

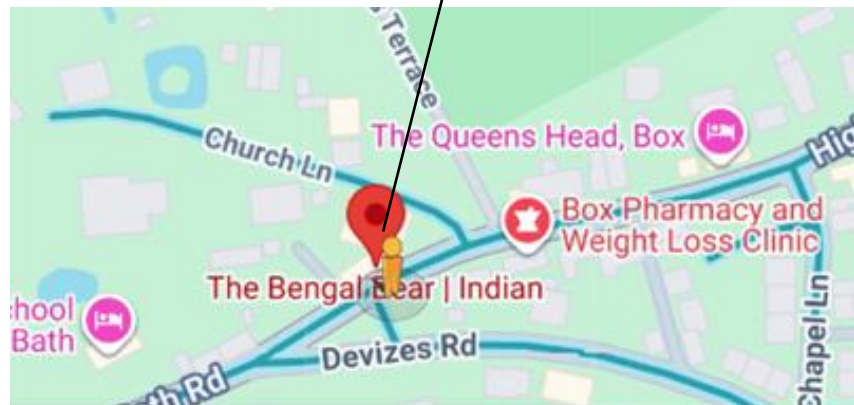
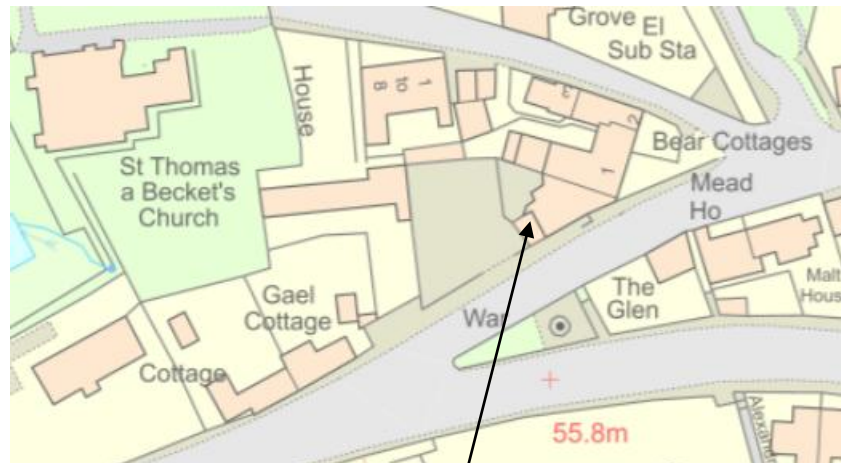
Nomination for listing as an Asset of Community Value

Nominated land

Area to be covered

Please describe the nominated land including its proposed boundaries and exact location, address, postcode and a map attachment.

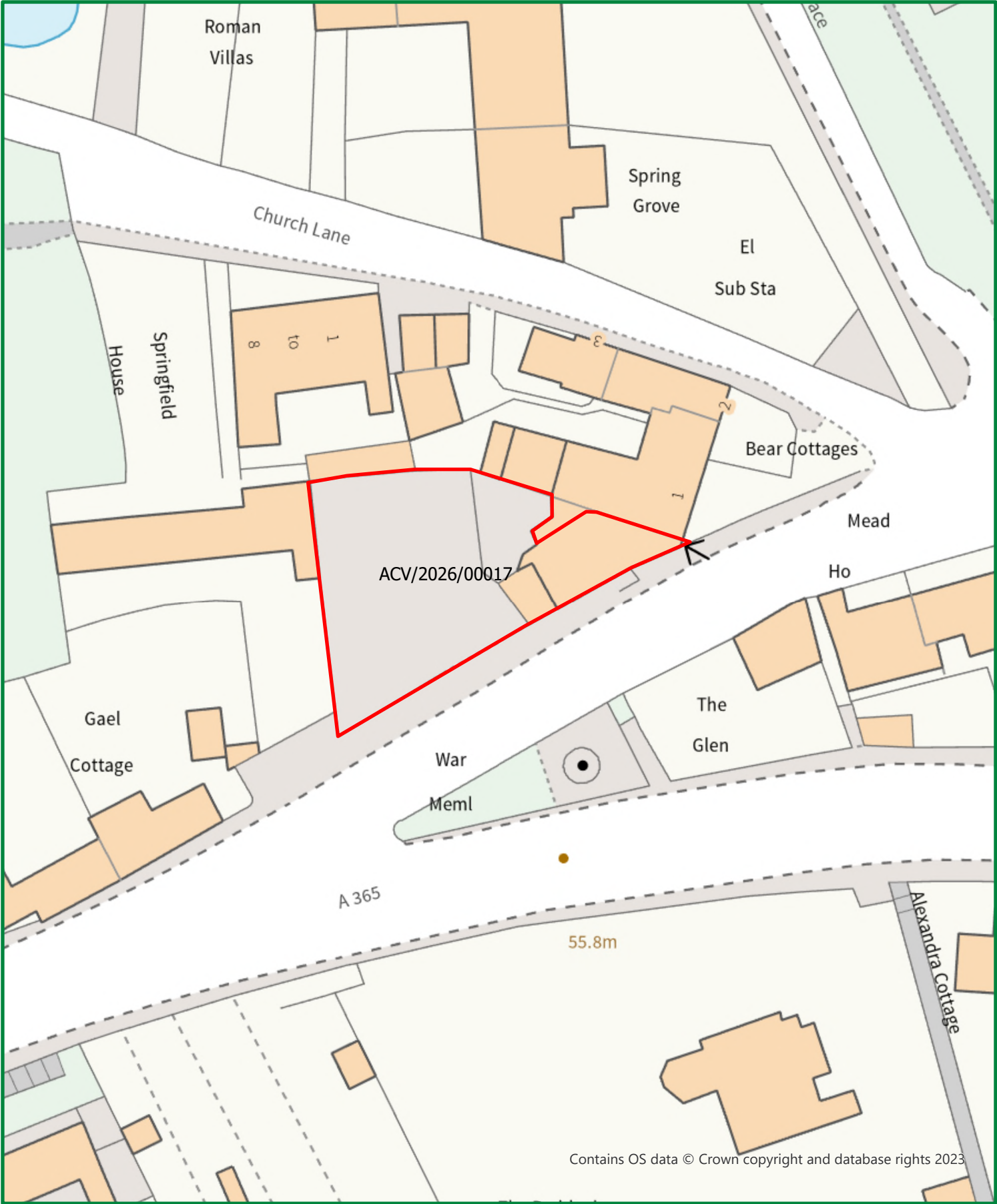
The Bengal Bear, Box, Wiltshire SN13 8NJ



What 3 words ///birdcage loafing bonnet



The Bengal Bear, Box, Corsham
SN13 8NJ



1:500



382377E 168457N m

Ownership Please state all the information you have on: (i) the names of current occupants of the land, and (ii) the names and current or last known addresses of all those holding a freehold or leasehold estate in the land; Please include a copy of the land registry entry.	Lease holder is: Mr Afzaal Uddin Proprietor The Bengal Bear Box SN13 8NJ
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Community value Your reasons for thinking that Wiltshire Council should conclude that the land is of 'community value', having regard to the definition in the Localism Act: • current primary use of the building/ land or use of the building/ land in the recent past furthers the social well-being or social interests (cultural, recreational, or sporting interests) of the local community • it is realistic to think that now or in the next five years there could continue to be primary use of the building/land which will further the social well-being or social interests of the local community (whether or not in the same way as before)	Please see attached letter.
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Eligibility to nominate Please provide evidence that you meet the definition of a community nominator as set out in the regulations (i.e. a parish council or voluntary or community body with a local connection). If an unincorporated group please provide a list of 21 names on the local electoral register.	Box Parish Council
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Your details

Parish	Box
Community area	Corsham Area Board
Your organisation	Parish Council at Box
Contact name	Steve Vickery
Position held	Clerk
Address	Council Office The Parade Market Place Box SN13 8NX
Telephone	01225 742356
Email	clerk@boxparishcouncil.gov.uk

I confirm that all information provided is accurate and complete

Name	S J Vickery
Date	30 th July 2026

Please return to assetsofcommunityvalue@wiltshire.gov.uk (scanned attachments can be accepted).



The Bengal Bear – Asset of Community Value request

Box Parish Council request that The Bengal Bear (BB) restaurant be listed as an Asset of Community Value (ACV); it makes a significant contribution to the social wellbeing and social interests of the local community.

The asset is regularly used by local residents. It provides an important venue for social interaction, cultural activity and community engagement. With the demise of many other cafes and pubs in the local area, the BB provides a key role in the hospitality offer at Box. Other restaurants, such as the Northey Arms and Quarryman's require a car or taxi, rather than the very accessible centre location within Box.

Examples of its community use include the sponsoring of the local Box Cricket club sports activities, the annual Revels festival and has helped to fund a Stephanie Millward, Para-Olympian who resides in the Parish.

One BB customer confirmed:

'The fundraising for Stephanie was in 2019, when the restaurant was filled and c£5,000 was raised. All food was supplied at below cost and the restaurant was closed for the night. The BB made all the arrangements at nil cost. BB has also helped with similar support for other athletes Piers Gilliver MBE (gold medallist in Tokyo), Jaclyn Narrocot (silver Beijing) and others. The Bengal Bear is also known to have sponsored local actors and musicians and taking them food packets during filming projects in the neighbourhood.'

It is noteworthy that the current restaurant was formerly a public house, The Bear (picture 1) until approximately 2014. Thus, there is a long association of providing a hospitality venue for the community. Increasingly in the past decades, the Parish has lost a number of shops and other pubs, emphasising the importance of this building as a venue (picture 2).

The asset serves people from the Parish area and beyond. It is one of the few accessible local facilities where residents can meet, dine together and build community relationships. Its contribution extends beyond its primary commercial function by providing a sizeable car park from where residents can access the local Pharmacy (Picture 3). This is crucial for elderly residents.

One resident has commented:



Box Parish Council

‘The Bengal Bear contributes indirectly to the community as well. The local pharmacy opposite has no parking of its own and the Bengal Bear offers its car park to be used instead. This agreement has preserved the viability and accessibility of the village pharmacy and is crucial particularly to elderly residents who obtain their medicines there. It also avoids illegal and obstructive parking on the A4’

If the asset were lost or converted to another use, the community would lose an important social facility and gathering place. It is understood that former plans to convert to residential use were withdrawn by the owner; conversion was opposed by the Council. There are very limited suitable alternatives within the local area that could provide the same service and opportunities for community participation.

There is strong local support for the asset, demonstrated by a petition comprising over 300 signatures. The Parish Planning Committee, Full Council, Unitary Councillor and local Member of Parliament, Dr Brian Mathew MP all unreservedly support the case for ACV status.

At the recent Revels festival (Village Fete), a newcomer visiting the Bengal Bear food stand, commented:

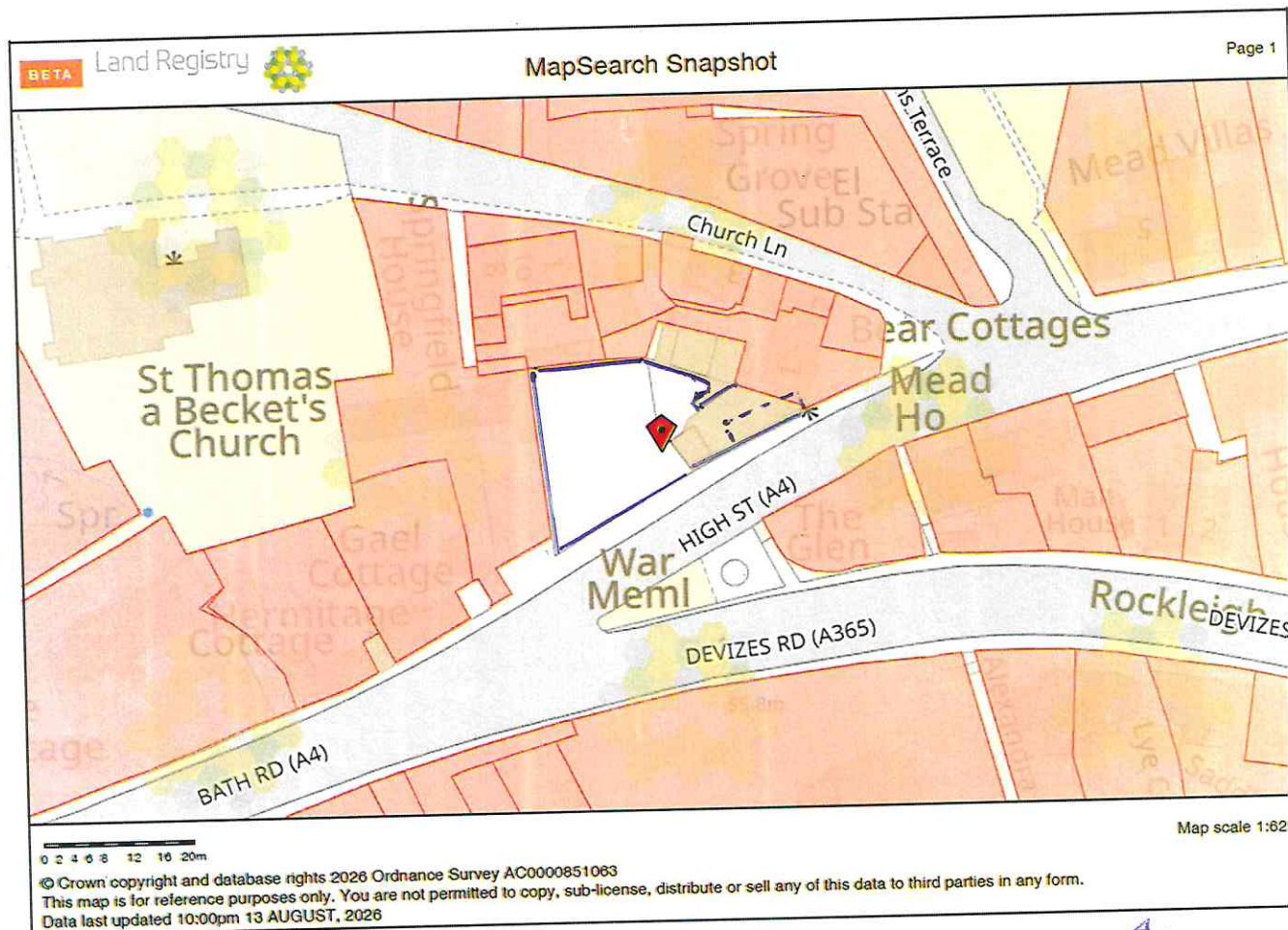
‘How refreshing to arrive in a small rural town to find such a wonderful restaurant. We never expected this!’

For these reasons, Box Parish Council believes that the current use of the asset furthers the social wellbeing and social interests of the local community, and that this use can realistically continue into the future. The Bengal Bear is key part of the fabric of this Parish and its continued existence as a social venue is of uppermost importance.



Box Parish Council

Land Registry Title



Please note that the property appears to be unregistered according to the Land Registry title.

Key

--- Flying Freehold

— Boundary

Area to be nominated excludes flying freehold.