

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment
of
**THE WALLED GARDEN OF WINTERBOURNE HOUSE,
SWAN LANE, WINTERBOURNE,
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE.**
for
Mr R Tanton



Report No. 2037 / 2008
SGHER No. 18604

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**THE WALLED GARDEN OF WINTERBOURNE HOUSE,
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SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE.**

Centred on
N.G.R. ST 64964 81345

Client: Mr R Tanton

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Abbreviations

aOD	Above Ordnance Datum	NGR	National Grid Reference
BaRAS	Bristol & Region Archaeological Services	NMR	National Monuments Record
BCC	Bristol City Council	OS	Ordnance Survey
BCL	Bristol Central Library		
BRO	Bristol Record Office		
BSMR	Bristol Sites & Monuments Record		
c.	Circa		
HER	Historic Environment Record		
Km	Kilometre		
m	Metre		

Adopted Chronology

Prehistoric Before AD43	Palaeolithic 1,000,000 – 10,000 BC
	Mesolithic c. 10,000 – 3500 BC
	Neolithic c. 3500 – 2000 BC
	Bronze Age c. 2000 – 600 BC
	Iron Age c. 600 BC – AD43
Roman	AD43-410
Anglo Saxon/Early Medieval	AD410-1066
Medieval	AD1066-1540
Post-medieval	AD1540-present

NOTE

Notwithstanding that Bristol and Region Archaeological Services have taken reasonable care to produce a comprehensive summary of the known and recorded archaeological evidence, no responsibility can be accepted for any omissions of fact or opinion, however caused.

October, 2008.

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SUMMARY

Bristol and Region Archaeological Services were commissioned by Mr Rick Tanton to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment for land at Principle's House, Silverhill School, Swan Lane, Winterbourne, Bristol, South Gloucestershire, BS36 1RL (NGR ST 64964 81345). The study area is situated on the west side of the village of Winterbourne, located 13km to the north of Bristol.

The evidence examined suggests that the study area has been enclosed within the grounds of Winterbourne House from the 17th century onwards and has been a walled garden from the mid 18th century. There is no specific evidence for its use prior to the construction of Winterbourne House. The grounds of Winterbourne House in which the study area lies is considered to be an area of some archaeological potential, not least in view of the two Grade II listed buildings in proximity to the study area.

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1. INTRODUCTION & CURRENT USE

- 1.1 Bristol and Region Archaeological Services were commissioned by Mr Rick Tanton to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment for land at Swan Lane, Winterbourne, South Gloucestershire (NGR ST 64964 81345) (**Fig. 1**).
- 1.2 The study area is situated on the west side of the village of Winterbourne, located 13 km to the north of Bristol (**Fig. 1**).
- 1.3 On plan, the study area is roughly quadrilateral in shape with the north-west corner of the site being a curve (**Fig. 1**). The north and west flanks of the study area are currently bounded by the main wall of the Winterbourne House grounds (**Plate 1**), beyond which is the public road Green Lane. The south and east of the study area is bounded by the internal site walls forming the walled garden (**Plate 2**), and on the east side also by the modern house and gazebo.
- 1.4 The study area presently comprises the area enclosed by the stone walls described above, a modern house built in the 1980s, and a currently overgrown garden (**Plate 3**). The site slopes down to the north and north-west. Features noted during the walkover of the study area (see Part 2.3) include a number of blocked openings within the main boundary wall. These had previously been noted by Moody (1977, 105-110) in his work on the development of Winterbourne House. Moody noted five openings, only four of which were located and identified during the site visit, due to the thick and extensive ivy covering the walls. He goes on to suggest that the first three openings may be associated with an early barn that may have stood in the study area. In addition to the blockings a vertical break in the wall (**Plate 4**) was noted between openings 1 (**Plate 5**) and 2, running the full height of the wall. No additional break was identified which could correspond to the opposite side of an opening, and the mortar either side of the break appears the same, the purpose of the break thus remaining unclear. The top of the wall in this area has been truncated, as indicated by the modern mortar and the truncated arches of openings 1 and 2. Access to the study area is gained from the east via an opening in the east wall that was made when the modern house was built (**Plate 6**).
- 1.5 The proposed development entails the demolition of the existing house on the site, built in the 1980s, and the construction of a new dwelling and associated groundworks.
- 1.6 The geology in the immediate environs of the study area comprises Pennant Sandstone. The study area lies at c. 60m aOD.

2. METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The study was undertaken in accordance with criteria set out the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (revised 2001).
- 2.2 Selected material from the holdings of the Bristol Record Office, Bristol Central Library and the National Monument Record were consulted. All information considered appropriate to the study was collated, summarised and presented in the following report. All photocopies, Mss copies and notes, including photographs, are preserved in the Project Archive to be retained at BaRAS's premises at St Nicholas Church, Bristol. A copy of the report is to be lodged at the National Monuments Record (NMR), Swindon.
- 2.3 A visit to the study area was made by Simon Roper of Bristol and Region Archaeological Services on the 27th of August 2008. Photographs (see **Plates 1-5 & Cover**) and rough notes were taken during the visit.
- 2.4 A search of the Local Authority's HER was carried out by Paul Driscoll of South Gloucestershire council on behalf of BaRAS, with the results incorporated into this report. The project has been referenced under the South Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record as: SGHER 18604.

3. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

General

- 3.1 The study area lies in the tithing of Winterbourne in the historic parish of Winterbourne, which lay in the Langley and Swineshead Hundred. The other tithing comprising Winterbourne parish is Hambrook, the two divided by the Bradley Brook. (Elliott 1936: 3).

Historical Background

- 3.2 The earliest indications of settlement within Winterbourne parish are a collection of flint tools, including a Palaeolithic blade, found within Bury Hill hillfort near Hambrook. The hillfort itself is a bivallate contour hillfort covering an area of 5.5 acres, which may date to the late Bronze Age and was probably occupied throughout the Iron Age.
- 3.3 In the Roman period the Bury Hill was reoccupied, and used as a link between the line of Roman forts along the Severn and their camps on the Cotswolds (Elliott 1936, 1).
- 3.4 The earliest written record of Winterbourne occurs in the Domesday book of 1086, the entry of which reads: "In SWINEHEAD Hundred in the time of King Edward there were in the revenue 36 hides in BITTON, with its two members, WAPLEY and WINTERBOURNE. In lordship there were 5 ploughs; 41 villagers and 29 smallholders with 45 ploughs. 18 slaves with 1 mill. In the time of King Edward this manor paid one night's revenue; now it does likewise." (<http://www.winterbourne.freeuk.com/domesday.html>). At the time of the Domesday Survey Winterbourne formed, with Wapley, the Royal manor of Bitton. This was held by William the Conqueror, and appears to have been retained in the hands of the kings until the reign of Henry II (Elliott 1936, 4).
- 3.5 In the late twelfth century the manor was no longer held by the king but by Reginald de Cahoine and Ralph Fitstephen. The manor changed hands throughout the medieval period during which the settlement of Winterbourne continued to grow. The present church of St Michael the Archangel dates from at least the 13th century and in 1393 the King granted the right to hold a weekly market and two fairs yearly "in the town of Winterbourne". These were probably held in the neighbourhood of the manor court and church (Elliott 1936, 70)
- 3.6 Winterbourne House was probably built in the 17th century, by at least 1698 according to Ludwell (1972), although possibly much earlier, the earliest recorded resident being Hezekiah Cole (Moody 1977, 11-12) who is listed as a resident of Winterbourne in the records of the Society of Friends (Quakers) in 1654. The house was passed down to his grand-daughter Hester Donne and her husband William Donne (Dunne), and after William's death in 1766 the house was sold by his daughters in 1768. The house and grounds were subsequently lived in by a succession of owners and tenants, including from 1940 to 1944 the RAF in the form of No. 935 Balloon Squadron, and in 1945 it became a school for the first time (Moody 1977, 82-90).

Nomenclature

- 3.7 The name Winterbourne (also written as Wintreborn, Wynterbourne, Winterburn and Winterborn) is believed to be derived from a stream or burn (Bradley Brook) which dries up in summer and floods in winter (Elliott 1936, 74).

4. CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

General

- 4.1 Historic and Ordnance Survey maps held by the Bristol Record Office and the National Monument Record were examined.

Cartographic Observations

- 4.2 The observations made on the maps examined are summarised in **Table 1** below.

Map	General Observations	Fig. No.
De Wilstar, 1736	1) General location of study area indicated only, no indication of a walled off internal area; 2) Winterbourne house depicted; 3) Mr. Dunn listed as the owner of the site.	2
Inclosure map, 1825	1) General location of study area indicated only, no indication of a walled off internal area; 2) Winterbourne house not depicted, nor any other features within the grounds; 3) General Dana indicated as the owner of the site.	
J. Dymock, 1827	1) As above	3
Tithe Map, 1844	1) Study area occupies apportionment numbered 439. 2) Winterbourne house, the gazebo and additional outbuildings depicted. 3) The study area depicted as a distinct walled off area, with Gazebo at the south-east corner, the main drive bordering the east wall, and Green Lane bordering the north and west wall.	4
J. P. Sturge, 1844, (Copied from J. Dymocks map of 1824)	1) As above.	
<i>First Edition 1881</i> (1: 2500) OS map	1) Study area depicted as a distinct walled off area. 2) Trees and paths running through them depicted within the study area. 3) A well is indicated beside the north wall of the study area.	5
<i>Second Edition 1903</i> (1: 2500) OS map	1) Study area depicted as a distinct walled off area, but is devoid of features within it. 2) A well is indicated beside the north wall of the study area.	6
<i>Edition of 1920</i> (1: 2500) OS map (Revised 1916)	1) Study area depicted as a distinct walled off area, but is devoid of features within it.	7
1935 edition (1: 2500) OS map	1) As above.	
1972 revision of (1: 2500) OS National Grid map	1) As above.	

Table 1: Summary of Cartographic Observations

Discussion

- 4.3 The earliest map examined depicting the study area in detail was the J. J. de Wilstar survey of 1736 (**Fig. 2**). This shows Winterbourne House and the edge of the site bordered by the roads, but no internal details of the grounds of Winterbourne House. The site is labelled as belonging to Mr Dunn, and the road that is now Swan Lane is identified on the map as Town End, suggesting this was the limits of Winterbourne at the time. The Inclosure map of 1825 and the

1827 map by J. Dymock (**Fig 3**) are the next earliest maps examined and are very similar to each other in the information they provide. The area of the grounds of Winterbourne House are shown, bordered by roads to the west, north and east, and by fields to the south, however no internal details of the area are shown including the house itself. The site is labelled as belonging to General Dana and on the 1827 map the apportionment number is 161.

- 4.4 The Tithe map of 1844 (**Fig 4**) provides far more detail, with the house, outbuildings, the drive and internal divisions of the grounds depicted. The study area is depicted as a separate area, with the road now known as Green Lane bordering it to the west and north, and an internal division forming its east and south boundaries with the gazebo depicted at the south-east corner of the study area. Access to the study area is likely to have been on the east side that bordered the main drive to the house. The apportionment number for the study area, house, out-houses and immediately surrounding grounds is 439, with other areas within the grounds of Winterbourne House having the numbers 434, 435, 436, 437, and 438 (**Table 2**). All these areas are listed as belonging to John Hay and occupied by Henry Shute. The J. P. Sturge map also of 1844 (copied it states from the J. Dymock map of 1824) is identical to the Tithe map.

Landowner	Occupiers	No.	Name and Description of Land and Premises	State	Measure		
					<i>a</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>p</i>
John Hay	Henry Shute	434	Orchard	Orchard			29
		435	Garden			1	29
		436	Close	Pasture	2	1	4
		437	Close	Pasture	2	3	18
		438	Close	Pasture	1		10
		439	House, Garden and Orchard		2	2	30
					9	2	“

Table 2: Extract from Winterbourne Tithe Apportionment 1844

- 4.5 The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1881 (**Fig 5**) show Winterbourne House and its grounds in greater detail. The study area is depicted as an area separated from the rest of the grounds, with the gazebo and another building shown at the south-east corner. A path is shown running around the inside perimeter of the enclosed area and running east-west through its centre. The rest of the internal space is filled with depictions of trees, suggesting the study area may have been the orchard referred to in the tithe apportionment entry for number 439, however the area to the east of the house is also depicted with rows of trees. A well is shown on the external north boundary of the site. On the second edition of 1903 (**Fig 6**) no internal details are shown at all within the study area. The well is still present as is the gazebo, but the additional building at the south-east corner has disappeared. By 1920 (**Fig 7**) the well is no longer depicted and an additional building has been built on the south side of the south-east corner. The depiction of the site remains the same on both the 1935 and 1972 editions of the Ordnance Survey maps.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Introduction

- 5.1 The documentary and known archaeology indicate that study area lies within an area of some archaeological potential.
- 5.2 A trawl of the South Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record was provided by Mr P. Driscoll Historic Environment Record Assistant for South Gloucestershire Council, with a radius of 250m around the study area, the results of which are summarised in **Table 3** below (**Fig. 8** for location of entries).

No.	Street	Description	Year/Period
4371	Swan Lane	Garden of Winterbourne House, 18th century parkland laid out on an earlier site, including Gazebo and prospect mound, ha-ha, duckpond and surrounded by a stone wall	18th century
12946	Swan Lane	Crossley Farm, a post medieval structure possibly on the site of a medieval settlement.	Post medieval
12950	Swan Lane	Pennant sandstone quarry, referred to in Tithe map apportionment, it may have 18th century origins	18/19th century
14159	Swan Lane	Approximate area of post medieval settlement, site may have medieval origins.	Post medieval
15055	High Street	Barn possibly built in the 18th century but with a 20th century roof structure.	18th century
17537	Swan Lane	The Swan Inn public house	Post medieval
17861	Swan Lane	Assembly Hall Silverhill School, a large wooden military structure erected during or just after the World War II.	mid 20th century
12278	High Street	Winterbourne House, early 18th century and subsequently much extended in the 19th century.	18th century
12277	High Street	Gazebo, mid 18th century, roughcast, slate pavilion roof behind parapet.	18th century
18155	Swan Lane	Ha-ha, only 25m remains, dividing the lawn to the south of the house from the park	Post medieval
18156	Swan Lane	Prospect mound, against the south wall of the garden	Post medieval
18157	Swan Lane	Coach House, converted into school room after World War II	Post medieval
18158	Swan Lane	Small rectangular pond, probably dating from original construction of the house	Post medieval
18196	High Street	Lodge for Winterbourne House, first noted on the first edition OS map	Post medieval

Table 3: Summary of Historic Environment Record Trawl (SGC)
(**Fig. 8** for location of entries)

Discussion

- 5.3 No previous archaeological work has been undertaken on the study area. None of the SMR entries listed in **Table 3** fall within the study area, although the walled garden would fall within the entry for Winterbourne House Garden (no. 4371) and the Gazebo (no. 12277) forms part of the study areas east boundary.
- 5.4 Of the fourteen entries from the HER, nine refer to Winterbourne House, the garden of Winterbourne House, or features within the grounds of Winterbourne House. All of these and the five sites not directly associated with Winterbourne House are post medieval in date or later, although some may be on the site of earlier medieval settlement.
- 5.5 Both Winterbourne House and the Gazebo that forms part of the boundary of the study area are Grade II listed buildings.

- 5.6 Within the immediate environs of the study area the archaeological record appears dominated by the post medieval period. However within Winterbourne are medieval structures and finds from earlier periods, such as a ninth century ring and third century Roman coin found within 1km of the study area
- 5.7 With the exception of the existing house built within the study area in the 1980s, very little development appears to have taken place within or in proximity to the site from the post medieval period onwards. Consequently, any buried features or deposits of archaeological interest that may survive within the study area have probably suffered minimal disturbance.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 There is no specific evidence to indicate the use of the site prior to the 17th century, therefore fields or common land appear to be the most likely use. The evidence suggests that the study area was probably enclosed as part of the grounds of Winterbourne house from the 17th century onwards. By 1736 this is certainly the case as appears on the J. J. de Wilstar map.
- 6.2 The use of the study area prior to the creation of the walled garden is unknown, although Moody (1777, 110) suggests there may have been a barn on the site, based on the blocked openings found within the main boundary wall. The wall has certainly undergone changes to its structure, with a vertical break being observed in addition to the blocked openings, possibly indicating a different phase in building. However a detailed study and record of the wall would be needed before a proper interpretation of these features within the wall could be made, and this would require an extensive clearance of ivy and other vegetation.
- 6.3 The Gazebo which forms part of the boundary of the walled garden at its south-east corner is believed to be mid-18th century in date, and this may indicate that the walled garden itself was also created in this period. There is no cartographic evidence for any features within the grounds until the Tithe map of 1844, when the internal walls delimiting the boundary of the walled garden are in place. The 1881 OS map depicts trees within the study area suggesting it may have been an orchard for a time. It also depicts a well on the external side of the north wall which was probably accessed by the now blocked opening in the main boundary wall described by Moody (1977, 110).
- 6.4 Any development within the footprint of the existing building is unlikely to affect undisturbed archaeological deposits. Outside of this area however there may be archaeological deposits that could provide evidence of when the walled garden first came into use, the use of the site before the walled garden, or the use of the site prior to construction of Winterbourne House. No archaeological evidence for earlier occupation has been found within the immediate environs of the study area, although the Winterbourne area has seen human activity and settlement since the prehistoric period.

7. REFERENCES & WORKS CONSULTED

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Maps

1736 *Surveys of the several City Lands belonging to the Chamber of Bristol*. J. J. de Wiltstar. (BRO 04480 FCPL/WIL/ 7 & 8)

1825 *Winterbourne Inclosure Map*. (BRO 379 59 (44)a)

1827 *A Plan of the Parish of Winterbourne in the County of Gloucestershire*. J. Dymock. (BRO P/WI/PL/10)

1844 *Winterbourne Tithe Map*. (BRO EP/A/32/44)

1844 *Paris of Winterbourne Gloucestershire*. J. P. Sturge, (Copied from J. Dymocks map of 1824) (BRO 43291 P/Wi/PL/11)

1881 *First Edition* (1:2500) Ordnance Survey, Gloucestershire (Western Division) Sheet LXVIII.II (NMR)

1903 *Second Edition* (1:2500) Ordnance Survey, Gloucestershire (Western Division) Sheet LXVIII.II (NMR)

1920 *Edition* (1:2500) Ordnance Survey, Gloucestershire (Western Division) Sheet LXVIII.II (NMR)

1935 *Edition* (1:2500) Ordnance Survey, Gloucestershire (Western Division) Sheet LXVIII.II

1972 *Edition* (1:2500) Ordnance Survey, Gloucestershire (Western Division) Sheet LXVIII.II

Websites

Winterbourne South Gloucestershire - Winterbourne entry in Domesday Book
<http://www.winterbourne.freeuk.com/domesday.html>, accessed on 03/09/08.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Bristol and Region Archaeological Services wish to thank the following for their help and advice: Staff of the Bristol Record Office and Bristol Central Library; staff of the National Monuments Record (Swindon); Mr P. Driscoll Historic Environment Record Assistant for South Gloucestershire Council; and Mr Rick Tanton.

The above report was compiled by Simon Roper and produced by Ann Linge of Bristol and Region Archaeological Services. The project was managed by John Bryant.

APPENDIX 1: Policy Statement

This report is the result of work carried out in the light of both national government and local authority policies.

NATIONAL POLICIES

Statutory protection for archaeology is enshrined in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979), amended by the National Heritage Act, 1983. Nationally important sites are listed in the Schedule of Ancient Monuments (SAM). Scheduled Monument consent is required for any work that would affect a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

LOCAL POLICIES

The Planning Policy Guidance of Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16) consolidates advice to planning authorities. The Guidance stresses the non-renewable nature of the archaeological resource, details the role of the Local Authority Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), encourages early consultation with county and district council archaeological officers and sets out the requirement for developers to provide sufficient information on the impact of a development on the archaeological resource to enable a reasoned planning decision to be taken.

PPG 16 also indicates the circumstances where further work would be necessary and outlines the use of agreements and conditions to protect the archaeological resource.

South Gloucestershire's Local Plan (adopted January 2006) states:

Archaeology L11

Development which would not physically preserve sites of national archaeological importance, whether scheduled or not, or would have a significant impact on the setting of visible remains, will not be permitted.

Planning permission will not be granted for development on sites or landscapes of archaeological interest or of high archaeological potential without an archaeological assessment and if necessary a field evaluation.

Where the assessment indicates that the proposed development would harm a site, structure or landscape of archaeological or historic importance or its setting, development will not be permitted unless applicants can demonstrate a satisfactory scheme indicating how the impact of the proposal on the archaeological resource can be mitigated. The council will negotiate agreements to preserve and manage archaeological remains.

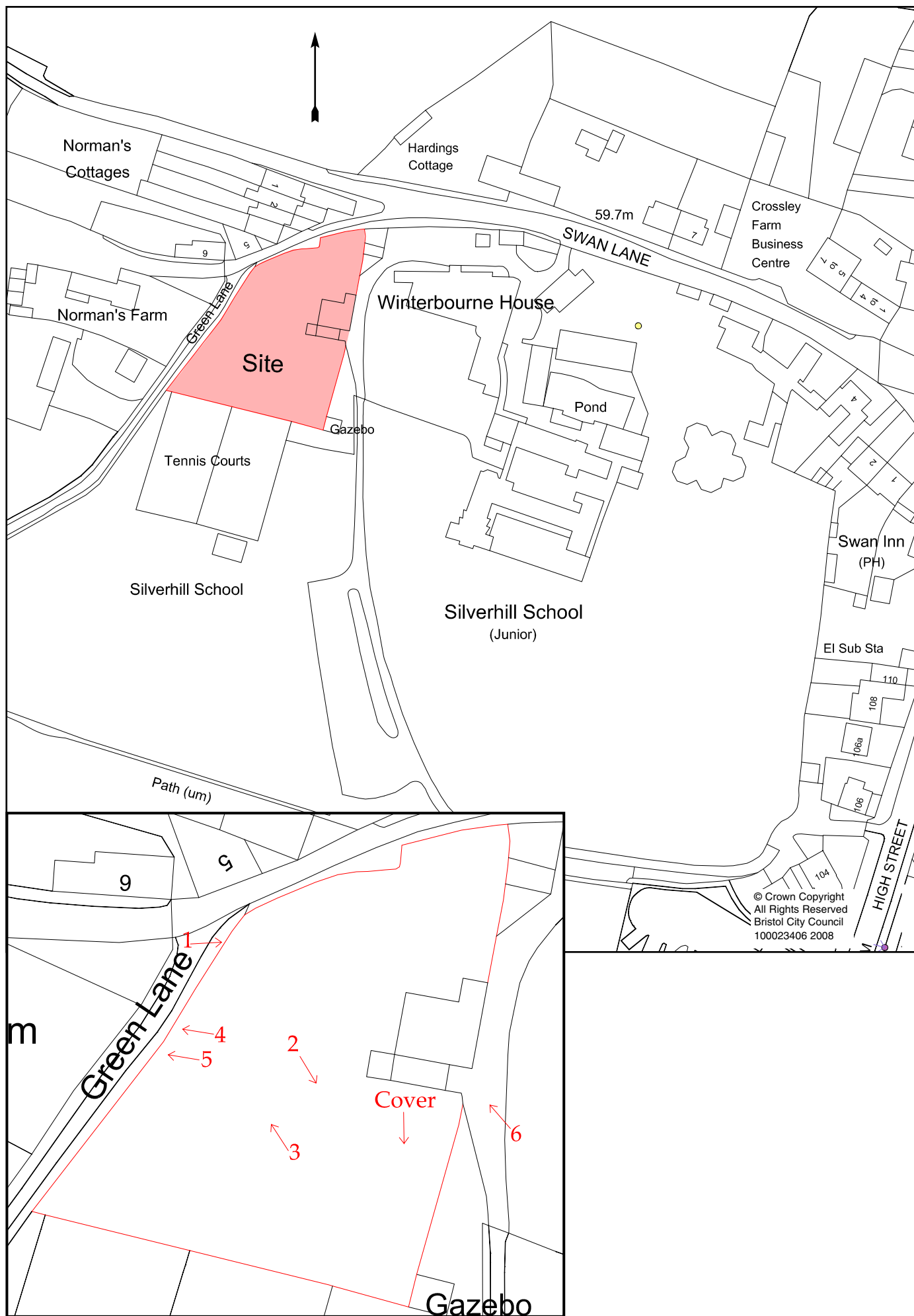


Fig.1 Location plan and extent of study area, 1:1500, and plate directions (inset)



Fig.2 Extract from John J. de Wilstar's map of Winterbourne, 1736 (BRO)



Fig.3 Extract from J. Dymock's map of the Parish of Winterbourne, 1827 (BRO)

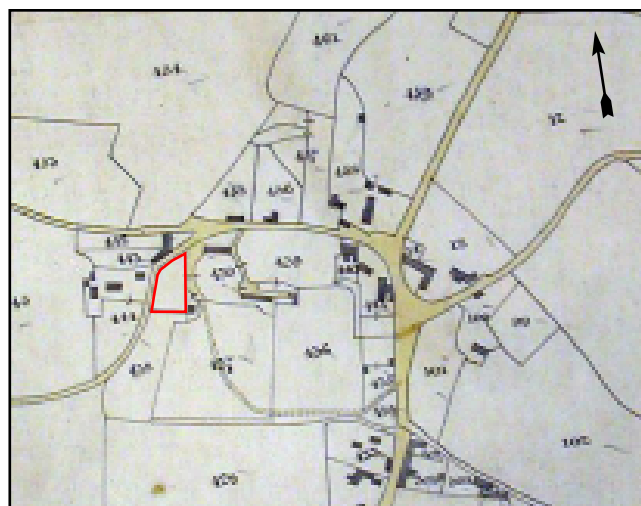


Fig.4 Extract from Winterbourne Tithe Map, 1844 (BRO)

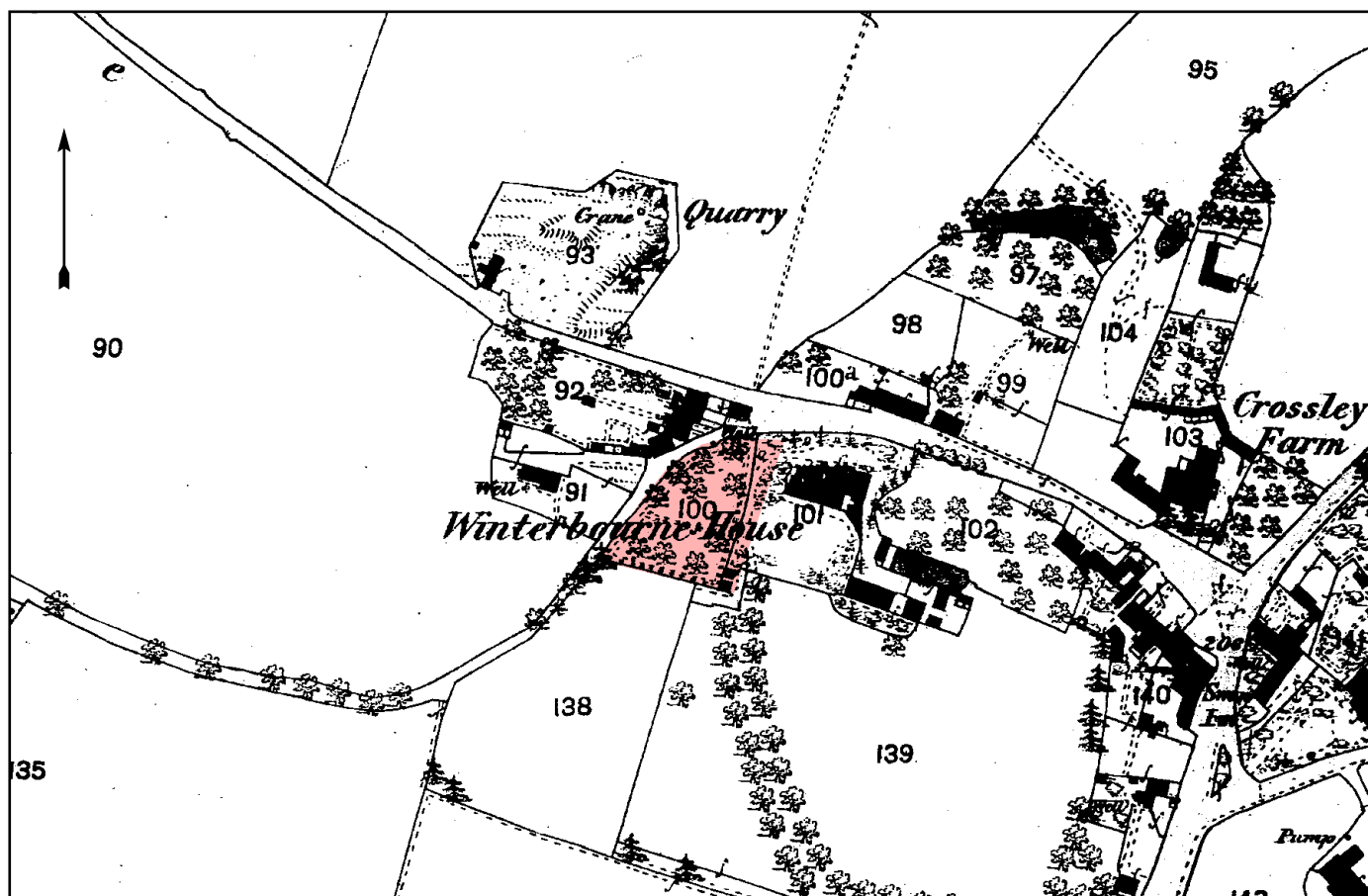


Fig.5 Extract from First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1: 2500), 1881 (NMR)

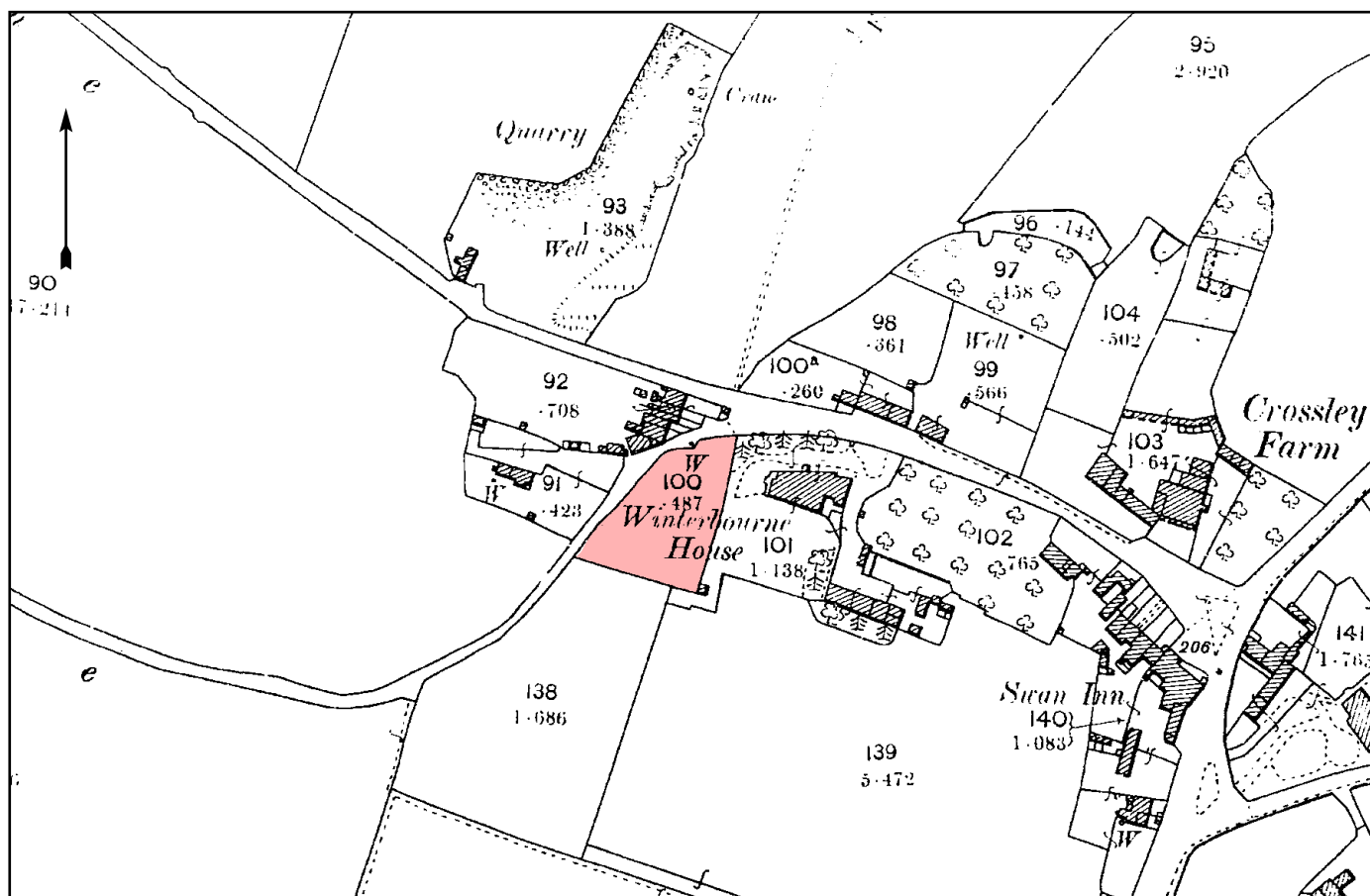


Fig.6 Extract from Second Edition Ordnance Survey map (1: 2500), 1903 (NMR)



Fig.7 Extract from 1920 Edition Ordnance Survey map (1: 2500), Revised 1916 (NMR)

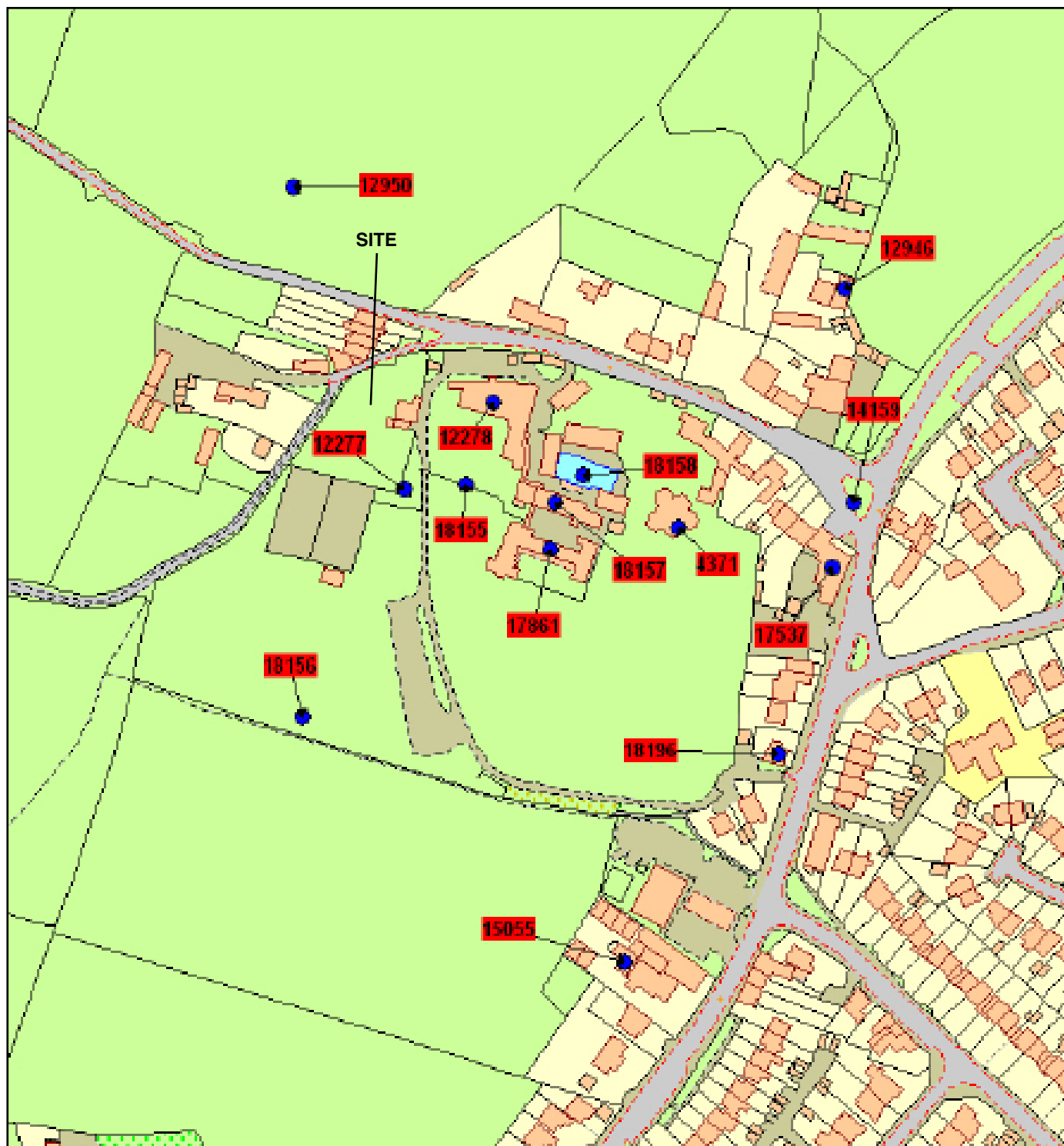


Fig.8 Location plan of South Gloucestershire HER entries



Plate 1 External face of the main boundary wall in Green Lane with blocked opening no. 3, from the west



Plate 2 Internal face of south section of the east wall with a small gateway within it and the Gazebo at the south end, from the north-west



Plate 3 General view of the site and main boundary wall, from the south-east



Plate 4 Vertical break on the internal face of the main boundary wall, from the east



Plate 5 Blocked opening no.1 in the internal face of the main boundary wall, from the east



Plate 6 Modern house incorporated with the east wall and modern opening in the east wall, from the south-east (photo provided by client)