



**The Air Balloon Public House
Birdlip
Gloucestershire**

*Historic Building Recording
Level 3*



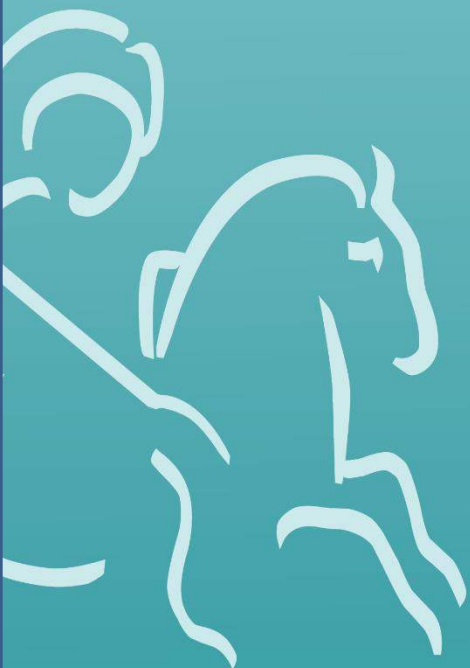
*Report prepared for:
Kier Highways Ltd*

On behalf of: National Highways

CA Project: CR1437

CA Report: CR1437_1

January 2024



The Air Balloon Public House Birdlip Gloucestershire

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CA Project: CR1437

CA Report: CR1437_1

prepared by	Sacha Hunter, Senior Historic Buildings Consultant
date	January 2024
checked by	Hannah Shaw, Historic Buildings Consultant
date	January 2024
approved by	Richard Hardy, Senior Historic Buildings Consultant
signed	
date	January 2024
issue	1

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Cirencester Building 11 Cotswold Business Park Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 6BQ t. 01285 771022 f. 01285 771033	Milton Keynes Unit 8 – The IO Centre Fingle Drive Stonebridge Milton Keynes Buckinghamshire MK13 0AT t. 01908 564660	Andover Stanley House Walworth Road Andover Hampshire SP10 5LH t. 01264 347630	Suffolk Unit 5, Plot 11 Maitland Road Lion Barn Industrial Estate Needham Market Suffolk IP6 8NZ t. 01449 900120
e. enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk			

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SUMMARY

Project Name: The Air Balloon Public House
Location: Birdlip, Gloucestershire
NGR: 393433 216082

In December 2022 Kier Highways Ltd commissioned Cotswold Archaeology to undertake a historic building recording of the Air Balloon Public House in Birdlip, Gloucestershire. The recording is required to preserve the building by record prior to its demolition as part of the A417 Missing Link road infrastructure scheme. The building was a public house established in the 18th century at a hilltop junction on Crickley Hill on the former Gloucester to Oxford and Cheltenham to Bath turn pike roads.

The building lies within an area that has been subject to investigations carried out to inform the Development Consent Order, which established that heritage assets would be affected by the construction of the scheme. Accordingly, a Detailed Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (DAMS) and an Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation (OWSI) for the Scheme, as secured by DCO Requirement 9, has been prepared on behalf of National Highways (NH 2022) in consultation with the archaeological advisors to Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) and Historic England (HE). The DAMS/OWSI sets out the scope, principles, and standards to which proposed archaeological building recording works for the scheme will be carried out.

A Site Specific Written Scheme of Investigation (SSWSI) has been drafted and agreed by the Secretary of State as per the requirements outlined in the DAMS/OWSI. The level of recording has been confirmed as Level 3 under Historic England's guidelines contained in *Understanding Historic Buildings, A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (2016). A Level 3 record is an analytical record, and comprises an introductory description followed by a systematic account of the building's origins, development and use. The record includes an account of the evidence on which the analysis has been based, allowing the validity of the record to be re-examined in detail. It also includes all drawn and photographic records that may be required to illustrate the building's appearance and structure and to support an historical analysis.

The results of the Level 3 building recording presented here will be archived as per the terms of the SSWSI (Appendix 1).

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In December 2022 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) was commissioned by Kier Highways Ltd to undertake a programme of historic building recording of the Air Balloon Public House in Birdlip, Gloucestershire (Fig.1, NGR 393433 216082). The building (hereafter called the 'Building' or the 'inn') is an 18th century public house situated on the major road junction currently known as the Air Balloon roundabout which is accessed by the A436 and the A417 c.9.6km south of Cheltenham.
- 1.2. The Building is required to be recorded prior to its demolition as part of the A417 Missing Link Road Scheme. The Building lies within an area that has been subject to investigations carried out to inform the Development Consent Order (DCO), which established that the heritage asset would be affected by the construction of the scheme. Accordingly, a Detailed Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (DAMS) and an Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation (OWSI) for the Scheme, as secured by DCO Requirement 9, has been prepared on behalf of National Highways (NH 2022) in consultation with the archaeological advisors to Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) and Historic England (HE). The DAMS/OWSI sets out the scope, principles, and standards to which proposed archaeological building recording works for the scheme will be carried out.
- 1.3. A Site Specific Written Scheme of Investigation (SSWSI) has been drafted and agreed by the Secretary of State as per the requirements outlined in the DAMS/OWSI (reproduced in Appendix 1). The level of recording has been confirmed as Level 3 under Historic England's guidelines contained in *Understanding Historic Buildings, A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (2016). Level 3 is an analytical record, and comprises an introductory description followed by a systematic account of the Building's origins, development and use. The record includes an account of the evidence on which the analysis has been based, allowing the validity of the record to be re-examined in detail. It also includes all drawn and photographic records that may be required to illustrate the Building's appearance and structure and to support a historical analysis
- 1.4. The recording also aims to contribute to the South-West Archaeological Research Framework (SWARF). More detail of the SWARF Themes and Research Aims, including the specific DAMS research aim for the Air Balloon building recording are detailed in paragraphs 2.8-2.14.

The scheme

- 1.5. The scheme covers a 5.5km long area which follows the existing A417 dual carriageway to the west of the Air Balloon roundabout and then runs north-east of the existing A417 corridor to join the existing A417 dual carriageway at the Cowley roundabout.
- 1.6. The Building comprises an 18th century public house with likely 17th century origins. It lies on a key convergence of roads leading from and to Wales, Cheltenham, Gloucester, the Cotswolds and Oxford and was therefore well placed to serve travellers after the heavy work of ascending Crickley Hill, on whose summit the Building lies. It has seen multiple phases of refurbishment and alteration which coincide with opportunities presented by the development of the road network on which it lies.

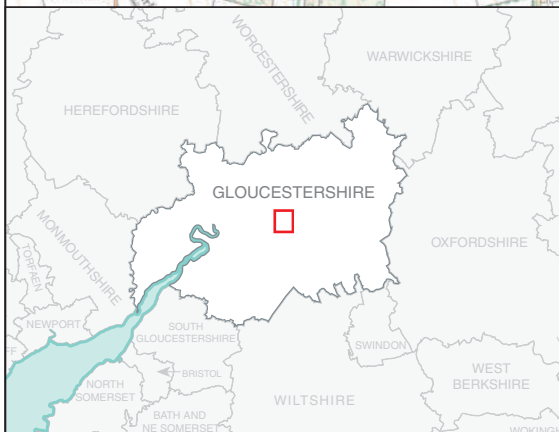
Objectives and professional standards

- 1.7. Cotswold Archaeology is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). This report has been prepared in accordance with the appropriate standards and guidance issued by Historic England (2016) *Understanding Historic Buildings – A Guide to Good Recording Practice* and the CIfA's *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings and structures* (2020). The recording is broadly defined as a 'Level 3 analytical' standard, in accordance with Historic England recording guidelines (HE 2016).



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0 1:1250 50m



Site

0 1km

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Ordnance Survey 0100031673



Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
Suffolk 01449 900120
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

A417 Missing Link HBR – The Air Balloon Inn

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY	KL	PROJECT NO.	CR1437	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DB	DATE	29/09/2023	
APPROVED BY	SH	SCALE@A4	1:25,000 & 1:1250	1

2. METHODOLOGY

Level 3 Building Record

- 2.1. The building recording comprises a Level 3 record as set out in the Historic England guidance '*Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*' (2016). A Level 3 building record is defined by Historic England as an 'analytical record'. It is not an assessment of heritage significance such as informs the decision-making process. This record was also produced in accordance with the ClfA publication '*Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures*' (2020).

Level 3 drawn record

- 2.2. This element includes items 2-3 of the Historic England guidance regarding 'the drawn record'. A full suite of building plans and elevations, including photogrammetry, have been compiled by Cotswold Archaeology's Geomatics team. A building plan has been compiled, showing the location of the rooms and internal spaces within the Building (Figs 4a-c). These also record the form and location of any structural features and/or detail of historic significance including any evidence for former fixtures and fittings. Other illustrations to support the historical analysis and survey are also provided. Existing measured elevations and floor plans with photo location points have been used to illustrate the report.

Level 3 photographic record

- 2.3. A digital photographic record has been compiled. Photography has been undertaken with a Canon EOS 600D 20mpx TTL digital camera in accordance with items 1-9 of the Historic England guidance (HE 2016). The photographic record includes general views of the Building, shots of the external appearance and the overall appearance of principal spaces and functional areas. Specific architectural details that relate to date, alteration, or function have been subject to more detailed photographic recording. Where surviving, external or internal detail (structural or decorative) relevant to the Building's design, development and use has been photographed, with scale where appropriate. The photographic survey comprises digital images of the Building and specific features of interest.
- 2.4. Selected images have been converted to .jpeg format for use in the report. Levels of Metadata will be maintained and included in the digital archive following the approach set out in the aforementioned guidance. Appropriate scales are located in most

archive photographs. However, where appropriate (i.e. where scaling can be seen from items within the view, or shots that may be used in publications) photographs without scales have also been taken.

Level 3 written record

- 2.5. The Level 3 written record is analytical in its composition and includes the Building location, the dates of the record and the name of the recorder. The written record includes a brief summary of the Building's historic and architectural context, based upon the site inspection. It includes commentary and analysis of structures, features and any relevant uncovered building fabric which reveal additional evidence and information about the historical development of the Building and its use and alteration over time. Detail of the Building's history, development and use has been informed by secondary sources consulted at the Gloucestershire Archives as well as accessible published online sources. The report includes a map regression to illustrate the development of the building (Figure 2). The components of the written record are in-line with Items 1-3,6-9, 11-13 and 23 of the Historic England guidance (HE 2016).

Recording aims and objectives

- 2.6. The overarching Aims and Objectives for the Scheme are outlined within the DAMS and reference should be made to this document for further detail.
- 2.7. The Scheme lies within the area covered by the *South West Archaeological Research Framework* (SWARF; Grove and Croft 2012). A Research Agenda and Strategy for the Scheme is included within the DAMS, informed by the Themes contained within SWARF, and by other period-based research agendas, and reference should be made to the DAMS for further detail. The following covers the site-specific research agenda for the programme of historic building recording, including research questions and specific objectives drawn from SWARF, the DAMS, and any other pertinent frameworks.

South West Archaeological Research Framework (SWARF)

- 2.8. As the programme of historic building recording has the potential to record remains associated with post-medieval activity, the work has the potential to contribute to Themes and Research Aims included within SWARF. These include, but are not limited to:

Theme D: Social Identity and Change and Theme E: Economies and Subsistence

- 2.9. Within Theme D, **Research Aim 48**: ‘Widen understanding of Post-Medieval and Modern transport and communications’ and **Research Aim 43**: ‘Address the lack of knowledge of Post-Medieval to Modern food production’ within Theme E are relevant, through the relationships of both the Air Balloon Public House and Crickley Hill Milestone to post-medieval transport and the use of the Crickley Hill toll road and their inherent influence on the agricultural practices within the area.
- 2.10. SWARF notes that ‘our knowledge of the archaeology of the food and drinks trades is limited’ for the post-medieval period (Grove and Croft 2012, 220), and that there is even less knowledge of ‘the distribution and support services that were an essential part of the organisation of these trades’, although ‘Pubs have also been the subject of a recent national study’ (ibid.). The siting of the Air Balloon Public House (New Inn) adjacent to the junction of the Crickley Hill and Cheltenham roads would have placed it on an important link between the Cotswold uplands, Gloucester and the wider Severn Valley.

Theme F: Widening Access and Interpretation

- 2.11. Within Theme F, **Research Aim 2**: ‘Encourage works of synthesis within and cross periods, settlements, monuments and areas’, is applicable, with the anticipated results of the historic building recording having the potential to contribute to the wider study of the post-medieval period, and to tie into the results of work in Excavation Area 26.
- 2.12. Furthermore, **Research Aim 4**: ‘Encourage wide involvement in archaeological research and present modern accounts of the past to the public’, will form part of the core aim of disseminating the results of the archaeological work for the entire Scheme to the wider public through multiple channels and means. This is addressed in Section 12 of the SWARF..

Theme H: Methodologies

- 2.13. Within Theme H, **Research Aim 3**: ‘Address apparent “gaps” in our knowledge and assess whether they are meaningful or simply biases in current knowledge’ is relevant, and ties into the above research questions.

DAMS Research Questions

- 2.14. The programme of historic building recording has the potential to contribute to specific Research Questions identified within the DAMS, as outlined below. These relate to the Medieval/Post-Medieval (MPM) research period.

MPM5: *What can the fabric and structure of the Air Balloon public house reveal of its history and usage as a roadside inn?*

Level 3 report and archive

- 2.15. A fully detailed and illustrated report for the Building has been produced within the above scope (the present report) and will be submitted as per the terms of the DAMS/OWSI (paragraph 3.16.2), which includes consultation with National Highways, the GCC Archaeological Officer and Historic England. Archiving will follow best practice with regards to the Historic England guidance (2016) detailed on pages 30-34 of the SSWSI.
- 2.16. A public-facing report for the whole Scheme will be produced at a later stage, synthesising the results of all archaeological works across the Scheme.
- 2.17. Subject to any contractual constraints, a summary of information from the project will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain. This will include a digital (pdf) copy of the final report, which will also appear on the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) website once the OASIS record has been verified. Should it be agreed, copies of the reports will be deposited with the Gloucester Archives and the Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record.
- 2.18. A digital (pdf) copy of the final report will also be made available for public viewing via CA's *Archaeological Reports Online* web page (<http://reports.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk>).
- 2.19. The Level 3 survey on site was undertaken by Sacha Hunter, Senior Historic Buildings Consultant, on 18 September 2023.

Limitations of the assessment

- 2.20. This assessment is principally based upon a historic building survey, undertaken on 18 September 2023, which has been supplemented by secondary information derived from a variety of sources, only some of which have been directly examined

for the purpose of this assessment. The assumption is made that this data, as well as that derived from other secondary sources is reasonably accurate.

- 2.21. Access to the Building was possible within most areas though the ground floor areas were boarded over so light levels were extremely low. Access was not possible to the modern rear (western) range but this area is not historic and so was not considered relevant to the historical record. The focus of the survey was the physical fabric of the buildings; any objects that were not considered to be a fixture or fitting were considered to be in storage within the buildings and were not assessed.

3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Landscape context

- 3.1. The Building is located just south-west of the Air Balloon roundabout (Fig.1) which is a key road junction between the A436 to Oxford, the A417 between Gloucester and Cirencester, and Leckhampton Hill. The public house lies on the brow of Crickley Hill, overlooking the Vale of Gloucester and Gloucester itself c.11km to the east, and the nearest village, Birdlip, is located c.1.6km to the south. Local terrain is mixed, with wooded areas, limestone grassland, scrubland and agricultural land ranged over the slopes and plateau of the Cotswold escarpment of which Crickley Hill is a part. Ullenwood Country Park and the Ullenwood Bharat Cricket Club lie to the west of the roundabout.
- 3.2. Crickley Hill and surrounding areas comprise a landscape of historic interest, with evidence of multi period human occupation and activity from the prehistoric times onwards. The A417 on its present course from Cirencester largely follows the path of Ermin Way, a key Roman Road linking Gloucester with Cirencester. The A436 starts at the Air Balloon junction and is essentially a former B-road traversing the Cotswold region to the east. It also links Gloucester with the A40 to Oxford at Shipton Oliffe.

Historic context of the Building

A key road junction

- 3.1. As indicated above, the Air Balloon lies on a key historic road junction; both the main route to Cirencester to Cheltenham and beyond, and the main route from Gloucester to the Cotswolds and Oxford.
- 3.2. A large network of roads were established during the Romano-British period and continued to be used, without any significant investment, into the medieval periods. By the end of the 17th century, many more wheeled vehicles were travelling on England's roads, and their condition was very poor due to underinvestment and neglect. Landowners and parishes were often responsible for the condition of roads within their ownership or stewardship, and many were not able to afford, or not minded, to invest in road repairs or improvements. Social and industrial changes in the late 17th and 18th centuries resulted in the increased need for interregional travel and trade, including the use of larger wagons and carriages, which further exacerbated the poor condition of many roads (Bagart Nd).

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- 3.3. Turnpike trusts emerged as a solution to this problem. This was essentially a system where a levy for travelling along a road would build a fund to pay for its upkeep. Turnpike trusts were established by Acts of Parliament initiated by local landowners and commercial interests. Following most petitions, a Bill was written by a select House of Common committee. It was then reviewed by the whole House. Most turnpike Bills passed with little controversy, but sometimes local groups voiced concerns.
- 3.4. The earliest Turnpike Act in Gloucestershire in 1698 involved the roads which pass the Air Balloon Pub, the roads from Gloucester to Crickley Hill and Birdlip (A417). This was described in contemporary accounts as ‘formerly a terrible place for poor carriers and travellers out of Wales etc’.¹ The current A436 from Crickley Hill to Little Barrington was turnpiked as part of the Crickley Hill to Frog Mill Turnpike Trust in 1850². Leckhampton Hill, which links to the A436 at the Air Balloon junction, is known to be an ancient route along the Cotswold escarpment and possible former salt road known as the Old Bath Road. This is the road from Cheltenham to Bath linking with the Ermin Way (A417) at Birdlip. It was called Edge Way in 1270, Kings Highway in 1350 and the ‘road from Cirencester and Bath’ in 1617 (Moore Scott nd).
- 3.5. Thus the Air Balloon roundabout represents the convergence of three very historic strategic routes through the region.

Cowley Parish

- 3.6. The Building lies in the historic parish of Cowley which is a small estate village dominated by Cowley Manor. The parish was irregular in shape and included the western corner of Birdlip village. The Gloucester to Cirencester Road followed its south-western boundary. The village of Cowley lies c. 2km to the south-east of the Building. Its names means ‘cow pasture’ (Herbert 1981).
- 3.7. In 1086 20 tenants were recorded on the Cowley estate, and this number grew to 14 households in 1563. The manor was held by Pershore Abbey. In 1542 the manor was granted to the dean and chapter of Westminster. It was granted for three lives to Henry Brett in 1630 and descended in Brett’s line until it was granted to William Morgan of Bristol in 1721. Morgan sold the lease on to Samuel Hawker of

¹<http://www.painswickusers.org.uk/plhs/history/histroads.htm#:~:text=The%20earliest%20Turnpike%20Act%20in,but%20now%20repaired%20very%20well%22>.

² https://www.sabre-roads.org.uk/wiki/index.php?title=Gloucestershire_Turnpikes

Rodborough and then began a complicated and quick series of grants and sales of the lease until James Hutchison purchased the freehold from the dean and chapter of Westminster and enlarged the estate by purchasing the Cowley part of the Ivy Lodge estate in Brimpsfield. Further changes in ownership occurred until 1928 when the estate began to be broken up (Herbert 1981).

- 3.8. In 1934 the Building was sold as a lot within the Ullenwood estate sale. It is not clear when it transferred to this estate, but given the many changes and sales that occurred within the Cowley manorial estate, it is likely that it was sold off piecemeal during the 19th century. Ullenwood was the western part of the Coberley manorial estate until it was sold in the mid-19th therefore it is reasonable to assume that the purchase of the Air Balloon site was part of this establishment of a new estate at Ullenwood, which lies c.1km to the north-east of the Building (Herbert 1981- Coberley Manor).

The Building's origins and development

- 3.9. Historical accounts (Herbert 1981 et al) state that the Building became a public house in c.1777 and was formed from two cottages. An undated historical account (no author noted) at Gloucester Record Office (GRO D88947/12/3/1) suggests it was once two alehouses. Both accounts would suggest that the Building was well established by the 1770s and this would suggest that it was a modest stone building. In the medieval and post medieval periods alehouses were ordinary dwellings where the householder served home-brewed ale and beer with some very basic accommodation, therefore it is likely that the one or two cottages were also alehouses and served the clientele such as the drovers ascending Crickley Hill and heading towards the wool towns of the Cotswolds. The advent of turnpiking and development/upgrading of the local road network then catalysed the development of the cottages/alehouses into an inn.
- 3.10. Herbert (1981) states that the Building was known as the Balloon by 1796, and later as the Air Balloon from 1802. In the 1973 Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, A P Wooldrich states that the inn was called the New Inn in 1782. There are several online accounts of how the inn became named the Air Balloon, with the most likely it being a possible location for a balloon landing by Edward Jenner in 1784. Hot air balloons had only been invented a year or so before, and were an exciting sight for people in rural areas. Birdlip became a popular place for ballooning ascents in the late 18th and 19th centuries.

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- 3.11. Clearly the Building became a modest coaching inn to serve the users of the three roads that converged outside its doors and its was established in the heyday of coach travelling prior to the introduction of trains in the early 19th century. Apparently the Gloucester to Birdlip section was popular with animal drovers from Wales. This and the turnpiking of the Ermin Way (A417) in 1698 may have initiated the establishment of the cottage/alehouses mentioned in accounts, which then became the inn in 1777. This coincided with developments in travelling technology (improved carriages etc), societal improvements (highway safety and increasing turnpike road networks etc) and the effects of the Industrial Revolution which was having a catalysing impact on population growth and movement, and social mobility.
- 3.12. Peter Haydon (1994) notes that: *'...on the whole inns tended to be suited to the station of their clientele. This means a wide range of establishments falling under the generic term inn. In the towns many of the inns, as the equivalent of the modern hotels of the railway termini, would have been rather grand. Elsewhere they would have varied, depending on their location, how busy the road was, how affluent a route it was, whether or not they were on a 'stage'; a convenient end-of-day location'*.
- 3.13. The Air Balloon was not likely to be a 'stage inn'; being close to the despatch centres of Gloucester, Cheltenham and Cirencester (where stage inns would have been clustered). Its modest size and vernacular appearance would also support this, in the sense that it did not have adequate amounts of good quality accommodation for either people or carriage horses (travel had taken on a class emphasis during the coaching era). It was likely more a place for lower class travellers (such as the aforementioned drovers) to stop for refreshments and possibly a place to stay after the heavy work ascending Crickley Hill. As such it was likely to be an establishment of modest status. The fact of its vernacular origins as cottages or low status alehouses and its conversion to a country inn would also support this.
- 3.14. A photo of c.1900 (GRO DC86/80, Photo 1) depicts the Building at this time with its distinctive porch and canted bay window in situ. As mentioned in paragraph 2.30 the Building was sold as part of the Ullenwood Estate in 1934. A photo from the sales brochure for the estate (GRO DC86/80, Photo 2) illustrates the roadways around the Building, with there being a change in height between the Crickley Hill roadway and that going on past the pub to Birdlip. This provides an explanation for the triangular feature on the OS mapping, it forms an earth bank around which the car or cart would execute a hairpin turn to access the Birdlip road.



Photo 1 **The pub in 1900 (GRO DC86/80)**

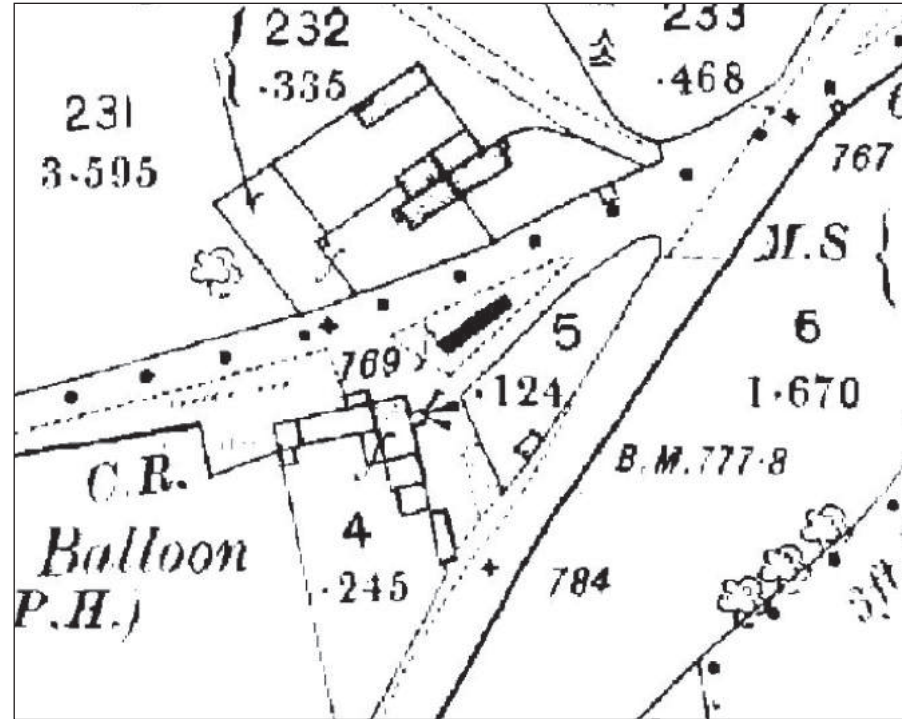


Photo 2 **The pub in 1934 (GRO DC86/80)**

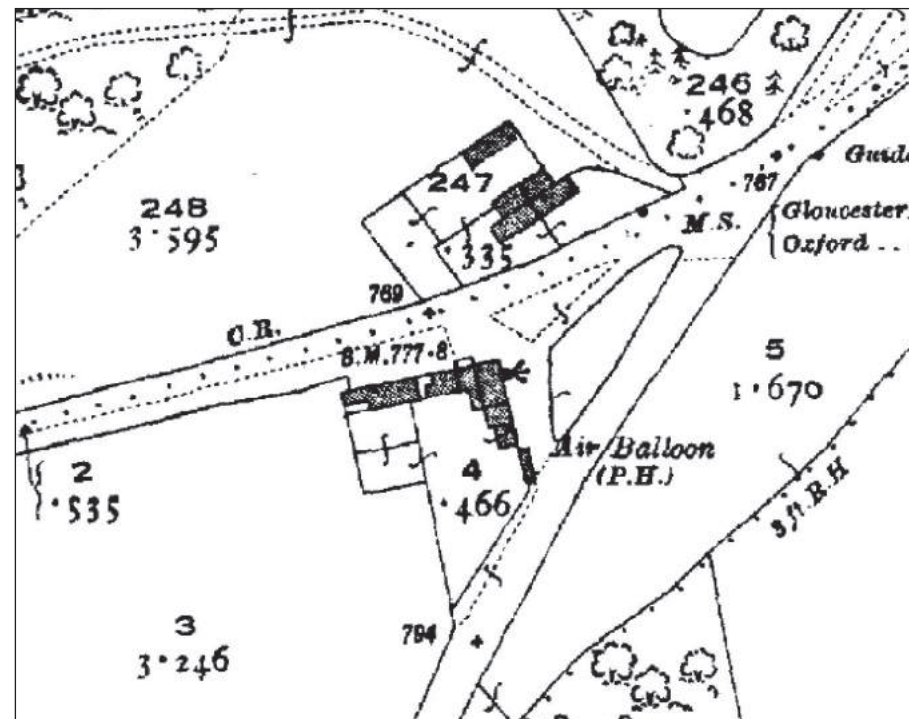
- 3.15. The 1934 sales particulars offer the pub as a having a 'usually attractive situation' on the intersection of the main road from London and Oxford to Gloucester and the West. It is described as having a garden and grass paddock to the rear, built of Cotswold stone with a stone tiled roof and a bar room, smoke room, kitchen, scullery, larder, cellar, four bedrooms, two attics and two boxrooms. Outside is a wash house, two shed stores and a corrugated iron roof trap house, with a 'nag stable', pigsties, and cow shed adjoining the main Building. This all suggests a modest roadside inn with a smallholding serving it.
- 3.16. Historic mapping offers an overview of the Buildings of the inn during the 19th and 20th centuries (Fig.2).



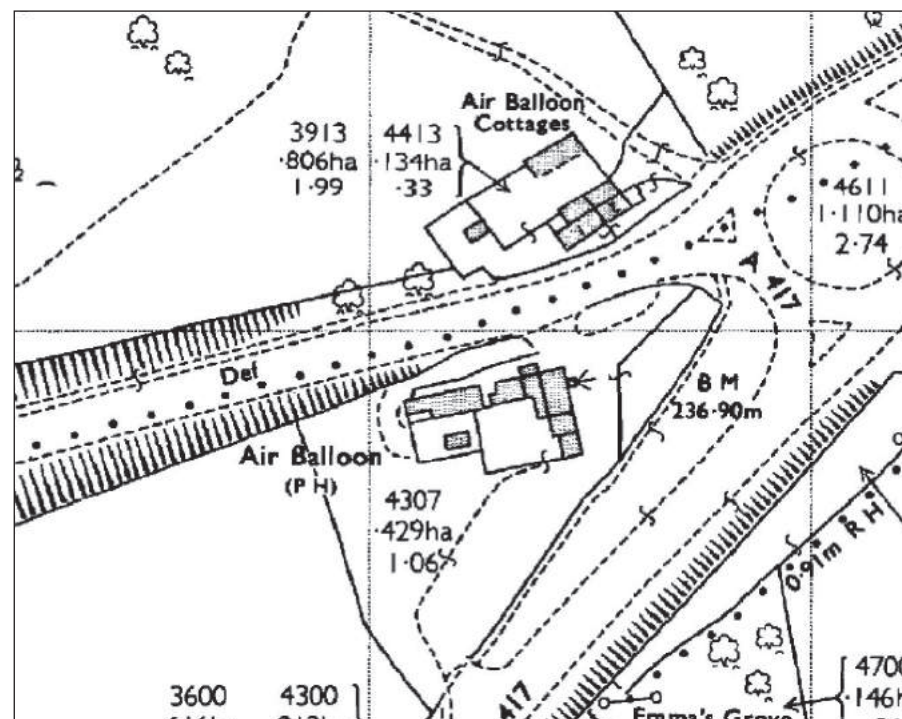
Tithe map 1838



OS 1884 1st edition



OS 1922



OS 1974

-
- 3.17. The earliest publicly available cartographic sources to depict the Building are the Tithe maps for the Parishes of Cowley (1841), Coberley (1838) and Badgeworth and Shurdington Magna (1838). The earliest Tithe Map is that of Coberley Parish, which depicts the 'Air Balloon' as consisting of two rectangular ranges aligned on a north to south axis with the second, smaller range extending southwards from the south-east corner of the main, north range. The Buildings appear to face north-east towards the junction of two roads (now the two branches of the A417) with two other roads running to the north-east (the current A436) and north-west (the current Leckhampton Hill).
- 3.18. The 1841 Tithe Map for Cowley (Fig.2) depicts the Building as comprising of an inverted L-shaped north range with a separate south range extending from its southeastern corner. The associated Tithe Apportionment records Plot 140 (that associated with the Building) as the 'Balloon Public House Gardens and Lane' being owned and occupied by Robert Tuffley.
- 3.19. The 1st Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1884 (Fig.2) depicts some change to the modest simple form of the inn rendered in the 1841 Tithe Map. The north-south range is of three separate sections with the standalone range to its south-eastern corner still extant. The east-west range which forms part of the L appears as longer than rendered on the Tithe map, however this may just be a result of inaccuracies in the Tithe cartography (which is primarily a landownership record with buildings not necessarily drawn to scale). Appended to the east-west range are three additions not seen in the Tithe map, one to the north and two to the west. A further rectangular addition is seen in the corner of the junction of the internal wall turn between the north-south and east-west ranges.
- 3.20. The 1884 map records that the Building faced onto two triangular pieces of land which formed traffic management islands for the A417 and A436 junction. A grey structure (grey indicating it is not a Building) may be a water trough or similar. To the rear appears to be pub land or garden though nothing is rendered to suggest a different use.
- 3.21. The 1922 Edition of the OS map (Fig.2) depicts much the same building footprint, the only difference being that the east-west range has been truncated with what appears to be a passageway, and an additional east-west range has been appended to the western side of the passageway. The two buildings seen here in 1884 have clearly been removed or extended as part of the new range.

- 3.22. The 1954 1:10,000 map (not illustrated) depicts the same building footprint as seen in 1922 with the only change being the disappearance of the separate south-eastern range. The 1974 1:2,500 map (Fig. 2) also depicts the same building footprint. Of note here is the works to trunk the A417 on Birdlip Hill, which includes significant earthwork revetments and construction of a large roundabout at the intersection with the A436.
- 3.23. At some point between 1974 (footprint as seen on the OS map in Figure 2) and 1996 the pub was extended on the western side of the north-south range. This is evident from 'as existing' plans for additions and alterations to the Building in 1996 under permitted application 95/00796/OTH (from building control plans at Gloucester Record Office). The evidence from Photo 3 points to a significant phase of works in potentially the 1980s when the Building was owned by Whitbread (Photo 3 with 1980s extensions circled), which was then further extended and reconfigured in the 1990s.

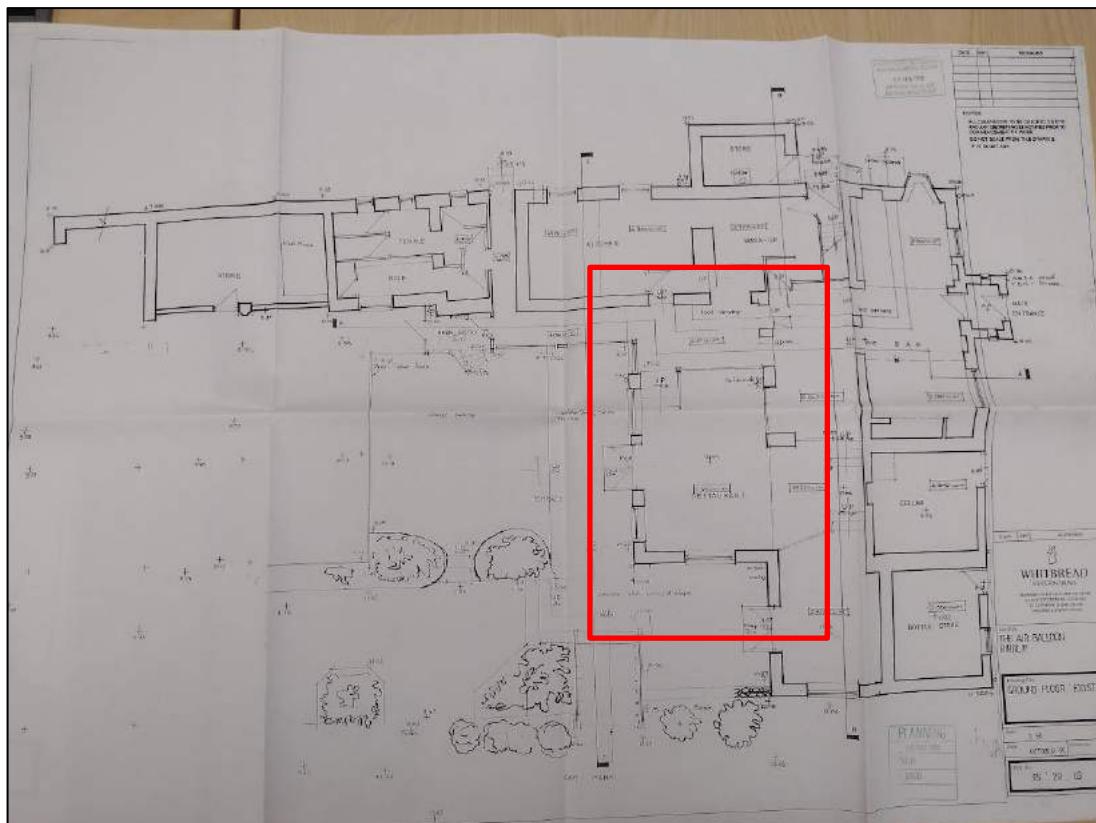
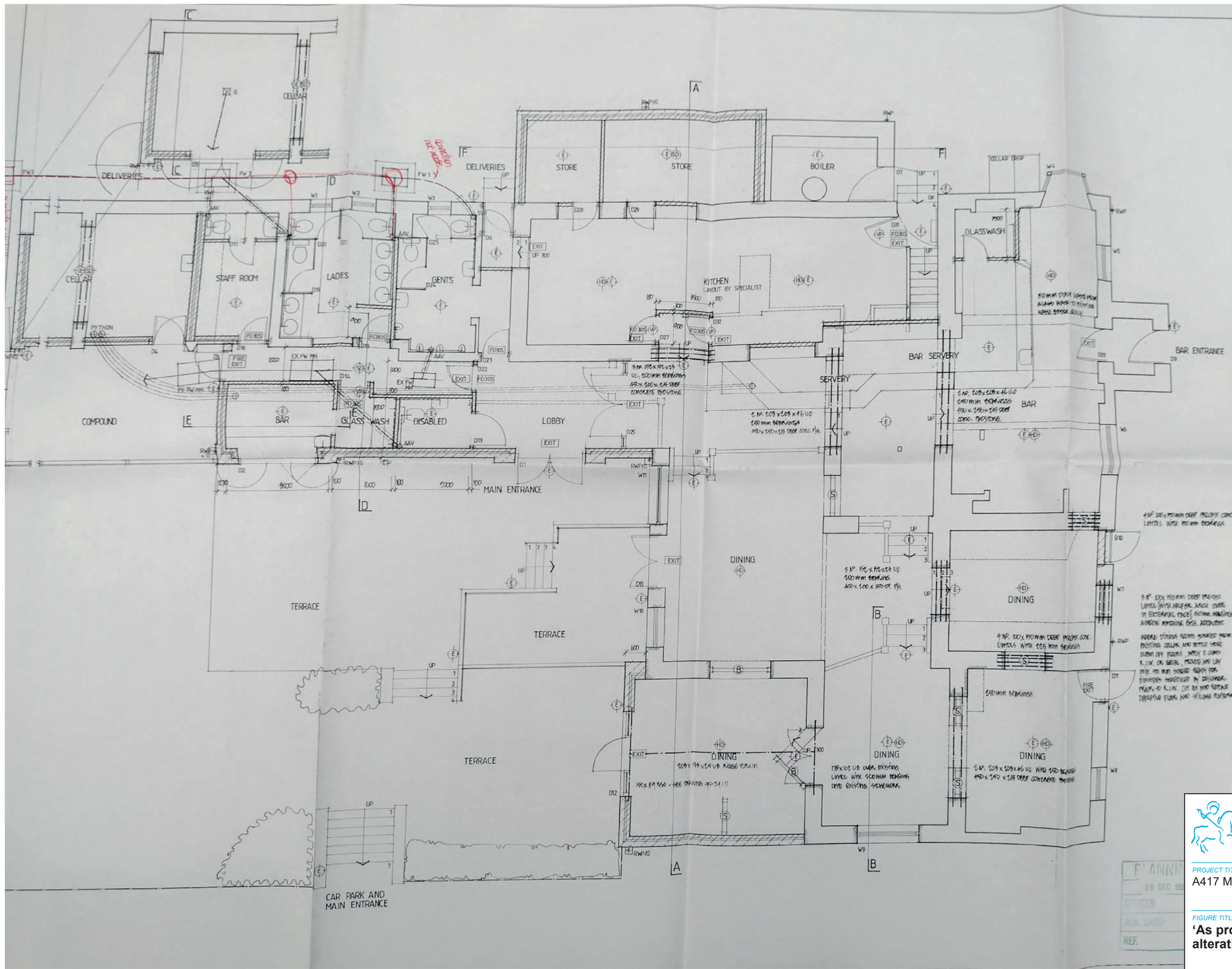


Photo 3 As existing plans from 1996 evidencing the 1980s work already undertaken (circled)

- 3.24. The c.1980s work was superseded by a new scheme of adaptation in 1996 as above which presents the Building as it is currently laid out. The 'as proposed' plans are illustrated in Fig.3 below and these have informed the building survey.

3.25. Summary of phases of development:

- 17th or early 18th century: one, possibly two cottage alehouses were established on the site
- 1777: The inn was established
- Early 19th century: the inn was extended on its north-western side with a longer east-west wing
- Early 20th century: the inn was further extended to the west on its east-west wing which likely coincided with a phase of refurbishment
- 1980s: the inn was subject to substantial extension along its western (rear) elevation (see Figure 4a)
- 1990s: the 1980s work was further modified and extended to create the extant building seen today



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NOTES
 All dimensions to be checked on site and any discrepancies notified prior to commencement of work. Do not scale from this drawing. If in doubt ask.

- HEAT DETECTOR
 - EMERGENCY LIGHT (3hr non-maintained)
 - BREAK GLASS FIRE ALARM POINT
 - SMOKE DETECTOR
 - FD 305 (2 hour) fire resisting self closing door (intumescent and smoke seals)
 - FD 605 (1 hour)
 - FIRE EXIT reinforced emergency exit sign
 - FD door fitted with panic bolt device
 - FD door fitted with vision panel
 - FIRE ALARM SYSTEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH BS 5824 LATEST EDITION
 - FB Fire blanket 2metres x 1metre
 - CBE 2.0 kg capacity carbon dioxide type extinguisher
- SURFACE SPREAD OF FLAME: WALLS AND CEILING TO BE CLASS '0' CLASS '1' ITEMS e.g. CURTAINS, GRAPES, TIMBER, SPRINKLERS ETC. TO BE UPGRADED TO CLASS '1' STANDARD WITH PROPRIETARY TREATMENT TO BBA STANDARD, CONTRACTOR TO SUPPLY FIRE TEST CERTIFICATE UPON COMPLETION OF TREATMENT.
- CORRIDOR TO ESCAPE ROUTES - CLASS '0' PUBLIC AREAS - CLASS '1'
- NOTE: EXACT LOCATION OF EMERGENCY LIGHTING AND DETECTORS SUBJECT TO FIRE ENGINEER'S REPORT.

DATE	REF	REVISIONS
12 NOV 15	B	SUNDRY AMENDMENTS
NOV 05 15	A	REDRAWN

WHITBREAD SEVERN INNS
 MONSON AVENUE, CHELTENHAM
 GLOUCESTERSHIRE GL50 4EL
 TELEPHONE (01242) 261146
 FACSIMILE (01242) 265270

Job Title
THE AIR BALLOON BIRDIP

Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
A417 Missing Link HBR – The Air Balloon Inn

FIGURE TITLE
'As proposed' ground floor plan for alterations in 1996 (95/00796/OTH)

4. BUILDING RECORDING

External elevations

Eastern, road facing façade (northern cottage section)

- 4.1. The façade is constructed of local rubble limestone laid in random courses (Photos 4 – 6) with a black brick plinth. It is three bays wide and two storeys in height with a clay tile roof and two red brick chimneys with cornice moulding. The brick plinth appears to have machine made bricks of later provenance than the upper façade, which may suggest a late 19th or 20th century alteration, possibly relating to insertion of a damp proof course. Larger alternating quoins are present on corners. There is evidence of later cement repointing in areas as well as other modern accretions such as external lighting and heating ventilation.
- 4.2. The historic junction between the two former cottages is evident here in the presence of quoins and a clear junction line between them (annotated on Photo 6). The presence of the quoins suggests that this was the earlier structure, with the southern structure added to it.
- 4.3. The windows of this former northern cottage indicate phases of change. The upper windows are stone dressed with two lights and one hinged and one fixed casement. The mullion of the southern upper window (circled in Photo 6) has a crisp appearance which suggests that it may be a repair or a more recent insertion. The casements appear to be early 20th century cast iron with replaced glass and repair work is suggestive of the 1980s or 1990s work. The image in Photo 2 from 1900 shows leaded light casements which indicate that the windows were replaced post 1900.
- 4.4. The ground floor windows are both different, with the southern one having stone dressings but clearly having been altered at the cill and with the addition of a thin lead hood. The northern one has no stone dressings and a simple timber cill. The lintel was not visible due to foliage but appeared to be stone. It is not clear why this window did not match the others on this elevation. It may represent a later insertion, perhaps when the porch was added.
- 4.5. The porch first appears on the 1894 OS mapping so it is likely to be a 19th century addition to the elevation, though it may well be contemporaneous with the conversion of the cottages to an inn in the 1770s. It has a number of larger ashlar type pieces

of stone within it and it is a simple ridged structure with a small single light window to each side.



Photo 4 **The front, eastern elevation, seen from the north**



Photo 5 **The front, eastern, elevation, seen from the east**



Photo 6 The front, eastern elevation, seen from the east (building junction annotated in blue)

Eastern, road facing façade (southern cottage section)

- 4.6. The southern structure (Photos 6 and 7) is also constructed of coursed rubblestone and it has clearly been built up against the northern part, thus suggesting it is a later structure. This is evidenced in the quoins as seen in Photo 8. This part of the Building has a lower status appearance with design details which appear to deliberately place it lower in the building hierarchy. This is seen in the segmental arch brick headers over the ground floor openings (Photo 7) with the northernmost opening being supported on a cast iron lintel. Cills are stone slates. The 1900s image in Photo 1 shows that the middle window (between the two doors) is a later insertion undertaken in the same manner.
- 4.7. Brick arch headers are commonly seen on lower status buildings of the 18th century such as stables and other functional buildings including those associated with the brewing industry (such as malshouses). It is possible this part of the Building was used for brewing and ancillary purposes and this was denoted in the way the façade was presented after conversion in 1777 (or conversely the features of the northern section may have been upgraded to reflect a higher status building, for example the stone window dressings which have a crisper appearance than one would expect of late 17th or early 18th century openings).

-
- 4.8. The southern 'cottage' is two sectional and this is seen on plan, as well as in a junction seen externally (annotated on Photo 7). The upper windows are ridged timber dormers, set partially into the eaves of the clay tile roof, again a more vernacular feature possibly denoting a lower status). Both have replacement timber casement windows, though the northernmost one appears to be of greater age. The brick chimney at this end has the character of a 19th century addition, being constructed of fairly uniform bricks which suggests they are factory made.



Photo 7 The southern section of the eastern façade (building junction annotated)

The northern elevation

- 4.9. The northern elevation consists of a gable end constructed in coursed rubblestone under the clay roof with slightly overhanging eaves with exposed eaves rafters (Photo 8). The 1900 image of the inn (Photo 2) illustrates the roof with decorated pierced ridge pieces, which are not present now, indicating the roof has been replaced or repaired. The elevation is largely blank bar a small off centre gable apex window and the hipped bay window which lies the upper ground floor level (taking account of the sloping site). It has been altered in recent years with the addition of slate hanging tiles to the apron, presumably for weather protection. The bay window appears on 19th century mapping, and is likely dated to 1777 or later in the 19th century and symbolises the gentrification of the inn with a typical 18th century detail.

4.10. To the west of the main gable is a lean-to structure which links into the main roof of the east-west wing of the 'L' (Photo 9). There is a clear line denoting the junction between the gable end (with quoins evident in the lower part) and the lean-to and the stone work of the lean-to on this side is neater and clearly of a different phase to that of the main Building. Within it there is a doorway with 4 light cross window above. Neither the door nor the window appear to be historic, though the openings may well be. The character of this work suggests a 19th century date and aligns with the extension and alteration of this wing in the 19th century. A small lean to sitting to the north of the east-west wing is also present on mapping of the 19th century and it is suggested that the west facing lean-to is contemporaneous with the northern facing one.



Photo 8 **The northern elevation**



Photo 9 The northern (blue) and western (green) lean to

4.11. The northern elevation of the east-wing (leg of the 'L') is largely modern in nature, as depicted in Figure 4a and discussed in the building development narrative in Section 3. There are two 1980s gabled structures appended to the eastern end of the east-west wing (Photo 10), which is the pub kitchen, internally these hold large walk-in refrigerators which explains their construction.



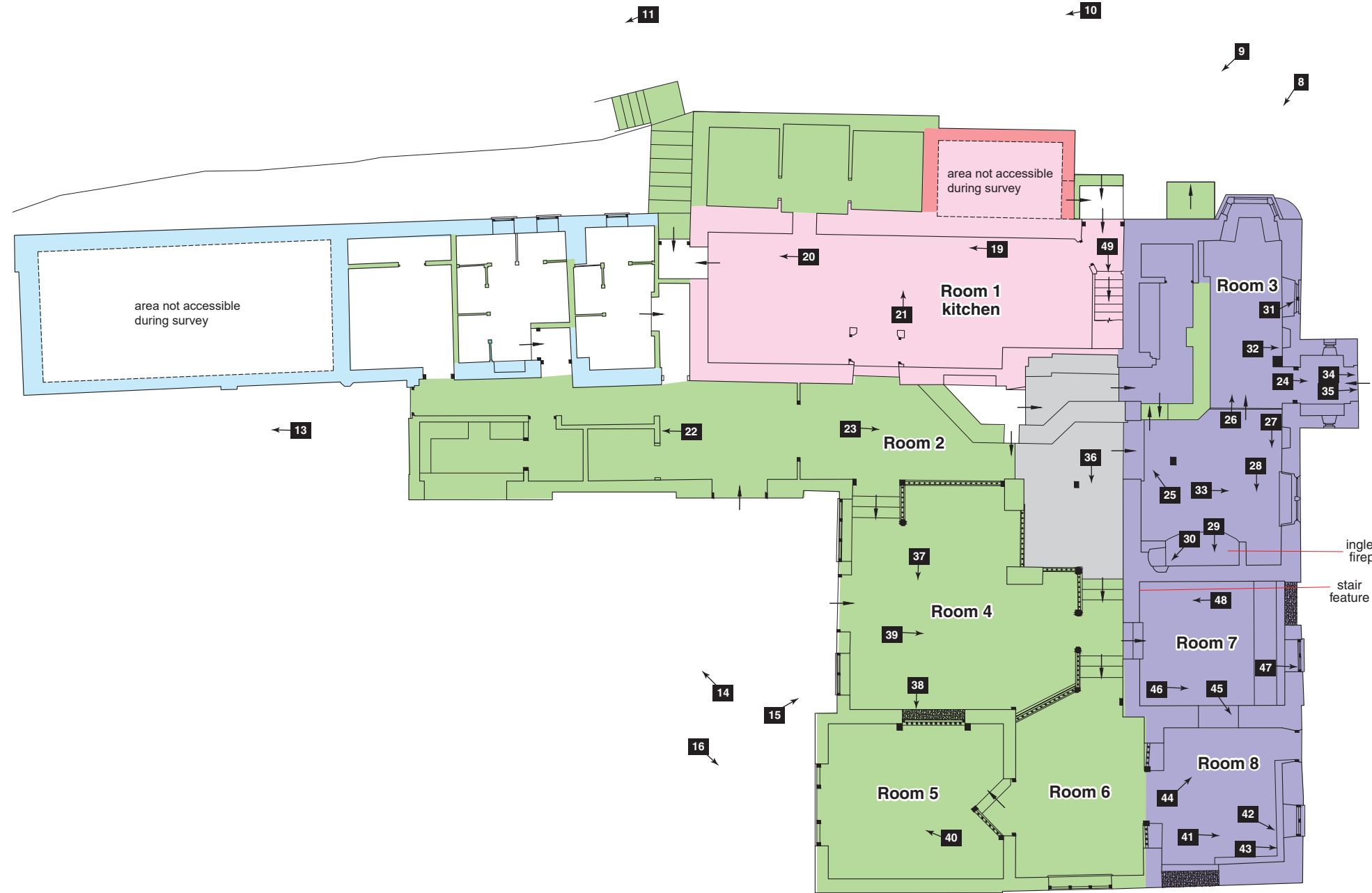
Photo 10 The two 1980s gabled structures (arrowed)



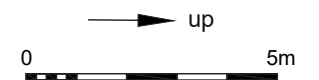
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- Original 17th century
- 19th century alterations
- 19th century
- Early 20th century with significant late 20th century alterations
- Late 20th century
- Between 1920–1970
- ← 2 Photograph location



Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
A417 Missing Link HBR – Air Balloon Inn

FIGURE TITLE
Ground floor plan

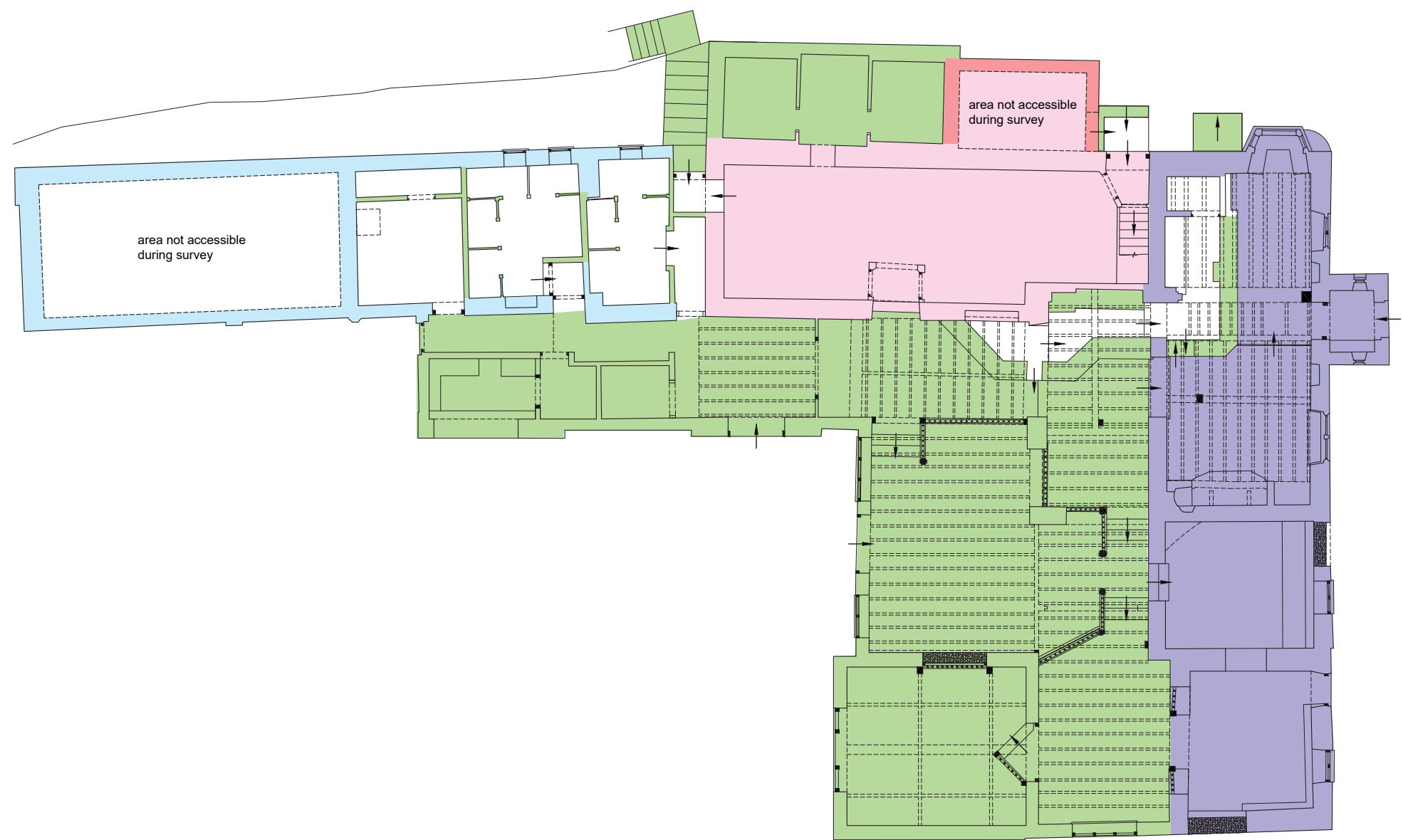
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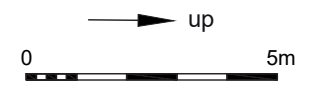
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- Late 20th century
- Between 1920–1970

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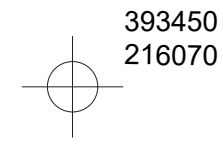
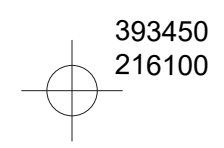
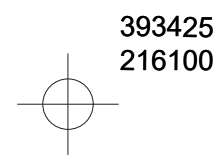
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Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

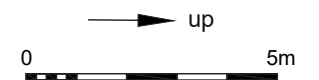
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FIGURE TITLE
Ground floor plan showing ceiling detail

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- Original 17th century
- 19th century alterations
- 19th century
- Early 20th century with significant late 20th century alterations
- Late 20th century
- Between 1920–1970
- ← 2 Photograph location




Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

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FIGURE TITLE
First floor plan showing ceiling detail

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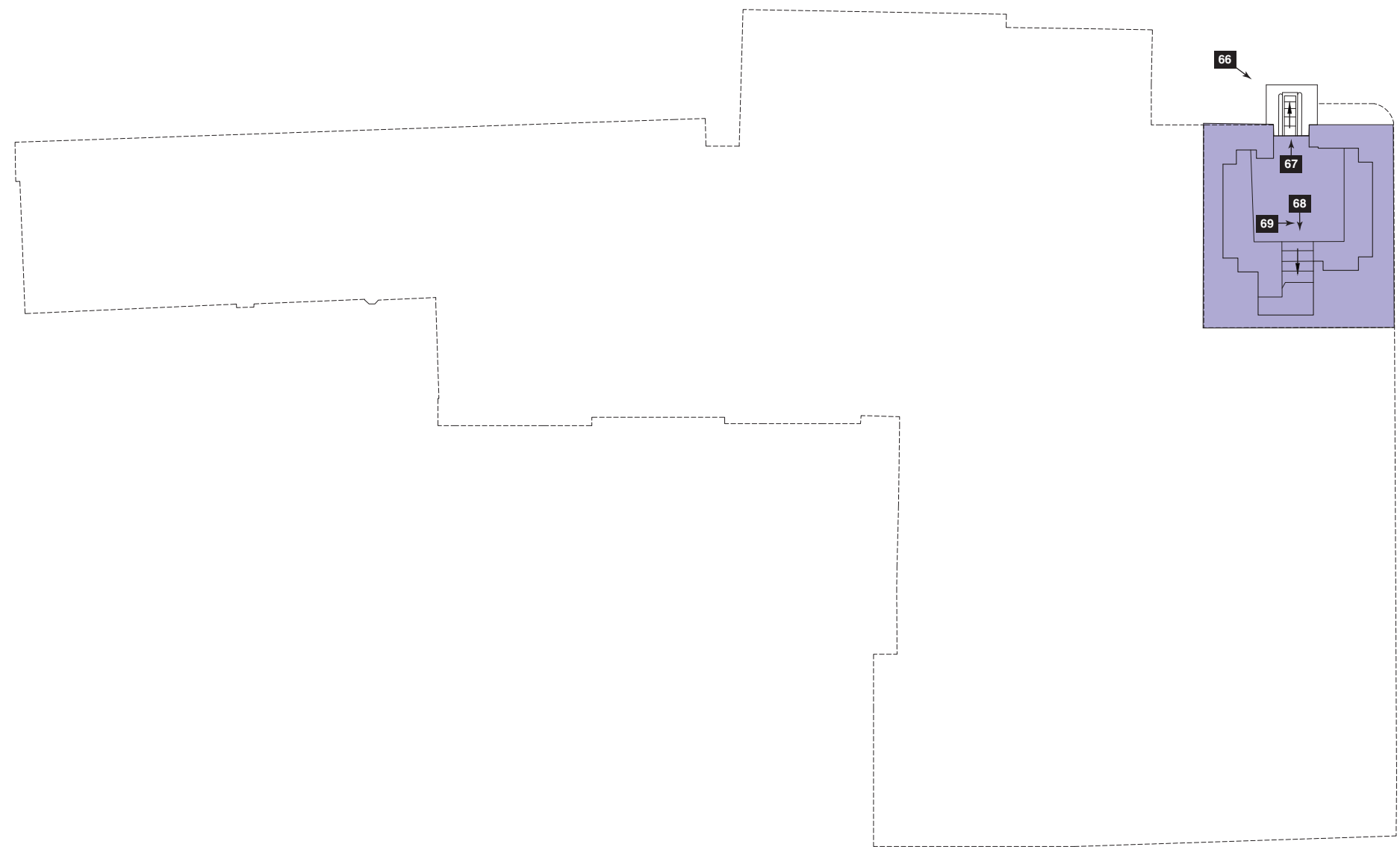
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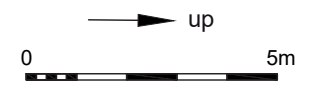
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Original 17th century
← 2 Photograph location



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Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Cellar plan

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area not fully
accessible during
survey

0 5m



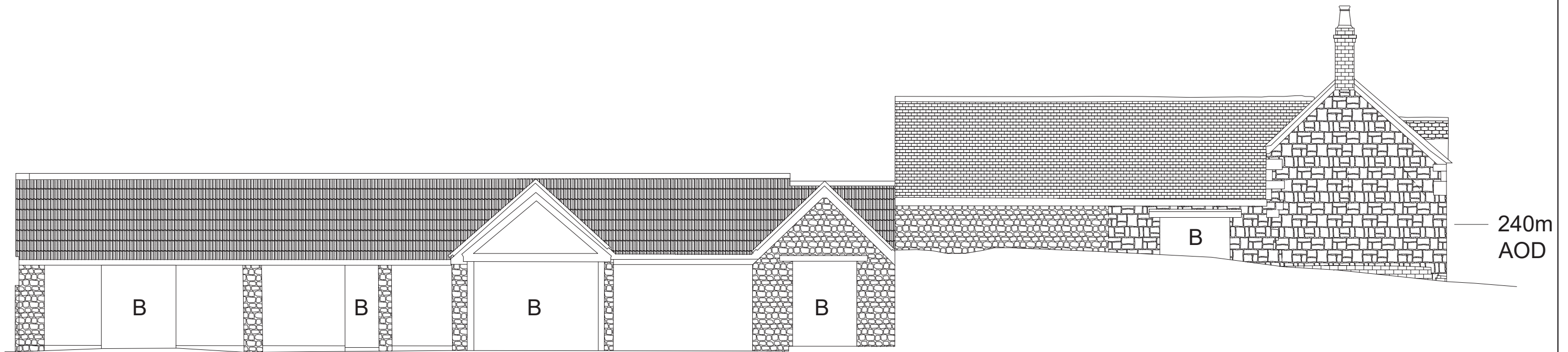
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Cirencester 01285 771022
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
Suffolk 01449 900120
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Loft plan

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FIGURE NO.
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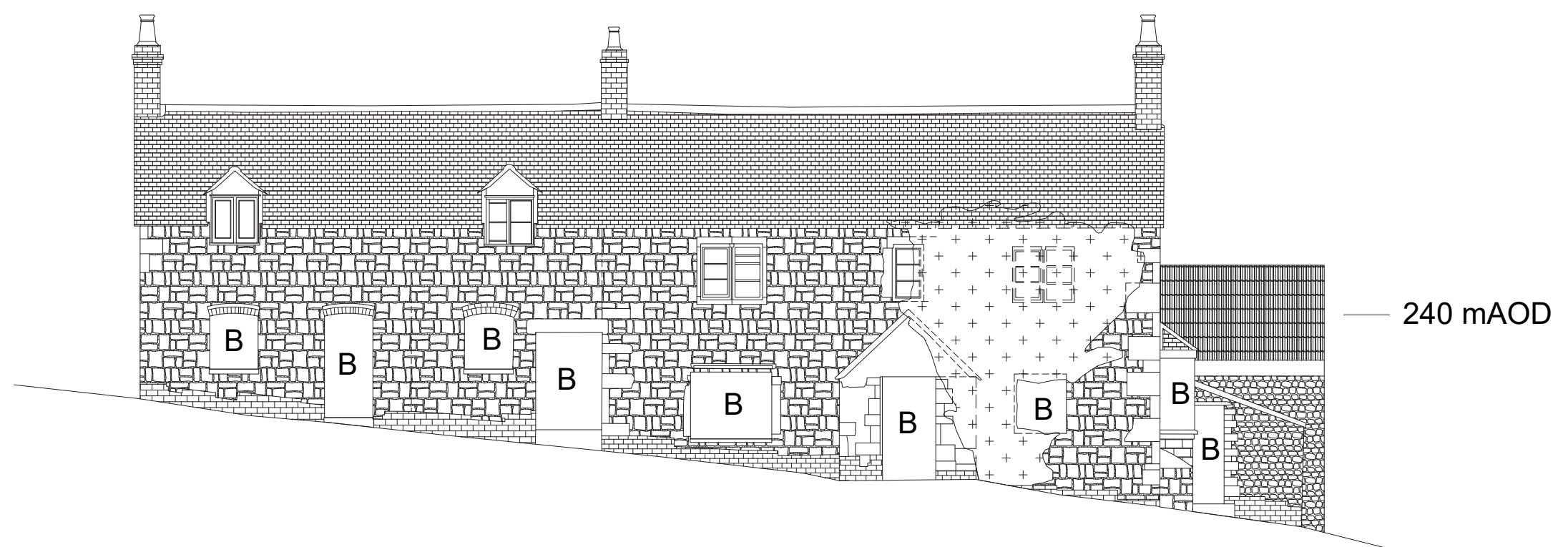


Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
Suffolk 01449 900120
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
South facing elevation

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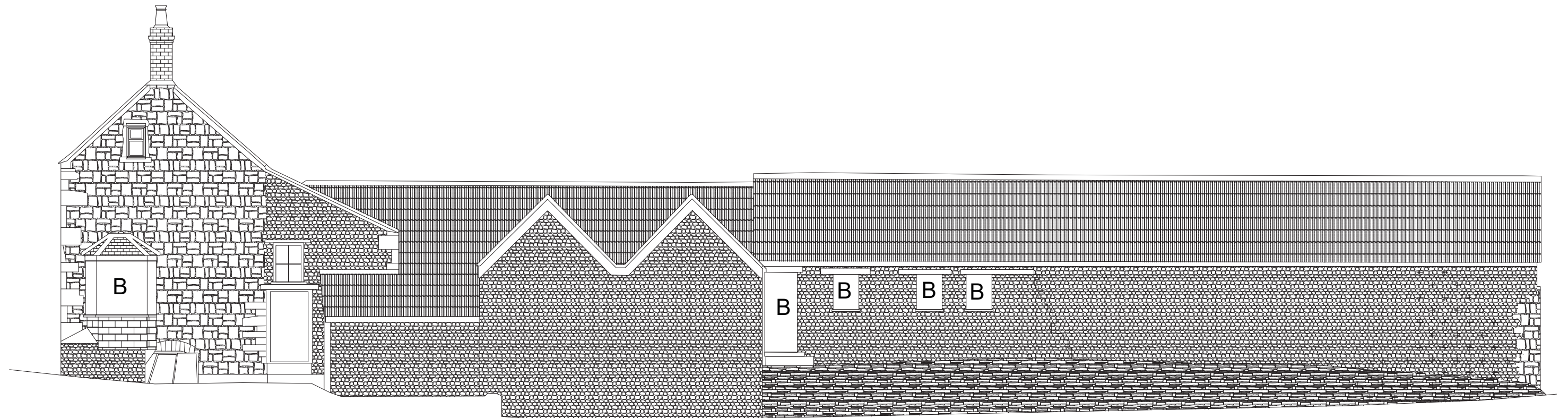



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 Andover 01264 347630
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 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
 East facing elevation

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 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
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PROJECT TITLE
 A417 Missing Link HBR – Air Balloon Inn

FIGURE TITLE
 East facing elevation

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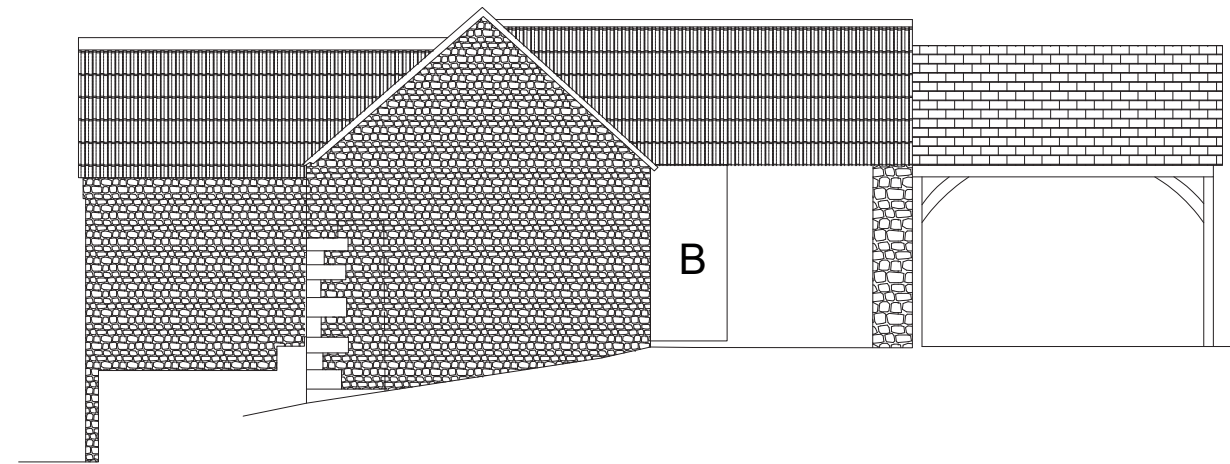


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Cirencester 01285 771022
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
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FIGURE TITLE
West facing elevation – courtyard

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Cirencester 01285 771022
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
Suffolk 01449 900120
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FIGURE TITLE
West facing elevation

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FIGURE NO.
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4.12. Further west, there is a long single storey range which lies on the approximate footprint of an early 20th century structure, but which is clearly largely or wholly rebuilt as it contains modernised spaces internally, such as toilets and food storage areas and it has a different footprint to that seen in 1974 (Fig. 2). This is supported by its appearance, which features uniformly coursed stonework pointed in cement with concrete lintels over the three, bathroom window openings. The roof is clearly recent with clay pantiles. The western end appears more original to a 1900-1920s construction (Photo 11) in terms of the appearance of the stone work. It is bordered by a historic retaining dry stone wall.



Photo 11 **The western section of the east-west wing (northern elevation)**

4.13. The gable to this east-west wing is depicted in Photo 12. It is a blank stone wall of likely 1980s date attached to close boarded fence denoting the functional internal courtyard of the ancillary areas. No internal access to this western section of the east-west wing was possible but it appeared to contain walk-in cool storage areas (judging by the air conditioning equipment affixed externally), accessed via the internal courtyard which contained sheds and a walk-in fridge (Photo 13). The walls to this side are cement rendered.



Photo 12 **The western elevation of the east-west wing**

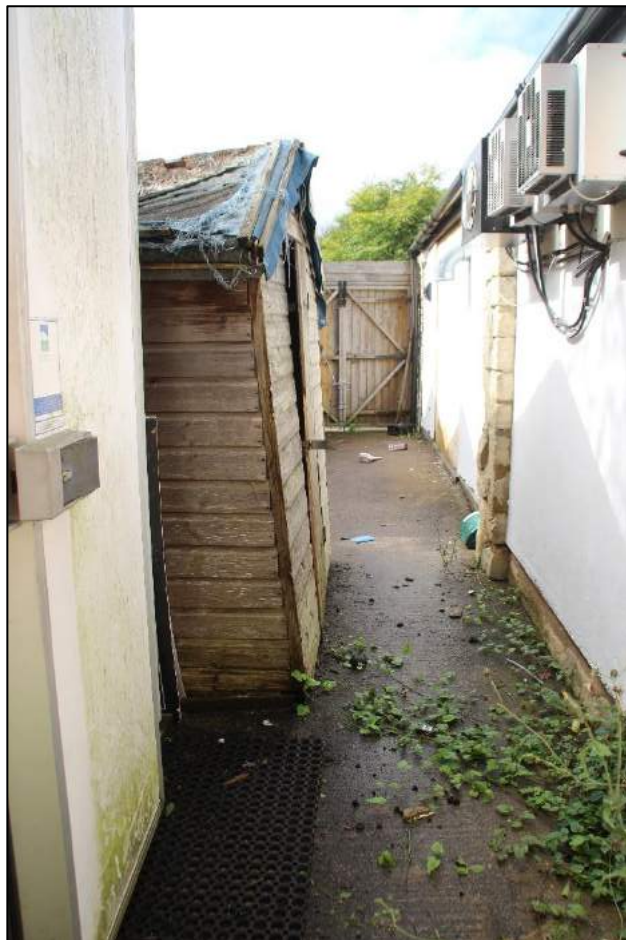


Photo 13 **The internal courtyard of the east-west wing, looking west**

4.14. Various 1980s and 1990s structures sit to the rear (west) of the historic Building and this is best understood in Figure 4a (floorplans). These include a covered entrance area to the extended rear of the east-west wing (Photo 14) and extensions to the western elevation of the historic main wing (Photo 15). A small extension of mid -20th century date is seen to the rear of the late 20th century additions; this is annotated in Photo 15. A large vaulted entrance hall to the southern part of the pub was constructed as part of the 1996 works (Photo 16). These new accretions were all laid around a pub courtyard garden created in 1996.



Photo 14 1990s additions to the altered early 20th century east-west wing



Photo 15 1980s/90s additions to the rear of the historic Building (starred) with the mid-20th century extension arrowed



Photo 16 The 1996 entrance structure appended to the southern section of the historic Building

-
- 4.15. The western section of the southern elevation of the Building is a modern one storey structure with a clay tile roof constructed in the 1980s and extended in the 1990s. These two phases of work are visible in the elevation depicted in Photo 17. The 1980s section knits into the historic southern gable, and is formed of large coursed stones, where the westernmost section has a different and more uniform character.



Photo 17 **The western section of the southern elevation**

- 4.16. The southern gable to the historic Building is illustrated in Photo 18. It is a blank elevation with quoins to each corner, exposed eaves rafters and random rubblestone walling with the aforementioned brick plinth. Various poor pointing repairs have also been undertaken which account for the lines seen within the façade.



Photo 18 **The southern gable end to the historic Building**

The interior of the pub

- 4.17. As illustrated in Figure 4a the pub is a series of interconnected rooms at ground floor level. These have been labelled for ease on Figure 4 and these labels are used for the remainder of the recording. Modern areas (shaded green) are described briefly in terms of their interconnection with the historic parts, but the focus of the recording is on the historic areas of the Building.

Ground floor

- 4.18. Room 1 is the current kitchen of the Building, and has likely been the location of ancillary functions for much of the Buildings history, being a one storey range akin to a servants wing. This space has been present since at least the 1840s (Figure 2) and is likely contemporaneous or near contemporaneous with the establishment of the inn in 1777. It has clearly been modernised and layered over time and is now a fully converted and modernised space commensurate with its use as a commercial pub kitchen. Walls, floors, ceiling, doors, fixtures and fittings are all late 20th century in date (Photos 19 and 20).



Photo 19 **The kitchen (Room 1) looking west**



Photo 20 **The kitchen looking west**

4.19. The roof space of the kitchen area was accessible for view from the ground. Modern pine timbers were visible suggesting a wholesale replacement of the roof structure, likely at the time of the 1980s or 90s refurbishment (Photo 21). Remnants of lathe

and plaster appear to indicate the presence of an original or historic ceiling above the current ceiling.



Photo 21 View of the roofspace of the kitchen with remnant lathe and plaster

- 4.20. Room 2 is the main bar area of the pub and is a space created in the 1980s and 90s. It connects to Room 3, which is the historic area of the main Building, via a wide doorway. Photo 22 depicts the western end of the space, with bathrooms located both left and right of the image. The stone walling on the right of the image is formed of former external historic walling of Room 1 and the early 20th century east-west range.



Photo 22 View looking west in Room 2 towards the ancillary spaces of the modern extensions

- 4.21. The work of the 1980s/90s was undertaken with a pastiche mindset in the sense that the extensions and modern spaces have all been historicised to appear similar to the historic building vernacular. This includes the addition of stained and falsely distressed exposed timbers and joists and other timber features.
- 4.22. Photo 23 illustrates the view looking east towards the bar area in Room 2, all of which were created in the 1980s and 90s. The rubblestone walls behind the bar area are formed of the former external walls of east-west historic range. Otherwise all features and fixtures are modern in date despite appearing to be historic. Photo 24 illustrates a typically 'distressed' timber of the 1980s/90s work,



Photo 23 View looking east in Room 2



Photo 24 View of new distressed timbers in Room 2, constructed late 20th century

4.23. The bar extends from Room 2 into the northern extent of Room 3 (Fig. 4a). It is a modern structure formed of timber units with shelving and equipment of late 20th century provenance. There is a floor level change from the new areas of Room 2 as it accesses the threshold of, the earlier, Room 3, indicating how the site levels have

been incorporated into the modern extensions. The flooring is a mixture of quarry tiles and timber, all again of late 20th century provenance.

4.24. Room 3 is an historic space within the original Building. It is accessed from Room 2 via a wide opening in the former rear wall of the historic Building (Photo 25). The building plan provides evidence that a wall has probably been removed (annotated on Figure 4a) to the north of the main entrance and that there was a separate northern room with its own fireplace (as evidenced by the chimney at the gable apex on this elevation). This fireplace is no longer extant and its location has been absorbed into a cupboard serving the bar area. The room now is open plan and extends the whole length of the northern 'cottage' (Photo 26). There is a large open inglenook fireplace, and window seats at both the bay window and the front, northern window. The floor is modern pine timber, abutting to an earlier parquet floor in the southern part of the room, the parquet likely installed in the late 19th or early 20th century (Photo 27).



Photo 25 The opening from Room 2 to Room 3 in the former rear wall of the historic building



Photo 26 View looking north in Room 3



Photo 27 The flooring change in Room 3

4.25. Photo 28 illustrates the southern end of Room 3 with the large open fireplace. The size and form of this feature suggests it is original to the former 'cottage'. There is no evidence of a doorway between Room 3 and Room 7 to the south (near this fireplace),

which evidences the Building's origins as separate cottages and suggests that ground floor access between the two sections of the inn was never subsequently installed, implying that they had different functions when operating as an inn. This is suggested in paragraphs 4.6 and 4.7 above that the southern section may have formed the small brewery or even stables element of the early inn based on its different external appearance, which has a lower status character.



Photo 28 **The southern section of Room 3**

- 4.26. As seen in Photo 29, the rear of the fireplace appears to have been altered with the addition of brick consoles which appear to support a chimney infill board which features a flue hole cutout. This suggests that a wood burner or stove once sat on the hearth, which is now flagstone tiles laid up to the parquet. The lintel appears to be a recent insert (Photo 29) or at least not original as it has less patina than would be expected of a 17th or 18th century fireplace lintel, and indicates a level of change to the fireplace, possibly when the stove was inserted. Above it is a thinner horizontal timber piece which may represent part of an earlier lintel. This has large square headed screws in it and may also relate to the support for the internal chimney infill boarding. The lintel is supported on stone work piers.
- 4.27. Of particular interest to the right of the fireplace is an alcove (Photo 30) created within the stack which appears to be a sitting ledge with food/beer shelf above; this could be some kind of warming hole but does not appear to be deep enough to suggest a

bake oven. This feature likely relates to the earliest phase of this Building's development.

- 4.28. The windows of Room 2 are all modern timber replacements in the traditional vernacular (Photo 31) though they have been inserted into the historic openings.



Photo 29 **Detail of the fireplace lintel and brick consoles**



Photo 30 Sitting alcove with ledge above to the right (west) of the fireplace



Photo 31 The north-western window in Room 3

4.29. Areas of timber replacement were evident throughout the space, suggesting that the refurbishments of the late 20th century may have been quite intrusive, and also suggesting deterioration of the condition of the building fabric at that point. Given the amount of change over time, it is difficult to gauge which timbers are original and in their original location and not reused. In particular the main beam which supports the opening created by the removal of the wall in the northern section of the room (seen via the nibs on Figure 4a) is a large pine beam which has been 'distressed' and which may even be cladding laid onto a steel RSJ (Photo 32); typical of 1980s work. Above this new beam there is evidence of change to the joists above, though some appear to be historic (Photo 33).



Photo 32 **Detail of the modern central beam to Room 3 with replaced joists above**



Photo 33 **Detail of ceiling with exposed joists, Room 3**

- 4.30. The porch structure is accessed from Room 3. As discussed above, the porch appears to be an added structure, though it was in place by the late 19th century. The internal door lintel appears historic, but like much in this Building it may be a reused or 'faux' piece. Internally it has a small window to each flanking wall, and modern plank doors, it acts as a lobby (Photo 34). The vaulted roof structure appears to have been replaced in the 20th century, this is evidenced by the faux distressed plaster and timbers in Photo 35, though it was difficult to ascertain due to light levels whether the timbers were perhaps older than thought. The presence of poor quality cement repointing internally also points to a poor quality late 20th century repair.



Photo 34 View of porch from Room 3



Photo 35 Detail of porch roof, looking east

- 4.31. Room 4 is accessed from the bar area, and bar the sections of walling to the east (which is formed of the former rear wall of the inn), it is all work from 1980s and 1990s (Photo 36).



Photo 36 The access from the bar into Room 4, which is raised on a platform

- 4.32. Room 4 itself is a restaurant space and as with all other elements of the 1980s/90s work, it has been completed in a vernacular 'olde worlde' style to match the historic wing (Photo 37). Clearly some reuse of timbers has occurred however, as a new opening in the 1980s work is supported by an historic timber lintel (Photo 38).



Photo 37 Room 4 seen looking south



Photo 38 Historic reused timber in lintel of 1980s work

- 4.33. Rooms 5 and 6 are similarly of the 1980s/90s phase of works. They access Rooms 7 and 8 which are the historic areas of the southern range (Photo 39). Room 5 was created in 1990 as a vaulted entrance hall to the southern parts of the inn accessed from the car park (Photo 40).



Photo 39 View looking east from Room 4 towards Room 7



Photo 40 View looking west in the 1990s entrance hall

- 4.34. Room 8 is the southernmost Building of the historic range (Photo 41) and it has been clearly modernised with the addition of tongue and groove panelling to walls and ceiling. A large opening has been created in the solid wall between this room and Room 7. The thickness of the wall as seen demonstrates that it is likely this southern 'cottage' was two sectional, without internal access between them, suggesting separate ancillary uses, such as discrete storage or brewery areas, or even stabling. An opening appears to have been filled in on the west side of the southern wall (see Figure 4a) though there is no evidence of this externally which suggests the infilling is historic or that a near total rebuild of this southern gable elevation has occurred when the western range was added in the 1980s and 90s. Internally the wall surface is different between the infilled area and wall, also suggesting a possible opening. In the first floor there is evidence of a fireplace in this gable end (supported by the gable chimney stack externally), which suggests that the change to this elevation has also involved removal of a ground floor fireplace, possibly in the location of the infill.

-
- 4.35. The window to the east has an historic lintel and wide reveals, though the window insert itself is modern timber casement (Photo 42).



Photo 41 View of Room 8 looking east



Photo 42 Window facing east in Room 8 with timber lintel

-
- 4.36. Areas of removed tongue and groove reveal the rubblestone masonry underneath though areas of the room have been plastered in the last phase of works (Photo 43).



Photo 43 Stone masonry below modern tongue and groove wainscoting

- 4.37. The opening between Rooms 7 and 8 has clearly been created through thick masonry and has been created as a feature, with plasterwork accentuating the extreme depth of the walling and the low level masonry retained to create a sort of step, suggesting the opening was created for visibility/light rather than normal access between the two rooms (Photo 44). The opening has been decorated with timber lintels each side; these appear to be decorative rather than structural as they do not span the entire depth of the opening (Photo 45). Historic timbers appear to have been reused, however.



Photo 44 **The opening between Room 7 and Room 8**



Photo 45 **The opening between Rooms 7 and 8**

- 4.38. Photo 46 depicts Room 7 which is the northern section of the southern Building. This has a modern ceiling with a built-in bench set over the former doorway here which has a decorative faux lintel planted on. The walls are bare masonry and the floor is quarry tiling. The window has what appears to be a historic lintel, but a modern timber casement insert (Photo 47). An opening has been instigated between Room 4 and Room 7 which may have been a former window to the rear of the historic Building. Alongside this opening is a curved wall (Photo 48) which likely represents the riser of the stair between Rooms 11 and 13 on the first floor (accounting for rising ground levels).
- 4.39. There is a significant change in levels between the northern and southern portion of the rear (south-west) areas of the Building, suggesting that prior to extension to the west, the southern rear grounds west of the Building sloped upwards and the southern section of the Building may well have been built into the slope. This topography accounts for why the ancillary range of the L shape was oriented at the northern extent. There is also a change in levels from the north to the southern sections of the historic range, so the southern range is constructed at a higher level, this is best seen in the first floor.



Photo 46 Room 7 seen looking east



Photo 47 The east window in Room 7



Photo 48 **The underside of the stair riser in Room 7 (related to stairs on the first floor)**

The first floor

- 4.40. The first floor is accessed via a modernised set of steps adjacent to the kitchen entrance (Photo 49). The first floor is laid out as a series of six small rooms accessed off a main rear (west) corridor. The rooms appear to have been modernised into ancillary living accommodation in the 20th century, with some refurbishment work appearing to have occurred relatively recently. The corridor itself certainly appears to be the result of 20th century reconfiguration. Doors and door architraves are all of modern appearance.



Photo 49 The stairs accessing the first floor



Photo 50 The first floor corridor looking south

4.41. The northernmost room on the first floor, Room 9, (Photo 51) has undergone some removal of plaster to reveal the stone masonry structure, which has uncovered a fireplace opening supported on a large triangular stone lintel. This was likely once covered with lime plaster and some form of mantle, with a fire grate within the fireplace opening. It appears that the traditional wall coverings, which were likely either some form of wainscoting, or lime plaster, were removed in renovation schemes, and the most recent phase of works has resulted in the installation of half height wavy-edged gypsum plaster, presumably in an attempt to create an aesthetic vernacular effect. The ceiling appears to be a replacement version with modern plasterboard and plaster.



Photo 51 **The northern room, first floor, looking north**

4.42. The window in Room 9 has a window seat inset in the apron and has metal casement inserts with three panes which have an early 20th century character (Photo 52). The floor surface was covered with carpet but is likely to be either timber boarding or floorboards which have been replaced in one of phases of renovation including the removal of a wall in the room below and the insertion of a new timber beam.



Photo 52 View of the window in Room 9

- 4.43. Room 10 has been converted into a kitchenette and has been modernised, though a rough cut timber beam was evident running laterally east to west at ceiling level. The metal three paned casement window, likely early 20th century, is secondary glazed (Photo 53).



Photo 53 View of the modernised kitchen, Room 10

4.44. A view through a loft hatch to the attic revealed the roof space had been boarded out with internal sarking boards at rafters level, and a doorway and subdivision was visible (Photo 54), suggesting this floor may have been accessible and used at some point, though there was no evidence of a staircase in the current arrangement. The sales particulars from 1934 do mention two attic rooms which may refer to these spaces.

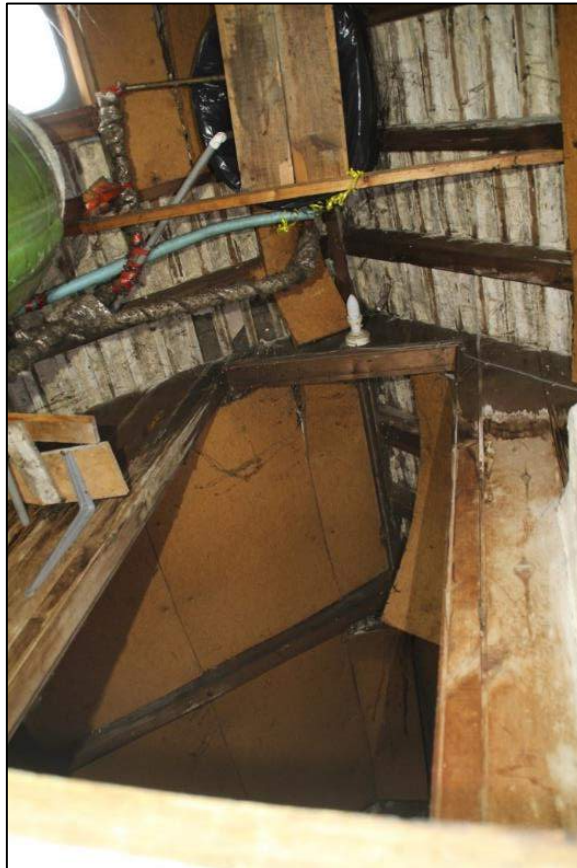


Photo 54 **The view into the attic space with visible doorway**

4.45. Room 11 is a bathroom, with evidence of some abandoned renovations. The original main rough cut beam and joists are visible in the ceiling (Photos 55 and 56). The window is the same two light mullion casement with metal three pane insert seen in Rooms 9 and 10 and it has also been secondary glazed.



Photo 55 View of Room 11, looking east



Photo 56 View of beam and exposed joists, Room 11

4.46. Room 12 (Photo 57) is located over an extension that was constructed in the mid-20th century (between 1920 and 1974 according to the mapping in Figure 2). It is also a bathroom, with the sunken bath placed under the low eaves. An area of

plasterboard has been removed to reveal sarking boards on the underside of the lean-to roof, which suggests the plasterboard and plaster is a later roof underside covering.



Photo 57 **View of Room 12, looking west**

- 4.47. Rooms 13 and 14 are located at a higher level than the northern half of the Building. This is to account for the site levels which slope upwards to the south of the site, and the fact that the southern building section has been constructed at a higher level than the northern section. Therefore a small rise of stairs curving east provide access between north and south sections (Photo 58). The stairs rise to a small lobby which has been subdivided to create the lobby and a bedroom (Photo 59), Room 13, which is a modernised bedroom space (see Figure 4c.



Photo 58 The small flight of stairs to Rooms 13 and 14



Photo 59 The upper lobby and Room 13 on the left

4.48. Room 14 is the southernmost room of the southern building section. It features a gable window with a modern timber insert, and the purlins of the truss are visible. These are rough cut members which appear to be part of the original construction.

An interesting linear feature sits on the southern gable wall, it appears to be one side of a thin fireplace (a chimney is present above) with the other side being amalgamated within the plastered wall. This is seen on Figure 4a and in Photo 60 below.



Photo 60 Room 14 with the gable linear feature, possible former fireplace

4.49. Part of the timber, plaster board and hard modern plaster covering of the window reveal has been removed to reveal thick rubblestone masonry below (Photo 61).



Photo 61 The window cill and masonry below in Room 14

4.50. There is evidence across the first floor of phases of refurbishment, for example a timber beam within the main corridor has been repaired via a sandwich arrangement with modern timber (Photo 62) which has been clad over the historic piece so that the repair appears like a beam. There is evidence of historic lathe and plaster construction covered with modern plasterboard within a corridor doorway (Photo 63). A chamfer stop timber beam is present in the corridor alongside exposed joists (Photo 64) though it is always possible that elements such as these, especially when painted, may actually be later 20th century cladding of older, cruder timber. Some historic, likely 19th-century wallpaper, was seen underneath other layers, also in the main first floor corridor (Photo 65). The modern plaster and woodchip layer/s over the top evidence that this floor has been subject, as above, to consecutive phases of redecoration and refurbishment, likely associated with changing interior design fashions.



Photo 62 An historic timber beam in poor condition ‘sandwiched’ by modern timbers



Photo 63 Remains of lathe and plaster in corridor



Photo 64 Section of a main beam, first floor corridor



Photo 65 **A remnant of historic wallpaper under modern wall coverings**

The cellar

- 4.51. The cellar is located underneath the northern section of the Building. The slope of the hill precluded any further below ground spaces. It is accessed via a set of metal cellar doors (Photo 66) which open onto a set of steep cellar steps with barrel rolling platforms either side (Photo 67). The stone arch to the opening suggest that the cellar access is an historic one. Once inside the cellar, it is clear it has been subject to some structural propping and modernisation to receive modern pipe equipment, and that a former set of stairs up to the ground floor has been infilled (Photo 68). Of note is the presence of what appear to be historic timber floorboards above that have been covered over by subsequent floor surfaces on the ground floor (Photo 69).



Photo 66 **The cellar doors on the northern elevation**



Photo 67 **The cellar stairs with barrel slope**



Photo 68 The southern wall of the cellar with infilled former stairway to the interior of the pub



Photo 69 The underside of the ground floor surface, showing what appear to be historic timber floorboards and joist

Observations on the building recording and DAMS research question

DAMS Research Questions

- 4.52. The programme of historic building recording has the potential to contribute to specific Research Questions identified within the DAMS, as outlined below. These relate to the Medieval/Post-Medieval (MPM) research period.

MPM5: *What can the fabric and structure of the Air Balloon public house reveal of its history and usage as a roadside inn?*

- 4.53. The Air Balloon Inn is known to have been established circa 1777 as a result of the upgrading and increased frequency of travel along the major turn piked coaching roads on which it stood, and it is suggested in various sources that it was formed from two historic cottages and/or alehouses. These were likely to have been constructed in the late 17th or early 18th century given their stone construction. The building recording has identified that there are three separate sections to the historic Building, with the northern section being the main historic pub spaces, and the apparently ancillary southern section (comprising two unlinked single cell spaces that may have been both alehouse and possible stabling or other animal quarters). This is surmised because of the difference in the architectural detailing of the northern and southern sections, with the northern being more genteel and polite in its appearance with a porch and stone dressed mullion windows, whereas the southern section features segmental stone arch headers to openings and modest dormer windows in an attic space (i.e. no first floor). The character of the detailing of the southern section suggests lower status spaces of more functional purpose. The large door openings to the east façade also support this.

- 4.54. This all suggests that either:
- Pre-1777 there was a cottage and an alehouse attached and when converted to an inn these spaces were amalgamated or even retained in their functional purposes to support the functioning of the inn, **or**;
 - Pre 1777 there were two low status cottages or buildings which in 1777 were converted and altered architecturally to delineate the higher status public house and the associated ancillary spaces (as mentioned likely stabling or brewing, or both)

-
- 4.55. Whilst it has been suggested that the inn was a modest travellers inn not a 'stage' inn, and therefore unlikely to receive many overnight visitors, it is likely that it offered some form of modest overnight accommodation when needed. Mapping does not suggest the presence of any separate stabling block (the small south-east corner structure on the Tithe and 1st Edition OS map (Fig. 2) would be too small for this function but may have housed carts) and the leg of the L (the northern kitchen) appears very much as an integrated ancillary wing. The first floor to the main public house is small but the first floor rooms likely formed part of the modest accommodation offering, especially as there is evidence of subdivision and a doorway in the attic space which may have housed the innkeeper.
- 4.56. As mentioned, it appears that the southern kitchen cross wing was established in 1777 or soon after as the ancillary wing supporting the function of the pub itself, which was a single room building in depth (and therefore begs the question as to where food preparation and other functions were based). In the early 'cottage' prior to 1777, this would likely have been undertaken on a range in the middle inglenook fireplace. Unfortunately any evidence of earlier use has been lost as the original exterior masonry of the kitchen is not visible externally as it has been extended and internally it has been comprehensively gutted and modernised, likely several times. It also has a new roof structure as evidenced in the recording.
- 4.57. Thus, by 1777, the inn likely had brewing capacity and some modest overnight quarters for animals and people of lower status (such as on foot/cart drovers or horse riders caught in bad weather). It does not appear to have had either the size or facilities for coaches to have frequented there regularly. The proximity to Gloucester and Cheltenham would also preclude this as the logical resting place and 'stage' after these towns as these would have been the market towns of Cirencester, Northleach or Stow on the Wold.
- 4.58. The inn appears to have continued to have much the same modest offering of accommodation and space until the early 20th century, when it began to be extended, firstly on its southern east-west range, and then on its western elevation (see Figure 2 and Figure 4a). This is likely to have been a direct result of the advent of the motor car and therefore the increased use and accessibility of the road network. The 19th century and early 20th century taste for countryside leisure trips to 'quaint' buildings and villages may well have been a factor given the location of the Building with fine local views over the Vale of Gloucester.

-
- 4.59. The history of the inn in the 20th century is one of successive change to its fabric and footprint which is a common theme for historic roadside public houses as they adapted to changing tastes in leisure and the advancement of transport technology. It was sold in 1934, and this may well have resulted in some refurbishment and redecoration. Certainly there is evidence of some late 19th and early 20th century decorative insertions, such as the parquet floor to the main pub space.
- 4.60. The greatest changes however occurred in the late 20th century when the inn was extended, altered and refurbished twice, with the second phase in 1996 being the phase now most legible within the Building itself. These phases also obliterated any real legibility of earlier phases of change. The phases of extension and refurbishment appear to be a direct result of the road improvements in this key road junction and the trunking of the A417, leading to the opportunity for many more potential pub users passing by.
- 4.61. The 1980s and 1990s work was undertaken with an 'historicist' approach, with a faux pastiche vernacular being applied to the new spaces, some reuse of older fabric, such as timbers, and a cover up or replace approach to historic surfaces. Modern wall and ceiling coverings and significant repairs and alterations to historic fabric means that the inn is a real amalgamation of old and new fabric, with the new fabric 'masquerading' as the old and therefore in some cases deceiving the viewer. That said, the original masonry envelope and some timbers of original age do survive. These phases however speak directly of the changes in the road network environment around the pub and the sales and hospitality opportunities which arose from them.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1. This document presents the results of a Level 3 analytical historic building recording of the Air Balloon Public House on Crickley Hill in Birdlip, Gloucestershire. The recording is required to preserve the Building by record prior to its demolition as part of the A417 Missing Link road scheme.
- 5.2. The recording has found that the Building was likely one or two 17th or early 18th century cottages with brewing spaces (as a modest drover's refreshment stop) prior to it being formally converted to an inn in c.1777. Its conversion was catalysed by improvements in the road network due to turnpiking and increased road maintenance, carriage technology and its strategic location on the convergence of three key historic routes accessing Wales, Gloucester, Cheltenham and the Cotswolds. The inn was never likely to be a 'stage' inn but more a likely refreshment top for travellers and drover's after the heavy work of the ascent up Crickley Hill. It was called the Air Balloon due to the popularity of Crickley Hill for air balloon flights in the late 18th century.
- 5.3. The Building's fabric has seen much refurbishment, alteration and extension, as is common with public houses, and these appear to have been directly associated with the development of the road network and the changing transport and leisure industries. For example it was extended in the early 20th century (which coincided with the rise of the motorcar) and again twice in the late 20th century when the A417 was trunked and the road network once again upgraded and the junction became extremely busy. Much of the work undertaken in the 1990s has resulted in the covering, removal or alteration of historic fabric though the building envelope and structural fabric, such as some roof and ceiling timbers, and features such as the large open fireplace, remain. The 1990s work was also undertaken in an 'historicist' manner, with faux vernacular detailing and some reuse of reclaimed historic fabric as well as 'distressed' modern fabric.
- 5.4. This work will be archived according to the details provided within the WSI and reproduced within Appendix 1 of this document.

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APPENDIX 1: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

**ABR1 The Air Balloon Public House,
ABR2 Crickley Hill Farm Milestone and
Norman's Brook Culvert
A417 Missing Link
Gloucestershire**

*Site-Specific Written Scheme of Investigation for a
Programme of Historic Building Recording*



for:
Kier Highways Limited

on behalf of:
National Highways

CA Project: CR1166

January 2023



ABR1 The Air Balloon Public House, ABR2 Crickley Hill Farm Milestone and Norman's Brook Culvert A417 Missing Link Gloucestershire

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Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	23 November 2022	Sacha Hunter	Jane Phimester	External Issue	Addition of Norman's Brook	Alex Thomson
B	2 December 2022	Sacha Hunter	Jane Phimester	Second Issue	Curator Comment	Alex Thomson
C	31 January 2023	Sacha Hunter	Jane Phimester	Final	-	Alex Thomson

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Cirencester Building 11 Cotswold Business Park Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 6BQ t. 01285 771 022	Milton Keynes Unit 8, The IO Centre Fingle Drive, Stonebridge Milton Keynes Buckinghamshire MK13 0AT t. 01908 564 660	Andover Stanley House Walworth Road Andover Hampshire SP10 5LH t. 01264 347 630	Suffolk Unit 5, Plot 11 Maitland Road Lion Barn Industrial Estate Needham Market Suffolk IP6 8NZ t. 01449 900 120
e. enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk			

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This document is a Site-Specific Written Scheme of Investigation (SSWSI) by Cotswold Archaeology (CA) for a programme of historic building recording to be carried out at the Air Balloon Public House (ABR1), a milestone near the entrance to Crickley Hill Farm (ABR2), and a stone-built culvert at Norman's Brook. The Air Balloon Public House building (hereafter named the Building; centred at NGR 393433 216082; Figs 1 and 2) and Norman's Brook culvert (approximately centred at NGR 392228 215762; Figs 1 and 4) are due to be demolished under engineering works related to the A417 Missing Link Scheme and the Crickley Hill Farm milestone is to be preserved *in situ* if possible, or relocated as part of the scheme (approximately centred at NGR 391969 215807; Figs 1 and 3). This SSWSI has been prepared for Kier Highways Ltd., who are acting on behalf of National Highways.
- 1.2. The Building, milestone and culvert lie within an area that has been subject to investigations carried out to inform the Development Consent Order (DCO), which established that the heritage assets would be affected by the construction of the scheme. Accordingly, a *Detailed Archaeological Mitigation Strategy* (DAMS) and an *Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation* (OWSI) for the Scheme, as secured by DCO Requirement 9, has been prepared on behalf of National Highways (NH 2022) in consultation with the archaeological advisors to Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) and Historic England (HE). The DAMS/OWSI sets out the scope, principles, and standards to which proposed archaeological building recording works for the Scheme will be carried out.
- 1.3. The scope of the historic building recording is defined by the DAMS/OWSI. This SSWSI contains a specification for the recording works and includes details of how the works relate to the research agenda, the purpose of the works, and the methodology to be used. This SSWSI will be submitted to the archaeological advisors to GCC and HE for review, comment and approval.
- 1.4. The final approval of this SSWSI will be undertaken by the Secretary of State prior to the start of the works described in this SSWSI, as secured by DCO Requirement 9.

The Scheme

- 1.5. The Scheme covers a c. 5.5km-long area, which follows the existing A417 dual carriageway to the west of the Air Balloon roundabout, and then runs across the agricultural landscape and various land/ownership parcels to the north-east of the

existing A417 corridor, before re-joining the existing A417 dual carriageway at the Cowley roundabout (Fig. 1). The site lies at approximately 95m AOD at the western end of the scheme (lying at the base of Crickley Hill near Brockworth), before climbing steeply towards the uplands around Birdlip (at c. 290m AOD), and then descending to the Cowley roundabout at the south-eastern extent of the scheme, at c. 250m AOD.

2. THE AIR BALLOON, MILESTONE AND CULVERT

The Air Balloon Public House (ABR1)

2.1. The Building, which is not designated, is a public house dating from the 1770s and is recorded by the Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record (HER; ref: 13040). It is located on a hilltop junction on Crickley Hill on the former Gloucester to Oxford turnpike road and the Cheltenham Old Bath road, now the A436 and the A417 (Fig. 2). It was established to serve travellers along the turnpike road and was originally called the New Inn, and by 1796 it was known simply as the '*Balloon*'. Allegedly the name was changed after pioneering balloon flights were undertaken from Crickley Hill in the 1780s, and it is depicted on historic mapping from the mid-19th century, with its current name first appearing on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1884.

2.2. The Building, which is a vernacular stone built structure and has seen alteration over time, has remained as a public house and coaching inn throughout its history and is now run by the Greene King chain. It is formed of three attached ranges which form a rough L-shape in plan, with numerous ancillary additions to the rear (south of the Building) and with the principal façade fronting onto the A417 junction with the A436 on Crickley Hill.

The Crickley Hill Farm Milestone (ABR2)

2.3. The milestone, which is not designated, is located on the southern side of the A417 on Crickley Hill, near the entrance to Crickley Hill Farm/Flyup 417 Bike Park (Fig. 3). The milestone is recorded by the Gloucestershire HER (ref: 13139) as '*a piece of rock with no discriminating features found in dense brambles*', representing '*one of only two of the remaining milestones on the Northgate turnpike*'. The milestone is depicted on historic mapping from the late 19th century onwards, and the HER record notes that it was relocated during the re-alignment of the A417 in 2010.

Norman's Brook Culvert

- 2.4. The culvert at Norman's Brook is not designated and lies to the north of Crickley Hill Farm/Flyup Bike Park, in an area of woodland to the south of the current A417 carriageway (Fig. 4). The culvert is not recorded by the Gloucestershire HER but is depicted as a culverted section of Norman's Brook, coinciding with an eastern access to Crickley Hill Farm, on historic mapping from as early as the 1840s Tithing mapping until the 1940s. Crickley Hill Farm is Grade II Listed (List Entry: 1091787/GHER ref: 11121), and includes elements dating to the 18th century; the culvert is likely contemporary with the first use of the farm and the installation of the eastern access route, which only became defunct during the re-alignment of the A417 in 2010.

3. BUILDING RECORDING METHODOLOGY

Air Balloon Public House (ABR1) – Level 3 recording

- 3.1. The building recording of the Air Balloon Pub will comprise a Level 3 record as set out in the Historic England publication *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (HE 2016; Appendix A), and as outlined in paragraphs 3.6.3 to 3.6.8 of the DAMS/OWSI. Further relevant guidance comprises the *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (ClfA 2020); *the Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991); and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment the MoRPHE Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006).
- 3.2. A Level 3 building record is defined by Historic England as an 'analytical record'; it will comprise an introductory description followed by a systematic account of the Building's origins, development and use. The record will include an account of the evidence on which the analysis has been based, allowing for the validity of the record to be re-examined in detail. It will also include all drawn and photographic records that may be required to illustrate the Building's appearance and structure and to support the historical analysis.

Level 3 drawn record

- 3.3. This element will include items 2-3 of the Historic England guidance regarding 'the drawn record'. A site plan will be compiled, showing the location of the rooms within the Building. Any other illustrations to support the historical analysis (such as mapping or annotated structural drawings) will be provided, and any sketch drawings

which illustrate structural features of specific fabric. It will also include a phased plan of the Building to show its historic evolution.

- 3.4. Measured annotated elevations and floor plans will be used to provide a comprehensive drawn record of the Building.

Level 3 photographic record

- 3.5. A digital photographic record will be compiled. Photography will be undertaken with a Canon 600D 20mpx TTL digital camera set to TIFF format. This will be in-line with items 1-9 of the Historic England guidance. The photographic record will include general views of the Building, shots of the external appearance and the overall appearance of principal spaces and functional areas. Specific architectural details that relate to date, alteration, or function will be subject to more detailed photographic recording. Where surviving, external or internal detail (structural or decorative) relevant to the Building's design, development and use will be photographed, with scales where appropriate. The photographic survey will comprise digital images of the Building and specific features of interest.

- 3.6. Some files may be converted to .jpeg format for use in the report, but original RAW or TIFF versions will be maintained in the project archive. Appropriate levels of Metadata will be maintained and included in the digital archive following the approach set out in the aforementioned guidance.

Level 3 written record

- 3.7. The Level 3 written record will include items 1-3,6-9, 11-13, 23 and sometimes other items within the HE guidance (pages 22 -23). It will include the Building's location, the dates -of the record and the name of the recorder. It will include a summary of the Building's' historic and architectural context, based upon the site inspection and via in-person archival and online documentary research. It will include commentary and analysis of structures, features and fabric uncovered which may well reveal additional evidence and information about the historical development of the Building and its uses and alterations over time. It will also provide a discussion of the architectural and historic significance of the Building both locally and nationally.

Level 3 report

- 3.8. A fully illustrated report with georeferenced mapping, images and text will be compiled on the results of the work.

Crickley Hill Milestone (ABR2) and Norman's Brook Culvert – Level 1 Recording

- 3.9. If the milestone is to be relocated as part of the scheme it is proposed that it will be recorded *in situ* prior to relocation; the Norman's Brook culvert may suffer disturbance during the course of the Scheme and will be recorded prior to any destructive activities. The building recording of the milestone and culvert will comprise a Level 1 record as set out in the Historic England publication *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (HE 2016) (see appendix 1 below), and as outlined in paragraphs 3.6.3 to 3.6.8 of the DAMS/OWSI. Further relevant guidance comprises the *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (ClfA 2020); the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991); and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment the MoRPHE Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006).
- 3.10. A Level 1 building record is defined by Historic England as a basic visual record supplemented by the minimum of information needed to identify the structure's location, age and type. This is the simplest record, and given the simple form of a milestone, is an appropriate level of recording for this type of asset. Further survey may be appropriate (e.g., laser scanning of the culvert's interior), and decisions will be made during the course of the survey on methods that may add supplementary information to the record.

Level 1 drawn record

- 3.11. A sketched plan and elevation of the milestone and culvert will be undertaken but it is anticipated that the main record of the structure will be photographic.

Level 1 photographic record

- 3.12. A digital photographic record will be compiled. Photography will be undertaken with a Canon 600D 20mpx TTL digital camera set to TIFF format. This will be in-line with items 1 and 2 of the Historic England guidance. The photographic record will include general views of the milestone within its setting and context and will include detailed images of lettering and any other features of interest. All images will be made with appropriate scales. If it is to be moved further images would be taken of its removal and its relocation.
- 3.13. Some files may be converted to .jpeg format for use in the report, but original RAW or TIFF versions will be maintained in the project archive. Appropriate levels of

Metadata will be maintained and included in the digital archive following the approach set out in the aforementioned guidance.

Level 1 written record

- 3.14. The Level 1 written record will include items 1-4 of the Historic England guidance. It will include the milestone and culvert locations, the dates of the record and the name of the recorder. It will include a summary of the milestone and culvert's context and background, including its purpose in the local context, typology, materials and possible dates. If the milestone is to be moved further detail will be included of the new location and context.

Level 1 report

- 3.15. A fully illustrated report with georeferenced mapping, images and text will be compiled on the results of the work.

Relocation of milestone

- 3.16. As outlined above and in Section 3.5 of the DAMS/OWSI, it is currently unknown whether the Crickley Hill Milestone (ABR2) can be retained *in situ* or if it will require relocation.
- 3.17. Should preservation *in situ* be possible, protective fencing will be installed during the course of the Scheme, as detailed in Section 3.4 of the DAMS/OWSI.
- 3.18. Should relocation of the milestone be required, the milestone will be removed under archaeological supervision following a specific Method Statement describing the procedure for safely moving the milestone and stored in an appropriate environment thereafter.
- 3.19. Following the completion of construction activities, the milestone would be relocation to a position further back from the road to allow it to be preserved and its relationship with the road maintained.

4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 4.1. The overarching Aims and Objectives for the Scheme are outlined within the DAMS and reference should be made to this document for further detail.
- 4.2. The Scheme lies within the area covered by the *South West Archaeological Research Framework* (SWARF; Grove and Croft 2012). A Research Agenda and Strategy for

the Scheme is included within the DAMS, informed by the Themes contained within SWARF, and by other period-based research agendas, and reference should be made to the DAMS for further detail. The following covers the site-specific research agenda for the programme of historic building recording, including research questions and specific objectives drawn from SWARF, the DAMS, and any other pertinent frameworks.

South West Archaeological Research Framework (SWARF)

- 4.3. As the programme of historic building recording has the potential to record remains associated with post-medieval activity, the work has the potential to contribute to Themes and Research Aims included within SWARF. These include, but are not limited to:

Theme D: Social Identity and Change and Theme E: Economies and Subsistence

- 4.4. Within Theme D, **Research Aim 48**: '*Widen understanding of Post-Medieval and Modern transport and communications*' and **Research Aim 43**: '*Address the lack of knowledge of Post-Medieval to Modern food production*' within Theme E are relevant, through the relationships of both the Air Balloon Public House and Crickley Hill Milestone to post-medieval transport and the use of the Crickley Hill toll road and their inherent influence on the agricultural practices within the area.

- 4.5. SWARF notes that '*our knowledge of the archaeology of the food and drinks trades is limited*' for the post-medieval period (Grove and Croft 2012, 220), and that there is even less knowledge of '*the distribution and support services that were an essential part of the organisation of these trades*', although '*Pubs have also been the subject of a recent national study*' (ibid.). The siting of the Air Balloon Public House (New Inn) adjacent to the junction of the Crickley Hill and Cheltenham roads would have placed it on an important link between the Cotswold uplands, Gloucester and the wider Severn Valley.

Theme F: Widening Access and Interpretation

- 4.6. Within Theme F, **Research Aim 2**: '*Encourage works of synthesis within and cross periods, settlements, monuments and areas*', is applicable, with the anticipated results of the historic building recording having the potential to contribute to the wider study of the post-medieval period, and to tie into the results of work in Excavation Area 26.

-
- 4.7. Furthermore, **Research Aim 4:** *‘Encourage wide involvement in archaeological research and present modern accounts of the past to the public’*, will form part of the core aim of disseminating the results of the archaeological work for the entire Scheme to the wider public through multiple channels and means. This is addressed in Section 12, below.

Theme H: Methodologies

- 4.8. Within Theme H, **Research Aim 3:** *‘Address apparent “gaps” in our knowledge and assess whether they are meaningful or simply biases in current knowledge’* is relevant, and ties into the above research questions.

DAMS Research Questions

- 4.9. The programme of historic building recording has the potential to contribute to specific Research Questions identified within the DAMS, as outlined below. These relate to the Medieval/Post-Medieval (MPM) research period.
- **MPM5:** *What can the fabric and structure of the Air Balloon public house reveal of its history and usage as a roadside inn?*
 - **MPM6:** *What date and style is the milestone north of the road at Crickley Hill? How does it connect with other milestones along the A417?*
 - **MPM7:** *How did the creation of the Toll Road influence agricultural practice and settlement?*

5. PROGRAMME

- 5.1. The recording work will take place prior to the construction phase of the development works (i.e., the preparatory stage). With regards to the Air Balloon Building, site survey should take place after removal of the current fixtures and fittings and soft strip.

6. PROJECT STAFF

- 6.1. This project will be under the management of Alex Thomson, MCIfA, Project Manager, CA. The Project Manager will direct the overall conduct of the programme of archaeological building recording during the period of work. Day-to-day responsibility will, however, rest with an Historic Buildings Consultant, who will be on-site throughout the project.

7. REPORTING AND ARCHIVING

Reporting

- 7.1. A fully detailed and illustrated report for each asset will be produced within the above scope and submitted as per the terms of the DAMS/OWSI (paragraph 3.16.2), which includes consultation with National Highways, the GCC Archaeological Officer and Historic England. Archiving will follow best practice with regards to the Historic England guidance (2016) detailed on pages 30-34.
- 7.2. A public-facing report for the whole Scheme will be produced at a later stage, synthesising the results of all archaeological works across the Scheme.
- 7.3. Subject to any contractual constraints, a summary of information from the project will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain. This will include a digital (pdf) copy of the final report, which will also appear on the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) website once the OASIS record has been verified. Should it be agreed, copies of the reports will be deposited with the Gloucester Archives and the Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record.
- 7.4. A digital (pdf) copy of the final report will also be made available for public viewing via CA's *Archaeological Reports Online* web page (<http://reports.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk>).
- 7.5. The key visual element of the archive will comprise the photographic record, which will be placed on CD-ROM, with a guide to the contents on an accompanying Excel spreadsheet.

Digital archive

- 7.6. A Data Management Plan will be compiled for the Scheme by CA, in consultation with National Highways, GCCAS, HE and Corinium Museum, prior to the start of the programme of archaeological building recording, detailing the methodology for the management of the digital elements of the project archive, in line with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020) and associated *ClfA Standards and digital data* (ClfA 2022).
- 7.7. A digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). This archive will be compiled in accordance with the *ADS Guidelines for Depositors*.

Data management

- 7.8. All born-digital and digitally-transferred project data created during the programme of archaeological building recording (other than duplicated files) will be stored by CA. Upon project completion and deposition, the data will be transferred to a secure external server. Data will be selected for inclusion in the final digital archive, as detailed below. It is proposed that data selection will occur following completion of the programme of archaeological building recording and will be undertaken in line with the Scheme-wide Data Management Plan.
- 7.9. Selected digital files will be transferred to Corinium Museum with the documentary and material archive and to the ADS, in line with the relevant guidance and standards for both organisations. In adherence to CA's *Guidelines for essential archive tasks and the preparation of archives* (2017), it is proposed that the selected files will include final versions only. Digital photographs will be selected for inclusion in the archive in line with CA's *Guidelines for essential archive tasks and the preparation of archives* (2017) and *Digital Image Capture and File Storage: Guidelines for Best Practice* (Historic England 2015). Data produced by external specialists or sub-contractors will be granted under license to CA to allow inclusion in the digital archive as required.

8. HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT

- 8.1. CA will conduct all works in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and all subsequent health and safety legislation, as well as the CA Health and Safety and Environmental policies and the CA Safety, Health and Environmental Management System (SHE). Any client/developer/Principal Contractor policies and/or procedures will also be followed. A site-specific Construction Phase Plan (form SHE 017) will be formulated prior to commencement of fieldwork.

9. INSURANCES

- 9.1. CA holds Public Liability Insurance to a limit of £15,000,000 and Professional Indemnity Insurance to a limit of £10,000,000.

10. MONITORING

- 10.1. Notification of the start of site works will be made to the archaeological advisors to GCC (and HE, where appropriate) by the ACoW so that there will be opportunities to visit the site and check on the quality and progress of the work.

11. QUALITY ASSURANCE

- 11.1. CA is a Registered Organisation (RO) with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (RO Ref. No. 8). As a RO, CA endorses the Code of Conduct (CIfA 2019) and the *Standard and guidance for commissioning work or providing consultancy advice on archaeology and the historic environment* (CIfA 2014; updated October 2020). All CA Project Managers hold Member status within the CIfA.
- 11.2. CA operates an internal quality assurance system as follows: projects are overseen by a Project Manager, who is responsible for the quality of the project. The Project Manager reports to the Chief Executive, who bears ultimate responsibility for the conduct of all CA operations. Matters of policy and corporate strategy are determined by the Board of Directors and, in cases of dispute, recourse may be made to the Chairman of the Board.

12. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT, PARTICIPATION AND BENEFIT

- 12.1. It is not anticipated that this programme of archaeological building recording will afford opportunities for public engagement or participation during the course of the work. However, the results will be made publicly available on the ADS and CA websites, as set out in Section 7, and regular live updates will be provided on CA's social media platforms and website.
- 12.2. It is likely that the results of the recording will be of at least regional interest, and therefore a programme of outreach and public engagement will be developed by CA in consultation with National Highways to ensure dissemination of results to the people in the local and regional area and contribute to public benefit, in line with paragraph 3.14.4 of the OWSI.
- 12.3. A separate Outreach and Public Engagement Strategy will be compiled by CA, in consultation with National Highways, GCCAS, HE and Corinium Museum, prior to the start of the programme of archaeological building recording, detailing the methodology for outreach and public engagement at a Scheme-wide level, and by site.

13. STAFF TRAINING AND CPD

- 13.1. CA has a fully documented mandatory performance management system for all staff. This system reviews personal performance, identifies areas for improvement, sets targets and ensures the provision of appropriate training within CA's adopted training policy. In addition, CA has developed an award-winning career development programme for its staff. This ensures a consistent and high-quality approach to the development of appropriate skills.
- 13.2. As part of CA's requirement for continuing professional development, all members of staff are required to maintain a personal development plan and an associated log; these are reviewed within the performance management system.

14. REFERENCES

CIfA (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists) 2020 *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures*

CIfA 2022 *CIfA Standards and digital data*
<https://www.archaeologists.net/digdigital/standards>, accessed 4 November 2022

EH (English Heritage) 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects 2*

EH 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment the MoRPHE Manager's Guide*

Grove, J. and Croft, B. 2012 *The Archaeology of South West England: South West Archaeological Research Framework, Research Strategy 2012–2017*, Somerset County Council

HE (Historic England) 2016 *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*

HE 2019 *Historic England Advice Note 12: Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets*

NH (National Highways) 2022 *A417 Missing Link TR010056 Detailed Archaeological Mitigation Strategy and Overarching Written Schemes of Investigation*

APPENDIX A: LEVEL 3 RECORD

Understanding Historic Buildings A guide to good recording practice (English Heritage 2016) suggest a menu of options for level 3 recording which may be applied depending on the specific circumstances of the project being undertaken. The following sets out the options from which the recording of ABR1 will utilise as appropriate.

Plans/Drawings

- Measured plans (to scale or fully dimensioned) as existing. These may extend to all floors or may be limited to one or a few. Buildings with a repetitive structure (such as some industrial buildings) may also be planned on one floor only. Plans should show the form and location of any structural features of historic significance, such as blocked doors, windows and fireplaces, masonry joints, ceiling beams and other changes in floor and ceiling levels, and any evidence for fixtures of significance, including former machinery.
- Measured drawings recording the form or location of other significant structural detail, such as timber or metal framing.
- Measured cross-sections, long-sections or elevational sections illustrating the vertical relationships within a building (floor and ceiling heights or the form of roof trusses, for example).
- Measured drawings showing the form of any architectural decoration (the moulding profiles of door surrounds, beams, mullions and cornices, for example) or small-scale functional detail not more readily captured by photography. A measured detail drawing is particularly valuable when the feature in question is an aid to dating.
- Measured elevations, where these are necessary to an understanding of the building's design, development or function and not more readily obtained by photography.
- A site plan, typically at 1:500 or 1:1250, relating the building to other structures and to related topographical and landscape features.
- A plan or plans identifying the location and direction of accompanying photographs.
- Copies of earlier drawings throwing light on the building's history.
- Three-dimensional projections when these are of value in understanding the building.
- Reconstruction drawings and phased drawings, when these are of value.
- Diagrams interpreting the movement of materials (process flow) or people (circulation), or the segregation of people or activities (eg permeability diagrams), where these are warranted by the complexity of the subject.

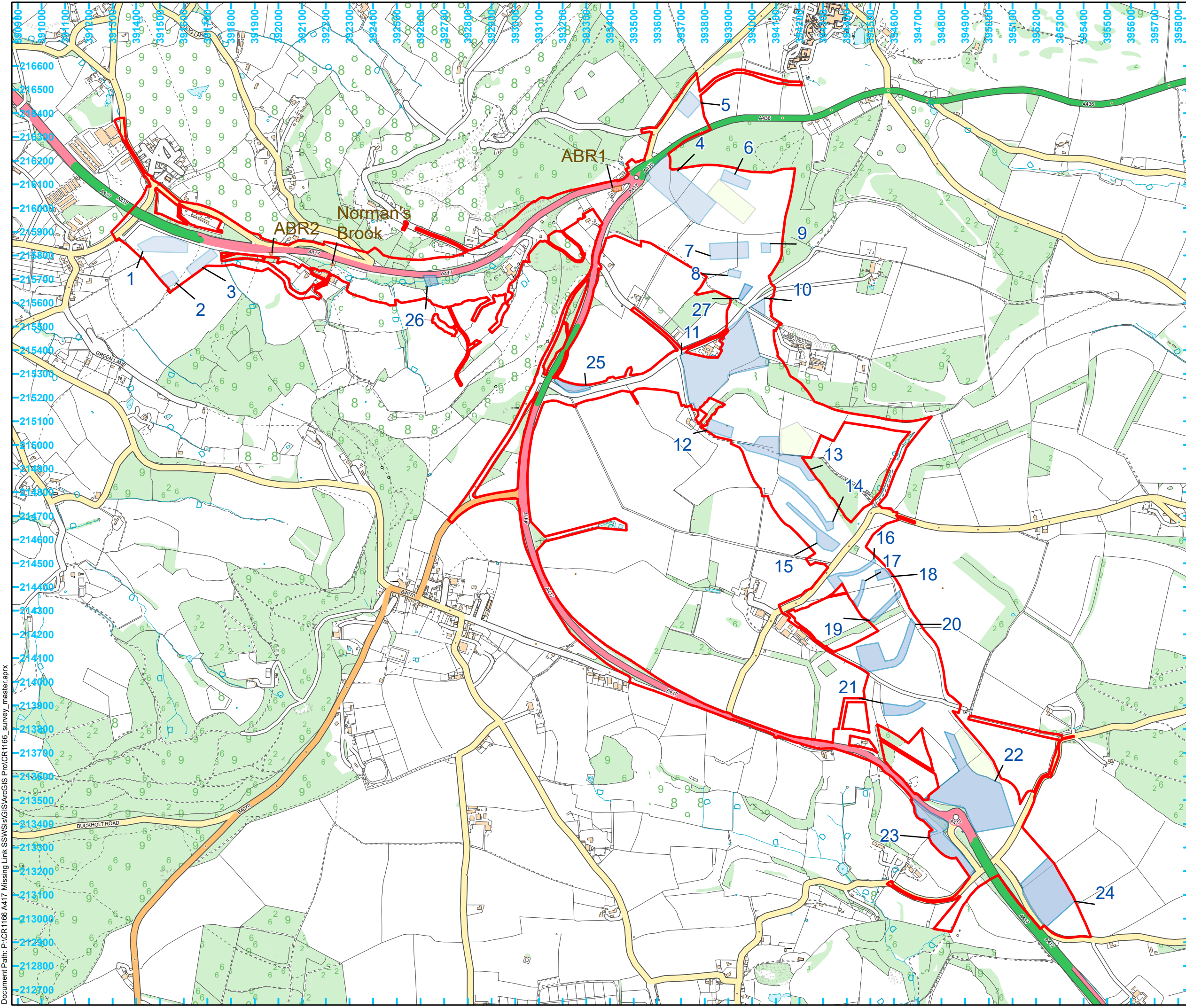
Photographs

- A general view or views of the building (in its wider setting or landscape if the views noted in 2 below are also adopted).
- The building's external appearance. Typically, a series of oblique views will show all external elevations of the building, and give an overall impression of its size and shape. Where an individual elevation embodies complex historical information, views at right angles to the plane of the elevation may also be appropriate.
- Further views may be desirable to indicate the original design intentions of the builder or architect, where these are known from documentary sources or can be inferred from the building or its setting.
- The overall appearance of the principal rooms and circulation areas.
- Any external or internal detail, structural or decorative, which is relevant to the building's design, development or use and which does not show adequately on general photographs.
- Any machinery or other plant, or evidence for its former existence.
- Any dates or other inscriptions, any signage, makers' plates or graffiti which contribute to an understanding of the building or its fixtures or machinery, if not adequately captured by transcription.
- Any building contents or ephemera which have a significant bearing on the building's history (for example, a cheese press or a malt shovel), where not sufficiently treated in general photographs.
- Copies of maps, drawings, views and photographs, present in the building and illustrating its development or that of its site.

Written Record/Report

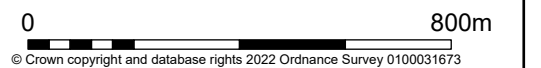
- The building's precise location, as a National Grid reference and in address form.
- A note of any statutory designation (listing, scheduling or conservation area). Non-statutory designations (historic parks and gardens registers, local lists etc) may be added.
- The date of the record, the name(s) of the recorder(s) and, if an archive has been created, its location.
- An expansion of 4, if appropriate, summarising the building's form, function, date and sequence of development. The names of architects, builders, patrons and owners should be given if known.

-
- An introduction, setting out the circumstances in which the record was made, its objectives, methods, scope and limitations, and any constraints which limited the achievement of objectives.
 - Acknowledgements to all those who made significant contributions – practical, intellectual or financial – to the record or its analysis, or who gave permission for copyright items to be reproduced.
 - A discussion of published sources relating to the building and its setting, an account of its history as given in published sources, an analysis of historic map evidence (map regression) and a critical evaluation of previous records of the building, where they exist.
 - An account of the building's overall form (structure, materials, layout) and its successive phases of development, together with the evidence supporting this analysis.
 - An account of the past and present uses of the building and its parts, with the evidence for these interpretations. An analysis of any circulation pattern or decorative, iconographic or liturgical scheme. An account of any fixtures, fittings, plant or machinery associated with the building, and their purposes.
 - Any evidence for the former existence of demolished structures or removed plant associated with the building.
 - Full bibliographic and other references, or a list of the sources consulted (in long reports it is preferable to include both).



Legend

- ▭ Site Boundary
- ▭ Excavation area
- ▭ Preservation in-situ
- ▭ Historic Building Recording



Cotswold Archaeology

Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120

www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

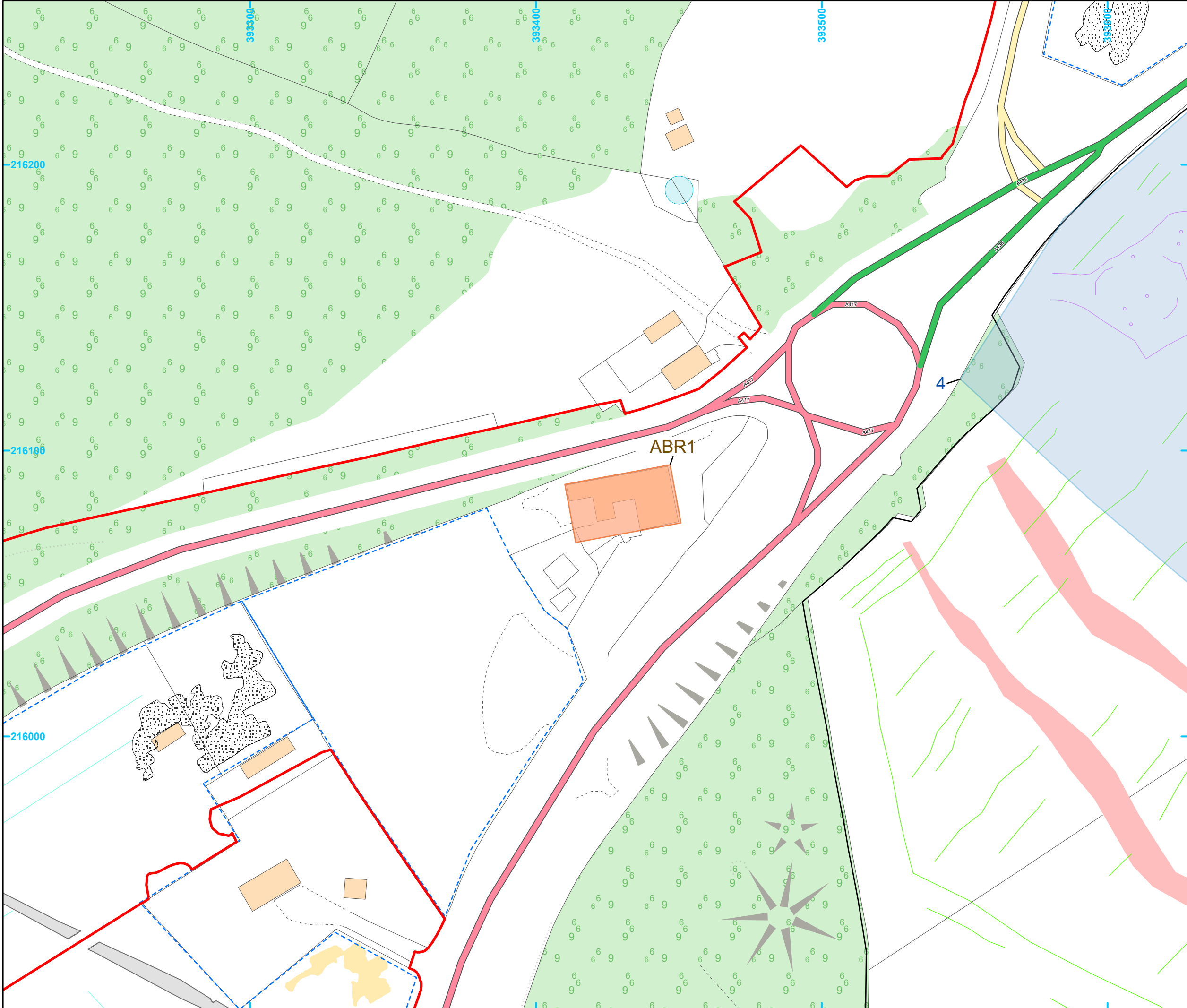
PROJECT TITLE
A417 Missing Link

FIGURE TITLE
The Scheme: Proposed excavation and HBR areas

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Legend

- ▬ Site Boundary
- ▬ Excavation area
- ▬ Historic Building Recording

Geophysical survey results (WA 2022)

- ▬ Drainage
- ▬ Survey extents
- ▬ Modern service
- ▬ Increased mag response
- ▬ Former quarrying

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Cotswold Archaeology

Andover	01264 347630
Cirencester	01285 771022
Milton Keynes	01908 564660
Suffolk	01449 900120

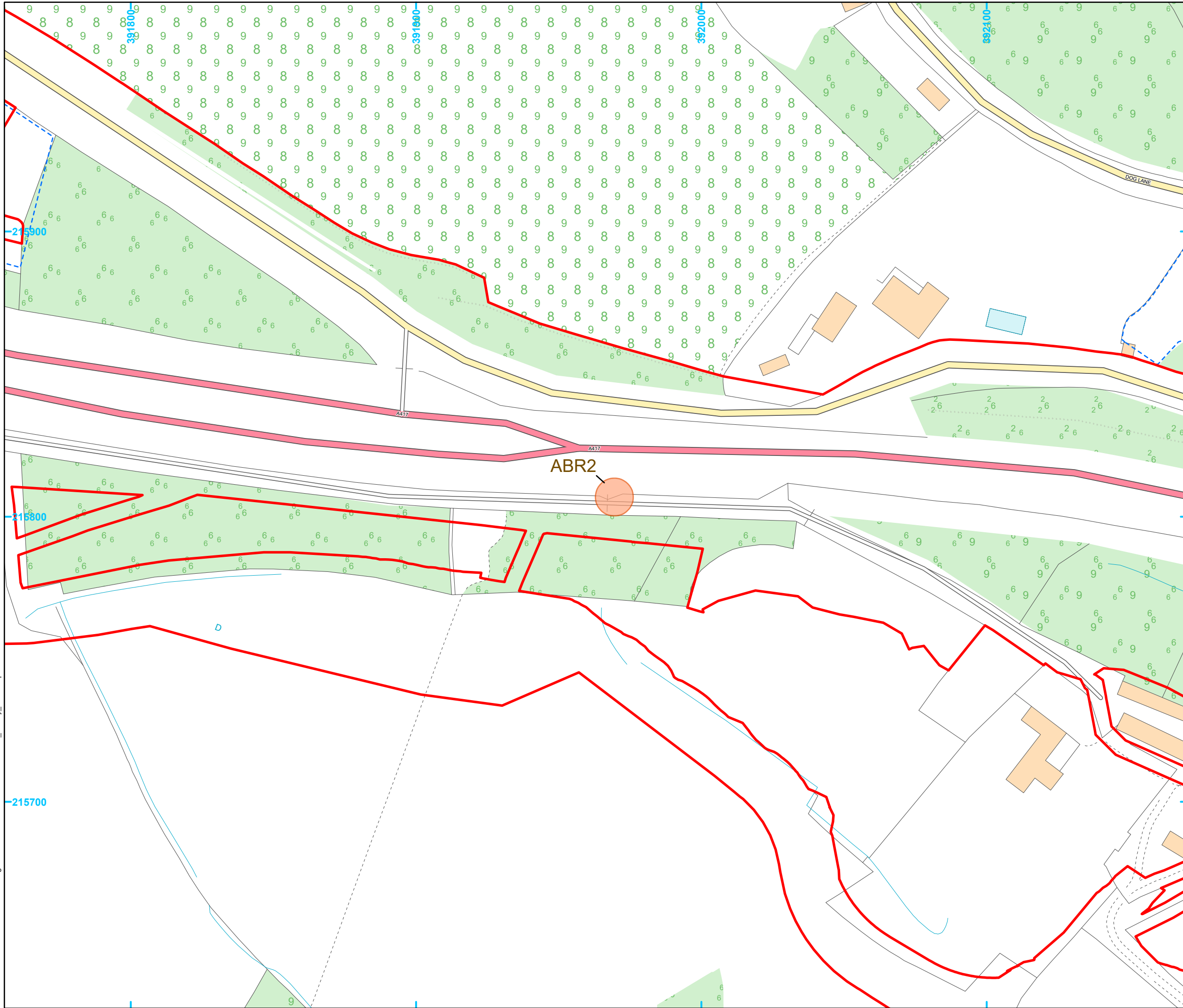
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 A417 Missing Link

FIGURE TITLE
 ABR1 Air Balloon Pub: proposed HBR area, showing location of previous archaeological works

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APPROVED BY	AT	SCALE@A3	1:1,250	

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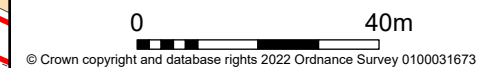


Legend

- Site Boundary
- Historic Building Recording

Geophysical survey results (WA 2022)

- Survey extents



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Cotswold Archaeology

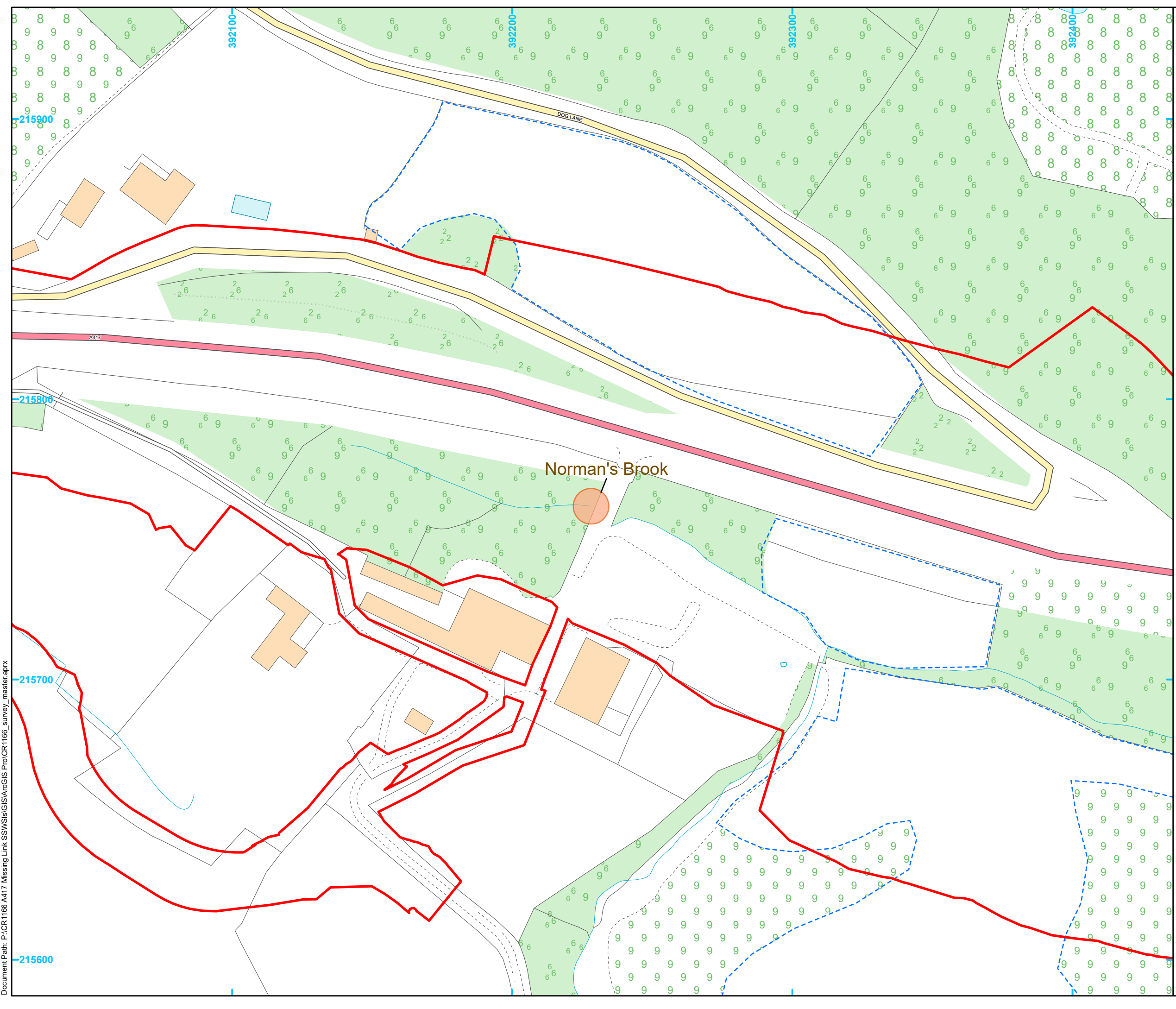
Andover	01264 347630
Cirencester	01285 771022
Milton Keynes	01908 564660
Suffolk	01449 900120

www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
A417 Missing Link

FIGURE TITLE
**ABR2 Crickley Hill Milestone:
proposed HBR area, showing location
of previous archaeological works**

DRAWN BY	TW	PROJECT NO	CR1166	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	AT	DATE	28/11/2022	3
APPROVED BY	AT	SCALE@A3	1:1,250	



- Legend**
- Site Boundary
 - Historic Building Recording
 - Geophysical survey results (WA 2022)
 - - - Survey extents



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Cotswold Archaeology

Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120

w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 A417 Missing Link

FIGURE TITLE
 Norman's Brook Culvert:
 proposed HBR area, showing location
 of previous archaeological works

DRAWN BY	TW	PROJECT NO	CR1166	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	AT	DATE	06/12/2022	4
APPROVED BY	AT	SCALE@A3	1:1,250	

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Andover Office

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

Cirencester Office

Building 11
Cotswold Business Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

Milton Keynes Office

Unit 8 - The IO Centre
Fingle Drive, Stonebridge
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK13 0AT

t: 01908 564660

Suffolk Office

Unit 5, Plot 11, Maitland Road
Lion Barn Industrial Estate
Needham Market
Suffolk
IP6 8NZ

t: 01449 900120

e: enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk



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t: 01285 771022

Milton Keynes Office

Unit 8 - The IO Centre
Fingle Drive, Stonebridge
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK13 0AT

t: 01908 564660

Suffolk Office

Unit 5, Plot 11, Maitland Road
Lion Barn Industrial Estate
Needham Market
Suffolk
IP6 8NZ

t: 01449 900120

e: enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

