

## Heritage Assets in the Parish of East Challow

### Introduction

This document provides a very brief archaeological and historical summary and a gazetteer of known heritage assets within the proposed area designation for the East Challow neighbourhood plan. Descriptions of monuments and listed buildings are largely reproduced from the entries on the Historic Environment Record (HER). A number of cartographic sources are also included. The HER monument entries have been allocated numbers NP1-15 and the location of each is shown on Figure 7. The listed buildings are to be shown on Figure 8 (forthcoming).

The HER can be viewed online at <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/>.

A well-researched and comprehensive history of the village and its' inhabitants can be found in *Ceawa's Burial Mound, A celebration of East Challow* by Hazel and Clive Brown (2007), which is available from Wantage library.

### Prehistoric Period (500,000BP – 43AD)

At the southern end of the parish lies the lower Icknield Way, an ancient trackway which ran from Salisbury Plain to East Anglia. The modern road which follows the route (Ickleton Road) has partially preserved this ancient name. There is some evidence to suggest that this originated as a series of trackways (Karslake 1926) rather than as one continuous route.

A Neolithic (4000 BC – 2200BC) scraper tool was found during excavations of the site of Cornhill Roman villa in the late 1960s, while Bronze Age (2200 BC – 700BC) spearheads have been found to the north east and to the north of Windmill Hill (SU 38 88, HER number 7706). Some sherds of Iron Age pottery were also found at the Cornhill villa site.

### Later Prehistoric – Roman (c.100BC – AD 400)

Cropmarks which appear to show trackways, boundaries, pits and parts of enclosures have been noted from a series of aerial photographs taken in the early 1960s and the mid-1990s. These features are located within a field to the west of King Alfred's Academy – West site (one of these aerial photographs is reproduced in Brown and Brown 2007, p5). This complex of features is very similar to numerous settlements that have been recorded from cropmark evidence across much of central southern England over the past century. Most of these sites appear to date from the end of the Iron Age period and continue into the Roman period. The field has produced finds of Roman Pottery dating from the 1st century AD onwards.

More detail of this complex of features can be seen on an oblique aerial photograph held by the NMR (NMR 717/192) taken in June 1974. It shows what appears to be a concentration of many hundreds of pit-like features with large dark circular features possibly roundhouses, at the centre of the concentration. This concentration of features appears to continue up to Vicarage Hill to the west with no sign of petering out. A large dark curvilinear feature is apparent in the north east corner of the photograph. This appears to be a former driveway or holloway. This feature shows no sign of terminating within the field.

### Monuments

**NP1: Settlement features covering extensive area** (SU 3844 8783 (point) – HER number 27777 – MOX24298), possible prehistoric or Roman trackways, boundaries, pits and parts of enclosures are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs. A series of overlapping ditched boundaries appear to form trackways with wide funnel entrances. One of these boundaries also appears to form part of a

large asymmetric curvilinear enclosure. This measures 250m by 180m and is centred at SU 3835 8770. Parts of two rectilinear enclosures are also visible. These measure 50m by 50m and 20m by 20m and are centred at SU 3833 8770 and SU 3825 8768. Fragments of an uncertain curvilinear enclosure with a diameter of 10m are centred at SU 3832 8776. Numerous pits are visible across the whole complex.

Pottery ranging from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century AD has also been recovered from this field (HER number 16479).

### Roman Period (AD 43 AD 410)

#### Monuments

**NP3: Cornhill Roman villa.** Although outside the area designation of the neighbourhood plan, the proximity of the site of Cornhill Roman villa is of significance in the wider landscape.

The site of a Roman villa was first recorded to the east of Cornhill Farm in 1876 when the foundations of five rooms of a corridor villa were reported by Ordnance Survey fieldworkers. These foundations included a hypocaust at the southern end of the corridor as well as finds of painted wall plaster, coloured roofing tiles and pottery sherds. The villa is reported to have been totally destroyed by stone robbing of the walls in the same year, although later investigations would prove that elements of the building survived.

In 1969 a trench was excavated across the site. This recorded a wall made from chalk blocks along with associated floors and a rubbish pit. Further excavations in 1972 recorded a rubble and flint floor along with further walling and a chalk floor. Other features, which appear to form a complex around the main villa hub have been identified from cropmarks noted on aerial photographs and are described briefly in the NMR description of the Scheduled area. These include a double ditched enclosure centred c. 270 metres to the north west. Within this enclosure there appear to be a number of rectangular buildings and wall footings. Other cropmarks noted in this area appear to show rubble spreads, one of which is rectangular in shape.

A 12.4 hectare-sized area around the site has been made a Scheduled Monument.

Roman material, including a flagon handle from the 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD, grey wares from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> centuries and Oxford colour-coated ware from mid-3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> centuries have also been recovered from the field immediately to the north east of the site which also contains the late prehistoric / Roman cropmark complex.

Further sherds of Roman pottery were recovered during fieldwalking at Canal End in the late 1970s

**NP12: Roman ?settlement at Circourt** (SU369 907, HER number 16474). Extensive quantities of Roman pottery (C3-4), including Oxford mortarium (C2 type). Found near railway line and southern parish boundary, near site of possible barrow mentioned in Anglo-Saxon charter. Pottery identified by P Booth. Recovered in several visits by P Jones. ?Discrete clusters.

### Early Medieval Period (AD 410 – 1066)

After the withdrawal of Roman military forces from Britain in the early 5<sup>th</sup> century AD, Roman towns and settlements in southern England appear to have been largely abandoned within the following five decades. The villa and the complex of features to the north east show no signs of occupation beyond the early 4<sup>th</sup> century.

East and West Challow are mentioned (Ceueslaue) in the Domesday survey of 1086 as two of three villages located within the parish of Letcombe Regis (VCH, 1924). This suggests that East Challow was

established as a settlement before the end of the Anglo-Saxon period in 1066. East Challow appears to have formed part of Letcombe Regis Manor, which was owned by the crown up to the Norman Conquest.

### Later Medieval Period (AD1066-1550)

Following the conquest of England in 1066, William I assumed the ownership of Letcombe Regis Manor and the manor remained in royal ownership throughout the later medieval era, although the manorial incomes were granted to a series of church institutions through this period (VCH, 1924).

The Church of St. Nicholas in East Challow dates from the mid-12th century. In the 13th century the chancel and chancel arch were rebuilt and the bell-cot and three-bay north aisle was added (VCH, 1924).

The land within the parish at this time would have been farmed in a series of large open fields containing individual strips of land. The earthworks created by this strip field system have survived as ridge and furrow systems which are still extant in certain areas of the parish, although this was considerably more extensive until relatively recently, as can be seen on Figure 6.

The fragmentary remains of possible ditched boundaries are visible as earthworks on aerial photographs of the area. These are primarily located on the north west edge of East Challow.

### Monuments

**NP2: Possible Medieval Trackway** (Centered on SU3844 8749, HER number 12075), Linear soil mark visible on vertical AP's. Appears on Tithe Map to be an extension of Green Lane (known as Shelley's Lane) running across East Challow Field towards Wantage (*Photograph: 1969. Fairey Aerial Surveys. 6905/14521. Recorded on SMR by Brendan Grimley (1978)*)

### Listed Buildings

#### Grade II\*

**Church of St Nicholas** (SU38078 88253, HER number 7210) rendered to north and repointed; limestone ashlar quoins and dressings; stone slate roof. Nave and chancel with south aisle. Mid C19 three-light east window with Kentish tracery; north side of chancel has late C13 two-light window with mid C19 cusped heads and C15 two-light square-headed window; south side of chancel has mid C19 two-light window in late C13 style. South vestry, aisle, and late C19 two-storey tower to west with crenellated parapet, have one-light windows with cusped heads and buttresses. Mid C19 clerestorey windows. North side of nave has similar mid C19 one-light window, late C15/early C16 three-light arch-headed window, C13 one-light window, mid C19 two-light window to west and offset buttresses. West gable has mid C19 three-light French Gothic window over pointed moulded doorway to plank door with decorative iron hinges, and C13 stoup to south. Moulded kneelers to gabled roof. Interior: Chancel has mid C19 roof, late C13 pointed moulded blocked doorway to vestry. Late C13 double-chamfered chancel arch on engaged columns with bell capitals; 3-bay oak screen of 1905 with traceried heads. Nave has mid C19 roof and mid C19 pulpit and tester, C13 circular font and late C13 three-bay south arcade with double-chamfered arches and additional mid C19 west bay. South aisle has mid C19 roof and arches to east and west. Stained glass: Late C19 and C20; C15 stained glass in late C15/early C16 window in north wall of nave. (Buildings of England: Berkshire, p.131; V.C.H.: Berkshire, Vol.IV, p.226).





### Edward Smith's plan of 1753

A second map of the land to the south of East Challow was produced by Edward Smith in 1753 (Figure 2). This map is more detailed than that produced 10 years earlier. As with the 1743 map, it appears that only selected strips have been highlighted, no doubt those of the owner who commissioned the map.

Figure 2: 1753



### Roque's plan of 1761

Roque's maps of Berkshire show considerably more detail than most estate maps (Fig. 3). The map covering East Challow shows an obelisk in the field to the north of what is now the B4507, which appears to be at the end of an avenue labelled "Long Vistow", which Brown suggests may have represented a ceremonial way, possibly of Bronze Age date and potentially leading to a possible burial mound at Circourt (Brown and Brown 2007). Whilst the evidence is (as Brown acknowledges) largely circumstantial, other known burial mound sites and possible associated ceremonial ways are known on the downs. Notably Scutchamer Knob on East Hendred Down, further east along the Ridgeway.



A detailed historical map of the Wantage area in Oxfordshire. The map shows the River Great Ouse flowing through the center, with several bridges crossing it. To the north of the river are the villages of Charlton and West Charlton, with farms like Woodwell Farm and Charlton Green. To the south of the river are the villages of Wantage and Letcombe Regis, with farms like Letcombe Regis Farm and New Farm. The map also shows the Wantage railway station and the Wantage railway line. The map is titled 'Wantage' and 'Oxfordshire' and includes a scale bar and a north arrow.



## 1801 Enclosure map

Enclosure (sometimes inclosure) was the legal process in England of enclosing a number of small landholdings to create one larger farm. Once enclosed, use of the land became restricted to the owner, and it ceased to be common land for communal use. In England and Wales the term is also used for the process that ended the ancient system of arable farming in open fields. Under enclosure, such land is fenced (enclosed) and deeded or entitled to one or more owners. The enclosure map for East Challow (Figure 4) dates from 1801 and can be viewed online here: ([http://www.berkshireenclosure.org.uk/search\\_calm.asp?doc\\_ref=Q/R/D/C/82B](http://www.berkshireenclosure.org.uk/search_calm.asp?doc_ref=Q/R/D/C/82B))

### The House of John Bance

East Challow Manor was built by John Bance (died 1755). It was located near a chapel of ease which is now the site of St Nicolas Church, East Challow. The manor was sold to Bartholomew Price after Bance's death. Price in turn sold the house to Exuperius Turner probably in September 1786 when he sold the contents and livestock at auction. In a small letter in 'Notes and Queries', no 77, Feb 1918, an enquirer suggested that a good oil painting remained of the manor although the building itself had been demolished. The house was in existence until at least 1801 when an enclosure map was drawn by W Church (A Map of Letcomb Regis and East Challow in the county of BERKS As Divided and Allotted by an Act of Parliament passed in the YEAR 1801 taken by W Church Wantage Berks (Figure 4)). It is surprising that a house of this size, which existed into the nineteenth century, is not recorded in any detail in any sources.

Figure 4: Part of the 1801 enclosure map



## 1848 Tithe Map

Tithes were originally a tax which required one tenth of all agricultural produce to be paid annually to support the local church and clergy. After the Reformation much land passed from the Church to lay owners who inherited entitlement to receive tithes, along with the land.

By the early 19th century tithe payment in kind seemed a very out-of-date practice, while payment of tithes per se became unpopular, against a background of industrialisation, religious dissent and agricultural depression. The 1836 Tithe Commutation Act required tithes in kind to be converted to more convenient monetary payments called tithe rentcharge. The Tithe Survey was established to find out which areas were subject to tithes, who owned them, how much was payable and to whom (from the National Archives website (<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/tithes/>)).

Land-use data is provided in the apportionment that accompanies the East Challow Parish Tithe Map of 1848 (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Part of the 1848 tithe map





## Monuments

**NP4: Milestone** (SU3819 8795, HER number 10111). Limestone painted white with black lettering. Inscribed Faringdon/ 8/ Wantage / 1.

**NP5: Site of Letcombe Toll House** (Centered on SU 379 875, HER number 10245). Documentary evidence (*Bibliographic reference: General reference. S H Pearce Higgins: Wantage Tramway*)

**NP6: Site of Post Medieval Brick kiln and Claypits** (SU 380 885, HER number 11988). Nalder & Nalder Iron foundry reputed to be on site of old brick works. Clay pit House remains. Not designated on 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25" OS Map East Challow (*Tithe Award (1948), 1861, 1871 Census, N.Hammond: 'Rural Life in Vale of White Horse, 1780-1914' (1974) p.68*)

**NP7: Water Mill , Bablakes House (site of)** (SU 3835 8713, HER number 13694). A mill in Letcombe Regis in C14th belonged to Bablake family, fulling mill near present Letcombe Regis mill, Called 'Fulling Mill Cottage' in 1913, position of old sluices visible (*Victoria County History of Berkshire. Vol IV, pp.223-4, W Foreman: 'Oxfordshire Mills' p.111, Ordnance Survey. 1:10560 Map. (1913), Wantage Industrial Archaeology Group: 'Mills of the Ock'(1978) p.8*)

**NP8: Milestone** (SU 3845 8765, HER number 10140). Limestone, painted white with black lettering. Inscribed Wantage/ 1 / Lambourne/ 8 / Shrivenham / 10.

**NP9: Post Medieval Watercress Beds (200-300m E of Challow Farm)** (Centered on SU 3847 8841, HER number 13695). Chain of 3 long narrow ponds with a fourth detached to NW. Demolished by Wilts & Berks Canal Preservation Trust in late 1990's. Labelled as 'fish ponds' on Tithe map. (*Sale Catalogue, Canal and Challow House Farms (1924), Ordnance Survey 1:10560 Map (1910)*).

**NP10: Site of Post Med Canal Swing-Bridge** (SU 3752 8836, HER number 13696). Site of canal swing-bridge. Located at Cornhill Lane crossing. Noted as 'Swing Bridge' on 1924 map. Appears on 1st edition 25" OS map. (*Sale catalogue, Cornhill Farm (1924), Ordnance Survey 1880's 25" 1st Ed. Paper map Sheet 14: 9*)

**NP11: Milestone** (SU 3612 9010, HER number 10110). Early C19. Limestone, painted white with black lettering. Inscribed: Faringdon/6/Wantage/3.

**NP13: Ditched boundaries** (Centered on SU379 884, HER number 27778). Fragmentary remains of possible Medieval or Post Medieval ditched boundaries are visible as earthworks, on the north west edge of the village of East Challow.

**NP14: Post Medieval Bone Mill** (SU 370 891, HER number 13689). Located at Mill Farm. Marked Challow Saw Mill in 1910

## Listed Buildings

### Grade II

**The Old Schoolhouse** (SU38022 88106, HER number 7211), School and schoolhouse, now house. 1855-6, by G.E. Street. Coursed and dressed limestone rubble; old tile roof; stone stacks. Rectangular plan, former school to right. Gothic Revival style. One storey and attic; 7-bay range. Central gabled wall flanked by pointed chamfered doorway to plank door on right, and flat-roofed porch to left with similar doorway and flanking one-light windows. Chamfered stone-mullioned, and mullioned and transomed windows. Gabled roof; offset lateral stack to right of front, and rear gable end stack. Right gable wall has 3-light C13 style window with cusped heads over pointed chamfered doorway. One-light windows to rear. Interior not inspected. (*Listing entry*).

**Engineering works** (SU 38038 88377, HER number 9819), Factory, now offices. Dated 1840 on central parapet. Ashlar Bath limestone; Welsh slate roof. 2 storeys; 9-window range. Central entrance bay brought forward and carried up to parapet with heavy dentilled cornice and ball finial; keyed round-arch with impost blocks to partially blocked entry with C20 door; stone lintels over 2 blocked doorways flanking central bay. Stone lintels over sashes with half-H aprons on ground floor and reversed half-H aprons on first floor. Hipped roof. Rear elevation has segmental pediment over central bay; sash windows except 3 leaded casements in ground-floor round-headed windows. Interior not inspected. Was factory of Nalder and Nalder, agricultural engineers. (*Kathleen Philip, Victorian Wantage, 1968, p.82; Public Records Office 1R29/2/34 (Tithe Map)*)

**Challow House Farmhouse, Main Street** (SU37984 88323, SMR number 13691 – MOX10720). FARM (Post Medieval - 1540 AD to 1900 AD): Farmhouse, now house. c.1790. Flared Flemish bond and header bond brick with red brick quoins and dressings; Welsh slate roof; brick stacks. Double-depth plan. 2 storeys; 3-window range. Broken pediment with unusual Doric pilasters to 6-panelled door with fanlight. Gauged brick flat arches over sashes. Red brick flush storey band and dog-tooth eaves. Hipped roof; end stacks. Similar 2-window range right side wall has round-headed mid C19 sash inserted to lower rear window. Rear wall has segmental header arches over two 3-light leaded casements and one 2-light leaded cross window to stair-light. Interior. Straight-flight stairs. First floor has late 18th fireplaces with mid C19 grates. Attic has slatted partition and door with lock to original granary. (*Listing entry*).

**Barn approximately 15m east of Park Farmhouse** (not included), Main Street (SU38139 88181, HER number 22454). THRESHING BARN (LATE C18, Post Medieval - 1767 AD to 1799 AD) THRESHING BARN (C20, Post Medieval to Modern - 1900 AD to 1999 AD): English bond brick with diamond ventilation holes; C20 tile roof. 5-bay, central threshing floor. Flat brick arch over C18 plank doors with strap hinges set in heavy pegged frame. Half-hipped roof. Interior: Tie beams braced to posts set in rear wall. 5-bay queen-post roof with clasped purlins. (*Listing entry*).

**Bridge House, Main Street** (SU38027 88304, HER number 22456). TIMBER FRAMED HOUSE (C17, Post Medieval - 1600 AD to 1699 AD) HOUSE (LATE C18, Post Medieval - 1767 AD to 1799 AD) HOUSE (LATE C19, Post Medieval - 1867 AD to 1899 AD) SHOP (C20, Post Medieval to Modern - 1900 AD to 1999 AD): Originally timber-framed. Colourwashed Flemish bond brick; Old tile roof; brick stacks. 2-unit plan. 2 storeys; 3-window range. Carved brackets to flat hood over C20 door. Segmental header arches over C20 three-light casements and 2-light casement over door. Half-hipped and gabled roof; gable end stack to right. Late C19 outshot to rear, C20 shop extension to left. Interior: Chamfered and stopped beam and timber-framed walls to right. Chamfered beam with unusual cyma stop to left. (*Listing entry*).

**Barn approximately 30m west of Manor House Farmhouse, Main Street** (SU37965 88266, HER number 22458). THRESHING BARN (EARLY C18, Post Medieval - 1700 AD to 1732 AD) TIMBER FRAMED BARN (EARLY C18, Post Medieval - 1700 AD to 1732 AD) THRESHING BARN (C20, Post Medieval to Modern - 1900 AD to 1999 AD): C20 weatherboarding over timber frame on brick plinth; C20 interlocking tile roof. 6-bay plan with rear aisle, originally with 2 threshing floors. C18 strap hinges to double plank doors on left. Gabled roof. Interior: Posts braced to wall plates and tie beams. 6-bay collar-truss roof with side struts and clasped purlins.

**Wises Farmhouse, Main Street** (SU37915 88375, HER number 22455). FARMHOUSE (LATE C16/EARLY C17, Post Medieval - 1567 AD to 1632 AD) TIMBER FRAMED HOUSE (LATE C16/EARLY C17, Post Medieval - 1567 AD to 1632 AD) FARMHOUSE (MID C18, Post Medieval - 1733 AD to 1766

AD): Originally timber-framed. Flemish bond brick with flared headers; stone slate roof; brick stacks. L-plan. 2 storeys; original 3-

extended to 4-window range in C20. C20 door and pedimented surround. C20 casements. Cambered arches flank door; segmental arches above and to inserted first-floor window right of door. Dentilled eaves. C20 dormer. Roof is gabled with gable end stack to right, hipped with lateral stack to left. 3-storey stair-turret with hipped roof to rear. Similar 3-window range with gabled roof and ridge stack to rear left. Interior: Full set of late C16/early C17 chamfered and stopped beams and joists to right, with timber-framed walls and plain beams and joists to left. Common-rafter roof.

**Manor House Farmhouse and attached wall, Main Street** (SU38000 88278, HER number 22457). FARMHOUSE (EARLY C18, Post Medieval - 1700 AD to 1732 AD) GARDEN WALL (EARLY C18, Post Medieval - 1700 AD to 1732 AD) TIMBER FRAMED HOUSE (EARLY C18, Post Medieval - 1700 AD to 1732 AD): Flemish bond brick with flared headers; concrete tile roof; brick stacks. L-plan. 2 storeys; 3-window range. Segmental header arches over early C19 six-panelled (4 glazed) door and cavetto-moulded brick eaves. Roof is half-hipped to left, hipped to right; ridge stack. Similar 3-window range with gable end stack to rear right has similar 2-bay extension: outshut to left side wall of rear wing has segmental arch over C18 ribbed door. Interior: C19 panelled and C18 ribbed doors. Timber framed partition between front 2-unit range and rear wing. Subsidiary features: wall of Flemish bond brick with flared headers and limestone ashlar coping encloses part of front garden to right.

**Hill Farmhouse** (SU 363 898, HER number 22451). Farmhouse. c.1820. Flemish bond brick with flared headers; Welsh slate roof; brick stacks. U-plan. Regency style. 2 storeys; 3-window range. Doric porch to panelled door, Gauged brick segmental arches over tripartite sashes to left, sash over porch, mid C19 two-storey canted bay windows with horned sashes. Bracketed eaves. Hipped roof; lateral and gable end stacks. Doric porch to left side wall. Rear wall has central outshut flanked by gabled wings, one with bowed end, in similar style with sashes. Interior not inspected.

**Stable and Coach House approximately 10m west of Hill Farmhouse, Faringdon Road** (SU363 898, HER number 22452), Coursed limestone rubble, red brick quoins and dressings; Welsh slate roof. One storey; 3-bay range. Central bay brought forward and pedimented with square brick finial and pointed and keyed blind arches to each bay, with bull's eye over central arch. Hipped roof. Rear elevation and interior not inspected. Included for group value.

**Pump and trough, Main Street** (SU38044 88242, HER number 22459). PUMP (MID C19, Post Medieval - 1833 AD to 1866 AD) TROUGH (MID C19, Post Medieval - 1833 AD to 1866 AD): Cast iron pump with limestone trough beneath.

## Modern Period (AD1900-Present)

### 1900-1945

The OS map of 1901 shows little change from the detail shown in 1888. The group of houses to the north east is now labelled as 'Townsend', while a public house called 'The Goodlake Arms' is also shown within this settlement. No major developments were noted on the 1912 and 1932 edition OS maps, although Roman Way is labelled as 'Ickniel or Ickleton Way' for the first time on the 1912 edition.



### Grove Airfield 1941-1945

The southern part of Grove airfield was located within the parish, with the majority of structures being located around Woodhill Lane. This also included temporary accommodation (tent city) for American troops.

The following information was kindly supplied by Mr Don Summers, Chairman of the Ridgeway Military and Aviation Group (RMARG). Further information on the airfield as a whole can be found in A Short History of Grove Airfield 1941 – 1996 by Don Summers.

“Tent city was erected for the use of transport crews (mostly black troops) who delivered truckloads of stores from the docks at Avonmouth, Barry, Newport and Cardiff.

The bomb storage area at Grove airfield was installed for the RAF, but was never used as access was difficult and in any case was not required as the airfield never launched bombing raids. Until recently, the 3 fuse stores (centre right on Figure 6, at 3 corners of the 'oval'.) were still present, but all 3 have now been demolished. Close to them was the wastewater treatment plant, in the lower left of the field to the right of the 'oval' track. Between there and the west gate of the airfield there were 3 'fusing sheds' one of which remains. The original intention was that in these buildings, bombs would have fuses inserted and from there the bomb trailers would deliver them to the airfield. However, these also were never used.

Centre of the photo was a hutted area, and at the end closest to the bomb store was a small hut containing a huge electricity meter.

Alongside the track running N-E from the junction bottom left of centre was a row of concrete air-raid shelters and the building further along that track on the right was the sergeants mess (the erstwhile Country Club). This building burned down and was rebuilt after 1945.

A sub base (O-677) storing ammunition was used a mile NE of the airfield, close to the railway station, behind the Volunteer pub. capacity 5,000 tons. It was extensively used to provide small bombs and ammunition for the 9th USAAF fighter-bombers supporting the armies in France. It was staffed by black troops under the command of white officers. The 31st Transport Group 9th USAAF transported ammunition and other items from Grove to forward airstrips in France.

The site of Williams F1 engineering was originally the repair shop for the USAAF special purpose vehicles (ie. any vehicle apart from jeeps and GMC-type trucks) it later became a facility for repairing Royal Navy vehicles, then it was developed for Jansens pharmaceuticals before being sold to Williams.

RMARG members erected and dedicated a memorial to the 31st TG. It is located at the SW end of the former main runway between the Crown packaging buildings and the Technology Park.”

It is interesting to note the degree to which the ridge and furrow has survived in the surrounding fields.

Figure 6: Grove Airfield buildings at junction of Woodhill Lane and Marsh Lane. 1940s



#### 1945-present

At the publication of the 1961 OS edition, a series of streets and houses constructed now form a part of an extended Townsend. Aerial photographic evidence at the NMR suggests that this building programme commenced c. 1951.

By the publication of the OS edition of 1974, the settlement of Townsend has expanded to the north west effectively joining it to the historic core of East Challow to the north. This northern extension consists mainly of housing although a school with associated playing fields has also been constructed to the west. The names of these streets to the north east reflect the former field names from the 19th century.

#### Listed Buildings

##### *Grade II*

**K6 Telephone kiosk** (SU38031 88282, HER number 22453), Made by various contractors. Cast iron. Square kiosk with domed roof. Unperforated crowns to top panels and margin glazing to windows and door. (Listing entry).

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## Maps

Challow Farm c. 1780 from Northcroft's Map made in 1743

'Great Challow' 1753 by Edward Smith

Rocque's Map of Berkshire 1761 Sheet 11

Enclosure Map of Letcombe Regis & East Challow in the County of Berks 1801

East Challow Tithe Map 1848

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Sheet XXX.7 1st Edition 1888

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Sheet XXX.7 1901 Edition

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Sheet XXX.7 1912 Edition

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Sheet XXX.7 1932 Edition

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Sheet XXX.7 1961 Edition

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Sheet XXX.7 1974 Edition

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Sheet XXX.7 1981 Edition

## Other Sources

British Geological Survey Website

Oxfordshire History Centre

Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record

Oxford Archaeology

National Monuments Record: National Aerial Photography Library & Records



