

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

ON

**LAND OF CHURCH LANE,
CHURCHAM, GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

NGR 376950 218150

On behalf of

Smart Farms

JULY 2013

REPORT FOR Smart Farms
Stone End farm
Churcham
Glos
GL2 8AA

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CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Summary</i>	<i>1</i>
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Origins of the report	1
1.2 Planning Guidelines and Policies	1
1.3 Desk-Based Assessment Aims and Objectives	3
1.4 Desk-Based Assessment Methodology	3
2 THE SITE	4
2.1 Location	4
2.2 Description	5
2.3 Geology and Topography	5
3 PROPOSED SCHEME	5
4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CARTOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND	5
4.1 The Historical Development of Churcham	5
4.2 Known Archaeological Sites	8
4.3 The Cartographic Evidence	10
4.4 Air Photography and Site Visit	12
5 DISCUSSION	17
5.1 The Archaeological Potential of the Site	17
5.2 The Impact of Previous Development on Potential Archaeological Remains	18
5.3 The Impact of the Proposal Area on Potential Archaeological Remains	18
6 CONCLUSIONS	18
7 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES CONSULTED	19
7.1 Books and Documents	19
7.2 Historic Maps	20
7.3 Gazetteer of Historic Environment Records	21

FIGURES

Figure 1	Site location	2
Figure 2	Heritage Assets	6
Figure 3	Map of 1803	10
Figure 4	Map of 1867	10
Figure 5	OS Second Series Map of 1903	11
Plate 1	Building 1	13
Plate 2	Building 2	13
Plate 3	Building 3	14
Plate 4	Building 4	14
Plate 5	Building 5	15
Plate 6	Building 6	15
Plate 7	Building 7	16
Plate 8	Building 9	16
Plate 9	Building 10	17

SUMMARY

This document represents an investigation of the potential for archaeological remains on land off Church Lane, Churcham, Gloucestershire (NGR 376950 218150). The site is already known to contain the remains of a Second World War artillery ammunitions storage facility for which the buildings are in various states of preservation. The proposal as it stands would see the demolition of most of these structures and only the preservation of the one located at the southern end of the site, which is proposed to be retained. The aerial photographs show that there were far more buildings previously located in the camp and one that there is an apparent depression running across the promontory which lies in line with the bank constructed in the 1980s. This depression, imperceptible on the ground, appears to be something potentially earlier a trackway or even an enclosure around the hilltop around the church. The slight depression could possibly be associated with the foundation of the church or could be earlier. It is also possible to recognise that the name Coneygree was originally applied to the field in which the proposal site was located and this is an English name for an enclosure associated with pillow mounds and rabbit farming.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Origins of the Report

Sandi Sligh, of Smarts Farm, has commissioned this historic impact assessment on land of Church Lane, Churcham. The report has been prepared and is intended to inform any proposal under consideration within the defined area.

1.2 Planning Guidelines and Policies

The National Planning Policy Framework (2012) provides guidance related to archaeology within the planning process. The following Policy points are key to this development:

128. In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

129. Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

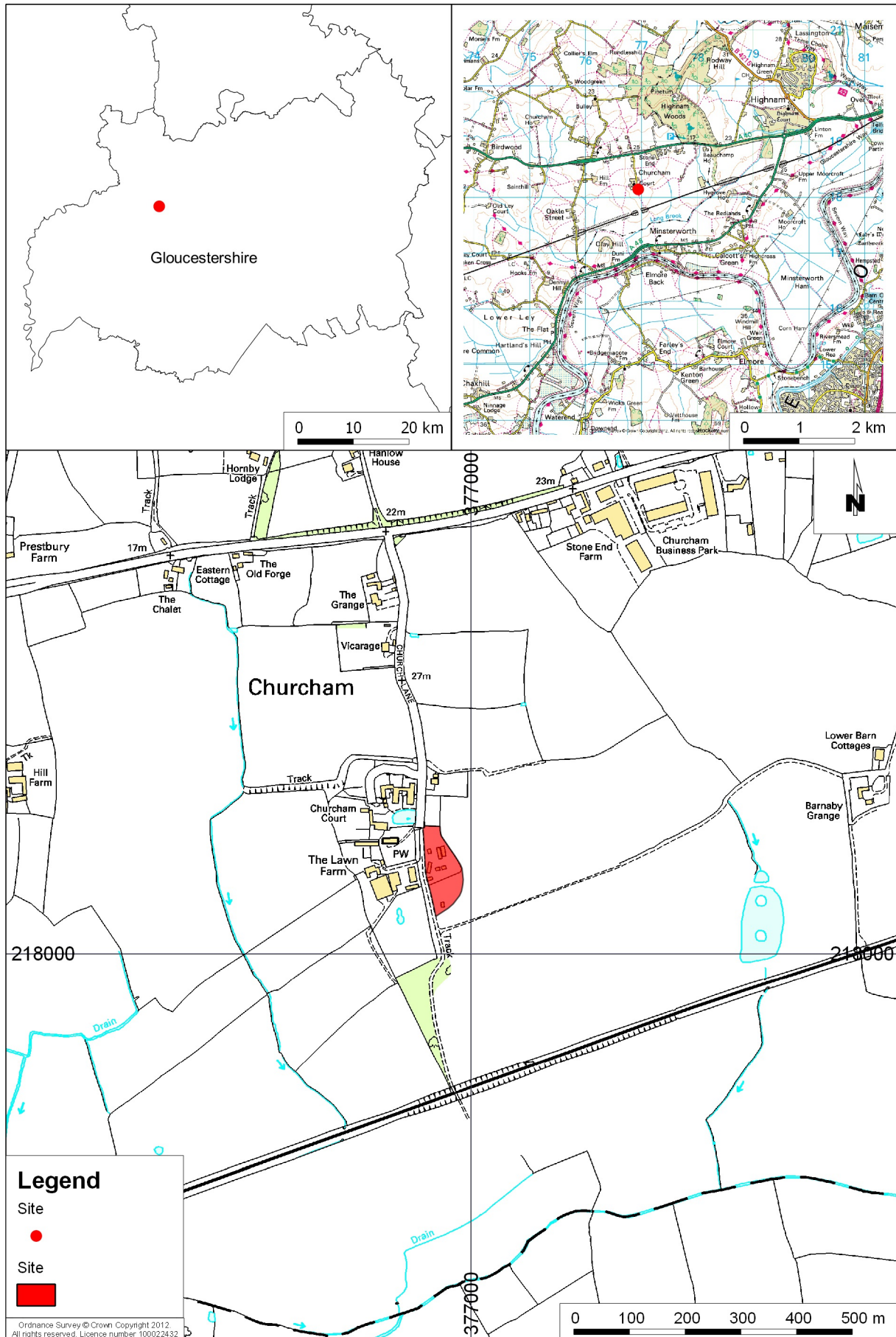


Figure 1. Site location

1.3 Desk-Based Assessment Aims and Objectives

The primary aim of this assessment is to provide a professional appraisal of the archaeological potential of the site. This follows the Government guidance in *NPPF* (2012) by presenting a synthetic account of the available archaeological and historical data and its significance at an early stage in the planning process.

In accordance with *NPPF* (2012), the report presents a desk-based evaluation of existing information. It additionally follows the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA) *Standard* definition of a desk-based assessment (IFA 2008). In brief, it seeks to identify and assess the known and potential archaeological resource within a specified area ('the site'), collating existing written and graphic information and taking full account of the likely character, extent, quantity and worth of that resource in a local, regional and national context. It also aims to define and comment on the likely impact of the proposed development scheme on the surviving archaeological resource.

The Institute for Archaeologists *Standard* states that the purpose of a desk-based assessment is to inform appropriate responses, which may consist of one or more of the following:

- The formulation of a strategy for further investigation, whether or not intrusive, where the character and value of the resource is not sufficiently defined to permit a mitigation strategy or other response to be devised.
- The formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource
- The formulation of a project design for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research

In accordance with *NPPF* (2012), the assessment forms the first stage in the planning process as regards archaeology as a material consideration and also an assessment of the impact on the historical character of the area. It is intended to contribute to the formulation of an informed and appropriate mitigation strategy.

1.4 Assessment Methodology

The format and contents of this section of the report are an adaptation of the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' guidance paper for desk-based assessments (IFA 2008). The work has involved the consultation of the available documentary evidence, including records of previous discoveries and historical maps, and has been supplemented with a site walkover. The format of the report is adapted from an Institute for Archaeologists *Standard Guidance* paper (IFA 2008).

In summary, the work has involved:

- Identifying the client's objectives

- Identifying the cartographic and documentary sources available for consultation
- Assembling, consulting and examining those sources
- Identifying and collating the results of recent fieldwork
- Site walkover

The principal sources consulted in assessing this site were:

- The Gloucestershire County Historic Environment Record
- The National Monuments Record, Swindon
- The Gloucestershire Archive

The National Monuments Record, Swindon and Gloucestershire County Historic Environment Record, hold details of known archaeological and historical sites in the vicinity of the proposal site.

There has been no archaeological work carried out at the proposal site. The assessment of its potential has, therefore, relied on predictive modelling based on the known distribution of remains within 250 metres of the centre of the site (from a central grid reference of 376950 218150, shown on figure 1). The information about standing historical and listed buildings within the same radius of the proposal area has also been collated.

The available evidence is derived from casual finds, archaeological investigations, standing buildings and historical records. It should be stressed that the distribution represents the extent of current knowledge and is the product of chance and investigation. For this reason, apparently blank zones should not be automatically regarded as being devoid of remains.

The assessment of the likely condition of any potential archaeological remains has relied upon a study of the available historical maps and observations made during the site walkover, which provide evidence for the impact of previous land-use on the site.

There have been no restrictions on reporting or access to the relevant records. The copyright to the shire Historic Environment Record belongs to shire County Council (Figures 1).

2 THE SITE

2.1 Location (Figure 1)

The site is located on land of Church Lane, Churcham, Gloucestershire (NGR 376950 218150). Churcham is an ancient parish, but the present form of today's parish is modern dating from 1935 (VCH 1972, 11-7). Prior to the 11th century the parish was located in the historic county of Herefordshire, which was created out of the kingdom of the Magensæte. By the end of the 11th century the area had been transferred to Gloucestershire. Historically the west

part of Churcham parish was located in the Hundred of Westbury; today the parish comes under the Forest of Dean District Council.

2.2 Description (Figure 1)

The land lies of Church Lane, Churcham, and is sub semi-circular in shape. On the west the proposal site is bounded by a trackway, which is an extension of Church Lane, on the opposite side of this track are The Lawn Farm and Saint Andrew's Church. To the north, east and southeast the site is bounded by open fields.

2.3 Geology and Topography

Topographically the village of Churcham is located in the Severn Valley, on a hill in its flood plain. Historically this area lay within the bounds of the topographical area of the Forest of Dean according to bounds dated 1228 and 1282, the earliest recorded bounds of which follow the Rivers Severn and the Leadon, between which Churcham lies (Herbert 2012, xxi; Yeates 2006, i). The hill is a north south ridge reaching just over 30m in height. The site is on the southeast side of this ridge lying between 25-30m OD.

The underlying Geology is Mercia Mudstone Group, which are Mudstones and sedimentary bedrock formed 206-248 million years ago in the Triassic (www.bgs.ac.uk/data/map/viewers/home.html).

3 PROPOSED SCHEME (Figure 1)

The proposal is for the development of the site with the construction of a new dwelling along with landscaping. This will involve the demolition of the majority of Second World War buildings on the site, with only a building to the south of this being retained.

4 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Figures 2 to 5)

4.1 The Historical Development of Churcham

The ancient parish of Churcham contained the hamlets of Highnam, Linton and Over, to which Bulley was ecclesiastically linked (VCH 1972, 11-7). The parish extent is believed to have been established in the early medieval period. A grant to Gloucester Abbey in c. 780 records a grant of 30 hides at Æeoport (Over) by Æthelmund to the abbey or monastery of Gloucester (Finberg 1972, no.41; VCH 1972, 17-21). This grant is considered too much land to be located at Over and it is for this reason that it is believed to encompass the whole later parish of Churcham. In 804 Ethelric makes a confirmation grant to the abbey of this estate (Finberg 1972, no.53; VCH 1972, 17-21).

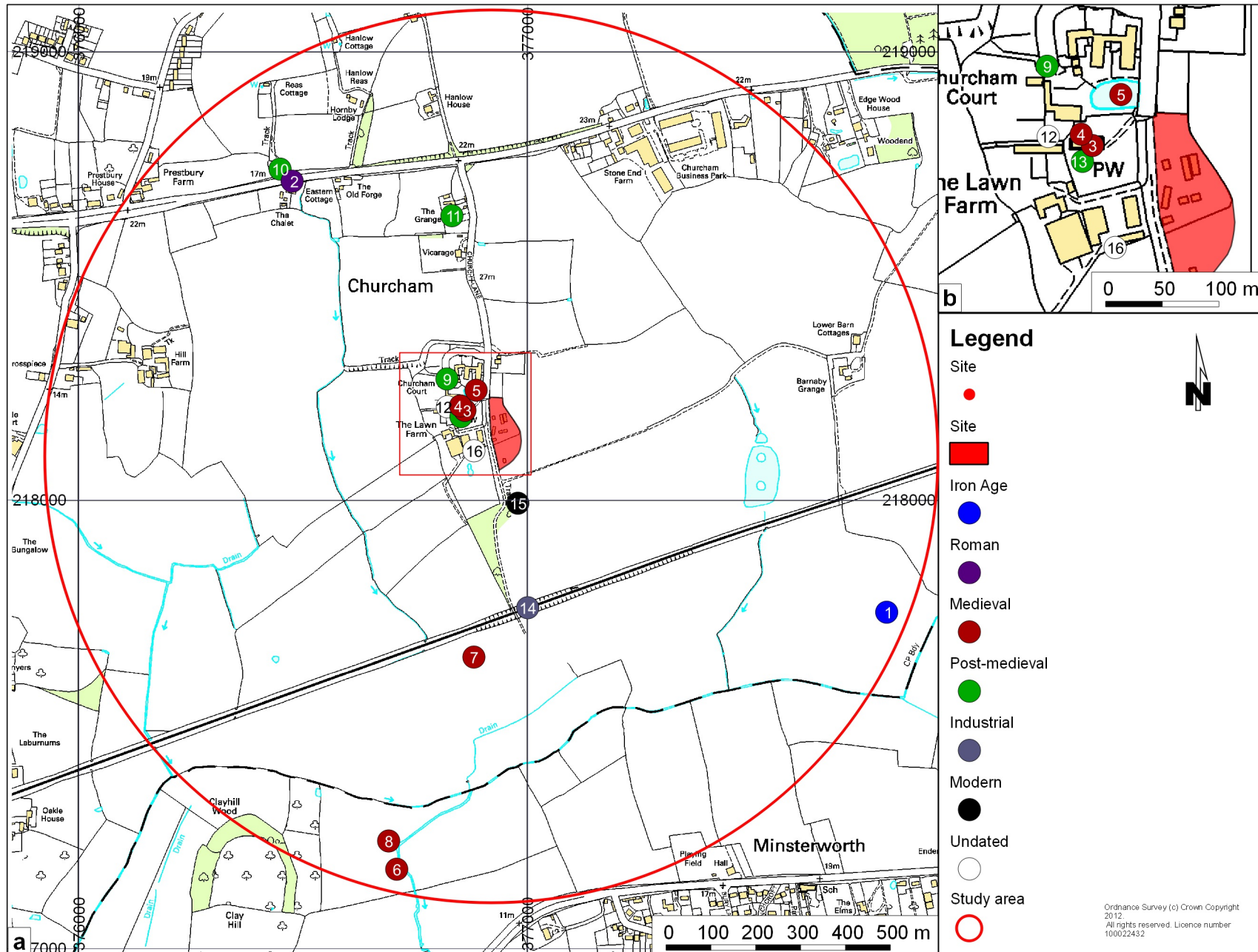


Figure 2. Heritage assets

The village or estate centre of Churcham is mentioned again in 1022 when Wulfin le Rue granted it to the abbey for killing 6 priests between Churcham and Gloucester (Finberg 1972, no.156; VCH 1972, 17-20). 'If' the priests were associated with Churcham then it implies an important ecclesiastical site. The two estates mentioned are Ham and Morton containing 5 hides, and Ham containing 7 hides. The first estate covers Churcham, where Morton is now a lost settlement and the second estate is at Highnam.

Rudder (1779, 341-3) claimed that when the canons were turned out of the minster of Saint Peter's at Gloucester 1033 x 48 that they were presented with Churcham as compensation.

In the 1066 under the reign of Edward the Confessor and 1086 under the reign of William I there were two estates which were both held by the Abbey of Gloucester (VCH 1972, 17-21). The estate was referred to as Hame and Mortvne and had 5 hides, in both woodland and open land (Moore 1982, 10.11). The estate had 7 villagers and 2 smallholders. The woodland was described as 1 league long and wide. The church of Gloucester had its hunting there in three hedge enclosures which were created before 1066.

The name is first recorded as *Hamme* in 1086, a name using **hamm** a low-lying water-meadow (Smith 1964, 196). The name is referred to as *Churchehamm* in 1200, where the first part of the name is **cirice**, a church.

The manor of Churcham is retained by the abbey of Gloucester until the dissolution of the monasteries c. 1540 (VCH 1972, 17-20). In 1287 the abbot of Gloucester obtained free warren in Highnam and Churcham. There is known to have been a manor house established on the site of Churcham Court, to the northwest of the proposal site, from the early 13th century.

In 1547 Gloucester Abbey's land at Churcham and Highnam was granted to the Dean and Chapter of the newly established cathedral see (VCH 1972, 17-20). The manor of Churcham at this time appears to be divided into two moieties. The first of these moieties was leased to Thomas Kingswood in 1559, and then to John Bellamy in 1569. In 1639 John Brown was described as lord of the manor, while in 1649 John Harris held a share of the manor. The Dean and Chapter leased a moiety of the land to William Harris in 1661, and in 1681 Thomas Harris held a moiety of the land. In 1719 and 1726 this holding was still under Harris control, and in 1733 was in the hands of Ebenezer Harris. In 1742 this moiety was leased to Charles Barrow.

The second moiety of the manor was held by Thomas Pury in 1649, and in 1718 George Stoughton (VCH 1972, 17-20). From 1766 the moiety was held by Thomas Rous as a tenement, and in 1773 by James Money, and from 1786 by William Money. In 1803 the moiety reverted to the Dean and Chapter.

The earliest recording of a church at Churcham was in 1100 when the abbey of Gloucester was given leave to appropriate the church (VCH 1972, 25-8; Barrow 1993, no.4). The claim is considered to be spurious. The church consists of a Norman structure with later alterations. The *Taxatio Ecclesiastica*

of 1291 recorded independently of Gloucester Abbey that that church held the church at Churcham (Aylescough and Caley 1802, 161). The church at Churcham was a mother church, but the age of the church is unknown (Yeates 2006, 551). The church at Bulley was recorded as a chapel of the church since that early date (VCH 1972, 11-17; Barrow 1993, no.330). In the charter of 1100 and of 1231 the chapel of Bulley is recorded as a dependent chapel (Barrow 1993, nos.4, 330). Chapels attached to Churcham have been recorded at Highnam in 1356 and 1544 (VCH 1972, 25-8). In 1330 there is believed to have been a chapel dedicated to Saint George. In the 13th century the vicars' rights to the revenue of the church was only a small portion, in the 12th and 13th century the majority of the rights in the church were reserved for the rector who was the abbot of Gloucester. A vicarage has been established at Churcham from at least 1280. The Vicarage was located on Church Lane to the north of the proposal site.

The settlement pattern of the area consists of a series of scattered farmsteads (VCH 1972, 11-7). Church Lane Farm was originally called Stone End (Stoning) Farm, and is thought to have been named after a husband man of Stone End recorded 1608 (VCH 1972, 21-5). By 1882 the name was applied to a farmhouse in a small settlement on the main Gloucester Road. The changing use of the Stone End Farm name could point at connections or associations between the hamlet of Stone End and the manorial and ecclesiastical centre at Churcham.

During the Second World War (1939-45), probably 1940-2, an army establishment was constructed on the land, traditionally associated with ammunition storage. The site was associated with two gun emplacements located to the south of ammunition storage facilities, and that a search light was located to the north of the A40. The site was probably strategically located at the head of the Severn Estuary to protect the aircraft industry at Gloucester and the Brockworth Airfield where aircrafts were developed, tested and built. Within a short time of its construction the site had been turned into an Italian prisoner of war camp.

4.2 Known Archaeological Sites (Figure 2)

The remains of a camp have been recognised near Long Brook in Churcham (**JMHS 1**, GHER 6675: 377800 217750), which measures 320m x 200m and has a bank 3m wide. The site covers an area of 5ha and is believed to be of an Iron Age or Roman date. A survey of the camp was carried out (GHER 29471).

A Roman Road has been recognised running to the north of the proposal site (**JMHS 2**, GHER 7123: 366400 218500). A section was placed across this road (GHER 44162: 376475 218711).

The church of Saint Andrew is a grade II* listed structure with building phases of the 12th, 14th-15th centuries and 1878 (**JMHS 3**, GHER 8318, EHUID 1571115: 376860 218200). A sculpture had been recovered from the church, it was previously thought to have been Roman in origin (**JMHS 4**,

GHER 5276, EHUID 113285: 376850 218210), but is now believed to be probably medieval. There is an undated pond between the church and the court (**JMHS 5**, GHER 34185: 376885 218245), there has been a suggestion that it is a swannery. There are late medieval to post-medieval land reclamation drains in Minsterworth (**JMHS 6**, GHER 36409: 376708 217177), there are field boundaries of a similar date to the north of Long Brook (**JMHS 7**, GHER 38414: 376880 217650), and earthworks given a similar date to the east of Clay Hill (**JMHS 8**, GHER 38416: 376690 217240).

Churcham Court is a farmhouse of the 16th century with 17th and 19th century alterations (**JMHS 9**, GHER 16008: 376820 218270). Pockets House at Churcham is a 17th century listed building (**JMHS 10**, GHER 34079: 376448 218738). The Grange in Church Lane is a 17th century structure with 18th and 19th century alterations (**JMHS 11**, GHER 34093: 376831 218634).

A watching brief has identified masonry structures in Saint Andrew's churchyard (**JMHS 12**, GHER 33822: 376821 218208). Besides this undated feature there are a significant number of funerary monuments noted in the graveyard. The features were suggested as being possibly of the 19th century possibly the base of funerary monuments or gate piers. There are numerous funerary monuments in Churcham churchyard (**JMHS 13**) including unidentified monuments (GHER 34088: 376863 218186), the Drew monument (GHER 34166: 376857 218191), monuments unidentified (GHER 34170: 376860 218192), the Bennett monument (GHER 34171: 376861 218193), the Prestbury monument (GHER 34172: 376864 218192), the Trigg monument (GHER 34174: 376863 218189), unidentified monuments (GHER 34175: 376867 218189), the Gambier-Parry monument (GHER 34177: 376863 218184), three monuments in churchyard (GHER 34178: 376875 218203), a Pickering monument (GHER 34179: 376846 218192), the Bohn monument (GHER 34180: 376887 218217), a Pickering monument (GHER 34187: 376846 218193), a Pickering monument (GHER 34188: 376848 218190), a Green monument (GHER 34189: 376883 218202), a Green monument of 1789 (GHER 34190: 376884 218205), an unidentified monument (GHER 34191: 376864 218186).

The Gloucester to South Wales railway line was constructed in 1851 (**JMHS 14**, GHER 11185, EHUID 1361441: 372600 216150) runs to the south of the site. The remains of a Second World War Army Camp have been noted to the southeast of Churcham Court (**JMHS 15**, GHER 30082, EHUID 1456615: 376978 217993). This camp is the primary subject of this report as the proposed development site is located on the camp. The camp is recorded as covering an area of 390m x 140m and contains 12 nissen huts and 10 other military buildings of an unknown function have been identified (Russell, Crowther et al. 2007, 71). The accompanying aerial photograph of c. 1946 shows some 6 building locations where structures have been destroyed. There is an orchard to the west and an enclosure to the south (gun emplacement?). Speculation exists in the HER records that it was used for artillery practice, local tradition is that the guns were only tested on one or two occasions.

4.3 Cartographic Research

A number of maps of Churcham survive in some format, however, some of them are considered to survive in too poor a condition to be produced at the Gloucestershire Archive. The earliest map was that of 1757 by Ferdinando Stratford (GRO D2426 P1), but this was not seen due to its state.



Figure 3 Map of 1803



Figure 4 Map of 1867

The second oldest map was the Inclosure map of 1803 (GRO Q/R1/43), which shows the church of Saint Andrew with buildings located to the north and west of the graveyard (Fig. 3). The buildings to the east and the southeast,

which covers the proposal site, are numbered 493 and 494, they are drawn as open fields (and this general trend is evident throughout the majority of the map series). What can be ascertained at that time is that the land was leasehold to a William Phelps, and perhaps more importantly the area was called Coneygree. The name is derived from English Coninger, which refers to a rabbit warren. The date of this warren is unknown, but in 1086 there were reference to three enclosures at Churcham for the abbot's hunting. One of these could be an enclosure for rabbit breeding, in this case hunting with ferrets.

The tithe map of 1844 (GRO GDR/T1/53) shows a similar field arrangement. A group of maps dated c. 1867 (GRO D1740/P7, D1740/P9) which were plans of Churcham Church show the same field arrangements (Fig. 4).

The Ordnance Survey maps 1:25000 also show this field arrangement, with no buildings located on the proposal site. This covers the first series map of 1886 (OS FS 24/16), the second series map of 1903 (OS FS 24/16, Fig.5), and the third series map of 1923 (OS TS 24/16). The 1955 OS map of the 1:10560 series does show a series of buildings on the site, which probably does show the current configuration of buildings, but shows more buildings to the north in an area now cleared, and also a larger feature to the south. As this map is immediately post-war there may be problems with representation of what was at one-time military sites. The current group of buildings are shown on the OS map of 1971 at 1:25000, the buildings on the north part of the site on the 1955 map have been removed.

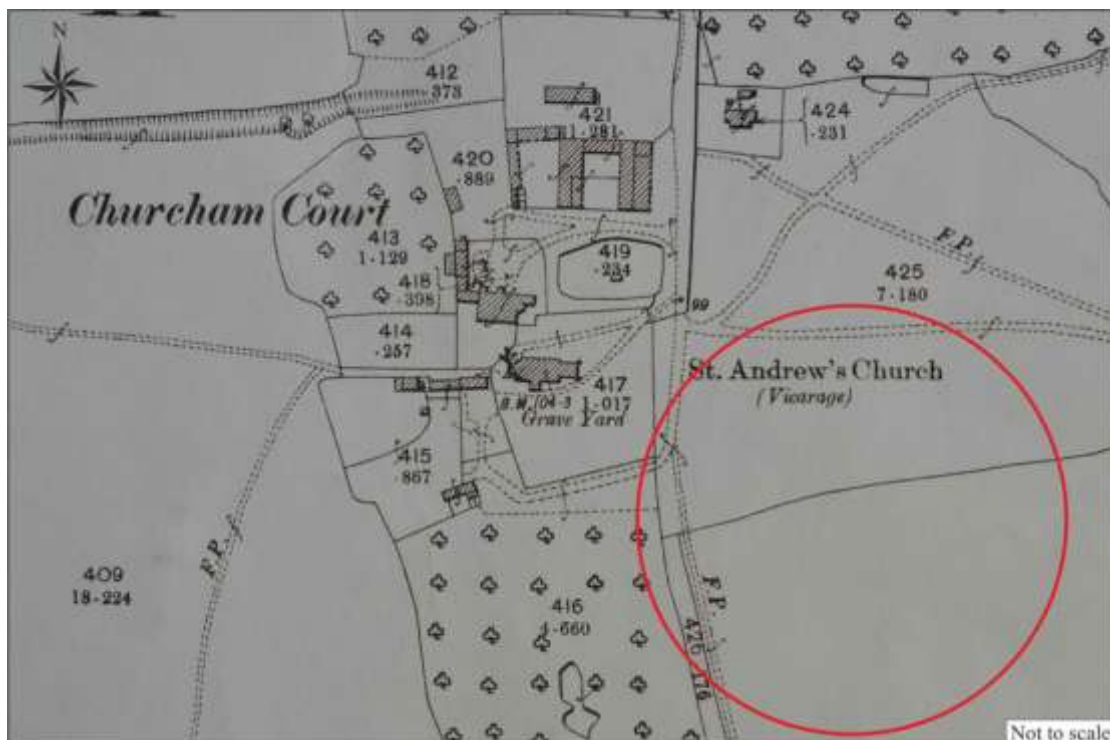


Figure 5 OS Second Series Map of 1903

4.4 Air Photographs and Site Visit

The 26 aerial photographs at the national monuments record where consulted 26/7/13, there were features to note on the photographs, but they did not overly elaborate our knowledge of the site, though there were features that can be noted for the benefit of the HER. A group of ten photographs were taken of the site in 1946-7. These show the probable outline of some 21 buildings (NMR RAF/CPE/UK/1961 572 3010, 3011; RAF/CPE/UK/2110 669 3422), with two structures located to the north of those still standing in the area of the present modern oil tank. There are two further buildings located to the east of the Nissan hut, more or less in line. There are some seven structures now gone in the area of the large 1980s bank, which were variously orientated north to south or east to west. To the south of the most southerly standing feature and outside the proposed development area there is a further probable structure along the line of the track running south of the proposal site (NGR 376950 218000). This feature lies about 150m to the south of the site and could be part of a gun emplacement. Further to the south on these photographs there is a linear with an attached enclosure (NGR 376930 217850). Also noted on an aerial photograph (RAF/CPE/UK/2110 669 3422) away from the site near Lower Barn but listed for the purpose of the HER are what appear to be a significant series of cropmarks (NGR 377800 218400).

A photograph of 1970 (NMR OS/70054 10516 92), shows that most of the missing camp buildings were gone by this date. Further afield from the site and noted for the HER are the remains of an apparent sub-rectangular earthwork enclosure (NGR 377750 217250), which lies north of the A48 (T) at Minsterworth and is about 100m x 120m.

The aerial photograph (NMR OS/70054 10516 135) of this site in 1970 shows the remains of a slight depression running across the line of the hill at the southern end of the site, however, the cause of this depression, imperceptible on the ground, could be the line of a trackway or possibly an earlier enclosure around the church (**JMHS 16**), or perhaps some feature cutting of the spur of land. The same feature shows up on the photograph of Google Earth. The large bank created in the 1980s is roughly in line with this depression evident on the aerial photographs on the east of the hill. It is not on the series of photographs taken in the 1970s.

The photographs from the 1970s showed Long Brook Camp and other medieval field boundaries in the Long Brook flood plain already noted on the HER (**JMHS 1**, **JMHS 7**). A linear feature possibly a road was also noted east of Lower Barn (NGR 378000 218300), away from the proposal area but included for HER.

A site visit was carried out on 12/7/13. This noted that the north part of the site is covered with hard core reportedly to a depth of 0.3m. There is a fixed oil tank in this part of the site, which is of a modern origin and the visible area above ground in this quarter of the site does not appear to contain any features of archaeological significance.



Plate 1 Building 1

On the southern three quarters of the site there are the remains of ten buildings which were constructed during the Second World War. Building 1 is a pre-fabricated reinforced concrete structure orientated north south (Plate 1). The door on the north side has been enlarged and the concrete on this side is breaking up. Buildings 2 and 3 are two long buildings running parallel to each other, also orientated north to south.



Plate 2 Building 2

Building 2 (the west of the two long buildings); concrete panels are missing from the southern gable end (Plate 2). Building 3 has had large doors fitted, which have damaged the north gable end causing concrete to deteriorate (Plate 3). The brick dwarf walls around the concrete foundation are crumbling.



Plate 3 Building 3



Plate 4 Building 4

Building 4 is also a long building orientated north to south (Plate 4). The interior has a brick interior wall sealing part of the southern part of the building off. The foundations are deteriorating as is the concrete slab underneath. Buildings 5 and 6 are short buildings orientated on the same alignment (Plate 5 and 6). Building 5 (the west building) has brick interior walls.



Plate 5 Building 5



Plate 6 Building 6

Building 7 is part of a Nissan Hut, the main structure is gone and only the concrete base and bricks in the west wall survive (Plate 7). Building 8 survives only as a foundation, and a brick tower supporting a water tank. Building 9 is an east-west building of reinforced concrete (Plate 8). Much of the concrete is badly degraded.



Plate 7 Building 7



Plate 8 Building 9



Plate 9 Building 10

To the south of these nine buildings there is an earth bank, which is to be retained. There is a large sondage excavated on the north side of the bank. No early archaeological features are evident in this structure but there is an indication here of the depth of the makeup layer across the northern and central part of the site. To the south of the bank there is a further reinforced concrete structure Building 10 (Plate 9) which it is proposed will be maintained and refurbished.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 The Archaeological Potential of the Site

The archaeology on the site includes standing buildings of the Second World War, which are probably the artillery storage facilities of a gun emplacement which was located to the south of the proposal site. The site is strategically placed on a hill at the head of the Severn Estuary. The bank on the site created in the 1980s would appear to be located roughly in line with a depression visible on an NMR aerial photograph and Google Maps aerial photographs, which is now imperceptible on the ground. The nature of this feature is unknown but could be the remains of a trackway or would appear to be located in such a way that it formed an earlier enclosure around the hilltop and or church. The field is historically recorded as Coneygree, which is a recognised name associated with pillow mounds and the medieval and later tradition of creating artificial rabbit warrens.

5.2 The Impact of Previous Development on Potential Archaeological Remains

The creation of the military base in the 1940s probably caused damage to such potential features as pillow mounds, presumed from place-name evidence to be located across the site. The depth of hardcore across the site is estimated to be 0.3m or deeper, this is deep enough to remove the topsoil and destroy any standing features. Significant numbers of services have also been excavated across the site by the armed forces in the Second World War and also by the current land owners. Extensive pitting for rubbish burning has also been employed by the current owners. The apparent depression, undefined on the south end of the hill, showing on the aerial photographs may mean that there is potentially one negative feature on the site, which could possibly survive.

The military buildings are considered to be part of an archaeological heritage considered worth cataloguing by English Heritage (Brown, Burridge et al. 1996), and the majority of these structures will be destroyed by the current proposal, though it is necessary to notice that with some of the structures the reinforced concrete is badly weathered and demolition may be the only acceptable means of action.

5.3 The Impact of the Proposal Area on Potential Archaeological Remains

There are indications that the site would previously have had archaeology, but that due to the construction of the Second World War establishment any previous positive (constructed) archaeological features, for example pillow mounds and enclosure banks have probably been completely destroyed. There are indications of a faint depression on aerial photographs, imperceptible on the ground, on the south of the hill on which the bank of the army camp was constructed. This may imply that there was a trackway, an earlier enclosure, or linear. Any shallow negative (cut) features associated with this enclosure will already be compromised or destroyed.

The buildings on the site will be lost, though it is proposed that one of them is saved for prosperity as a bat roosting opportunity.

6 CONCLUSIONS

The site does contain the remains of a World War II artillery storage depot, which was associated with two gun emplacements on the south side of the proposal site and a search light on the north side of the A40 road. The majority of concrete buildings associated with this site will be destroyed under the current proposal. The buildings have suffered from weathering and in some cases have had later doors added breaking panels of the re-enforced concrete.

The aerial photograph on Google Maps appears to show a slight depression running through the south of the site adjacent to the 1980s bank at the south end of the hill. The feature is imperceptible on the ground. This would imply that there was formerly a trackway, an enclosure around the hilltop, or a linear feature across the ridge. The nature of this feature is unknown.

The Second World War makeup layer, and subsequent make-up layers, may well have compromised any archaeology any potential archaeology on the site. If there was an enclosure an eastern boundary could possibly survive as an archaeological feature.

The area was on early maps referred to as Coneygree, which points to the past use of the site as a location for rabbit farming and undoubtedly the site of medieval or post-medieval pillow mounds. These mounds presumably lay in an enclosure; possibly one of those described for hunting in the Domesday Book, and could feasibly be associated with the linear depression evident on aerial photographs on the south end of the hill. If pillow mounds did exist on this site as the place-name evidence implies then it is likely that as positive features they would have been destroyed by the development of the military camp.

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7.2 Historic Maps

D2426/P1 1757 Map by Ferdinando Stratford

Q/R1/43 1803 Inclosure Map of Churcham

GDR/T1/53 1844 Tithe Map of Churcham

D1740/P7 1867 Estate map of the Dean and Chapter lands at Churcham

D1740/P9 1867 Estate map of the Dean and Chapter lands at Churcham

D1740/P10 1867 Estate map of the Dean and Chapter lands at Churcham

OS FS XXIV.XVI 1886 First Series OS 1:2500

OS SS XXIV.XVI 1903 First Series OS 1:2500

OS TS XXIV.XVI 1923 First Series OS 1:2500

OS 1955 1:10560 map

OS 1971 1:25000

7.3 GAZETTEER OF HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORDS

ID	Period	Identifying Number	X coordinate	Y coordinate	Description
1	Iron Age	6677	377800	217750	Long Brook Camp: The remains of an enclosure 320m x 200m and covering 5ha. The bank is 3m wide.
2	Roman	7123	376475	218711	Roman Road
3	Medieval	8318	376860	218200	Saint Andrew's Church: A church with work of the 12th, 14th-15th and 1878
4	Medieval	5276	376850	218210	Undated sculpture, previously thought to be Roman is now considered more likely to be medieval.
5	Medieval	34185	376885	218245	Undated pond, thought to be the remains of a swannery.
6	Medieval	36409	376708	217177	Medieval and post-medieval land reclamation.
7	Medieval	38414	376880	217650	Medieval and post-medieval land boundaries.
8	Medieval	38416	376690	217240	Medieval and post-medieval earthworks east of Clay Hill.
9	Post-medieval	16008	376820	218270	Churcham Court: Listed structure of the 16th, 17th and 19th century.
10	Post-medieval	34079	376448	218738	Pocketts House: 17th century structure.
11	Post-medieval	34093	376831	218634	The Grange: 17th century structure with 18th and 19th century alterations.
12	Undated	33822	376821	218208	Saint Andrew's churchyard: Undated masonry structures possibly of the 19th century.
13	Post-medieval	-	376857	218191	A large number of post-medieval funerary monuments listed on the GHER 34088, 34166, 34170, 34171, 34172, 34174, 34175, 34177, 34178, 34179, 34180, 34187, 34188, 34189, 34190, and 34191.
14	Industrial	11185	377000	217760	Gloucester to South Wales railway line constructed 1851.
15	Modern	30082	376978	217993	Second World War Army Camp.
16	Undated		376880	218110	The remains of a depression running across the Churcham Hill. The ditch is roughly in line with the bank constructed in the 1980s. The location of the linear feature is indicative of there being a trackway or enclosure previously on the hill.