THE GEORGE, SPALDWICK

Research Master — Edition 1

RESEARCH EDITION The fullest controlled account assembled as at 3 September 2026. Its purpose is comprehensive evidence control—not a claim that every inherited statement has been proved. Uncertainty, conflicting interpretations and negative findings are retained explicitly.

Purpose

To preserve the evidence behind the Spaldwick.com history, support further research and provide a citable record of the present evidence position.

Recommended citation

Mark Heath, The George, Spaldwick: Research Master, Edition 1 (Spaldwick.com, 3 September 2026).

1. How to use this research master

This edition brings together the existing Spaldwick.com account, the village timeline, official heritage information, public and company records, Spaldwick News and the results of a targeted evidence audit. It separates established facts, plausible but unverified claims, conflicts and material not yet found.

Researchers should cite the underlying source wherever it has been inspected rather than treating this synthesis as a substitute. “Inherited account” means that a proposition currently depends on existing Spaldwick.com material or local tradition. Catalogue references and transcriptions should be checked against original records before scholarly reliance or republication. Spaldwick News and relevant historical photographs can be consulted through Spaldwick.com.

The narrative in section 3 is a readable synthesis, not source-ready copy. Every proposition taken from it should be checked against the chronology, evidence audit and source register before republication; no public account should silently strengthen an unverified, disputed or inferred claim.

Evidence status	Meaning
Verified	Supported by an identified authoritative or direct source; wording may still need refinement.
Strongly supported	Multiple or high-quality sources agree, but a cited underlying primary item may still await direct inspection.
Supported	Evidence exists, but may be secondary, incomplete, undated or insufficient for the strongest wording.
Plausible but unverified	The claim fits known context but currently lacks independent evidence for this person, property or date.
Unverified / not found	The claim depends on an inherited account, or the searched sources did not produce confirming evidence.
Inference	A reasoned interpretation that must be distinguished from an explicitly recorded fact.
Conflicting	Identified sources or interpretations disagree; the conflict must remain visible until resolved.
Context only	Relevant background that does not prove a George-specific proposition.
Current	Time-sensitive information that must be rechecked immediately before publication.

VERSION CONTROL Edition 1 records the evidence position as at 3 September 2026. Future editions should identify newly inspected primary sources, corrections and every claim whose status changes.

2. What is already strongly established

- The George is a Grade II* listed sixteenth- and seventeenth-century timber-framed inn on High Street.
- The surviving building contains significant architectural fabric, including inglenook hearths, moulded and stop-chamfered beams and wall paintings interpreted by Historic England as possibly early seventeenth century.
- A reproduced 1798 document supports The George Inn's existence as a recognised village venue by the late eighteenth century; the original archival provenance remains to be recorded.
- The George was one of three historic High Street pubs and is the only one still trading; the precise early publican sequence remains incomplete.
- Its history connects naturally with the wider history of Spaldwick, the old road, the service station, local families, historic photographs and the village timeline.
- Spaldwick News provides extensive contemporary evidence of its social and community role from 2008 onwards.
- Punch's 2022 announcement independently records ownership at that date, a £270,000 refurbishment and reopening by management partners Kerry and Simon Trayhorn.

3. Full historical narrative assembled so far

Origins: manor, church lands and the Darrington connection

The George stands on High Street in the centre of Spaldwick and is one of the oldest village buildings still in everyday use. The wider Manor and Soke of Spaldwick passed from Ely to the Bishop of Lincoln in 1109. Victoria County History states that the bishop exchanged the manor and soke with the king in 1547 and that the Crown retained it until 1620. An inherited local account associates the origins of The George with a Darrington family steward based at the Prebendal or Manor House at Stow Longa, who is said to have remained in office and built a substantial house at Spaldwick. No independent record found so far names a Darrington as steward or connects that family with this particular building.

EVIDENCE NOTE The formerly used 1539 transfer date should not be repeated. The 1547 exchange is strongly established by Victoria County History, which cites Calendar of Patent Rolls 1547–48, p. 153; the underlying Patent Roll entry still needs to be inspected. The Darrington steward and builder story remains a local tradition awaiting independent evidence.

The reported Bedell family connection

The inherited local account says that by 1584 the house had passed to William Bedell of Ellington, who conveyed it to his younger brother Edward Bedell of Easton. According to the same account, it remained associated with the Bedell family for almost a century, initially let to occupiers and later occupied by Edward's grandson, also Edward. Hearth-tax records for 1664 and 1674 reportedly show Edward Bedell liable for eight hearths—the largest assessment for any house in Spaldwick. A smithy is also said to have been associated with The George. A Cambridgeshire Archives catalogue description places a smithy beside The George; this does not establish that smithing took place within the inn building itself.

EVIDENCE NOTE The Bedell–King–Piggott ownership sequence has not been independently established. The relevant hearth-tax returns have been identified but their Spaldwick entries have not yet been inspected. These statements remain inherited research claims, not settled property history.

The reported transition from house to inn

The inherited local account says that Edward Bedell died in 1676 and that the property passed to his only child, Frances, and her husband Robert King. It credits them with opening it as The George Inn and says that the property was conveyed to William Piggott in 1679. It is thought to have become a coaching stage around this period, serving travellers and horses on the main road linking Kettering, Huntingdon, Cambridge and Colchester. No contemporary deed, probate, licensing or naming evidence has yet been located for this sequence.

A further historical lead appears in local Manor Farm material: the La Rochefoucauld brothers, travelling through England in 1785, reportedly stopped at The George and commented on the extensive local pasturage and production of milk and cheese for the London market via King's Lynn. This potentially valuable episode should be traced to the original travel account before use.

The George among Spaldwick's three pubs

By the early twentieth century The George traded alongside The Bell (formerly the Blue Bell) and the Axe and Compasses, all on High Street. The inherited Spaldwick.com account says that the 1911 census identifies John Dew, aged 49 and born in Alconbury, as innkeeper at The George, living there with his wife Emma and children John Robert and Emma Daisy; the original return has not yet been inspected independently. The George is the sole survivor as a pub: The Bell ceased trading in 1925 and later became a shop, post office and private house; the Axe and Compasses also closed, although its closing date remains to be established.

EVIDENCE NOTE John Dew and the separate c.1914 John Edwards publican lead remain dependent on the inherited account. No census image, directory page or licensing entry has yet been inspected to verify either identification.

Cycle shop, petrol pumps and the Edwards garage story

Historic photographs appear to show part of The George's frontage used for trade as well as hospitality. One annotated High Street image identifies a vehicle bay as "James William Church – Cycle shop" and associates it with Edwards Bros; other images show petrol pumps. Later garage imagery and trade material refer to "N. S. Edwards", Austin and Esso, and describe motor-engineering services. These are valuable visual and local-history leads, but no independent directory or business record has yet established James William Church, the sequence of businesses, or when activity moved to separate High Street premises.

Judith Lilley, granddaughter of one of the Edwards brothers, recalled that the family owned The George around 1938. This is a useful oral-history lead rather than documentary proof. Edwards Bros (Spaldwick) Limited was incorporated on 6 February 1958. Its company history confirms Edwards-family involvement but neither establishes the company's original automotive trade nor retrospectively proves a George connection in 1938. Business operation, occupation of premises and property ownership must remain separate evidence questions.

Architecture, wall paintings and national protection

Historic England describes a sixteenth- and seventeenth-century timber-framed and plastered inn with plain-tile roofs. The earliest two-storey hall and jettied cross-wing has a half-hipped roof. An early seventeenth-century westward extension added another room and a gabled two-storey cross-wing with attics, linked at first-floor level by a covered way to a late timber-framed barn. The exterior includes notable stacks, horizontal sliding sash windows and panelled and half-glazed doors. This current interpretation differs from the 1926 RCHME inventory and the closely related 1936 Victoria County History description, which date the building as a whole to the early seventeenth century and say that it was remodelled around 1700 or altered about a century later. The present Grade II* list therefore appears to reflect a later re-reading of the fabric that identifies an earlier sixteenth-century core; it does not identify a builder.

Inside are large inglenook hearths, moulded and stop-chamfered ceiling beams, and wall paintings—possibly early seventeenth century—showing four large figures dressed for hunting. A Norris Museum photograph dated April 1938 and attributed to J. R. Garrood records the paintings. The building was listed on 21 July 1951 at Grade II*, list entry 1130204. Historic England's official record cites the Royal

Commission inventory, Pevsner, the Victoria County History, Norris Museum/Inskip Ladds material and Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Archaeological Society transactions.

The modern pub and investment

The George has continued as a pub and restaurant, although with changing operators and periods of closure and refurbishment. The Spaldwick timeline records a closure for extensive refurbishment in 2003 and the withdrawal of Cosy Pubs with new operators arriving in January 2012. The available evidence does not establish when Cosy Pubs began operating The George or whether it carried out the 2003 work; continuous tenure across that interval must not be inferred. In 2022 owner Punch Pubs & Co invested £270,000 in an eight-week refurbishment of the bar and dining areas, furniture and furnishings. Management Partners Kerry and Simon Trayhorn reopened the pub in October 2022. Punch's announcement emphasised their intention to integrate into village life and listen to local residents.

4. Consolidated chronology

Date	Event or development	Status
1109–1547	The Manor and Soke of Spaldwick is held by the Bishop of Lincoln, apart from two brief interruptions recorded by Victoria County History.	Strongly supported — VCH
1547	The bishop exchanges the manor and soke with the king; the Crown subsequently retains it until 1620.	Strongly supported — inspect cited Patent Roll
16th century, undated	Local tradition associates a Darrington steward with construction of the house later known as The George; no independent evidence yet connects the family to this building.	Unverified / not found
By 1584	The local account says William Bedell conveyed the house to his younger brother Edward Bedell.	Plausible but unverified
1664 and 1674	The local account reports Edward Bedell assessed on eight hearths, the largest house assessment in Spaldwick. Its dates match the conventional citation of Huntingdonshire's surviving nominal returns: Michaelmas 1664 and Lady Day 1674.	Plausible but unverified
1676	The local account says Edward Bedell died and the house passed to Frances Bedell and Robert King.	Unverified / not found
c. 1676–79	Robert and Frances King are credited locally with opening the house as The George Inn.	Unverified / not found
1679	The local account says the property was conveyed to William Piggott; it is thought to have become a coaching stage around this period.	Unverified / not found; inference

Date	Event or development	Status
1785	La Rochefoucauld brothers reportedly stop at The George and comment on local pasturage and cheese production.	Unverified / not found — trace original
20 Jun 1798	A reproduced land-tax instruction directs assessors to deliver completed parish assessments to The George Inn at ten o'clock. The reproduction has been inspected; its original archival provenance remains to be recorded.	Supported
1911	The inherited account identifies John Dew as innkeeper with his family. A direct image or independently reproducible census transcription is still required.	Unverified / not found
c. 1914	The inherited account identifies John Edwards as publican at The George around this date. No independent directory or licensing entry has yet been located.	Unverified / not found
Mid-20th century, exact date unknown	Photographs and annotations suggest a High Street garage/cycle/petrol story involving James William Church and Edwards Bros, but the operator sequence and relationship to The George are not independently established.	Supported as visual context only
Apr 1938	A Norris Museum photograph records the wall paintings.	Supported — obtain original catalogue record
c. 1938	Edwards family ownership around this time is recalled by Judith Lilley.	Unverified / not found — oral history
21 Jul 1951	The George is listed Grade II*, entry 1130204.	Verified
6 Feb 1958	Edwards Bros (Spaldwick) Limited is incorporated. The incorporation record does not establish its original trade or when any garage moved premises.	Verified; later business sequence unverified
By 1978	A specialist service-station history reports a garage on the edge of Spaldwick. This is a separate site from the earlier High Street/George leads and is not linked by operator name.	Context only
1983	The A604 Spaldwick bypass opens, changing the road context for the edge-of-village garage.	Context only — verify primary source
1988–89	The specialist site history reports Esso planning and opening a new filling station beside the old edge-of-village garage.	Context only
1997	The same source reports demolition of the old edge-of-village garage and redevelopment for housing.	Context only
2003	The village timeline records The George closing for extensive refurbishment. No evidence yet links the work to Cosy Pubs or establishes that group's starting date.	Supported; operator link unverified

Date	Event or development	Status
2007 onward	Father Christmas becomes an annual village tradition; magazine evidence from 2008 onward repeatedly places The George at the end of the route for carols and refreshments.	Supported
2008	Mark and Louise operate The George; food, jazz, blues, Christmas and New Year events are documented.	Supported — Spaldwick News
2009	Regular themed food, music, quiz and social events are promoted throughout the year.	Supported — Spaldwick News
Aug 2011	A London Gazette notice records Louise Marie Smith as having lately resided and carried on business at The George.	Verified
Jan 2012	The village timeline records Cosy Pubs withdrawing and new operators taking over.	Supported
2012–13	Steve is named at The George; the pub hosts music, fundraising meals, clubs, meetings and festive events.	Supported — Spaldwick News
24 Jan 2014	A popular Burns Supper is held with bagpipes and haggis.	Supported — Spaldwick News
23 Apr 2014	The first St George's Day celebration is held at The George.	Supported
2015–16	A sold-out 1940s Dinner of the Decade is held; The George continues as a meeting and event venue.	Supported — Spaldwick News
2017–19	St George's and Harvest suppers, a Poker Run, fireworks, Bake Off judging, home-worker lunches and Bunting Week are documented.	Supported — Spaldwick News
2020	Steve and Alister reopen after the COVID-19 lockdown with new operating arrangements.	Supported — Spaldwick News
2021	The George supports Remembrance and Christmas events and is considered for the village defibrillator.	Supported — Spaldwick News
Jun 2022	The pub hosts Best of British Jubilee activities including food, music and a bouncy castle.	Supported — Spaldwick News
Sep 2022	Steve and Allister leave after ten years running The George.	Supported — Spaldwick News
2022	Punch funds an eight-week, £270,000 refurbishment; Kerry and Simon Trayhorn reopen in October.	Verified
2023–24	Live music, quizzes, Valentine's events, Bake Off involvement and Christmas gatherings continue.	Supported — Spaldwick News
Today	The George remains the only one of Spaldwick's three historic pubs still trading.	Current — check before publication

5. What remains unknown

- Locate and verify the earliest deed or reliable account connecting Darrington, the Crown transfer and construction of the house.
- Confirm the complete Bedell–King–Piggott ownership sequence and the evidence for opening as an inn and becoming a coaching stage.
- Check the original hearth-tax entries and smithy evidence.
- Trace the 1785 La Rochefoucauld account to its primary text.
- Build a landlord/licensee chronology using census, licensing, directories, newspapers and brewery records.
- Establish ownership and brewery connections between the seventeenth century and modern Punch ownership.
- Clarify the James William Church, Edwards Bros and George ownership/tenancy relationships and dates.
- Bridge the unproven 1958–1978 business sequence: establish Edwards Bros' original trade and premises, when any garage moved, and whether the edge-of-village garage had the same operator.
- Confirm the history and physical relationship of the listed barn and present restaurant.
- Investigate the building's wall paintings through Norris Museum, Inskip Ladds and archaeological sources.
- Fill the 1958–2003 and 2003–2022 gaps: operators, refurbishments, closures and notable events.

These are headline gaps only. Researchers should use the proposition-by-proposition evidence tables and the specific "Further research" actions later in this master as the operational research plan.

6. Evidence audit

An initial targeted search has produced several useful findings and, just as importantly, has exposed where inherited wording needs to be treated more carefully. These are research results for the evidence master, not publication-ready conclusions.

Finding	What it changes or adds	Status
The ecclesiastical-estate date has been substantially resolved	Victoria County History states that the bishop exchanged the Manor and Soke of Spaldwick with the king in 1547 and cites Calendar of Patent Rolls 1547–48, p. 153. C. C. Taylor independently repeats the 1547 sequence. VCH also says "until 1543", but its associated footnote cites no record later than the 1420s; this appears internally inconsistent and may be an editorial slip. The underlying Patent Roll page still needs inspection.	1547 strongly supported; primary citation pending
The George was functioning as a recognised village venue by 1798	A reproduced 1798 land-tax instruction required completed assessments to be delivered to The George Inn at ten o'clock on 20 June. The inspected reproduction supports the inn's established civic and administrative role, but the original item's repository and reference remain to be recorded.	Supported; original provenance incomplete
The John Dew and John Edwards leads remain unverified	No independent 1911 census image, directory entry or licensing record for either man has been located. The University of Leicester Historical Directories collection is a future search location, not evidence already consulted.	Unverified; provenance corrected
A 2011 operator lead has been identified	The London Gazette of 22 August 2011 records Louise Marie Smith as having lately resided at and carried on business at The George Inn, 5–7 High Street, Spaldwick. This helps explain the transition immediately before the January 2012 operator change.	Verified public notice; context still needed
Archive material is richer than the current source list suggests	The Cambridgeshire Archives catalogue identifies photographs of The George and village street, an image described as the smithy beside The George, and a Xerox copy of a Peterborough Advertiser illustration or article concerning sixteenth-century wall paintings at The George. "Beside" does not prove use within the inn. The catalogue's sixteenth-century description also differs from Historic England's "possibly early seventeenth century" dating and must be checked against the underlying item before being treated as a scholarly conflict. Other catalogue groups contain additional George photographs.	Verified catalogue leads; content inspection required
The original RCHME survey archive may contain unpublished building evidence	Historic England identifies RCH01/155 as the working archive behind the 1926 Inventory of Huntingdonshire, comprising notes, sketches and photographs. The Spaldwick/George item within this series should be located and requested, as it may explain features compressed into the later statutory listing.	Verified archive-series lead

EVIDENCE CONCLUSION The house has traditionally been associated with a Darrington steward and was in Bedell possession by 1584. No evidence currently supports naming a Darrington as its certain builder. The manor exchange belongs to 1547, not the previously repeated 1539 date.

Early origins, Darrington and the 1547 transfer

Proposition	Status	Basis and next action
Manor/soke exchanged with the Crown in 1547	Strongly supported	VCH vol. 3, pp. 97–100, citing Calendar of Patent Rolls 1547–48, p. 153; Taylor 1990. Inspect the calendar entry before calling the primary record verified.
VCH statement that the bishop held it “until 1543”	Conflicting/ probable error	The accompanying footnote does not support that terminal date; no explanatory 1543 event has been identified.
A change of Bishop explains the VCH “1543” date	Unverified / not found	John Longland held the see continuously from 1521 until his death in May 1547, so an episcopal succession does not explain 1543.
A 1688 house marked “P D” proves the Darrington connection	Context only	VCH footnote 8 notes a different Spaldwick house with the initials P D, suggested as possibly connected with a Dorrington family. It is a later, separate building and must not be linked to The George without evidence.
A Darrington served as steward at Spaldwick	Unverified	No independent record found; absence from VCH is not proof against the claim.
A Darrington was connected with this house	Unverified	No independent property or building record found.
A Darrington built the surviving house	Unverified and chronologically disputed	Older surveys date the building to early C17; Historic England now recognises C16 and C17 fabric but names no builder.
Date of the surviving fabric	Conflicting scholarly interpretations	RCHME 1926/VCH 1936: early C17, remodelled about 1700; current Historic England: C16 core extended in early C17.

The Bedell–King–Piggott ownership sequence

Open-web research has reached diminishing returns. It supports the wider geographical plausibility of the Bedell surname, but it has not independently verified any link in the specific George ownership narrative. The family and property claims below must therefore remain visibly provisional.

Proposition	Status	Basis and next action
Bedells established in Huntingdonshire, including Easton and Great Catworth	Supported as context only	Independent pedigree and county-history material confirms the surname in the area, but the pedigree located concerns the Hamerton branch and does not establish the George individuals.
William Bedell of Ellington held the George by 1584	Plausible but unverified	Presently dependent on the Spaldwick.com narrative; no independent deed, will or manorial record found.
William conveyed the house to Edward Bedell of Easton	Not found	No independent record located.

Proposition	Status	Basis and next action
Edward Bedell occupied the house in 1664/1674 and paid eight-hearth tax	Not found—test in the hearth-tax records	The hearth-tax returns may provide the first independent anchor for Edward's residence and the scale of the house.
The house passed in 1676 to Frances Bedell and Robert King	Not found	No will, probate or parish-register evidence located.
Robert and Frances King opened it as The George Inn	Not found	No contemporary licensing or naming evidence located.
The property was conveyed to William Piggott in 1679	Not found	No online deed, feet-of-fines entry or archive catalogue match located.

Further research: the ownership sequence

- Search PCC wills (TNA PROB 11) and local probate indexes for Edward and William Bedell, Robert King and William Piggott, recording residences, kinship, property and beneficiaries.
- Check Huntingdonshire Feet of Fines for 1679 (TNA CP 25/2), including the partial seventeenth-century indexes in IND 1/7178–7232 and IND 1/17217–17268, for Piggott, King, Bedell and Spaldwick.
- Search Cambridgeshire Archives (Huntingdon office) parish registers, manorial papers, rentals, deeds and conveyances for the named people and the specific property.
- Inspect TNA E 179/122/226—variously described by collection, assessment or administrative dating as 1662, Michaelmas 1664 or 1665—and the Lady Day 1674 return E 179/145/2; direct inspection remains necessary.
- Identify surviving Kimbolton/Manchester estate papers that may contain Spaldwick rentals, tenancies or conveyances after the manor descended with Kimbolton.

Hearth tax and the reported smithy

The apparent 1662/1664/1665 disagreement is a dating-convention issue, not evidence of three separate surviving Huntingdonshire returns. TNA E 179/122/226 is described differently according to whether a source emphasises the assessment or collection period, or the later administrative return. The conventional local-history pair is Michaelmas 1664 and Lady Day 1674, so the dates used by Spaldwick.com are plausible and likely correct. The contents still require direct inspection.

Proposition	Status	Basis and next action
Relevant Huntingdonshire nominal returns identified	Verified at catalogue/citation level	TNA E 179/122/226, conventionally cited as Michaelmas 1664 but also discussed as a 1662 assessment or 1665 return; and E 179/145/2, Lady Day 1674. Exemptions: E 179/122/231.
Spaldwick.com's "1664 and 1674" date pair	Plausible/likely correct	It matches the standard collection-period convention for the two surviving nominal returns; it should not be treated as an error.
Edward Bedell assessed for eight hearths in Spaldwick	Unverified	Dependent on the inherited local account until the returns or a reliable parish transcription are inspected.
Bedell's was the largest assessment in Spaldwick	Unverified	Requires comparison with every Spaldwick entry in each relevant return.
A smithy operated within or beside The George	Not found	No building-specific record located.
Blacksmithing/farriery was practised in seventeenth-century Spaldwick	Supported as context only	Apprenticeship material identifies the Bayes family of Spaldwick as blacksmiths/farriers, but provides no address or link to The George.

Further research: hearth tax and smithy

- Inspect TNA E 179/122/226 and E 179/145/2 for Spaldwick and Bedell; transcribe the complete parish entries so the eight-hearth and largest-assessment claims can be tested directly.
- Check whether the proposed British Record Society/Cambridgeshire Records Society Huntingdonshire Hearth Tax transcription has since been published.
- Inspect TNA E 179/122/231 for relevant exemption entries.
- Ask Cambridgeshire Archives whether local duplicates, constables' accounts or related Spaldwick assessment material survives.
- For the smithy, seek a source linking a named smith or smithy to this precise property; do not substitute general evidence of village blacksmithing.

Publicans and occupiers, 1679–1939

General open-web searching has reached diminishing returns without producing a continuous George occupier sequence. No Leicester directory pages were found or cited for John Dew or John Edwards: the Historical Directories collection is solely a proposed next place to search. Both names therefore remain dependent on the inherited Spaldwick.com account.

Proposition	Status	Basis and next action
Robert King or William Piggott as seventeenth-century innkeepers	Not found	No new licensing, directory or property record located; retain the unverified status.
John Dew as innkeeper in the 1911 census	Unverified	The claim remains dependent on the inherited account until the original RG14 return or a reliable independent transcription is inspected.
John Edwards as publican around 1914	Unverified	No independent directory or licensing entry has been located; the claim remains dependent on the inherited account.
Continuous occupier/licensee sequence, 1679–1939	Not found	No defensible sequence can yet be constructed from open-web evidence.

Further research: publicans and occupiers

- Inspect the original 1911 census return in RG14 through an authorised image provider and capture its full citation.
- Browse the University of Leicester Historical Directories collection directly for Spaldwick across available Huntingdonshire volumes; preserve page images, permanent links, directory titles and publication years.
- Search Huntingdonshire licensing registers, Quarter Sessions material and alehouse recognizances at Cambridgeshire Archives (Huntingdon office).
- Use electoral registers to cross-check named occupiers, while distinguishing residence from operation or ownership of the inn.
- Search the British Newspaper Archive for licensing transfers, auctions, brewery notices and named publicans using spelling and title variants.

Owners and brewery connections, 1800–1958

Open-web work has not established The George's freehold or brewery chain between 1800 and 1958. Companies House evidence securely documents Edwards Bros (Spaldwick) Limited and its directors, but that corporate history must not be converted into proof that the company or family owned the pub. Punch's own 2022 announcement independently identifies Punch as owner at that date.

Proposition	Status	Basis and next action
Edwards Bros (Spaldwick) Limited and Edwards-family directorship	Verified corporate history	Companies House filings establish the company and family/director continuity. They do not, without a title or conveyance, establish ownership of The George.

Proposition	Status	Basis and next action
David James Edwards and Peter Reginald Edwards recorded as directors	Verified in filings consulted during earlier work	David James Edwards was recorded at Glebe Farm, Barham Road. Peter Reginald Edwards was recorded at 33 Carnaile Road, Alconbury Weald. Current status and addresses are time-sensitive and should be rechecked before publication.
Punch ownership in 2022	Verified company-issued evidence	Punch's 2022 reopening announcement identifies Punch as owner and records the refurbishment investment.
Greene King connection	Resolved—not applicable	The apparent result concerns The George Hotel in Huntingdon town, not The George at Spaldwick.
Freehold ownership or brewery tie, 1800–1958	Not found	No George-specific deed, auction particular, tied-house record or brewery-estate document located online.
Edwards family owned The George around 1938	Unverified oral-history lead	Companies House evidence does not prove this recollection; test separately through deeds, directories, licensing and the separate garage evidence.

Further research: ownership and brewery connections

- Search Cambridgeshire Archives licensing registers and Quarter Sessions alehouse records for owners as well as licensees.
- Obtain the current and any historic Land Registry title material, noting that the register may provide only a partial chain.
- Search surviving Huntingdon-area brewery estate papers and sale catalogues for The George, Spaldwick, including title and spelling variants.
- Review historical Companies House filings for property references or predecessor entities, while keeping company operation distinct from pub ownership.
- Reuse the Spaldwick News corpus for the post-1958 operator and refurbishment story; it cannot by itself close the earlier freehold gap.

Wall paintings, barn and building development

The open-web stage has materially improved the architectural evidence without establishing the paintings' exact discovery date or the barn's original function. A search result for the George Inn at Norton St Philip, Somerset, has been explicitly rejected as a same-name false match and must not enter the Spaldwick evidence chain.

Proposition	Status	Basis and next action
Wall paintings absent from the published 1926 RCHME description	Verified	The full George Inn entry describes fabric, roof phasing and staircase but does not mention paintings. Silence cannot prove that they were hidden or unknown.
Paintings documented in April 1938	Supported	A Norris Museum photograph is captioned “Frescoes, The George Inn, Spaldwick – April 1938” and attributed to J. R. Garrood; obtain the original catalogue record and curatorial notes.
Documented discovery probably occurred between 1926 and 1938	Inference only	The inference arises from RCHME silence followed by the dated photograph. It is not a confirmed discovery date or circumstance.
Four large hunting figures, possibly early seventeenth century	Supported	Historic England’s statutory description provides this interpretation and cites VCH, RCHME, Norris/Inskip Ladds, Pevsner and the archaeological society transactions.
Date assigned to the wall paintings	Conflicting catalogue descriptions; inspect underlying item	A Cambridgeshire Archives catalogue description refers to a Peterborough Advertiser item concerning “sixteenth-century” paintings, while Historic England says “possibly early seventeenth century”. The catalogue wording is not yet a scholarly dating conclusion; inspect the item before resolving or publicising the discrepancy.
J. R. Garrood was active in relevant antiquarian circles	Verified as context	Huntingdonshire Advisory Committee deposits include his obituary and related notes; this supports his identity, not by itself the photograph attribution.
Late timber-framed barn linked by covered first-floor way	Verified	Historic England explicitly describes the physical link.
Barn’s precise date, original function and conversion into today’s restaurant	Not found	The listing’s word “late” is relative and does not establish a precise construction date or use history.

Further research: building and wall paintings

- Inspect the Sidney Inskip Ladds papers at Cambridgeshire Archives, Huntingdon, accessions 4698 and 4706, for first-hand notes, drawings or photographs of the paintings.
- Obtain Transactions of the Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Archaeological Society, vol. VI, p. 49, through the society or a specialist library.
- Request the original April 1938 photograph and accompanying catalogue or curatorial notes from the Norris Museum.
- Inspect Pevsner, Buildings of England: Cambridgeshire (1954), p. 345, for additional interpretation.
- Search listed-building-consent and planning files for conservation reports on the paintings, linked barn and restaurant conversion.

Cycle shop, Edwards Bros and garage

Companies House supplies a precise corporate anchor but does not verify the photographic and oral-history sequence from cycle shop to garage and petrol sales. The 1958 company must not be projected backwards into the reported 1938 George ownership or used as proof of the earlier business activity.

Proposition	Status	Basis and next action
Edwards Bros (Spaldwick) Limited incorporated 6 February 1958	Verified	Companies House, company number 00598511.
Bernard Harry, Ivy Bertha and Wilfred John Edwards represent the founding generation	Supported, not fully proved	Their officer records and ages are consistent with the 1958 generation, but “appointed before 31 December 1991” does not itself prove appointment at incorporation; inspect the original formation documents.
David James Edwards recorded as a director since before 1991	Verified in records consulted	A useful continuity point; active/current status and address are time-sensitive and must be rechecked before publication.
Peter Reginald Edwards joined the board in 2015	Verified in records consulted	He should not be described as part of the founding generation.
Original company trade was automotive or garage-related	Not found	Current SIC codes reflect later diversified activities; inspect the 1958 memorandum, articles and early filings.
James William Church ran a Spaldwick cycle shop	Not found independently	The name remains an annotation/local-history lead without a directory, census or advertisement match.
Smithy/cycle shop developed into garage and petrol pumps	Not found independently	Photographs and supplied annotations suggest elements of the story, but no dated documentary sequence has been established.
A garage stood on Spaldwick High Street, probably in the mid-twentieth century	Supported photographically, date approximate	An undated collectible postcard labelled “Garage, High Street, Spaldwick” shows Essolene branding. It provides no operator name, firm date or proof of a George location.
An edge-of-village garage existed by 1978 and was later replaced beside the bypass	Supported by specialist secondary source	Motorway Services Online supplies a 1978–1997 sequence. This concerns a separate site and cannot be used to prove continuity from The George, Church or Edwards Bros.
Edwards family owned The George around 1938	Unverified	The 1958 incorporation neither supports nor contradicts the recollection; property evidence is required.

Further research: cycle shop and garage

- Browse Huntingdonshire directories from the mid-1920s through the 1930s for Church, cycle, motor, garage, blacksmith and petrol entries at Spaldwick.
- Inspect the original 1958 Companies House incorporation documents and early filings for the company’s objects, subscribers, registered office and stated trade.

- Search Cambridgeshire Archives directories, rating and valuation records, including material deriving from the 1910 Finance Act survey, and relevant photographic catalogues.
- Inspect the 1911 and 1921 censuses for James William Church and relevant occupations in Spaldwick.
- Compare dated Ordnance Survey mapping and later planning records to locate the garage, smithy or petrol installation relative to The George.
- Inspect the 1939 Register to test occupiers and occupations close to the date of the Edwards ownership recollection.

Operators and changes, 1939–2022

Open-web research has not produced a landlord or occupier sequence for 1939–2008. It does identify Cosy Pubs Group as an operator before 2022, but not the dates of its tenure. The attractive possibility that its refurbishment was the work recorded locally in 2003 remains an inference and must not be stated as fact. Punch ownership and the Trayhorn management partnership belong to the later 2022 chapter.

Proposition	Status	Basis and next action
Cosy Pubs Group operated The George before 2022	Supported, undated	A restaurant-guide description links The George to the team behind the Eight Bells and Cricketers Arms; the group identity is corroborated by a sister-pub reference. These are secondary sources and do not establish tenure dates.
Cosy Pubs carried out the reported 2003 refurbishment	Plausible but unverified	The descriptions may fit, but no dated source connects the group's work to 2003.
Named licensees or resident occupiers, 1939–c.1990s	Not found	No George-specific census, directory or licensing record located online.
Freehold owner, 1939–2008	Not found	No deed, title register or brewery record located for this period.
Punch owned The George in 2022	Verified for that date	Company announcement identifies Punch as owner; this does not establish when Punch acquired the property.
Kerry and Simon Trayhorn reopened after the 2022 refurbishment	Verified	Punch, local reporting and Spaldwick material support the £270,000 eight-week refurbishment and reopening on 15 October 2022.

Further research: later operators and ownership

- Search the British Newspaper Archive for George Inn, Spaldwick licensing transfers, sales, closures and refurbishment notices from 1939 to 2008.

- Inspect Huntingdonshire licensing registers at Cambridgeshire Archives to build the missing licensee sequence.
- Obtain Land Registry title material and distinguish registered ownership dates from earlier recitals.
- Use the Wayback Machine to look for early-2000s George and Cosy Pubs pages that may date the takeover or refurbishment.
- Conduct focused oral-history interviews, recording whether each statement is direct memory, family tradition or inference from documents and photographs.

7. Source register and citations

- **Historic England — The George, list entry 1130204** — Official listing date, grade, architecture, interior, wall paintings, grid reference and bibliography. URL: https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1130204
- **Victoria County History — "Parishes: Spaldwick", A History of the County of Huntingdon, vol. 3 (1936), pp. 97–100** — Manor and soke history; 1547 exchange and Crown ownership to 1620; older architectural dating of The George. Notes an internally inconsistent "1543" statement. URL: https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/hunts/vol3/pp97-100
- **RCHME — An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Huntingdonshire (1926), p. 244** — Dates The George to the early seventeenth century and describes remodelling around 1700; compare with Historic England's later C16/C17 interpretation.
- **Evelyn Lord — "Poverty and the Single Hearth in Huntingdonshire", Economic History Society/University of Cambridge** — Identifies the relevant Huntingdonshire hearth-tax records. E 179/122/226 is described using assessment/administrative dating that differs from the conventional Michaelmas 1664 citation; E 179/145/2 is the 1674 Lady Day return and E 179/122/231 contains exemptions.
- **Spaldwick.com — History of the George and other Spaldwick inns** — Local account of all three pubs; Bedell/King/Piggott sequence; Bell deeds and occupants; George and Axe census details; historic images. URL: https://www.spaldwick.com/history-of-the-spaldwick-george-and-other-spaldwick-inns
- **Spaldwick.com — 100+ Years of Spaldwick** — Timeline entries for closure, operators, events and 2022 investment. URL: https://www.spaldwick.com/information/history/100-years-of-spaldwick
- **Spaldwick.com — The George and Local Restaurants** — Current-facing George page and contact information. URL: https://www.spaldwick.com/the-george-spaldwick
- **Punch Pubs — The George reopens following £270k investment** — Eight-week refurbishment, investment, management partners and reopening context. URL: https://www.punchpubs.com/the-george-reopens-following-270k-investment-boost/

- **Spaldwick.com — Manor-Farm.pdf (undated local-history document)** — Lead concerning Darrington and the reported 1785 visit by the La Rochefoucauld brothers. Author, publication date and underlying citations remain to be recorded. URL: https://www.spaldwick.com/wp-content/uploads/ShortpixelBackups/wp-content/uploads/Manor-Farm.pdf
- **1798 land-tax delivery instruction — reproduced primary document, dated 20 June 1798** — Directs completed parish assessments to be delivered to The George Inn at ten o'clock, supporting the inn's existence and administrative role by that date. The reproduction is held in Mark Heath's document archive; the original document's creator, repository, reference and reproduction history must still be identified before formal scholarly citation.
- Spaldwick News archive — Contemporary reports of The George, its operators and its role in village events from 2008 onwards. Issues and related historical photographs are available through Spaldwick.com.
- **1911 England Census — research target, not yet inspected** — The inherited account attributes John and Emma Dew's George household to this census. Obtain and cite the original RG14 return before treating it as independently verified.
- **Norris Museum, St Ives — April 1938 photograph** — Wall paintings; J. R. Garrood attribution. Obtain catalogue reference and reproduction permission.
- **Sidney Inskip Ladds papers — Cambridgeshire Archives, Huntingdon, accessions 4698 and 4706** — Priority archive lead for notes, drawings, photographs or correspondence concerning the wall paintings and building.
- **Transactions of the Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Archaeological Society, vol. VI, p. 49** — Historic England-cited source concerning the George; obtain the page from the society or a specialist library.
- **C. C. Taylor — archaeological study of medieval Spaldwick, Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society LXXVIII (1990), pp. 71–75** — Bishop of Lincoln estate chronology; states that the estate passed into lay hands in 1547; medieval palace and settlement context. URL: https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archiveDS/archiveDownload?t=arch-1895-1%2Fdissemination%2Fpdf%2FPCAS%2F1990_LXXVIII%2FPCAS_LXXVIII_1990_071-075_Taylor.pdf
- **Cambridgeshire Archives catalogue — Spaldwick photographic collection KPH/73** — George and village-street photographs; smithy beside The George; Peterborough Advertiser wall-painting item; references to request for inspection or reproduction. URL: https://calm.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/TreeBrowse.aspx?field=RefNo&key=KPH%2F73&src=CalmView.Catalog

- **Historic England Archive — RCHME Inventory of Huntingdonshire, RCH01/155** — Working notes, sketches and photographs behind the 1926 published inventory; locate the Spaldwick/George component. URL: https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/photos/series/RCH01/155
- **London Gazette, issue 59885, 22 August 2011, p. 16041** — The primary notice has been checked: it records Louise Marie Smith as lately residing at and carrying on business at The George Inn, 5–7 High Street, Spaldwick. URL: https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/59885/page/16041
- **University of Leicester Special Collections — Historical Directories collection** — Future research route for Huntingdonshire directories. No George, Spaldwick entry for John Dew or John Edwards has yet been located or cited. URL: https://leicester.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16445coll4
- **Companies House — Edwards Bros (Spaldwick) Limited, 00598511** — Incorporation and company record; use only details relevant to the historical connection. URL: https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/00598511
- **Flickr collector upload — "Garage, High Street, Spaldwick" (uploaded 2014; original postcard undated)** — Photographic evidence of a High Street garage with Essolene branding. The earlier research recorded a named collector upload, but the uploader name and stable image URL have not yet been recovered into this master; do so before citation. The image supplies no operator, exact date or George connection.
- **Motorway Services Online — Spaldwick service-area history** — Specialist secondary account of the separate edge-of-village garage and later filling station, including a 1978–1997 sequence. Verify planning and road dates from primary records before publication.
- **The Mobile Food Guide and associated sister-pub references** — Secondary evidence linking The George's operator team with the Eight Bells and Cricketers Arms, supporting identification as Cosy Pubs Group but not supplying reliable tenure dates.

8. Claims retained but not yet established

The following categories remain in the master because they may prove valuable, but they must not be presented as settled fact solely because they appear here:

- Family recollection that the Edwards family owned The George around 1938.
- The precise identity and actions of Darrington and the claim that a member of that family built the house; the previously repeated 1539 transfer date is not retained.
- The Darrington/Darington/Daryngton/Dorington/Dorrington spelling variants were searched without finding a George-specific link. The separate 1688 "P D" house is context only and must not be treated as evidence for The George.

- TNA E 328/350 was checked and retained as context only: it demonstrates a 1547 bishop-to-Crown/Somerset exchange pattern but does not name Spaldwick or prove a George-specific proposition.
- The exact date and evidence for the transition from house to inn and coaching stage.
- The reported 1785 travellers' visit and wording of their observations.
- The relationship between the listed late timber-framed barn and the present restaurant.
- Dates, participants and locations for community events recalled through photographs.
- Any current operator, ownership, menu, opening or telephone information at the date of publication.