

# Historic Environment Record Form: Exmoor National Park

<b>Civil Parish:</b> Dunster	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SS 989 437
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording of groundworks associated with the construction of an extension to the rear and side of Tithe Cottage, St George's Street, Dunster  <b>Planning Application no:</b> 6/10/05/114LB	<b>Plan/Photo attached?</b> Y/N
<b>Description of works.</b> The groundworks associated with the construction of an extension to the rear and side (west and north) of Tithe Cottage, St George's Street, Dunster, were monitored and recorded by South West Archaeology (SWARCH).  These works involved level reduction within the rear garden and area formerly occupied by a garage to the north of the cottage. The area was the full width of the property, and extended 5m to the west of the house. This was carried out by a mini-digger equipped with a toothless grading bucket, operating at all times under archaeological supervision. The garden sloped up steeply from the rear of the cottage towards the west. At the time of the groundwork the rear door of the cottage was sunken and accessed by steps down from the garden. The creation of a platform level with this rear door of the cottage therefore required an excavation of much greater depth to the west. A 0.7m depth of material was removed adjacent to the rear (west) wall of the cottage. At its western edge, the excavation was a maximum of 2.2m deep.  The only archaeological feature revealed during the groundworks was a small stone built culvert with an internal width of 0.1m, running down from the rear north west corner of the site of the former garage, to the rear north west corner of the cottage. This was encountered 0.1m below existing ground level. This feature although carefully constructed with mortared stone side walls 0.1m high, a clay base, and capping of re-used roof slates, was clearly of late date, incorporating fragments of 19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century blue transfer-printed tableware into its structure.  The stratigraphy revealed consisted of only 3 layers.  Natural undisturbed geological subsoil, sloping down towards the east was encountered at a depth of 2m at the western edge of the excavation, and at a depth of 0.6m at the east, adjacent to the rear of the cottage. This was a dense gritty clay.  Over this lay a variable brown clay silt. In places this had a loose matrix and contained abundant medium and large stones. This layer included a considerable quantity of post-medieval coarseware sherds. This layer was upto 1m thick towards the western edge of the excavation, 0.2m thick at the east.  Over this lay a friable black garden topsoil indicative of intensive cultivation and manuring. This contained fragments of 19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century transfer-printed tableware, and few post-medieval coarseware sherds. This deposit was upto 1.2m thick at the west, and 0.4m thick at the eastern edge of the excavation adjacent to the cottage.	<b>Date.</b> <i>of site visit(s)</i>  07.04.06 & 10.04.06
<b>Recorder</b> (name and organisation) Jon Freeman, SWARCH	<b>Date sent</b>