



OCTOBER 2026 · SITE NEWS

Heritage Site Meets High Tech

Four years learning to build with AI - and what happened when a village heritage project met the machine.

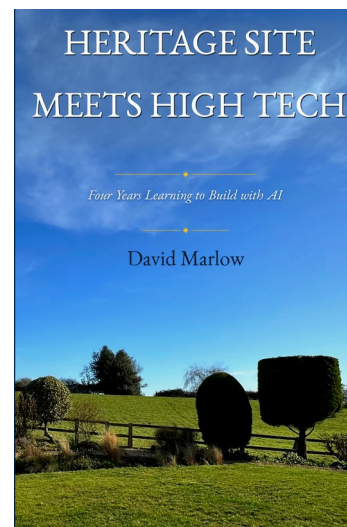
A village project becomes a book

Heritage Site Meets High Tech is the story of what happened when the Great Brickhill Heritage Project met artificial intelligence.

What began in 2022 with photographs of the village Platinum Jubilee grew into an attempt to preserve Great Brickhill's history, memories and records. Then AI changed what was possible.

Software that would once have required specialist developers could suddenly be discussed, commissioned, tested and improved through conversation. The productivity was extraordinary. The harder lesson was learning how to control the result, prove that it worked, preserve the purpose of the project and make it possible for somebody else to inherit.

This is not a technical manual. It is a first-hand account of four years spent building with AI: what worked, what failed, what had to be learned - and why the most difficult question at the end had surprisingly little to do with the machine.



Heritage Site Meets High Tech

David Marlow

Paperback · published independently

“The machine was never the destination.”

From the closing chapters

A village story · An AI experiment · A human question

What shall we do with them?

How a collection of Jubilee photographs became a four-year experiment in heritage, technology and continuity.



Great Brickhill Platinum Jubilee, 2022 - where the story began.

HERITAGE SITE MEETS HIGH TECH

Four Years Learning to Build with AI



David Marlow

A stellar journey into AI — one man, one community, one website, a little experience and a great deal of support.

The final title page keeps the Jubilee at the heart of the story.

The question that started it

On 2 June 2022, Great Brickhill was celebrating the Platinum Jubilee. A group of local photographers recorded the village events and produced hundreds of images.

A few weeks later, after a selection had been shown in the Parish Hall, one simple question changed the next four years:

“What shall we do with them?”

A hard disk could store the photographs, but it could not preserve village memory in a useful sense. The photographs needed names, dates and places. People needed to be able to find them. Future residents needed to know that they existed.

That thought quickly expanded beyond one set of photographs into family histories, documents, memories, maps, books and stories - and into the Great Brickhill Heritage Project.

2022	2025	2026
THE HERITAGE PROJECT	THE MACHINE ARRIVES	CONTROL & SUCCESSION
The first public site appeared within weeks. The challenge was preserving something useful and intelligible for those who followed.	AI first entered as an adviser. Soon the question changed from “How do I do this?” to “Can you build this?”	The problem became less about whether software could be made and more about evidence, continuity, ownership and safe handover.

The technology changed. The purpose did not: preserve, connect and share a village record that others can continue.

Inside the book

Three Parts trace the journey from preserving a village, through astonishing AI productivity, to learning how to control the machine.



The village record



The people behind it



A wider perspective

I	Building Something Worth Keeping <i>Discovering that preserving a village means keeping rather more than old photographs.</i> Chapters The Heritage Project · It Works - Now Who Will Look After It? · A Brilliant Arrangement · The First Ending
II	The Machine Arrives <i>Learning to turn AI's astonishing productivity into useful, managed website software.</i> Chapters From Adviser to Developer · Yes, Build That Too · The Developer Needs Managing · One Renderer, One Truth - Almost · Reference A
III	Learning to Control the Machine <i>Learning that making software is easier than controlling it - and that control changes everything.</i> Chapters Why Am I Doing This? · Peripheral Vision · Taking Ownership Back · Maintaining the Aim · The Technical Project Ends · The Human Experiment

The book is deliberately not a software manual. The chapter sequence follows a human journey: curiosity, growth, confidence, over-expansion, discipline, control and finally the question of who carries the work forward.

What four years with AI taught me

The book is less about clever software than about what happens when creating software suddenly becomes very easy.

Extraordinary productivity - followed by a different problem

Once AI moved from adviser to developer, ideas that previously required a supplier, an extension, a programmer or a compromise could be attempted conversationally. The speed was exhilarating.

But making software was only the first part of the job. Every new capability had to be tested against the real operator journey, protected from regression, documented, controlled and eventually handed to somebody who had not lived through its history.

The central lesson became increasingly clear: a technically confident answer is not evidence. The observed journey matters; the purpose matters; and responsibility for the result still belongs to the human operator.



Sunrise from home - used in Part III of the book.

<i>“Can you build this?”</i>		<i>“The difficult part was that it said ‘yes’ rather a lot.”</i>	<i>“The machine never took control of this project.”</i>
CONTROL Fast creation makes disciplined selection, testing and acceptance more important - not less.	CONTEXT A brilliant answer can still be wrong for GBHP if the history, constraints or reasons behind earlier decisions are missing.		
	OPERABILITY A system is not truly successful merely because it works. A real person must be able to operate it, understand it and recover when it fails.		
		SUCCESSION The hardest engineering question eventually became a human one: can another person safely inherit the result - and will anybody choose to?	

The practical lesson was simple: speed is useful only when judgement, evidence and purpose travel with it.

The story returns to people

The book ends where the Heritage Project began: with people, memories and the question of what we leave for those who follow us.



Great Brickhill Platinum Jubilee, 2022.



Royal Air Force College Cranwell, September 2026 - an Epilogue connection back to Great Brickhill.

“People, memories and connections are abundant while we are all here to explain them. Then, quite suddenly, they are not.”

The next chapter is not in the book

The Heritage Project is still here to be explored and improved. If a photograph brings back a memory, you recognise somebody or somewhere, you have material to share, or there is a subject you think we should investigate, please get in touch.

Toe in the Water

We are considering relaxed sessions in the Village Hall for people who would like a little help exploring the site. Registering interest does not commit you to attending.

Email: admin@gbhp.info

TOE IN THE WATER



Register interest

EXPLORE GBHP



Open the site