastern extent of The Hinds Head.



Photo 7: Overview of the room within the south-eastern extent of The Hinds Head.



Photo 8: Overview of lobby area to the north of the 17th century building.

4. HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

Timber beam within cellar bar to ground floor

- 4.1. The timber beam is situated within the cellar bar which forms the central room against the eastern range of the Building (see Figure 3). The beam is the western-most beam within the cellar room and is situated on a north to south axis. The beam measures 150mm wide by 200mm deep and spans 5.2m between the wall supports. According to a structural survey report undertaken in December 2019 the beam is load bearing and supports the first-floor ceiling joists within the laundry room to the first floor.



Photo 9: The western extent of the cellar bar from the south-east.

- 4.2. The structural survey describes the floor within the laundry room as being comprised of varying sizes of joists and those on the left (west side) of the beam appear to be original, measuring 52mm by 93mm deep and with 400mm spacings. Those to the east of the beam were thought to be newer and measure 40 by 150mm deep and with 400mm spacings (BG Consulting, 2019). Part of the first-floor ceiling boards are exposed within an area to the north-east of the beam. The beam is defective and has been temporarily supported with the insertion of an Acrow prop encased and clad in MDF which has been positioned against the north-eastern extent of the bar counter within the south-western corner of the cellar bar (Photos 9 to 11).



Photo 10: The cellar bar from the north-east.



Photo 11: The cellar bar from the east.

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- 4.3. The eastern elevation of this range comprises three gable ended bays (Photo 3). This elevation of red-brick construction in Flemish Bond and appears to have been constructed in the 18th century as an extension to an earlier 17th-century core of the Building. A probable boxed-in beam to the east of the exposed timber beam aligns with the probable eastern wall of the 17th-century structure and possibly indicates that the current cellar bar room was formed through the opening up of the 17th century, formerly external, eastern elevation into the 18th-century range to the east.



Photo 12: The timber beam extends above the door opening into a vaulted cellar dating to the late 17th century.

- 4.4. The northern extent of the beam is set within a brick-built wall of a cellar vault which reputedly dates to the late 17th century (Photos 12 and 13). The southern extent is situated within a brick-built wall which separates the cellar vault from the main room situated against the southern elevation of the 17th-century building core (Photos 12 and 21). The position of the beam indicates that it likely falls within the earliest part of the building, within the 17th-century core and that this area was opened up to the east to create a larger room following the 18th century extension to the east.



Photo 13: The view south towards the beam from within the cellar vault.

- 4.5. The beam is of crude form and does not display any evidence of chamfering, decoration or carpenters' marks. There are no visible kerf marks to indicate that the beam was sawn and the ridged surface of the timber suggests it has been hand hewn (Photos 14 to 21).



Photo 14: The northern extent of the beam from the east.



Photo 15: The northern extent of the timber beam.



Photo 16: The eastern extent of a central part of the timber beam.



Photo 17: The eastern extent of the centre of the timber beam which is currently propped.



Photo 18: Detail of the timber beam from the west.

4.6. The southern extent of the beam has been painted (Photo 21). The crude, hewn appearance of the beam appears to conform with the beams used within the main bar against the southern elevation of the 17th-century structure (Photo 5). The shared appearance of the beam with those used within the core of the 17th-century structure, and the proximity of the beam to the 17th century core, suggests that the beam may form a structural component of the earliest part of the Hinds Head. Towards the northern extent of the southern half of the beam and within proximity of the extant Acrow prop is a slight indent within the beam marked either side by two lines in paint and suggesting that there may have been an earlier post abutting the beam in this location (Photo 19).



Photo 19: The southern half of the timber beam from the west.



Photo 20: The underside of the northern half of the beam.



Photo 21: The southern extent of the timber beam from the north-west.

Boundary wall along Basingstoke Road

- 4.7. The boundary wall encloses the beer garden to the east of the Building and runs for a course of approximately 40m along the course of Basingstoke Road (Figure 3). The southern extent of the boundary wall abuts the south-eastern corner of the Building. The northern extent abuts a boundary wall at the northern extent of the beer garden which separates the grounds of the Building with the recreation ground to the north and the Grade II Listed Lock up approximately 25m north of the Hind's Head Inn (NHLE: 1117349). The eastern elevation largely appears as a continuous wall elevation along Basingstoke Road but there are distinct areas visible within the western elevation (Photos 22 to 24). These have been discussed as individual sections and are labelled on Figure 3 (Section 1 to 7).



Photo 22: The eastern elevation of the boundary wall from the south-east.



Photo 23: The eastern elevation from the east.



Photo 24: The eastern elevation of the boundary wall from the north-east.

Section 1

- 4.8. The eastern elevation of the wall is bound by a pavement running along the western extent of Basingstoke Road (Photos 22 to 25). To the eastern elevation, approximately 16.5m of the southern extent of the wall is at a height of 1.6m. Section

1 of the wall comprises the southern-most extent of the wall and runs for a course of c.2.3m. This section is constructed of light coloured red brick laid in English Bond with alternating courses of headers and stretchers (Photos 22 and 25). The eastern elevation of this section is partially obscured by vegetation whilst the western elevation is fully visible (Photo 26). The section is capped with bricks stood on their header end. Typically, English Bond is one of the oldest brickwork bonds and was utilised as a popular bond until the late 17th century. This section appears to have been rebuilt and the bricks conform with standard metric brick sizes of 215mm by 100mm by 65mm. An example of a brick used within this section of the boundary wall measured approximately 215mm by 100mm by 70mm.



Photo 25: Detail of the re-built section (Section 1) at the southern extent of the eastern elevation.



Photo 26: Section 1 of the western elevation from the north-west.

Section 2

- 4.9. Section 2 is most noticeable to the western elevation of the wall and comprises a section of wall approximately 3.9m wide (Photos 22 and 23). The southern extent of this section simply abuts Section 1 (Photo 26) whilst the northern extent is demarcated by a brick pilaster/buttress (Photos 27 and 28). The section is spalling and heavily eroded as a result of the cementitious strap pointing utilised and the extent of decay and repointing in cement results in the obscuring of the original brick bond.
- 4.10. The visible bond is best appreciated within the southern extent of the section which appears to have been constructed in stretcher bond whilst the northern part is potentially of header bond construction in part. The size of an average brick utilised within this section broadly corresponds with imperial brick measurements of the late 19th century (typically 225mm by 110mm by 65mm) with a measured example measuring approximately 220mm by 120mm by 70mm). This section continues the capping on Section 1 with bricks stood on their header end.

Section 3

- 4.11. Section 3 comprises a section of wall between the buttress at the northern extent of Section 2 and the buttress to the immediate north of the gate/door opening and covers a length of approximately 2.94m (Photos 22 and 23). The section is of redbrick construction laid in Flemish Garden Wall bond with courses of three stretchers to one header (Photos 28 to 30). To the eastern elevation of the wall this section appears to be a continuation of Section 2 (Photos 22 and 23). The bricks used within this section appear to be of metric size with an example approximately measuring 210mm by 110mm by 70mm.



Photo 27: Sections 2 and 3 of the western elevation from the south-west.

- 4.12. The brickwork is in better condition with less spalling visible within the western elevation compared to Section 2, suggesting that this area has been pointed with a softer material. There are queen closer bricks present to the south of the opening within this section which likely indicate the section was intentionally constructed to contain an opening, providing access from the yard to the east of the 18th-century range onto the course of Basingstoke Road.



Photo 28: Sections 3, 2 and 1 of the western elevation from the north-west.



Photo 29: Section 3 of the western elevation from the south-west.



Photo 30: Door opening between Sections 3 and 4 of the western elevation.

Section 4

- 4.13. Section 4 comprises a section which continues north from the buttress to the north of Section 3 (Photos 31 and 32). The northern extent of the western elevation of this section is partially obscured by vegetation. The section measures approximately 2.4m in length. It is of redbrick construction in stretcher bond. An example brick used within the western elevation of this section broadly follows Georgian imperial brick measurements (typically 225mm by 95mm by 60mm) with the example brick measuring 230mm by 80mm by 70mm.



Photo 31: Section 4 of the western elevation from the west.



Photo 32: Section 4 from the south-west.

Section 5

- 4.14. Section 5 comprises a section of the western elevation of the wall which is heavily obscured by vegetation surrounding a stepped access from the yard into the beer garden. This section to the eastern elevation forms part of the continuous eastern

elevation which is of red brick construction in Flemish Garden Wall bond and which is capped with red bricks stood on their header end (Photos 33 to 35).



Photo 33: The southern extent of the eastern elevation of the boundary wall from the south-east.



Photo 34: Sections 3 to 6 of the eastern elevation.



Photo 35: The western elevation (Sections 7, 6 and 5) from the north-west.

Section 6

- 4.15. Section 6 comprises the northern extent of the southern half of the wall and is a curved section which demarcates the step down in height from 1.6m at the southern extent to just over 1m at the northern extent. This section also marks the change in coping employed, with the northern extent of Section 5 being capped with bricks stood on their header end abutting the half round brick capping employed to Sections 6 and 7.
- 4.16. The section is of redbrick construction in Flemish Garden Wall bond and forms part of the continuous eastern elevation of the boundary wall with the exception of the changes in capping (Photos 34 and 36). An example brick from the western elevation of this section measures approximately 220mm by 95mm by 65mm and these measurements broadly correspond with Georgian imperial brick sizes which were typically 225mm by 95mm by 60mm.



Photo 36: Section 6 of the western elevation from the west.

Section 7

- 4.17. Section 7 forms the northern extent of the wall and measures approximately 18m in length. The northern extent of the section abuts a further section of wall running on an east to west axis which separates the grounds of the Hinds Head from the recreation grounds to the north (Photo 40).
- 4.18. The eastern elevation of this section is approximately 1.1m tall and forms a continuous elevation with Section 6 constructed in red brick laid in Flemish Garden Wall bond and capped with half round red bricks (Photos 37 to 39). The western elevation is lower than the eastern as a result of the higher ground level within the grounds of the Hinds Head (Photos 40 to 43). The western elevation is supported by five brick-built buttresses, the top three courses of which step down. The western elevation is also laid in Flemish Garden Wall but is cruder in its appearance than the road facing eastern elevation along Basingstoke Road. The bricks used within this section to the western elevation are contemporary with those used within Section 6 and measure approximately 220mm by 100mm by 65mm.



Photo 37: The southern extent of the eastern elevation of Section 7.



Photo 38: The central part of the eastern elevation of Section 7.



Photo 39: The northern extent of the eastern elevation of Section 7.



Photo 40: The section of wall at the northern extent of the beer garden.



Photo 41: The northern extent of the boundary wall from the west.



Photo 42: The southern half of Section 7 of the eastern elevation from the south-west.



Photo 43: The southern extent of Section 7 where it increases in height to 1.6 metres within Section 6.

5. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

- 5.1. The following Statement of Significance has been produced with reference to the four heritage values identified in Conservation Principles (English Heritage, 2008) as well as utilising Historic England's guidance contained within the Listing Selection Guide for Commerce and Exchange Buildings (Historic England 2017). According to Historic England, 'the improvements in road communications in the 18th century stimulated the establishment of large coaching inns with street fronts which combined architectural elegance with strident promotion...inside eating, and sleeping rooms of varying status coincided with extensive stabling and grooms quarters to the rear.. inns survive in considerable numbers, and are some of the most engaging of all commercial buildings' (Historic England 2017).
- 5.2. The Timber Beam with the Cellar Bar is of crude form and does not display any evidence of chamfering, decoration or carpenters' marks. There are no visible kerf marks to indicate that the beam was sawn and the ridged surface of the timber suggests it has been hand hewn. The beam appears to be of the same appearance as the beams used within the core of the 17th-century structure and the proximity of the beam to the 17th-century core suggests that it may form a structural component of the earliest part of the Hinds Head. The beam therefore contributes to the evidential and historical (illustrative) value of the Hinds Head as a prominent coaching inn with 17th century origins.
- 5.3. The Boundary Wall along Basingstoke Road is predominantly of Flemish Garden Wall bond, which was popular from the 18th century and indicates that the wall likely has 18th-century origins. It was possibly constructed as part of the 18th-century eastern extension of the Building. The wall is largely of high-quality construction, particularly the eastern elevation of the wall which presents onto Basingstoke Road as a continuous wall elevation. The high quality of the eastern elevation compared to the crude and varied construction of the western elevation suggests that the wall was designed and constructed to be appreciated when travelling through Aldermaston on Basingstoke Road. The wall is of historic (illustrative) and evidential value through the evidence it contains of probable 18th-century fabric, which contributes to an understanding of the historic development and expansion of the Building and the role it played as a coaching inn situated in a prominent position on the road between Reading and Basingstoke. The wall is also considered to be of some aesthetic value

as it presents a continuous decorative wall, of high quality construction, along the course of Basingstoke Road.

- 5.4. In summary, despite The Hinds Head being altered and extended over time, the Building is of evidential value as it retains a number of features of historic interest which relate to its earlier 17th-century core and to its ongoing use as a coaching inn, hotel and public house, which include the visible timber ceiling construction. The Hinds Head is of historical value as a Public House with 17th-century origins which is situated on the coaching thoroughfare between Reading and Basingstoke. The Building has been altered and extended over time as a result of its ongoing use and has functioned as a prominent building serving those travelling along this coaching route from the 17th century and continues to do so in the present day. As such the Building is also of communal value through its role serving the population of Aldermaston as well as those passing through the settlement.
- 5.5. In conclusion, this report addresses the requirement of Condition 6 attached to Listed Building Consent Reference 20/001131/LBC2 which permits the re-building of a failing boundary wall and the support of defective beam at ground floor ceiling to restaurant for a programme of building recording undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation. The scope of this report has been undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation which was submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the scope comprising a Level 3 record of those parts of the building to be altered was agreed with the Local Planning Authority.

6. REFERENCES

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