

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment
of
**AIR BALLOON PRIMARY SCHOOL,
HILLSIDE ROAD, ST GEORGE, BRISTOL.**
for
SKANSKA



Report No. 2492/2011
BHER No. 24997

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Centred on
N.G.R. ST 63058 73539

Client: SKANSKA

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Abbreviations

AD	Anno Domini	c.	Circa
aOD	Above Ordnance Datum	GRO	Gloucester Record Office
BaRAS	Bristol & Region Archaeological Services	Km	Kilometre
BC	Before Christ	m	Metre
BCC	Bristol City Council	NGR	National Grid Reference
BCL	Bristol Central Library	NMR	National Monuments Record
BCMAG	Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery	OS	Ordnance Survey
BHER	Bristol Historic Environment Record		
BRO	Bristol Record Office		
BSMR	Bristol Sites & Monuments Record		
C	Century		

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.

May, 2011.

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SUMMARY

An archaeological desk-based assessment of Air Balloon School, St George, Bristol (centred on NGR ST 63495 73792) was commissioned from Bristol and Region Archaeological Services by Skanska Building Central & Regions in April 2011.

The study area lay within the historic area of Kingswood Chase and was probably under pasture from the medieval period. Air Balloon School, constructed in 1905 has had numerous minor internal alterations and external extensions carried out to the buildings, which have Grade II Listed status. Three enclosed fields to the north and north-west of the school were converted to municipal allotments in the 1940 'Dig for Victory' campaign, a fourth field remained as open land, later becoming a privately-owned riding school. A field boundary depicted on a map of 1803 survives as a hedge and ditch between the Bell Hill and Kenn Road allotments. A parcel of allotment land was acquired for the school playing field in the 1960s. No evidence was found in this study to indicate the presence of significant below-ground archaeological remains.

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1. INTRODUCTION & CURRENT USE

- 1.1 Bristol and Region Archaeological Services were commissioned by Skanska Building Central & Regions to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment for Air Balloon Primary School, Hillside Road, St George, Bristol in April 2011. The study area covers the school premises and playing field, a strip of land between the Bell Hill and Hillside municipal allotments and the former St George Riding School. The allotments and riding school land form a green space between Hillside Road and Bell Hill Road. Options for redevelopment of Air Balloon school and the potential use of the adjoining lands are being considered. The results of the assessment are produced in this report.
- 1.2 The study area is situated on the edge of Bristol's administrative ward of St George West, centred on NGR ST 63058 73539 (**Fig. 1**). Air Balloon School adjoining Hillside Road is a Grade II Listed building opened in 1905 and originally comprised three blocks for boys', girls and infants with a separate block for the caretaker's house and manual instruction centre (**Plates 1-5**). Later extensions and temporary classroom and recreational facilities have since been added. The school playing field slopes gently downhill from south to north between heights of 73.4m and 72.3m aOD (**Plates 6 & 7**). A ballpark court and temporary classroom structures are situated at the southern end of the playing field. The school is bounded to the east by properties of Nos.141-143 Hillside Road, 58-60 Bellevue Road and Nos. 3, 5 and 10 Bude Avenue.
- 1.3 The riding school is mostly an open paddock with a noticeable downward slope from a height of 73m to 68m aOD at the northern end of the land. The buildings on site include modern stables and sheds (**Plate 8**). The riding school is bounded to the north by the properties of Nos. 58-80 Bell Hill Road, to the west by Nos. 12-58 Marling Road and to the south by Nos 66-70 Marling Road and No. 5 Summerhill Road. A former field boundary comprising a hedge and ditch that separates the Bell Hill and Hillside allotments is being considered for the route of a path to join the school playing fields with the riding school land.
- 1.4 Features noted during the visit to the study area (see §2.6) include extensive hard surfacing, landscaping or terracing, subterranean drains and service routes, fencing (timber, post & rail, steel), masonry walls of concrete block and Pennant Sandstone, temporary sheds, garages, playground equipment and mature trees. It was not possible at the time of this study to gain full access to the riding school land.
- 1.5 This part of St George is not a Designated Conservation Area, there are no historic battlefields, scheduled ancient monuments or other listed buildings in the immediate vicinity of the study area.
- 1.6 The solid geology of the study area and its environs is recorded as Carboniferous Middle & Lower Coal measures (British Geological Survey map 1974, Green 1992, 48-64). The mine shaft known as Air Balloon Pit lay approximately 110m to the south-west, at least one coal seam may extend beneath the school and its surroundings (**Fig.2**).

2. METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 Selected material from the holdings of the Bristol Record Office, Gloucester Record Office and Bristol Central Library were consulted. A trawl of information held by Bristol Historic Environment Record (BHER) was requested from Peter Insole, Archaeological Officer for Bristol City Council, a summary of entries is presented in **Appendix 2** (see **Figs. 16 & 17** for locations of entries).
- 2.2 A search of the air-photograph collection held at the National Monuments Record (NMR), Swindon was requested (Enquiry No. 60537), the results of which are presented in **Appendix 3**. The available photographs were examined in accordance with standard procedures for air-photograph analysis (Brophy and Cowley 2005; Wilson 2000). One vertical air-photograph incorporating the study area (taken in 1946) has been selected for inclusion in the present report.
- 2.3 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 digital copy of the report is to be made available to the National Monuments Record (NMR), Swindon.
- 2.4 The following legislation and guidelines have informed this assessment:
- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979);
 - Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990);
 - Town and Country Planning Act (1990);
 - Hedgerows Regulations (1997).
 - Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment PPN 4 : English Heritage (2006)
 - Archaeology and Development: Bristol City Council Supplementary Planning Document 7 (2006)
 - Archaeology and Development: CIRIA C672 (2008)
 - Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment: IfA (2008)
 - Planning Policy Statement 5: Department for Communities and Local Government (2010)
 - Conservation Principles: Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment (2008)
 - Refurbishing Historic School Buildings: English Heritage (2010)
- 2.5 Information provided in this report is given for general guidance purposes only and is not intended to constitute a statement of the law.
- 2.6 A rapid walkover survey of the site was carried out by Andy King of Bristol and Region Archaeological Services on 27th April 2011. Photographs and rough notes were taken during the visit (see **Plates 1-21 & Cover**). None of the buildings on the assessment area were inspected internally.
- 2.7 The project has been assigned the BHER number 24997 and has been entered in the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) as: bristola1-99841.

3. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- 3.1 There is no *Victoria County History* covering this part of Gloucestershire as yet, but an early account of St George can be found in Rudder (1779, 458-462). The study area would have been far outside the Anglo-Saxon town of *Bricgstow*, established by the later 10th-century, no archaeological remains from this period have been found in the vicinity. The town was part of the Anglo-Saxon administrative Hundred of Swinehead and at the time of the Norman Conquest in 1066 the study area lay within the bounds of the former Royal forest of Kingswood, a part of the extensive Royal manor of Barton (Barton Regis). Although forests in the legal sense bore no direct or deliberate relationship with woodland, nonetheless most did contain at least some woodland cover.
- 3.2 The Domesday Survey of 1086 recorded that Roger de Berkeley had at that time been granted the manor of Barton Regis, referred to as '*Bertune*' (Moore 1982, 163b, Williams & Martin 1992, 448). By 1260 the new Hundred of Barton Regis had been carved out of the old Swinehead Hundred incorporating various members of the manor of Barton such as Bitton, Hanham, and Hambrook, (Smith, 1964, 83). The Barton produced timber and farmed produce for the upkeep of Bristol Castle. The western boundary of Kingswood Forest probably lay at or near the modern junction of Church Road, Summerhill Road and Clouds Hill Road and was part of the out-parish of the medieval church of St Philip and James (later Jacob), founded c.1137. The church of Ss. Philip and Jacob, was a cell of Tewkesbury Abbey. Medieval ecclesiastical records and deeds tend to give names of houses, curtilages, land and crofts but rarely specific locations (Walker 1998, 345-48).
- 3.3 The Kingswood Forest passed from the Crown around 1228 and came to be known as Kingswood Chase, which continued as a legal entity into the 18th century, however its nominal owners - successive Earls of Gloucester - gradually lost their autonomy over the land. The study area lay outside the boundary of the medieval County of Bristol established in 1373. The very dispersed settlement pattern which characterised the Barton and the Chase was a product of piecemeal, progressive encroachment and small-scale colonisation of the Royal Forest, a process which accelerated following the formal disafforestation; the long series of medieval state records known as the Pipe Rolls make it clear that so-called 'preprestures' (illegal clearances and enclosures within the bounds of the legal forest) were being established as early as the 12th century (Moore 1982).
- 3.4 In the reign of Elizabeth I there were serious problems with control in the Chase and the Crown struggled to maintain order. A number of local manorial lords had begun to divide up the Chase into parcels of land that were known as 'Liberties'. Merestones were erected in 1599 to mark some of these liberties. By the early 17th century the former woodland was already suffering the depredations of conflicting claims on the extensive resources, which included coal (Southway 1971, 15).
- 3.5 In the period to 1700 the exploitation of the Kingswood coalfield began to have major effects in terms of both landscape and buildings. In common with many former areas of legal forest, chase or common and indeed other areas with a high degree of woodland cover, Kingswood became a focus of early industry and its society notorious for a spirit of robust and unruly independence (Malcolmson 1982). Settlement began to spread along main routes between what had previously been isolated hamlets and villages.
- 3.6 The parish of St George was created from the out-parish of St Philip and St Jacob by an Act of Parliament of 1751, and was provided with a new parish church, consecrated in 1756. By the later 18th century this part of St George was already attracting development, the presence of coal mines in the vicinity, quarries, lead works and the cupolas at Crew's Hole were indicative of St George's burgeoning industrial base at this time. Air Balloon Pit, located to the south of the study area had ceased working by 1871 (Southway 1971, 20).

- 3.7 On the 10th January 1784 a hot air balloon that had taken off from Bath landed in this part of St George, an event which resulted in the lasting name of Air Balloon Hill (Sanigar 1936, 2). Through the 19th century, urban development spread along the main routes east of Bristol and what had once been isolated dwellings amidst fields became clusters of terraced housing and enclosed gardens, with chapels, industrial buildings, public houses and schools. Historically, the study area was a part of Gloucestershire until 1897, consequently it lay beyond the detailed scope of the Bristol street directories but was listed under *Adjacent Villages* as Air Balloon Hill, St Georges. The density of new housing constructed from the 1890s meant that Air Balloon Lane was partly renamed Hillside Road for the sake of house numbering and this was first listed in the 1907 directory.
- 3.8 In the early years of the 20th century a programme of school construction was initiated by Bristol City Council's Education Committee and in May 1903 plans for Air Balloon Council School were drawn up by La Trobe and Weston, to be built on a field adjoining Air Balloon Lane. Articles in '*The Builder*' magazine from February and August 1905 described its opening and facilities. The school buildings were originally divided into separate boys', girls' and infants' blocks with the playground areas, latrines, a caretaker's house and adjoining manual instruction workshop enclosed within a precinct wall. The local artist Samuel Loxton sketched the outside of the school from Hillside Road (**Fig. 3**). The school has undergone changes to its educational status and physical layout, becoming a secondary modern and later in the 1960s, separate infants' and juniors' schools. It was not until the 1960s that the school acquired its current playing field.
- 3.9 In 1990 a temporary classroom was erected at the south-western corner of the playing field (**Plate 9**). This was followed in 1995 by an 'Elliott' design classroom at the south-eastern end of the playing field with access via a flight of steps from a new gateway through the precinct wall (**Plates 10 & 11**).
- 3.10 In 1997 a more permanent extension to the former boys' school-block was constructed in the architectural style of the existing building (**Plate 12**). In 2003 the enclosed ballcourt was built on the playing field area, followed in 2004 by another temporary classroom adjacent to the Elliott building (**Plate 13**). Two more temporary classrooms have since been erected behind the former girls-school block (**Plate 14**). Temporary sheds for storage and all-weather play shelters and apparatus have also been placed around the school.
- 3.11 Housing development continued to encroach on open areas along the west side of Bellevue Road in the 1930s, further housing was constructed on the east side of Marling Road in the 1950s. The Bell Hill and Hillside allotments were created during the wartime 'Dig for Victory' campaign on three fields to the north of Air Balloon School, however, part of one field was not turned over for this purpose and remained as an open paddock, eventually becoming the premises of St George Riding School. The allotment areas were reduced in the 1960s for the creation of the playing field for Air Balloon School and also for the expansion of the riding school land between 1970 and 1980.

4. CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

4.1 Historic and Ordnance Survey maps held at the Bristol Record Office, Bristol Central Library and Gloucester Record Office were examined. It is important to note that caution should be exercised when considering information gained from maps, particularly early examples (Hindle 1998). Consideration should always be given to the ‘white spaces on the map’ in addition to information possibly added later. The geodetic accuracy of the maps examined was poor in cases.

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

Table 1: Summary of Cartographic Observations

Map	General Observations	Fig.No
Benjamin Donn 1769	1) Study area shown as part of Barton Hundred; 2) No particular details of the study area shown	4
Maule Survey 1803	1) Study area shown as open land - areal units labelled 330, 333, 359, 365 & 367; 2) Boundary between land parcels 366 and 367 shown (present-day allotment division).	5
St George Tithe Map 1842	1) Study area bestrides areal units 1106, 1145-47 comprising garden & pasture; 2) No changes to layout of field boundaries since 1803.	6
Edition of 1888 1:2500 OS plan, Surveyed 1990-1	1) No changes to layout of field boundaries since 1842; 2) Footpath shown running across study area from Bell Hill Road to Air Balloon Lane.	7
Architects' Plan dated May 1903	1) Site for Air Balloon School labelled on fields adjoining Air Balloon Lane; 2) Routes of main sewers depicted in red.	8
Architects' Plans dated May 1903	1) Plan of original layout of school buildings, cellar beneath girls school shown; 2) Main drainage routes depicted & original locations of latrine blocks.	9
Architects' Plans dated May 1903	1) Sections through school buildings, showing depths of footings & cellar area beneath girls' block.	10
Architects' Plans dated May 1903	1) Sections showing gradients of drainage routes around school – see Fig..9 for locations.	11
Architects' Plans dated May 1903	1) Plan & sections of caretaker's house & ‘manual instruction block’.	12
Edition of 1918 1:2500 OS plan	1) Air balloon school shown within its precinct wall; 2) Fields to the north of the school undeveloped.	13
Edition of 1948 1:1250 OS plan	1) Most fields north of the school converted to allotments; 2) Housing of Bude Avenue constructed to north-east; 3) Building depicted in westernmost field (Land later used for St George Riding School); 4) Elements of historic field boundaries surviving.	15

4.3 The study area lay beyond the extent of the earliest cartographic depictions of Bristol such as those by Smith and Hoefnagle that date from the later 16th-century. The earliest map to give a general impression of the area was prepared for Thomas Chester of Knolle Park and is dated 1610. The map was reproduced by Braine in his book of 1891 on the history of the Kingswood forest. This document is not really a map in the accepted, modern sense, but rather an impressionistic sketch with little detail, but nonetheless useful in that it shows the

(approximate) positions of landmarks and features which are known from later evidence but many of which have now gone. The relative positions of features also appear for the most part to be fairly accurately portrayed. The map also gives a very striking impression of the general extent of the woodland cover, increasing somewhat from west to east within the Forest; although some caution needs to be exercised in deciding what element of this should be attributed merely to the artistic conventions of the time in depicting forest landscapes. There is no key attached to Braine's reproduction of the map so it is impossible to know whether or not the original carried one, but the study area is located at the western end of open, scrubby land rather than woods, no settlement was represented in that location.

- 4.4 A map of the Kingswood Chase dated 1672 gives no further detail of the study area apart from it being within the *Liberty of St Philip & Jacob*. The study area was beyond the eastern extent of Jacobus Millerd's maps of the later 17th and early 18th centuries.
- 4.5 Benjamin Donn's *Map of the Country 11 Miles Round the City of Bristol*, 1769, shows no great detail precisely because of its small scale (**Fig. 4**). The first cartographic source that shows the study area in any useful detail is a map and accompanying terrier dated 1803 of the parish of St George, with parts of Stapleton, surveyed by William Maule (BRO AC/PL/60a-b; **Fig. 5**). On this map the study area occupies parts of areal units labelled 330, 333, 359, 365 & 367, which were depicted as open fields. A boundary between land parcels 366 and 367 partially survives to the present day as the hedge line between Bell Hill and Hillside allotments. A boundary, possibly of a garden associated with a dwelling on Marling Road, appears to project across the western part of the study area. The terrier of Maule's map lists the names of the possessors and acreage but no further details. A map of Bitton parish dated 1814 includes the study area but shows open land and no further detail.
- 4.6 On the St George Tithe map of 1842, the quality of the surveying is generally rather better than some forty odd years previously (**Fig.6**). The field boundaries within the study area had apparently remained unchanged since 1803 and were annotated as areal units 1106, 1145-47 which were described in the accompanying Tithe apportionment as being garden and pasture. Dwellings and outbuildings were depicted along the routes of Marling Road, Bell Hill and Air Balloon Lane but none of these would lie within the study area.
- 4.7 There is no useful cartographic evidence between the Tithe map of 1842, and the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 plan of 1888 (surveyed in 1880-81). In the intervening forty-four years the layout of the study area had altered little, a footpath was shown following the line of a field boundary in a diagonal route from Bell Hill Road to Air Balloon Lane. The southern part of this route survives today as the footpath immediately west of the school (**Plate 15**). A possible pond was depicted towards the east of the site and a well was located at the rear of properties on Marling Road (**Fig.7**). The 1904 edition OS plan gave a similar view, although by that time housing along Bellevue Road had been constructed.
- 4.8 Architects' plans dated 1903 of the new Air Balloon School not only show the original layout of the school buildings and their intended use but also the nature and depths of foundations, cellars and routes of principal drainage runs (**Figs.8-12**). Numerous changes of use have taken place in the last one hundred years, possibly the most significant has been the relocation of the latrines into the main school buildings. Tiled walls of the original girls' and infants' latrine blocks survive as parts of the northern and eastern precinct walls of the school (**Plates 16 & 17**).
- 4.9 The 1918 edition O.S. plan showed the new Air Balloon School enclosed within its precinct wall, however no significant changes had taken place to the rest of the study area, this part of Air Balloon Lane was labelled as Hillside Road (**Fig. 13**).
- 4.10 A vertical air-photograph taken on 11th April 1946 shows housing of Bude Avenue had encroached on the field immediately north of the school and also shows the extent of wartime allotment cultivation of former fields (**Fig.14**). However, the most westerly field remained

uncultivated. By the time of the 1948 edition OS plan (1:1250) the boys' and girls'-school buildings had been connected by a small extension (**Fig.15**).

- 4.11 Brick and concrete extensions to the north sides of the former girls' and infants' school-buildings (**Plates 18 & 19**) were first shown on the 1956 and 1961 editions of OS plans. At some time between 1961 and 1966 the school acquired allotment land adjacent to Bude Avenue for a playing field. A gateway through the northern precinct wall of the school, with a flight of steps, was made for access to the field (**Plate 20**). The 1968 revision OS plan shows a playground in the south-eastern corner of the newly acquired land. The route of the diagonal footpath from Bell Hill Road to Hillside Road was moved west to its present location to provide a roughly rectangular shape for the playing field.
- 4.12 Recent editions of OS plans show the gradual additions of temporary classroom structures and more permanent extensions to the school.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

- 5.1 No previous archaeological investigation has been undertaken on the study area.
- 5.2 There is no evidence for prehistoric, Romano-British or Anglo-Saxon use of the study area. However the possibility of early activity in this location cannot be precluded. The Bristol HER notes an antiquarian account from the late 18th-century of a hoard of Roman coins, in a pottery vessel found where Church Road bifurcates into Clouds Hill Road and Summerhill Road, although the actual findspot is unknown. Occasional coin finds have turned up in other parts of St George and these were reported by Russell and Williams (1984). Reported ‘discoveries’ in the mid 1930s of Roman Roads in St Georges Park and King Dick’s Lane to the west are erroneous. Summerhill Road follows an ancient route to Bath and Bell Hill was part of the London Road, in the medieval period the study area is likely to have been open woodland or pasture.
- 5.3 A location map and trawl of the Bristol Historic Environment Record (BHER) was provided by Mr Peter Insole, Archaeological Officer for Bristol City Council (**Figs 16 & 17**). There are no designated heritage assets within the study area, the nearest BHER Monument entries are for the site of a Primitive Methodist chapel on the north side of Summerhill Road (3083M) approximately 140m west of Air Balloon School and dwellings along Marling Road (3065-3068M) that were shown on the 1842 Tithe map. The nearest BHER Event entries are for archaeological watching briefs to the north and south of the study area (22360, 22580) and a desk-based assessment of 54 Marling Road (24628) (see **Appendix 2**). Both watching briefs recorded significant depths of made-ground that may have been associated with coal mining activity. The Marling Road desk-based assessment was never submitted as part of a planning application.
- 5.4 Field boundaries cartographically depicted within the study area have been altered through time, however, the hedge and ditch between Bell Hill and Hillside allotments still follows the line of a boundary shown on Maule’s map of 1803. Observations made during the site visit suggest that in specific locations, the lines of historic field boundaries partially survive.
- 5.5 Air Balloon School would have been constructed on a sloping hillside, ground level drops from 75.5m aOD in the playground area to 73.85m in the playing field. The northern precinct wall could therefore be revetting up to 0.5m of made ground or else the bank beyond it may represent an episode of terracing of the slope (**Plate 21**).

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 There is no conclusive evidence for the study area having significant below-ground archaeological potential. The earliest cartographic evidence (see § 4.5) shows the land to be agricultural pasture (**Fig.4**).

6.2 Air Balloon School was constructed in 1905. It is evident that there have been alterations to the internal and external layout and temporary and permanent extensions have been added to the school, these are shown on a general phase plan (**Fig.18**). The fields to the north of the school were utilised for allotment space during World War II, part of these were converted to the school's playing field in the 1960s. The former St George Riding School paddock has mostly been open, uncultivated land for over two hundred years.

Burial Environment of the Study Area

6.3 No previous archaeological fieldwork has been undertaken on the study area. The nature of the burial environment is therefore presently unknown. The area within the precinct of Air Balloon School is likely to have suffered a degree of disturbance during construction, particularly within the footprint of the former girls'-school block, which incorporates a basement/semi-basement (**Figs 9-10**). The temporary classrooms and outbuildings have probably caused much less disturbance.

6.4 The riding school land has apparently only had outbuildings with shallow foundations and these have always been situated in roughly the same location. The boundary of a small enclosure, (possibly a garden), shown on Maule's map of 1803 may have extended eastwards into the riding school area.

6.5 Further disturbance will have taken place across the study area during the installation of subterranean services and possibly gardening activities within the allotments. The routes of mains sewers from the school and the housing of Bude Avenue may run through the playing field towards a pipeline beneath Bell Hill allotments. Given the unknown nature of the existing burial environment it is possible that the following may be present:

- a. Features, deposits or finds pre-dating the medieval period (prehistoric, Roman);
- b. Features, deposits or finds dating to the medieval period;
- c. Features, deposits or finds dating to the post-medieval period, including vestiges of former field boundaries.

Built Environment of the Study Area

6.6 The built environment of the study area includes the following:

- a. Grade II listed school, early 20th century, with later additions;
- b. Curtilage-listed boundary walling;
- c. Later 20th-century outbuildings, sheds and stables

7. CONSULTANT'S ADVICE

- 7.1 Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5) (DCLG 2010), identifies heritage assets as a non-renewable resource, meriting consideration in planning decisions in view of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest which they hold for the historic environment. In this case the standing buildings of Air Balloon School constitute a heritage asset.
- 7.2 Elements of the study area, notably the burial environment in general (see §6.3-5), are presently unknown and may incorporate features and/or deposits and/or finds of archaeological interest. PPS5 (HE6.1) requires that land which is deemed to have archaeological potential that cannot be fully assessed by desk-based methods should be subjected to a field evaluation in the first instance (which might include geophysical survey or other methods).
- 7.3 PPS5 (HE12.3) states that where the loss of the whole or a material part of a given heritage asset's significance is justified, (in the present case this would be in order to permit development to proceed), the local planning authority should use planning conditions, or obligations to ensure appropriate mitigation for the loss. This includes ensuring that the developer is required to record and advance understanding of the heritage asset before it is harmed or lost.
- 7.4 Supplementary Planning Document 7, (SPD7 [2006]) and Bristol City Council Local Plan Policy B22 also stipulate that the conservation of the archaeological resource should be the primary goal of archaeological resource management and a material consideration in the planning process and outlines the process to be followed in order that the archaeological importance of a site may be determined and mitigation strategies put in place if necessary (see **Appendix 1**).
- 7.5 Any work undertaken on the study area that will cause disturbance to the burial environment or built environment should be mitigated against in the form of a programme of archaeological recording and post-excavation study. Any further archaeological investigation deemed necessary would be in accordance with a brief provided by the Archaeological Officer for Bristol City Council.

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- | | | |
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Bristol Historic Environment Record

The Collections of Bristol Reference Library

The Collections of Bristol Record Office

The Collections of Gloucester Record Office

The Air Photograph collection of the National Monuments Record

The Blom Pictometry 2009 website was also used to source illustrations used in this report.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Bristol and Region Archaeological Services wish to thank the following for their help and advice: the staff of Bristol Record Office & Modern Records, Bristol Central Reference Library, Peter Insole, Archaeological Officer for Bristol City Council and Craig Smith of SKANSKA for their assistance.

The above report was compiled by Andy King and produced by Ann Linge of Bristol and Region Archaeological Services. The project was managed by John Bryant, MIfA.

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APPENDIX 1: Policy Statement

This report is the result of work carried out in the light of national 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 SAM.

GOVERNMENT POLICY GUIDANCE

Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment (1994) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (1990) have been replaced (23 March 2010) by Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (2010) which sets out the Government's national policies on conservation of the historic environment. Those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are called heritage assets.

Of particular relevance within the Planning Policy Statement are:

Policy HE6: Information Requirements for Applications for Consent Affecting Heritage Assets

HE6.1 Local planning authorities should require an applicant to provide a description of the significance of the heritage assets affected and the contribution of their setting to that significance. The level of detail should be proportionate to the importance of the heritage asset and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on the significance of the heritage asset. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets themselves should have been assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary given the application's impact. Where an application site includes, or is considered to have the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where desk-based research is insufficient to properly assess the interest, a field evaluation.

Policy HE9: Additional Policy Principles Guiding the Consideration of Applications for Consent Relating to Designated Heritage Assets

HE9.1 There should be a presumption in favour of the conservation of designated heritage assets and the more significant the designated heritage asset, the greater the presumption in favour of its conservation should be. Once lost, heritage assets cannot be replaced and their loss has a cultural, environmental, economic and social impact. Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting. Loss affecting any designated heritage asset should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of a grade II listed building, park or garden should be exceptional. Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, including scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, battlefields, grade I or II* listed buildings and grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.

Policy HE12: Policy Principles Guiding the Recording of Information Related to Heritage Assets

HE12.3 Where the loss of the whole or a material part of a heritage asset's significance is justified, local planning authorities should require the developer to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is lost, using planning conditions or obligations as appropriate. The extent of the requirement should be proportionate to the nature and level of the asset's significance. Developers should publish this evidence and deposit copies of the reports with the relevant historic environment record. Local planning authorities should require any archive generated to be deposited with a local museum or other public depository willing to receive it. Local planning authorities should impose planning conditions or obligations to ensure such work is carried out in a timely manner and that the completion of the exercise is properly secured.

DISTRICT POLICY

Bristol City Council Supplementary Planning Document (2006) states (policy SPD No.7, p4):

- (i) There will be a presumption in favour of preserving any archaeological features or sites of national importance, whether scheduled or not.
- (ii) Development which could adversely affect sites, structures, landscapes or buildings of archaeological interest and their settings will require an assessment of the archaeological resource through a desktop study, and where appropriate a field evaluation. Where there is evidence of archaeological remains, development will not be permitted except where it can be demonstrated that the archaeological features of the site will be satisfactorily preserved in situ, or a suitable strategy has been put forward to mitigate the impact of development proposals upon important archaeological remains and their settings; or, if this is not possible and the sites are not scheduled or of national importance, provision for adequately recording the site prior to destruction is made, preferably by negotiating a planning agreement to ensure that access, time and financial resources are available to allow essential recording and publication to take place.

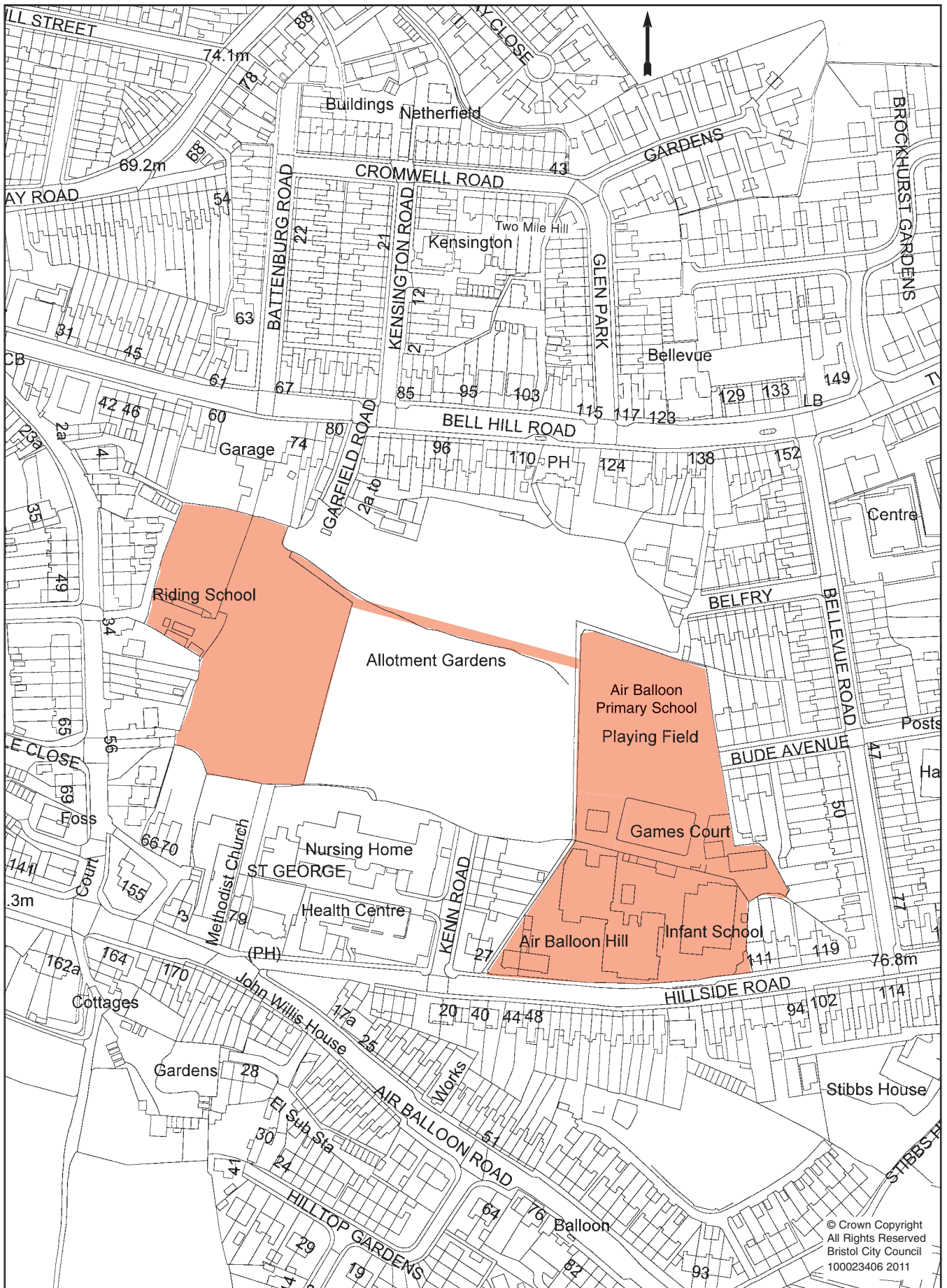
APPENDIX 2: Summary of Bristol Historic Environment Record Trawl (see Figs 16 & 17 for location of entries)

BHER No.	Description	Comments
Events		
22580	Archaeological watching brief Nos.20-32 Air Balloon Road, St. George	2007
22360	Archaeological watching brief Nos.125-127 Bell Hill Road	2005
20058	Archaeological desk-based assessment of Meg Thatcher's Gardens, St George	1994
20283	Archaeological watching brief at Nos.20-28 Air Balloon Road, St. George	1998
24600	Archaeological desk-based assessment of Gable Crest, Stibbs Hill, St George	2008
24594	Archaeological desk-based assessment of Rock House, Bethel Road, St George	2008
20009	Archaeological desk-based assessment of Nos.20-28 Air Balloon Road	1997
24702	Archaeological desk-based assessment of South View, Stibbs Hill, St. George	2008
22455	Cartographic depiction of Clowe's Primitive Methodist chapel on the north side of Summerhill Road	1880-81
22361	Archaeological desk-based assessment of Nos 55-59 Nags Head Hill	2006
21959	Cartographic depiction of chapel on north side of Bell Hill Road	1904
21577	Cartographic depiction of a Wesleyan Methodist chapel on the eastern side of the junction of Hudds Hill Road and Whiteway Road	1880-81
21556	Cartographic depiction of Troopers Hill Farm, south of Summerhill Road	1880-81
21392	Cartographic depiction of St Aidan's Church, Cassey Bottom Lane	1904
21071	Cartographic depiction of an Old Quarry, north side of Cassey Bottom Lane	1880-81
24795	Archaeological evaluation at South View, Stibbs Hill, St George	2009
24628	Archaeological desk-based assessment at 54 Marling Road, St George	2008
Monuments		
1897M	Chimney on Trooper's Hill	Unknown date – possibly 18 th -century. Listed Grade II
3195M	Rock House, Bethel Road, St George	Built c.1881
3215M	Pug Mill at Stibbs Hill, St George	c.19th-century
2328M	Quarry at Crew's Hole Road	Quarry of unknown function
3136M	Summerhill Methodist Church, Summerhill Road, St. George	Mid 20th century
2612M	Quarry on the north side of Cassey Bottom Lane	Quarry out of use by 1880-81
2745M	St. Aidan's Church, Troopers Hill	Extant by late 19th century. Demolished
2806M	Troopers Hill Farm, St. George	Extant by 1842, partially survives
2817M	Methodist Chapel, Hudds Hill Road	Extant by 1842. Demolished
2960M	Chapel at Bell Hill Road	Late 19th century. Demolished
3065M	No.33 Marling Road, St George	Extant by 1842
3066M	No.35 Marling Road	Extant by 1842
3067M	No.37 Marling Road	Extant by 1842
3068M	No.39 Marling Road	Extant by 1842
3083M	Clowe's Chapel, Summerhill Road, St. George	Extant 1880-81. Demolished

APPENDIX 3: National Monuments Record (NMR) Vertical Air Photographs Search: Enquiry No. 60537

Sortie number	Library number	Camera position	Frame number	Held	Centre point	Run	Date	Sortie quality	Scale 1:	Focal length (in inches)	Film details (in inches)
RAF/106G/UK/1297	235	V	5019	P	ST 637 730	1	26 MAR 1946	AB	4800	14	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
RAF/106G/UK/1297	235	V	5020	P	ST 634 730	1	26 MAR 1946	AB	4800	14	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
RAF/106G/UK/1297	235	V	5021	P	ST 631 730	1	26 MAR 1946	AB	4800	14	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
RAF/106G/UK/1297	235	V	5022	P	ST 629 730	1	26 MAR 1946	AB	4800	14	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
RAF/106G/UK/1297	235	V	5084	P	ST 629 738	2	26 MAR 1946	AB	4800	14	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
RAF/106G/UK/1297	235	V	5085	P	ST 632 738	2	26 MAR 1946	AB	4800	14	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
RAF/106G/UK/1297	235	V	5086	P	ST 634 738	2	26 MAR 1946	AB	4800	14	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
RAF/106G/UK/1415	282	RS	4214	P	ST 635 729	7	14 APR 1946	A	9800	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
RAF/106G/UK/1415	282	RS	4215	P	ST 629 729	7	14 APR 1946	A	9800	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
RAF/106G/UK/1415	282	RS	4221	P	ST 631 741	8	14 APR 1946	A	9800	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
RAF/106G/UK/1415	282	RS	4222	P	ST 638 740	8	14 APR 1946	A	9800	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
RAF/106G/UK/1401	289	Vp3	5312	P	ST 632 736	17	11 APR 1946	A	4800	12	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
RAF/106G/UK/1401	289	Vp3	5313	P	ST 635 736	17	11 APR 1946	A	4800	12	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
RAF/CPE/UK/1744	470	V	5031	P	ST 625 733	13	19 SEP 1946	AC	5000	14	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
RAF/CPE/UK/1744	470	V	5032	P	ST 628 734	13	19 SEP 1946	AC	5000	14	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
RAF/CPE/UK/1744	470	V	5033	P	ST 631 734	13	19 SEP 1946	AC	5000	14	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
RAF/CPE/UK/1744	470	V	5034	P	ST 634 734	13	19 SEP 1946	AC	5000	14	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
RAF/CPE/UK/1744	470	V	5035	P	ST 638 735	13	19 SEP 1946	AC	5000	14	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
RAF/CPE/UK/1744	470	V	5036	P	ST 641 735	13	19 SEP 1946	AC	5000	14	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
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RAF/CPE/UK/2026	622	V	5311	P	ST 626 741	8	26 APR 1947	A	4800	14	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
RAF/CPE/UK/2157	679	V	5239	P	ST 628 731	8	13 JUN 1947	A	5000	14	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
RAF/CPE/UK/2157	679	V	5240	P	ST 631 731	8	13 JUN 1947	A	5000	14	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
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RAF/CPE/UK/2157	679	V	5362	P	ST 632 736	13	13 JUN 1947	A	5000	14	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
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OS/80156	12471	V	290	P	ST 629 737	1	12 OCT 1980	A	5300	12	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/89298	13555	V	21	P	ST 629 740	1	18 JUN 1989	A	5300	12	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/89298	13555	V	22	P	ST 634 740	1	18 JUN 1989	A	5300	12	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/89298	13555	V	45	P	ST 636 733	2	18 JUN 1989	A	5300	12	Black and White 9 x 9
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OS/89298	13555	V	47	P	ST 627 733	2	18 JUN 1989	A	5300	12	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/88029	14105	V	16	P	ST 636 729	1	10 APR 1988	A	5400	12	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/88029	14105	V	17	P	ST 632 729	1	10 APR 1988	A	5400	12	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/88029	14105	V	18	P	ST 627 728	1	10 APR 1988	A	5400	12	Black and White 9 x 9

Library and frame number	Photo reference (NGR and Index number)	Original number	Date	Film type	Map Reference (6 figure grid ref)	Oblique listing - Military obliques		
						Photocopy	Laser copy	Photographic copy
RAF 30170 / PSFO-0143	ST 6273 / 7	58/7190	14 JAN 1966	Black& white 8"X7"	ST 629733	Y	Y	Y



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Fig.1 Site location plan showing plate directions, scale 1:2500

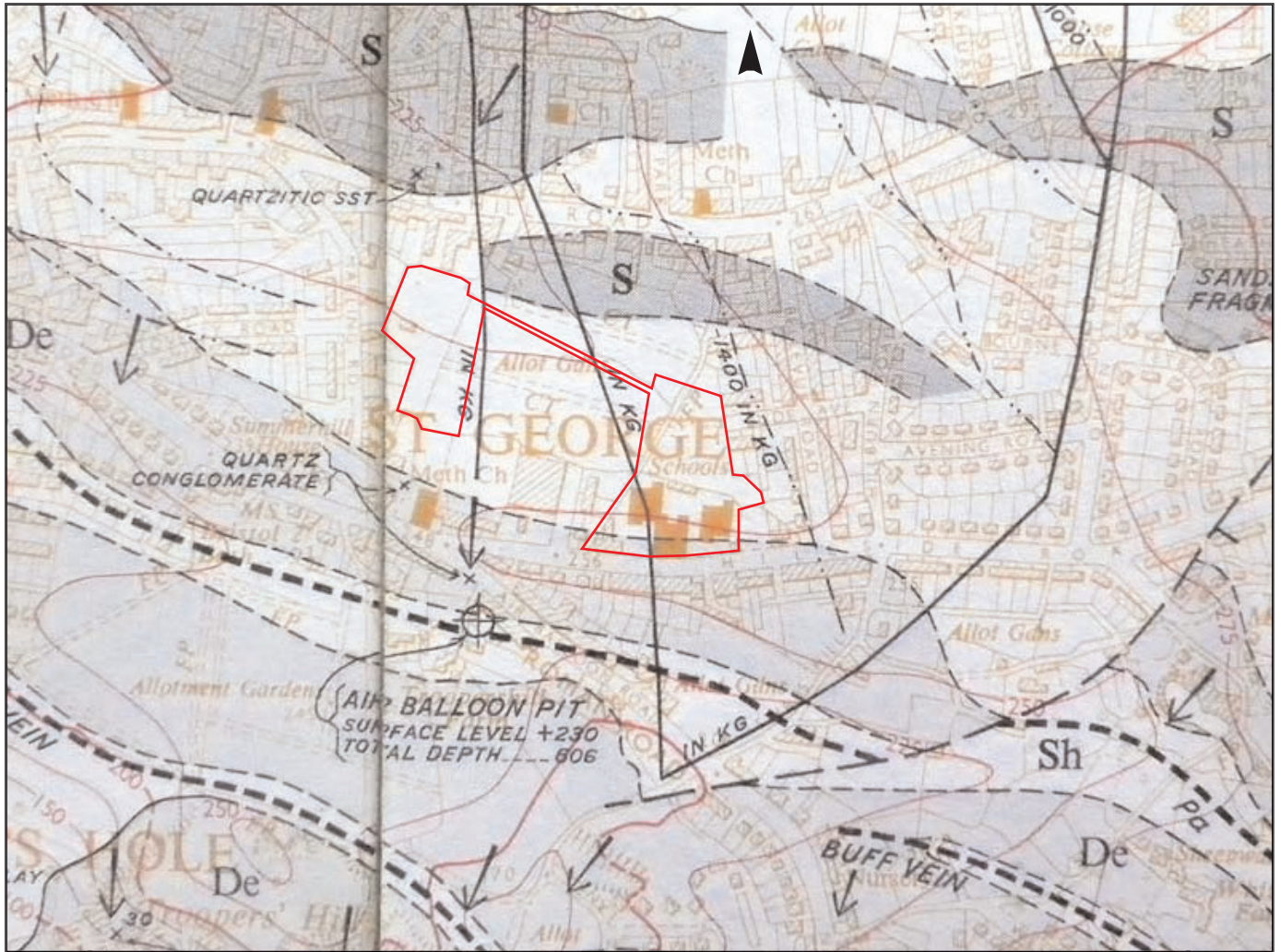


Fig.2 Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 264 showing location of Air Balloon Pit and coal seams, original scale



Fig.3 Sketch of Air Balloon School by Samuel Loxton, early 1900s (BCL)

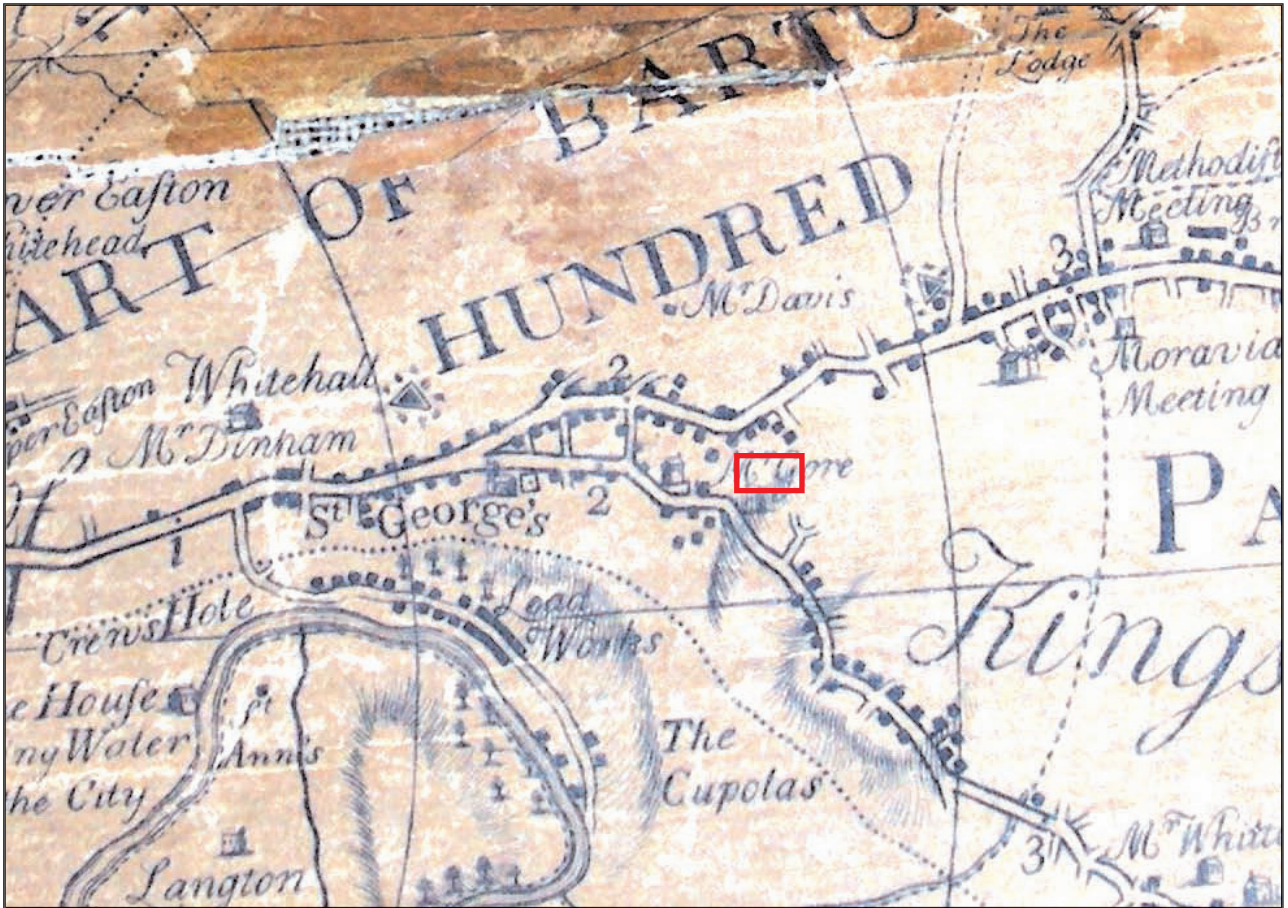


Fig.4 Detail from B. Donn 1769, *Map of the Country 11 Miles Round the City of Bristol*

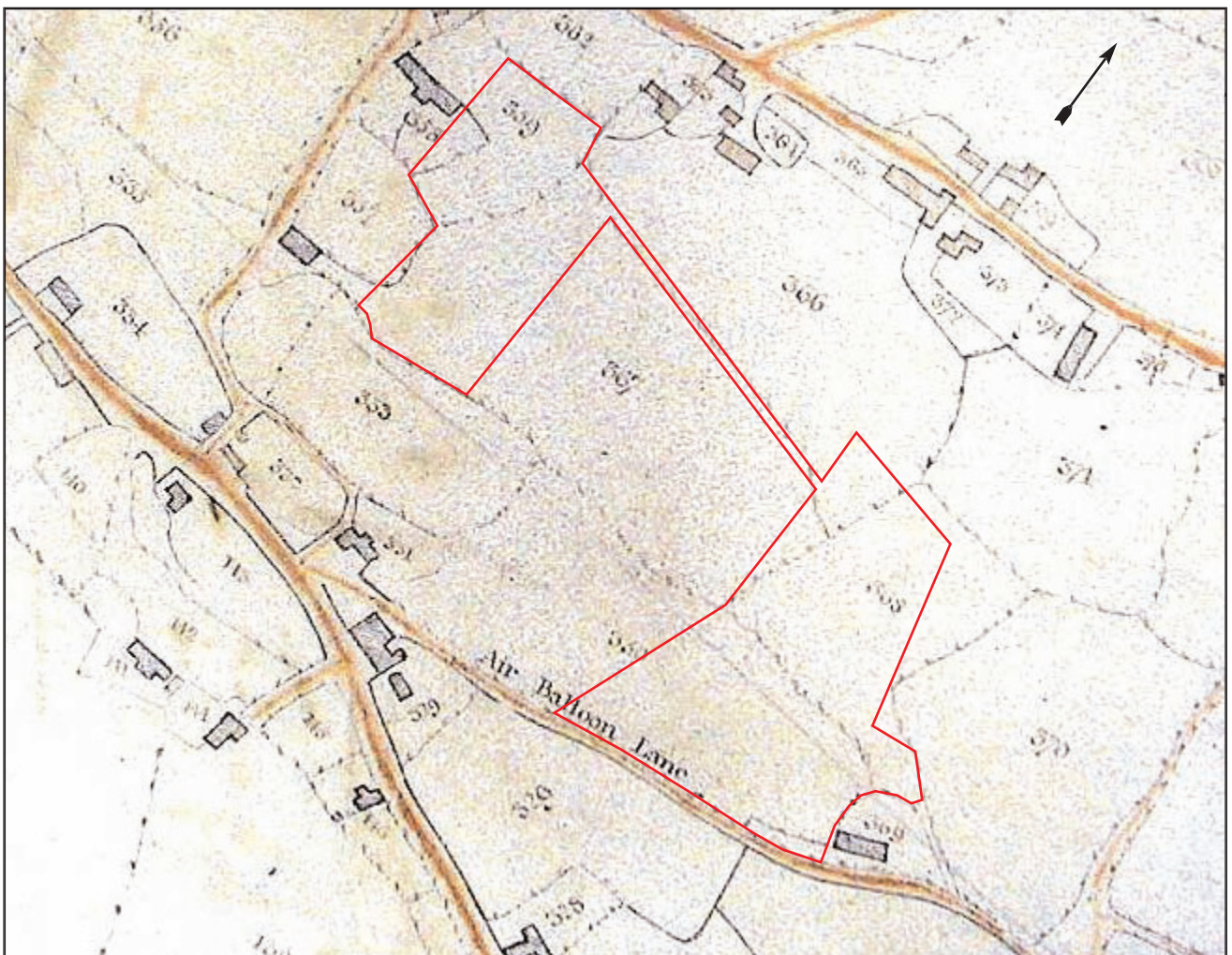


Fig.5 William Maule 1803 map of St George (BRO AC/PL/60a)

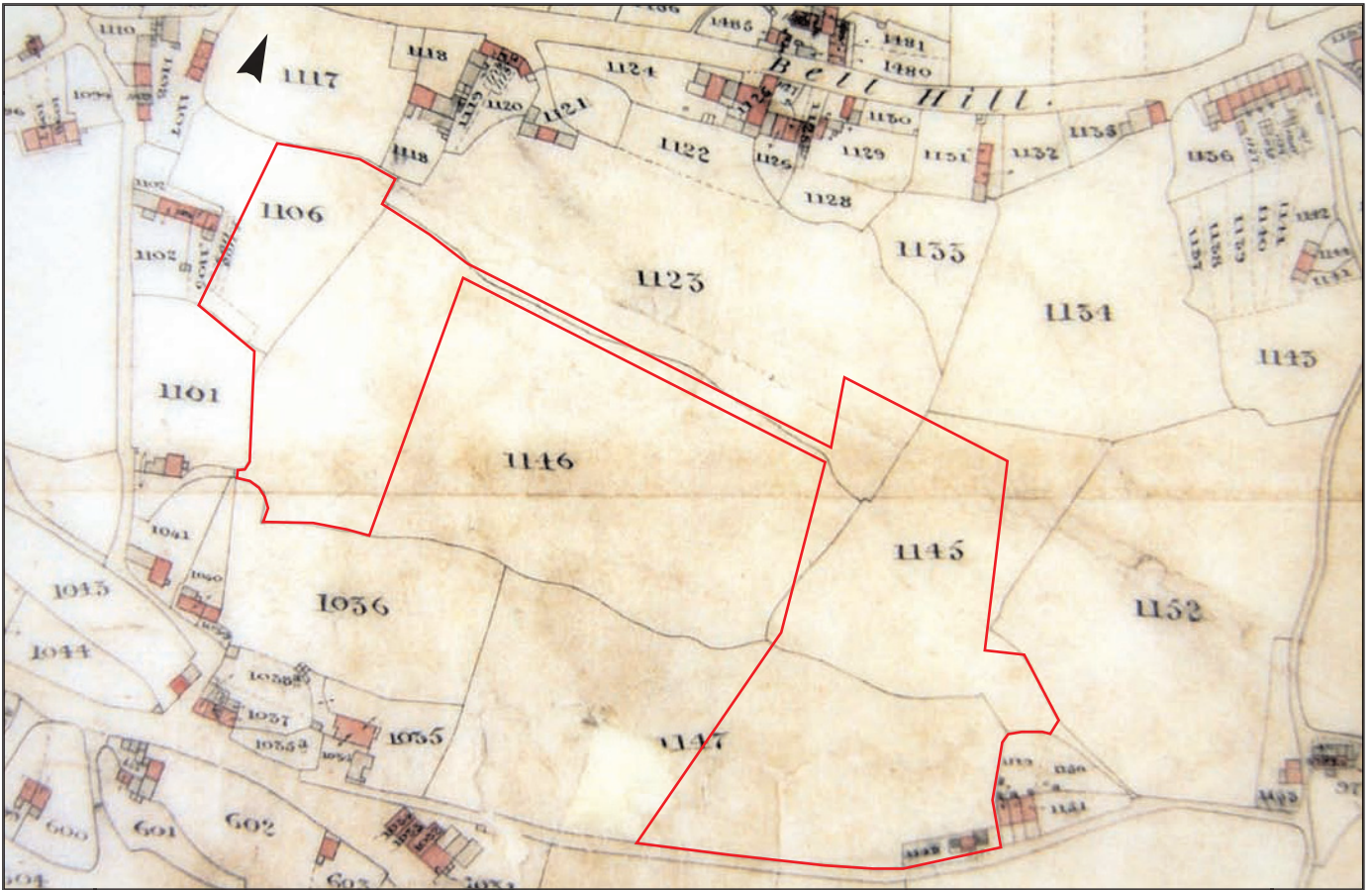


Fig.6 1842, Tithe map for parish of St George, (BRO EP/A/32/32)

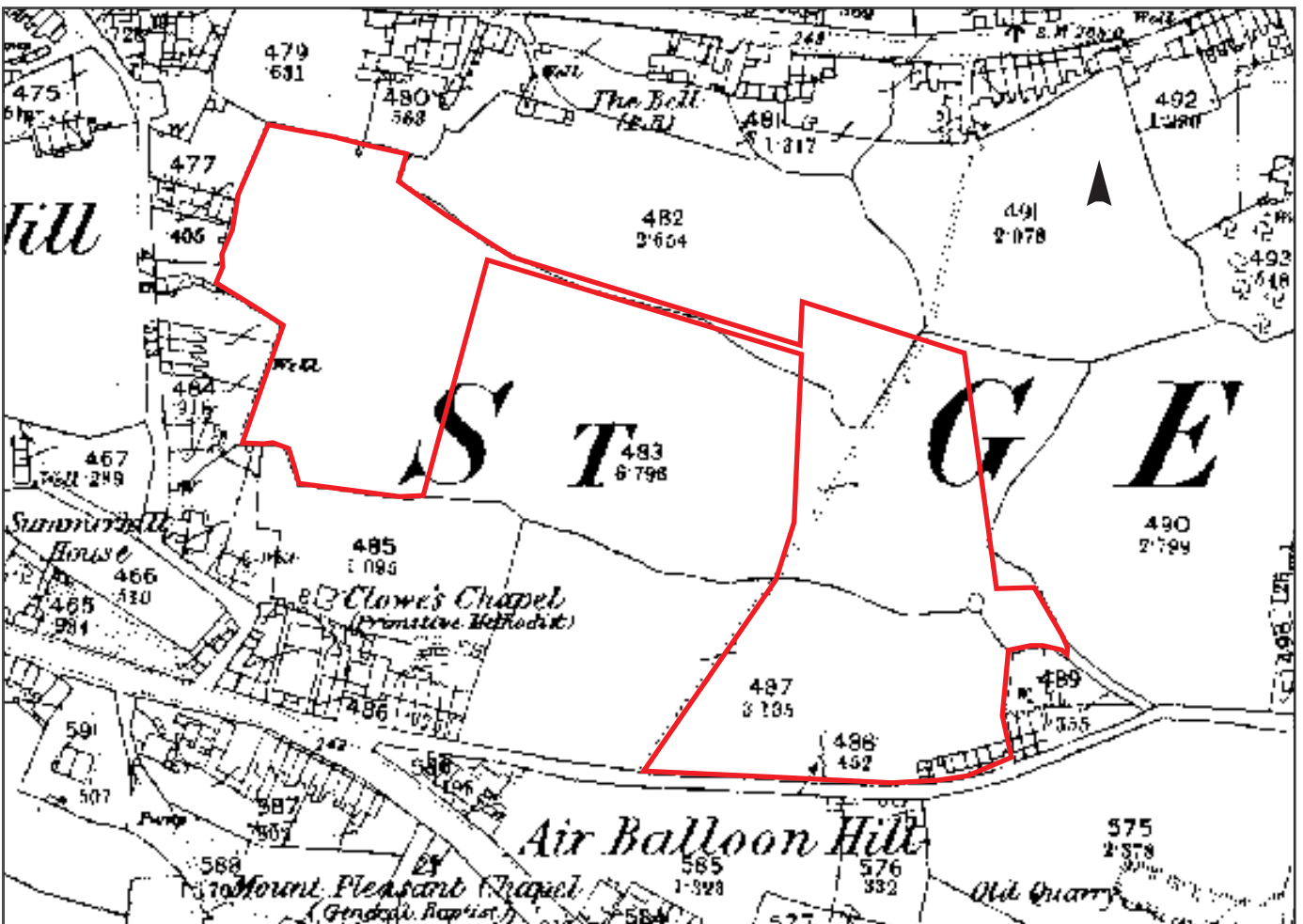


Fig.7 Ordnance Survey 1888 published edition (surveyed 1880-1), original scale 1:2500

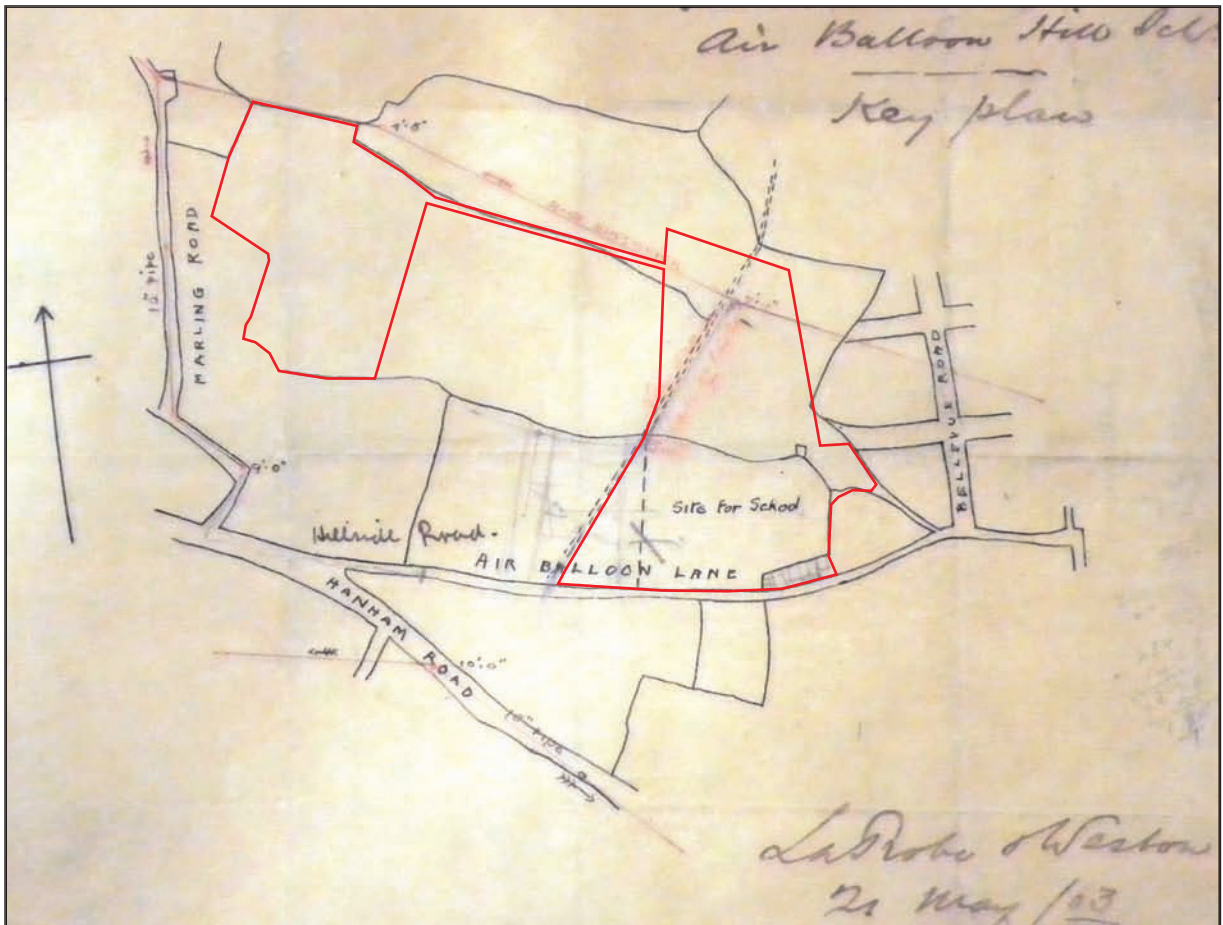


Fig.8 Architects' drawing dated May 1903 showing site of school and routes of main sewers (BRO) Building Plan Book Vol.44 Folio 64

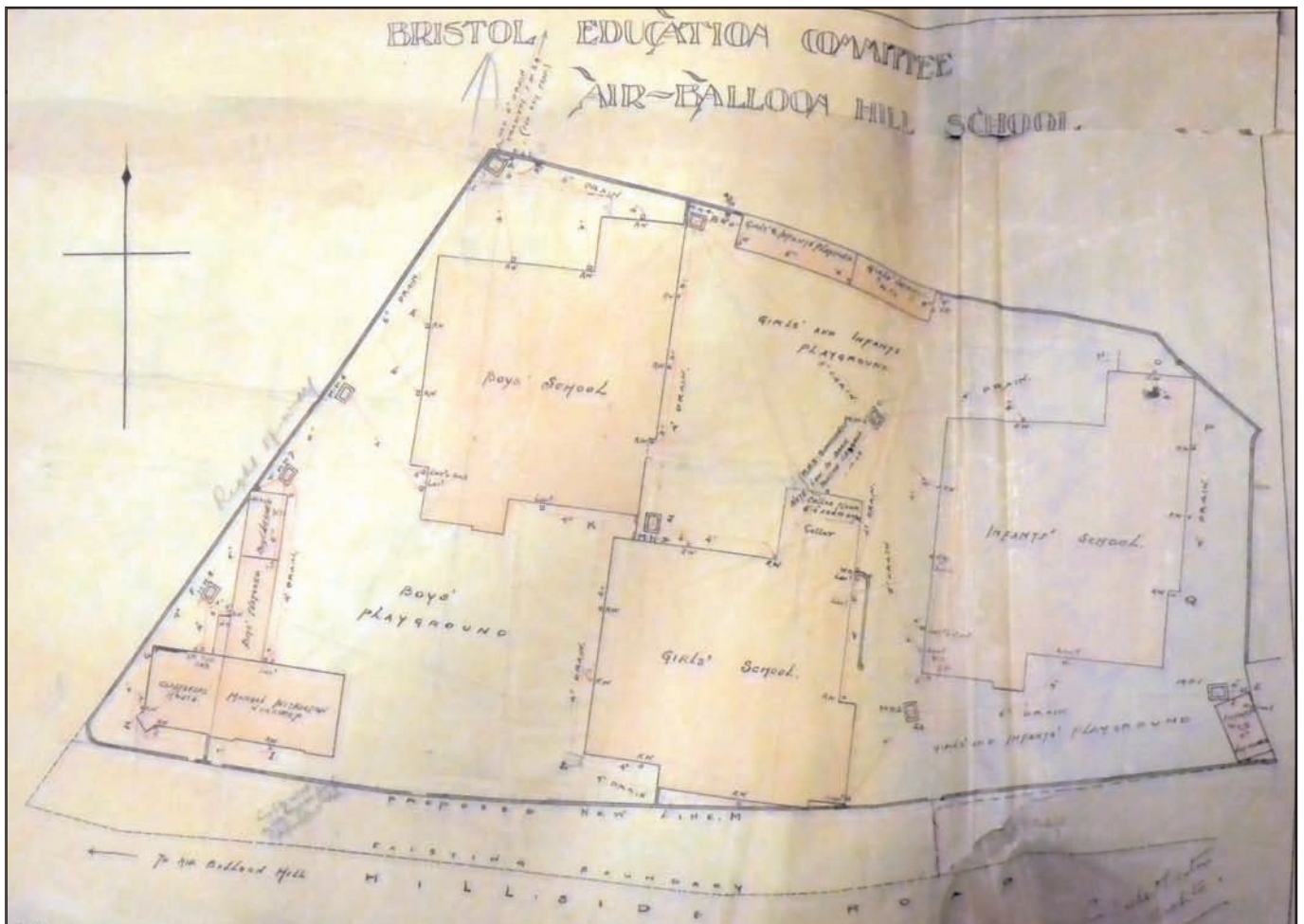


Fig.9 Architects' drawing dated 1903 showing layout of buildings and drainage within school precinct (BRO) Building Plan Book Vol.44 Folio 64

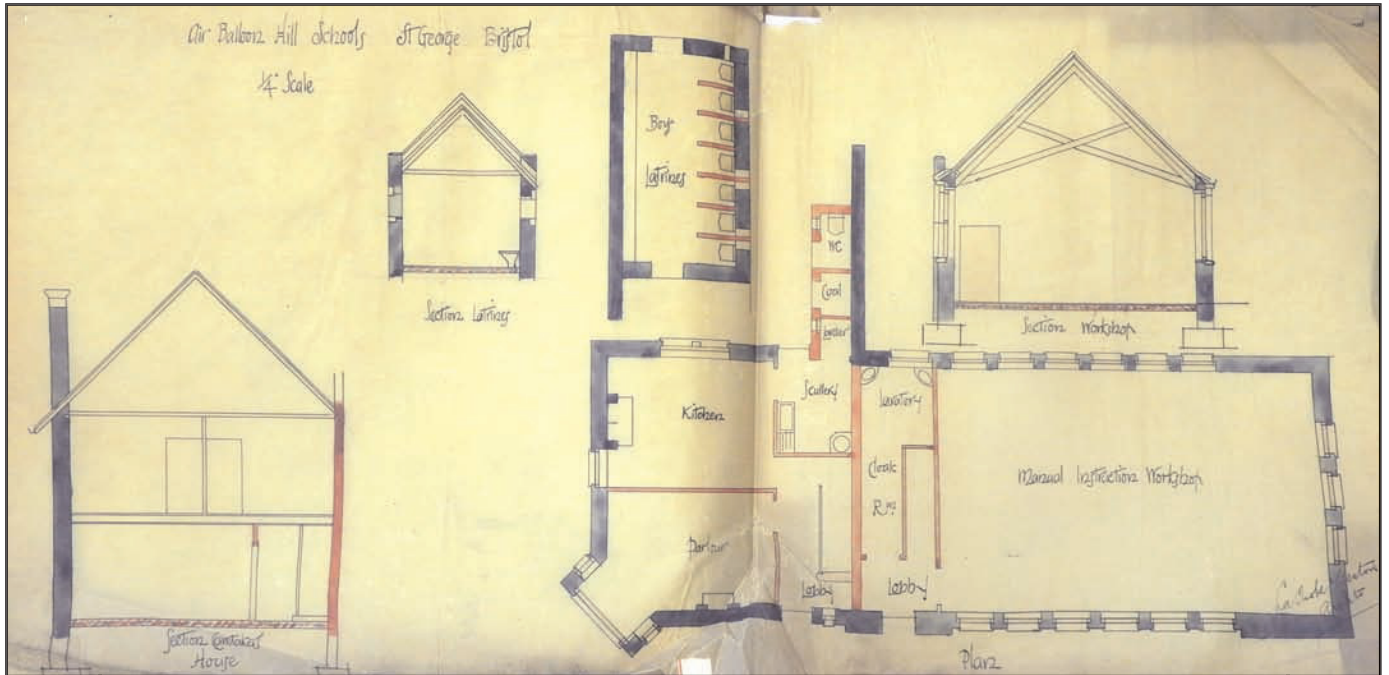


Fig.10 Architects' drawings dated 1903 including sections and footings of school buildings

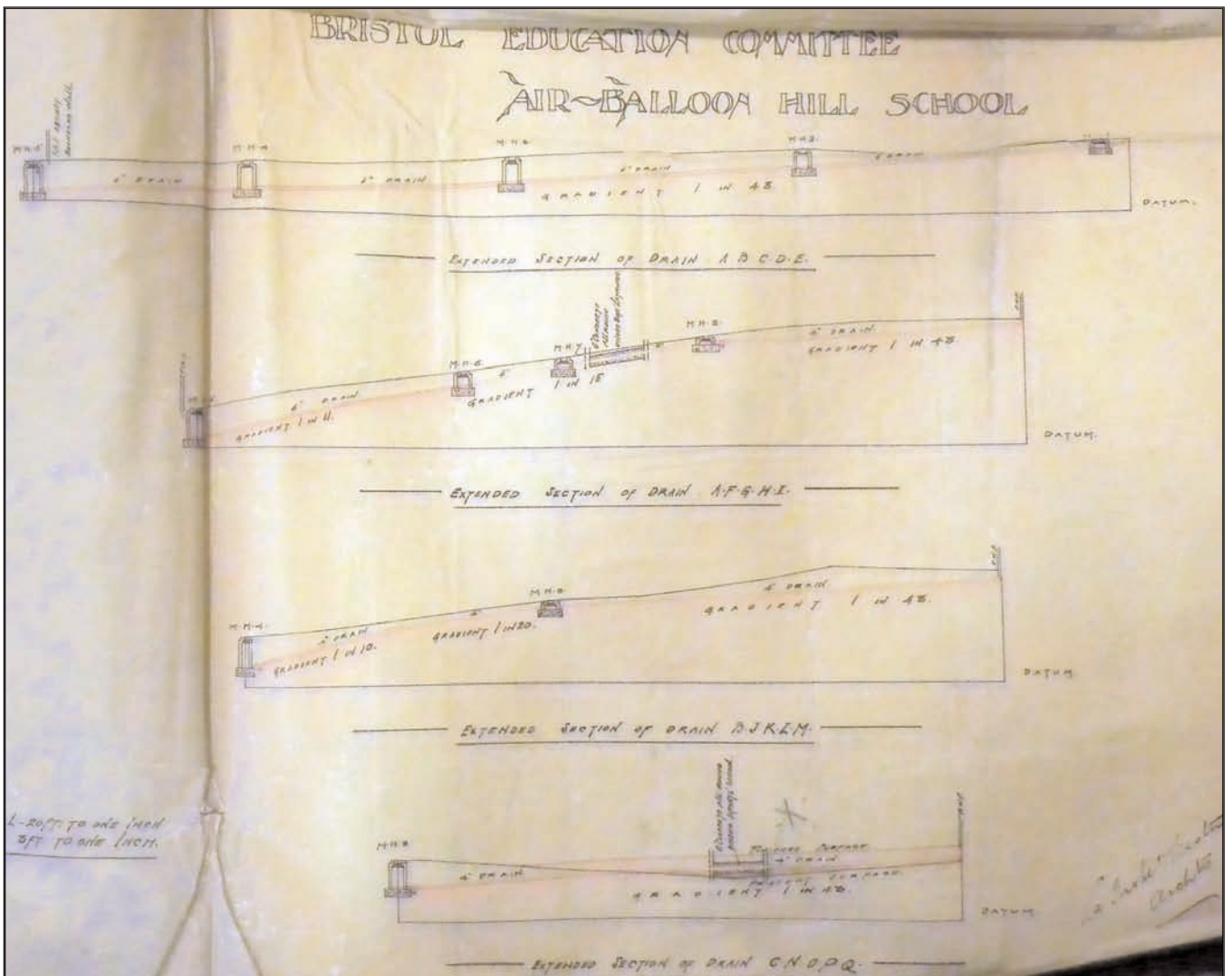


Fig.11 Architects' drawings dated 1903 showing gradients of drainage routes

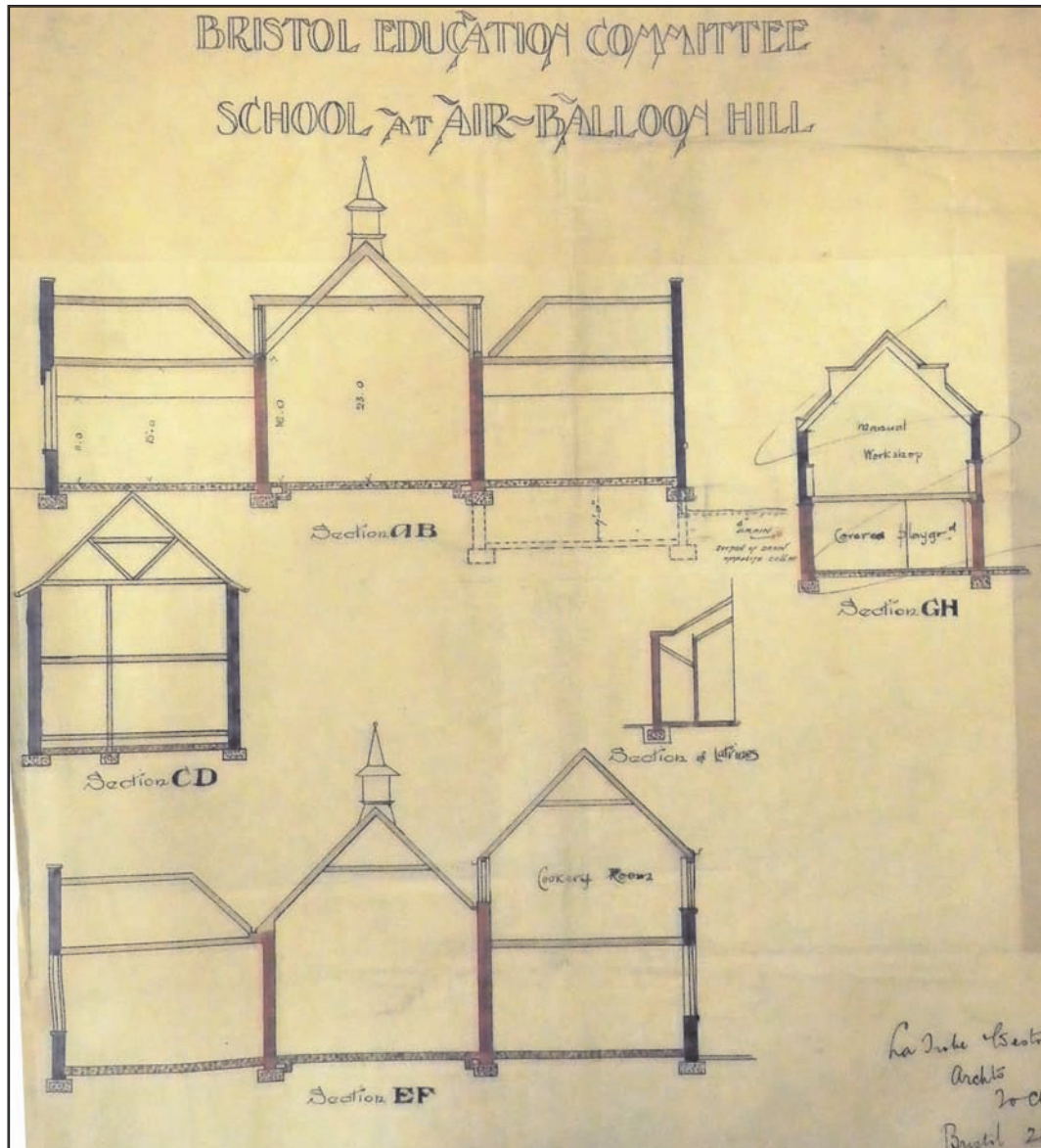


Fig.12 Architects' drawings dated 1903 showing sections and footings of caretaker's house, manual workshop & boys' latrine block

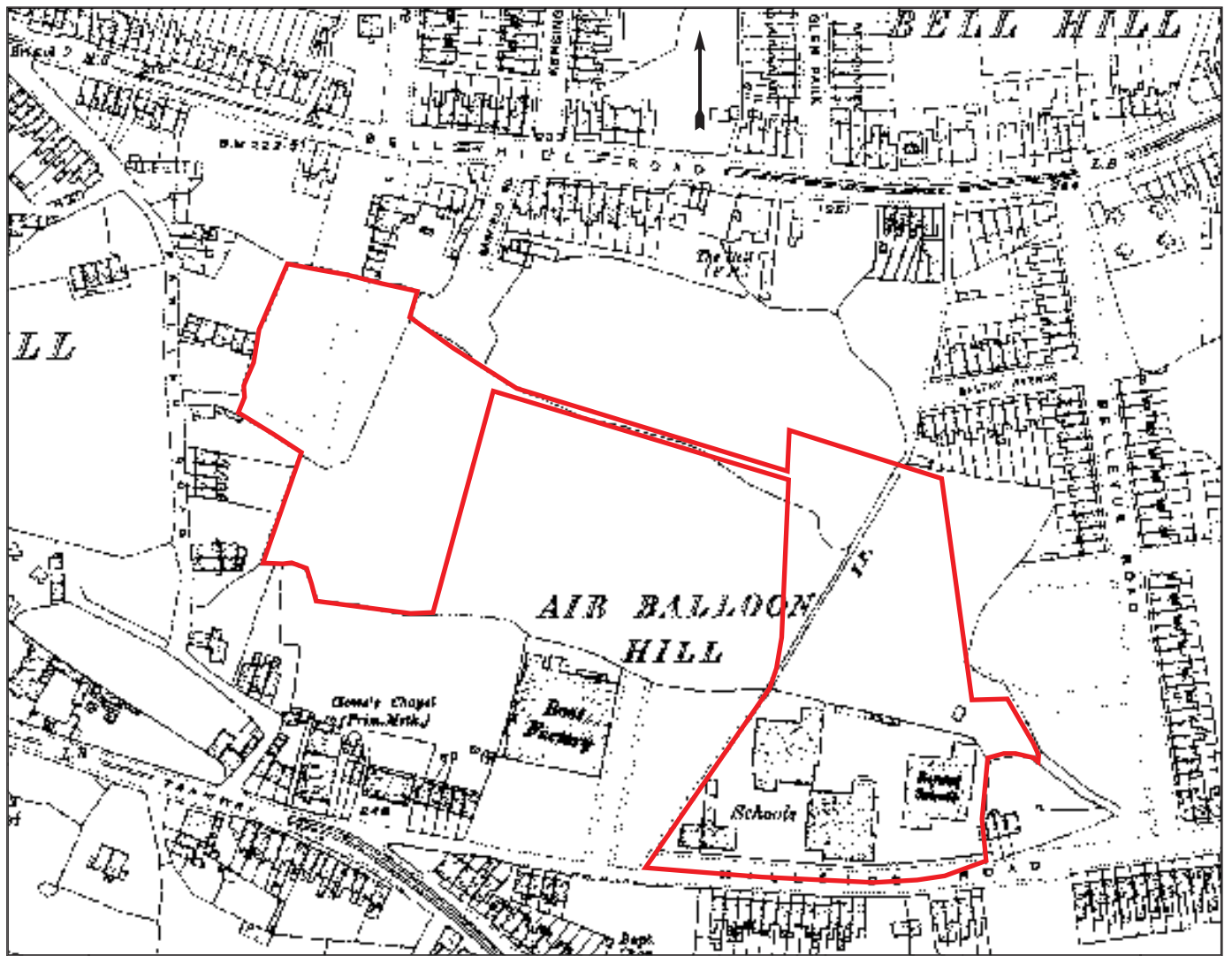


Fig.13 Ordnance Survey 1918 published edition, original scale 1:2500



Fig.14 Vertical aerial photograph dated 11th April 1946 showing study area (NMR)

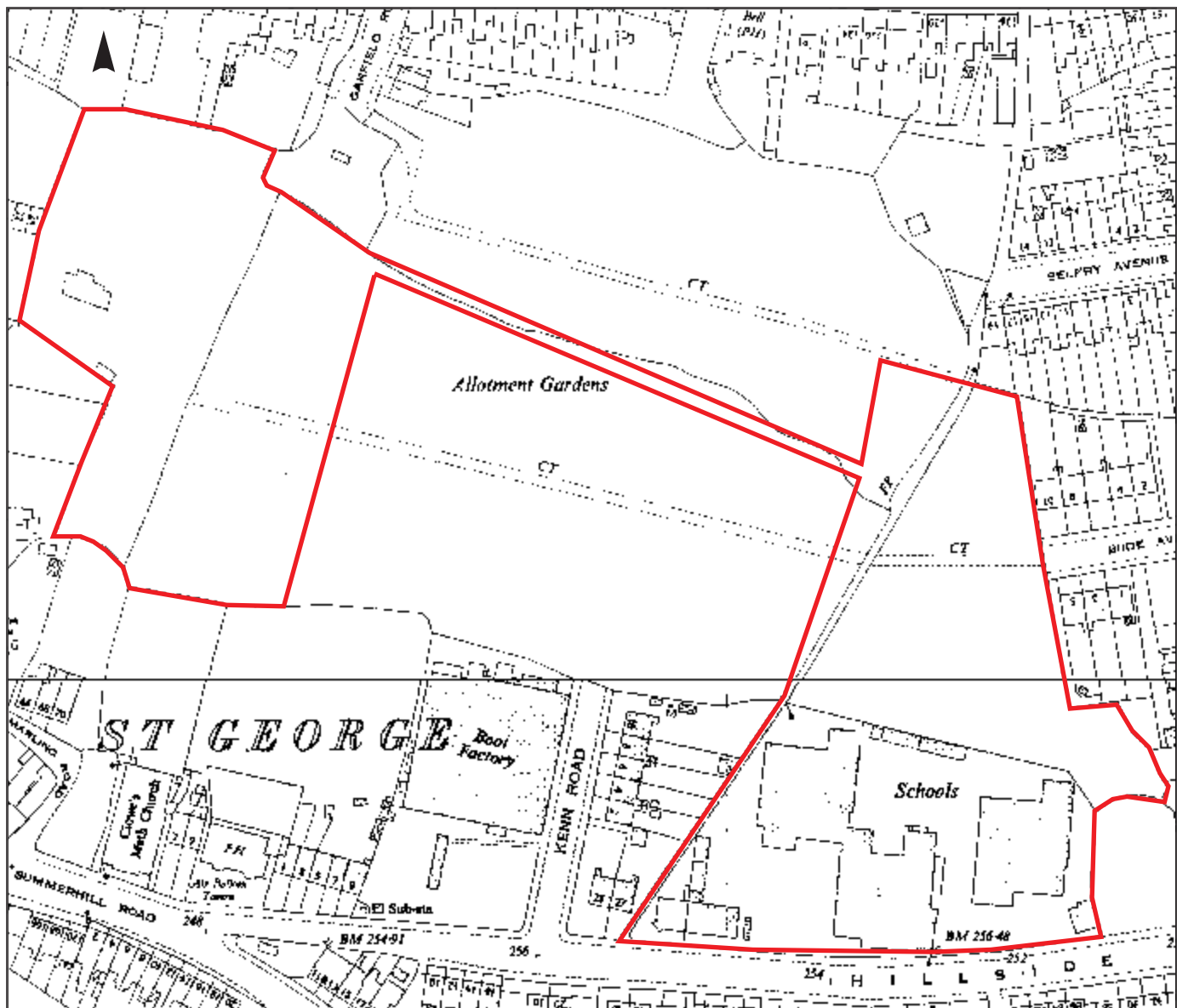


Fig.15 Ordnance Survey 1948 published edition, original scale 1:1250

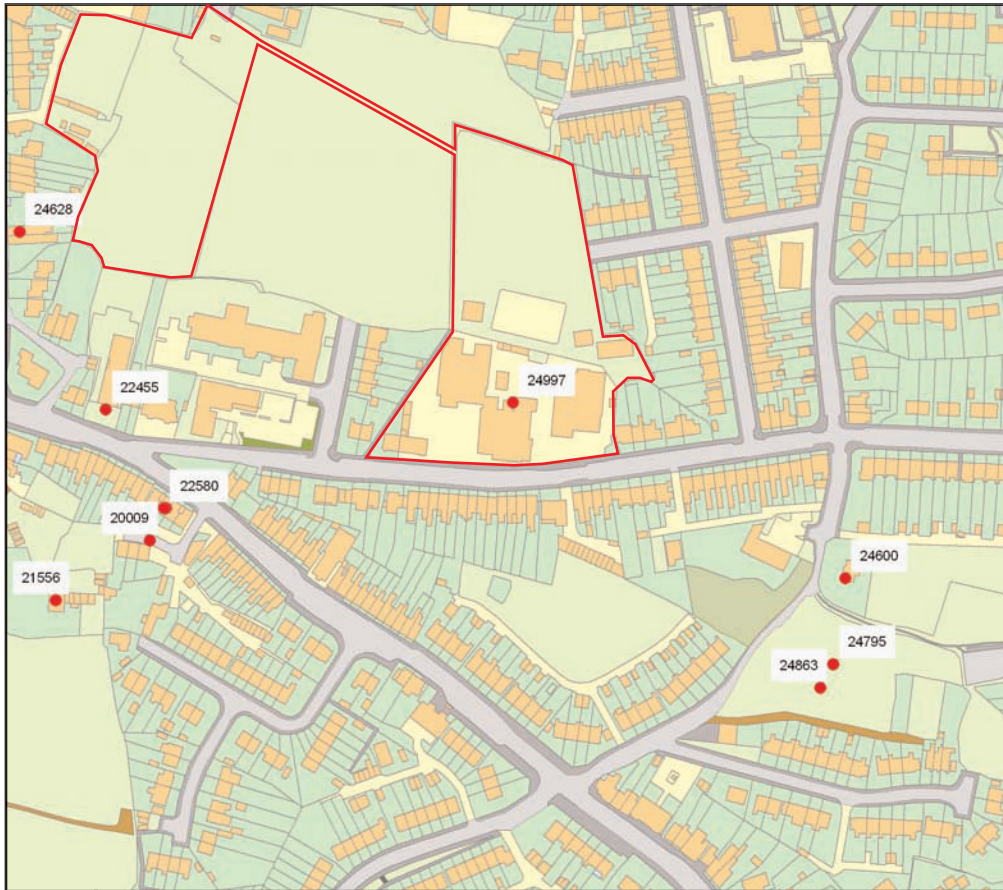


Fig.16 Location of Bristol Historic Environment Record (BHER) events (BCC)

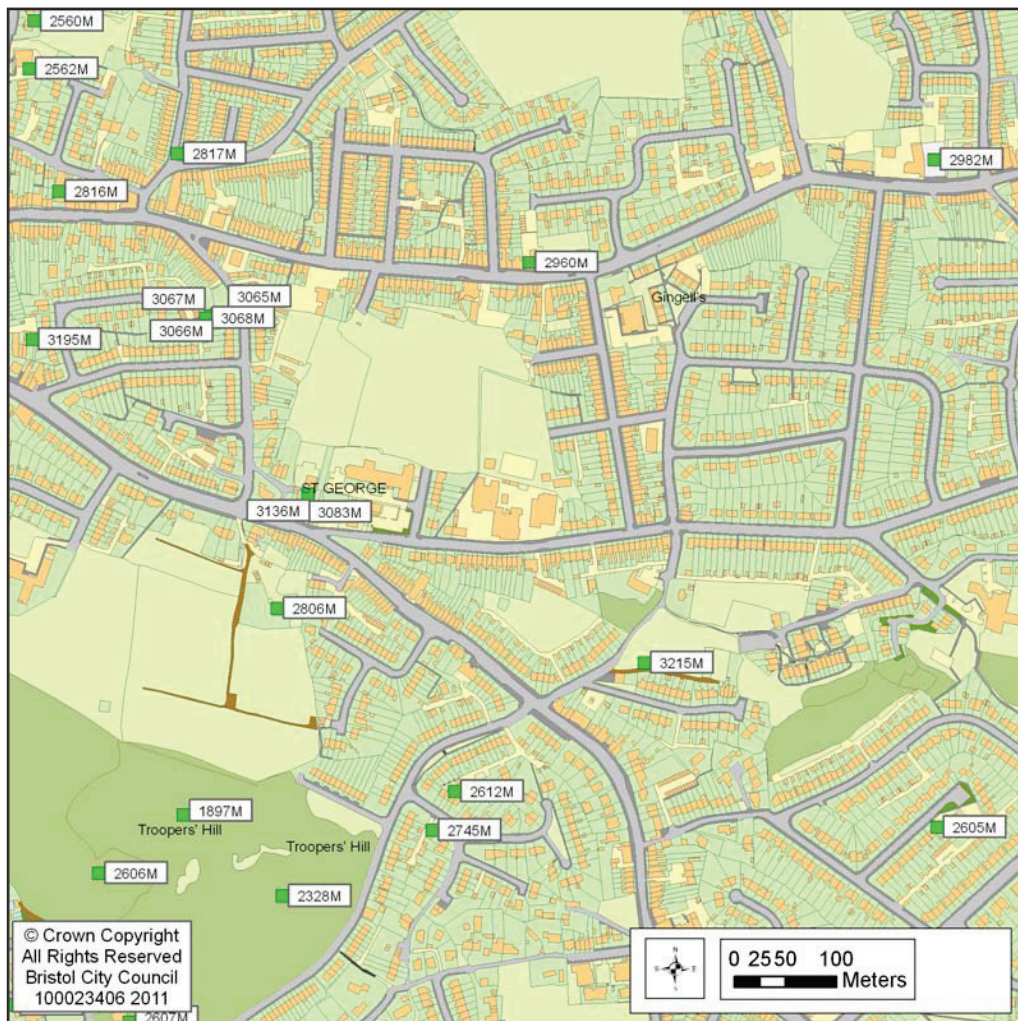
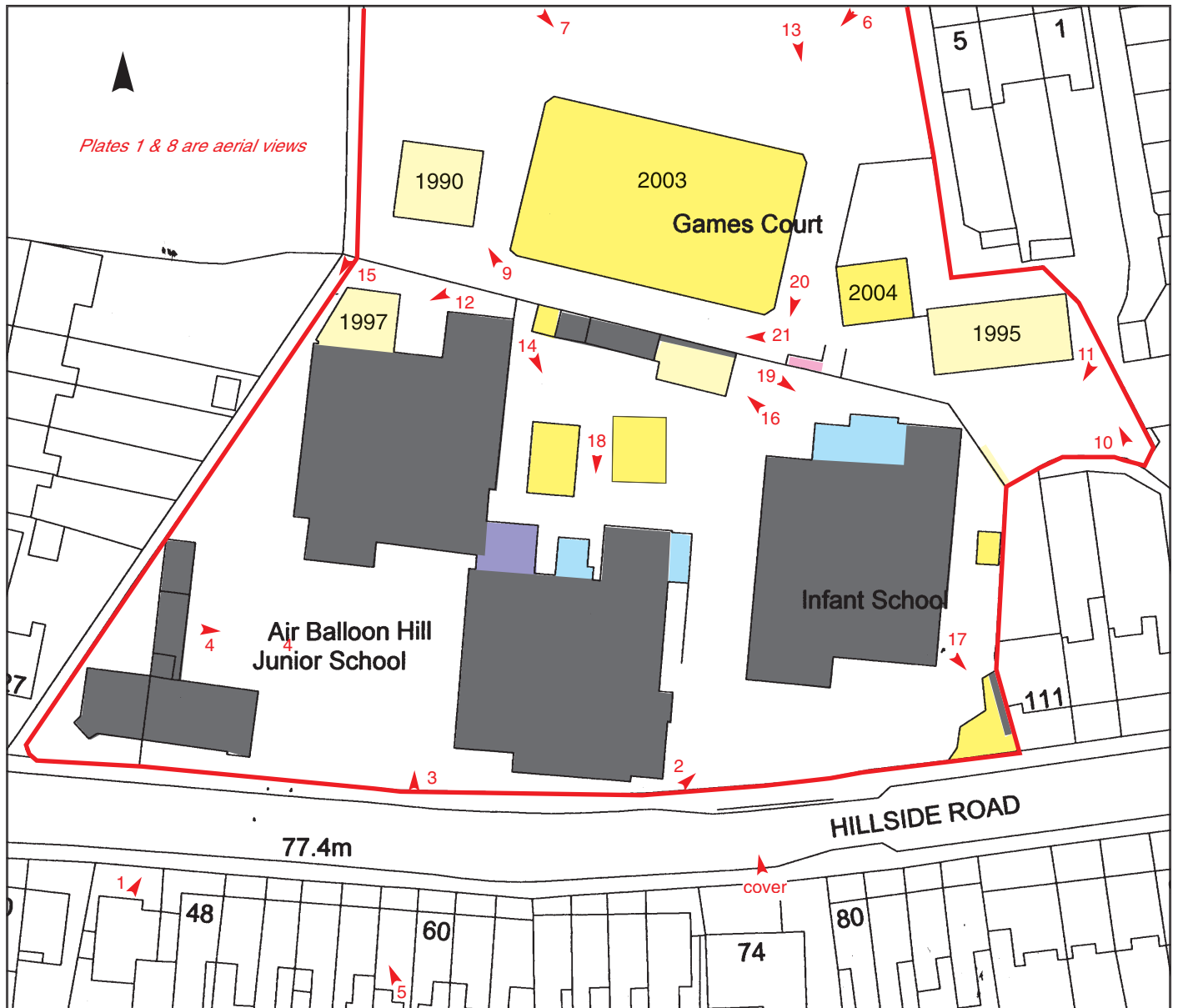


Fig.17 Location of Bristol Historic Environment Record (BHER) monuments (BCC)



- original school 1903-5
- c. 1930s-40s
- c. 1950s
- c. 1960s
- c. 1990s
- c. 2000

Fig.18 Plan of Air Balloon School with provisional phasing of buildings and plate directions (in red)



Plate 1 Aerial view of Air Balloon School, looking north (after Blom Pictometry 2009)



Plate 2 Infants' school block, looking north-east



Plate 3 Boys' school block, looking north



Plate 4 View of girls' school block, blue doors in location of extension linking boys' and girls' schools



Plate 5 Caretaker's house and 'Manual Instruction' block, looking north



Plate 6 School playing field, looking south towards ballcourt and temporary classrooms



Plate 7 School playing field, looking south-east towards Bude Avenue



Plate 8 Aerial view of former St George Riding School land, (after Blom Pictometry 2009)



Plate 9 Temporary classroom (c.1990), south-west corner of playing field, looking north-west



Plate 10 'Elliott' classroom (c.1995) looking north-west



Plate 11 Gateway through precinct wall and staircase (c.1995), looking south-west



Plate 12 Extension to former boys school block (c.1997) looking west
Temporary classroom (c. 2004), south-east corner of playing field, looking south



Plate 13 Temporary classroom (c. 2004), south-east corner of playing field, looking south



Plate 14 Temporary classrooms to rear of girls' school block, looking south



Plate 15 Southern extent of footpath along western boundary of Air Balloon school, looking south-west



Plate 16 Tiles of original girls' latrine block within northern precinct wall, looking north-west



Plate 17 Tiles of original infants' latrine block within eastern precinct wall, looking south-east



Plate 18 Brick extension (c. 1950s) to north of original girls' school block, looking south



Plate 19 Brick extension (c.1950s) to north of infants' school block, looking south-east



Plate 20 Gateway through northern precinct wall (c.1960s) and stair case to playing field, looking



Plate 21 Northern precinct wall showing change in slope, looking west