

REPORT OF A TRIAL EXCAVATION AT OLD CAWTE FARM, DUNSFORD , DEVON.

Location: Old Cawte Farm

Parish: Dunsford

District: Teignbridge

County: Devon

NGR: SX 811891

Proposal. Construction of a single storey extension

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report details a trial excavation at Old Cawte Farm, Dunsford, Devon, carried out by Dr Martin Tingle at the request of Mrs Alison Arnold (the Client), in respect of a proposed extension to Cawte Farm. This forms part of work specified as a pre-condition for planning consent from the Dartmoor National Park Authority (hereafter DNP).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 In a recent assessment of the historic character of Dunsford, the whole of the Conservation Area that encompasses the historic core of the village was assessed as being archaeologically sensitive (DNP 2005). This study emphasised the importance of Old Cawte Farm, noting its probable 16th century origins, its exceptional architectural features and potential for archaeological remains (DNP, 2005, 36)

3.0 THE TRIAL EXCAVATION

3.1 The trial excavation was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Excavation (revised 2001)*

3.2 A 2 x 1 metre trench situated within the footprint of the proposed development (Fig 1) between a pear tree and an area that had been leveled for the construction of a small extension that was to be incorporated within the proposed development. Fig 2 shows the location of the proposed extension marked out on the ground. The trial trench was hand excavated to the level of the natural bed rock. All finds were labeled and bagged on site.

4.0 THE RESULTS

4.1. Removal of the turf and subsoil revealed the natural bed rock approximately 23 cms below the modern ground surface. A linear feature was located running N-S across the length of the trench into which the roots of the adjacent pear tree had penetrated. On excavation of 20% of this feature, it proved to be the edge of a terrace which had been cut when the original extension to the house had been constructed. All the pottery finds were post 1800 suggesting that the terracing had taken place at some time in the later 19th or early 20th century, before the planting of the pear tree.

5.0 CONCLUSION

It appears that there is no evidence of earlier structures within the footprint of the proposed development and even if such evidence had existed it seems likely that the terracing associated with the existing extension would have removed it.

6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

DNP 2005. Dunford Conservation Area Appraisal. Dartmoor National Parks Authority.

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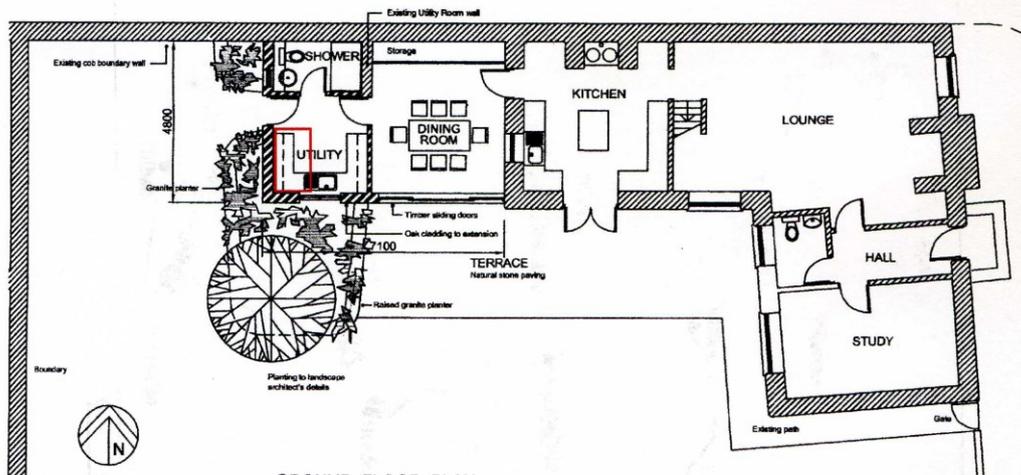


Fig 1 Cawte Farm Plan of proposed extension with the evaluation trench location (red)



Fig 2 View of existing extension, outline of proposed extension and the pear tree



Fig 3 Evaluation trench viewed from the North showing the natural bedrock cut by terracing



Fig 4 Excavated section viewed from the North showing the terracing