



1 Worgret Hill Cottage, Worgret Hill, Wareham, Dorset

Archaeological Observations and Recording of New Extension



Report No. 53462/3/1

March 2017

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Project Report Summary Page

Project Details			
OASIS Reference	terraina1-281453		
Project Title	New Extension, 1 Worgret Hill Cottage, Worgret Hill, Wareham		
Short Description of Project	Terrain Archaeology carried out archaeological observations and recording during the excavation of the footings trench for a new extension to 1 Worgret Cottage, Worgret Hill, Wareham. No features, deposits or finds not associated with the cottage were exposed.		
Project Dates	Start: 08-03-2017	End: 08-03-2017	
Previous/Future Work	No/No		
Project Code	53462		
Monument Type and Period	None		
Significant Finds	None		
Project Location			
County/District/Parish	Dorset/ Purbeck/ Arne		
Site Address	1 Worgret Hill Cottages, Worgret Hill, Wareham, BH20 6AD		
Site Coordinates	SY 9055 8707		
Site Area	7 m ²		
Height OD	c. 25 m		
Project Creators			
Organisation	Terrain Archaeology		
Project Brief Originator	None		
Project Design Originator	Terrain Archaeology		
Project Supervisor	Peter Bellamy		
Project Manager	Peter Bellamy		
Sponsor or Funding Body	Landowner		
Project Archive			
Archive Type	Physical	Digital	Paper
Location/Accession No	No physical archive	No digital archive	No paper archive
Contents			

1 Worgret Hill Cottage, Worgret Hill, Wareham, Dorset

Archaeological Observations and Recording of New Extension, March 2017

1. Introduction

1.1 Project introduction

Terrain Archaeology was commissioned by James Bohane to carry out archaeological observations and recording during the construction of a new extension to 1 Worgret Hill Cottage, Wareham. A planning application for alterations and extensions to 1 Worgret Hill Cottage, (Application No. 6/2016/0703) was granted permission on 13 January 2017. Condition 3 of the granting of approval of Planning Application No. 6/2016/0703 by Purbeck District Council, the Local Planning Authority, states *"No building work on implementing this planning permission must start until an archaeological mitigation programme has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Council. This programme must include a detailed description of: proposed on-site archaeological fieldwork, post-excavation analysis of this work, publication of any findings, archiving of the results and a timetable for completion of each element. All approved building work must be carried out in strict accordance with the agreed archaeological mitigation programme. Reason: To ensure that any archaeological and historic remains affected by the development are identified, recorded and the findings of investigation published."*

The fieldwork was carried out on the 8th March 2017 by Peter Bellamy.

1.2 Brief

No written brief for the works was produced by or on behalf of the Client.

1.3 Site Location

The site is located to the north of the A352 on Worgret Hill, which stands at the eastern end of a low ridge between the Frome and Piddle river valleys. The topography is gently sloping down to the south east and lies at a height of about 25 m above OD.

1.4 Geology

The solid geology is mapped as sand of the Broadstone Sand Member, with superficial deposits of Sand and Gravel of River Terrace Deposits, 8 (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

1.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

The site lies in a rich archaeological landscape. It lies adjacent to the dispersed Worgret Heath Bronze Age barrow cemetery consisting of nine bowl and bell barrows scattered across Worgret Heath and Worgret Hill (RCHME 1970, 434-5). A series of enigmatic and undated linear earthwork dykes lie on Worgret Heath at the eastern end of a ridge separating the Frome and Piddle valleys (RCHME 1970, 516-7). There are at least four different alignments consisting of single, double or triple banks and ditches to the north and west of the site. These appear to be boundary rather than defensive features (RCHME 1970, 516-7). An undated earthwork enclosure also lies within the complex of dykes to the northwest of the site. To the south are the earthwork remains of a series of probably post-medieval trackways.

Worgret Hill Cottage was built in 1857, as recorded on a date stone on the porch.

1.6 Previous Archaeological fieldwork

No previous archaeological fieldwork has been undertaken on the site, but one of the round barrows about 400 m west of the site was fully excavated by G. J. Wainwright in 1964. The barrow had a diameter of 12 m and was 1.2 m high, surrounded by a ditch 3 m wide. Near the centre of the mound were a biconical urn and a bucket urn but no burial (Wainwright 1965).

1.7 Aims and Objectives

The aim of the Archaeological Observations and Recording was to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.

Its objectives were:

- To observe and record all the *in situ* archaeological deposits and features revealed during the groundworks to an appropriate professional standard.
- To present the results in a report to the appropriate standard.

1.8 Groundworks

The works consisted of the excavation of a footings trench 0.7 m wide and 0.75 – 1.0 m wide on the eastern side of the house for a new extension 2.92 m wide and 6.35 m long with a single dividing wall (Figure 2; Plates 1-2).

1.9 Methods

The methodology, scope, aims and objectives of the works was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by Terrain Archaeology in February 2017 (Terrain Archaeology document no. 3462/0/1).

The observation and recording of the groundworks was undertaken to the standards of the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists (CIfA 2014), with an archaeologist in attendance during the excavation of the footings trenches. A short length of the return trench along the southern side was not observed.

The photographic record of the work was maintained in digital format, and included aspects of its setting, conduct and technical detail.

1.10 Archive and Dissemination

1.10.1 Paper Archive

No paper archive will be retained beyond the end of the project.

1.10.2 Artefacts

No artefacts or other materials were recovered from the site.

1.10.3 Report

A copy of this report will be lodged with Dorset County Council's Historic Environment Record (HER). The HER is a publicly funded and accessible resource, and deposition of the report will place it, and the project results, in the public domain.

A digital summary of the archive will be placed with the OASIS project (www.oasis.ac.uk) under the reference code *terrains1-281453*. A digital copy of this report will be uploaded for inclusion in the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) online 'grey literature' library.

2. Results

2.1 Introduction

The excavation of the whole of the footings trench, other than the short return to the south was observed archaeologically. It was decided not to observe this last part of the trench as it was not excavated at the same time as the rest and was partly disturbed. The features and deposits revealed are described in Appendix 1.

2.2 Natural Deposits

The natural geology was a mixture of pale grey and orange coarse sand and flint gravel (101).

2.3 Archaeological Features

The only feature exposed was a brick structure (102) at the southern end of the trench (Figure 2; Plate 3). This was only partly exposed, but the structure had been opened and filled with concrete within the last few years. It was apparently a square or rectangular shaft several metres deep, with rendered sides and with a corbelled top. The function of this feature is uncertain, but is likely to be nineteenth century in date.

2.4 Worgret Cottage

Worgret Cottage is a semi-detached cottage, brick-built with stone quoins and dressings with a date stone '1857' set high on the porch (Plate 4). The walls have been rendered and lined to imitate ashlar. The footings trench exposed a small part of the footings of the cottage. At the northern end of the building, the base of the wall (103) is about 0.5 m below ground level. The lowest three courses (0.23 m) project 30 mm from the face of the wall. Above are three courses of brick below the lowest stone quoin (Plate 5). The footings (104) of the north west corner of the porch were similar with three courses projecting 60 mm with three courses above to the lowest stone quoin (Plate 6).

2.5 Modern Services

Two water pipes and a ceramic drain were encountered within the trench (Figure 2). The location of these services was plotted but not otherwise recorded.

2.6 Garden Soils

The area of the new extension was covered by a dark greyish-brown sandy loam garden soil (100), 0.25 m thick, except in the north west part where the new foundation trench cut through the remains of the concrete base of the former conservatory.

3. Finds

3.1 Finds Assemblage

No finds were retained from the observations.

4. Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Discussion

The location of the round barrow immediately to the north of the cottage prompted the requirement for archaeological observations during the construction of the new extension. However, no features or deposits not associated with Worgret Cottage were discovered, nor were any finds recovered. This suggests that there were no outlying features associated with the round barrow in the immediate vicinity of the works.

4.2 Conclusions

No archaeological features, deposits or finds of significance were recorded during the works.

5. References

- | | | |
|---------------------|------|--|
| CIfA, | 2014 | <i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief. December 2014. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.</i> |
| RCHME | 1970 | <i>An Inventory of Historical Monuments in the County of Dorset. Volume Two, South East. London; HMSO.</i> |
| Terrain Archaeology | 2017 | 1 Worgret Hill Cottage, Worgret Hill, Wareham, Dorset. Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Works during the Construction of a New Extension. Terrain Archaeology Document No. 3462/0/1, February 2017. |
| Wainwright, G. J., | 1965 | 'Excavation of a Round Barrow on Worgret Hill, Arne, Dorset' <i>Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society</i> 87 , 119-125. |

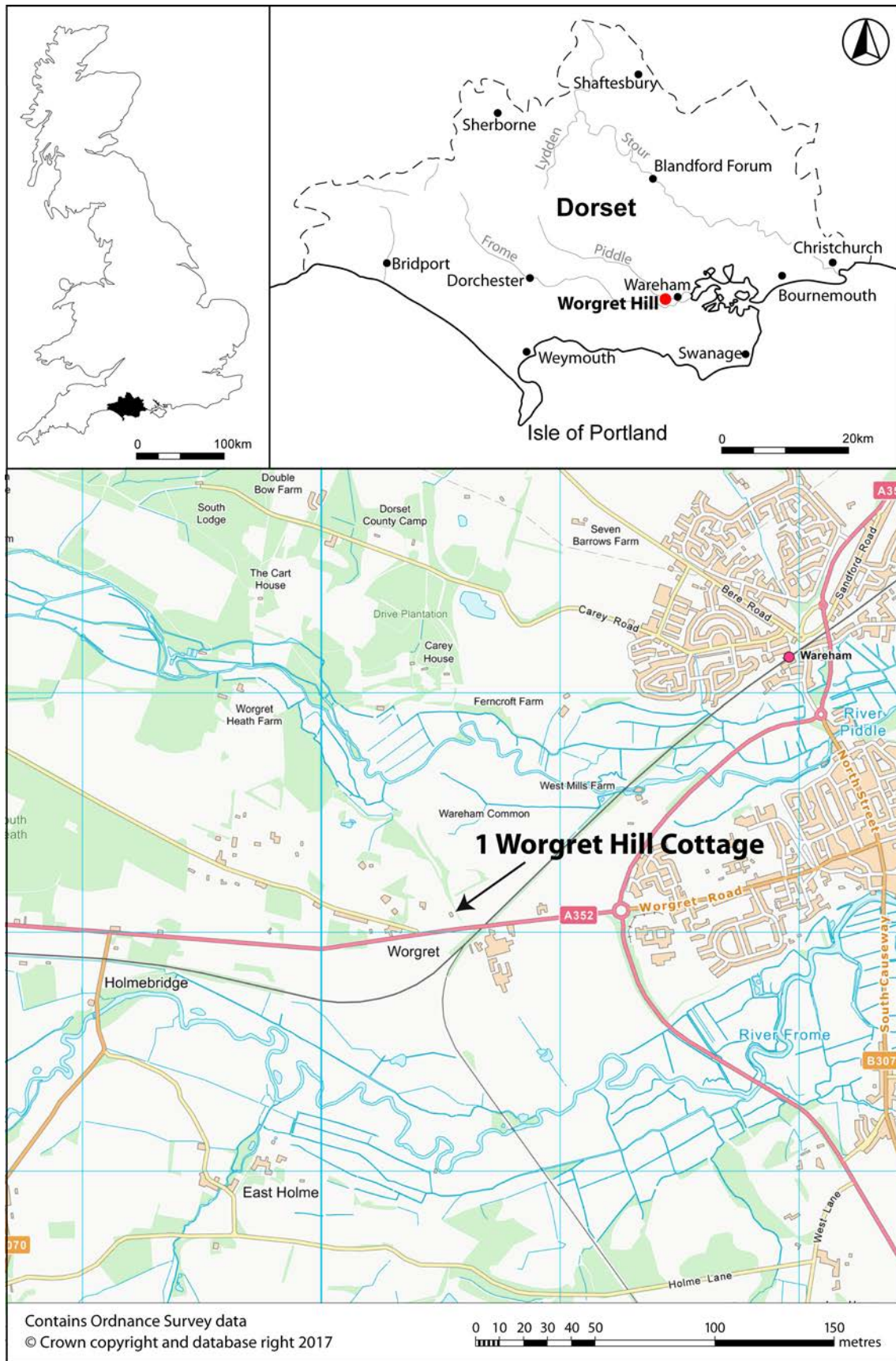


Figure 1: Site Location.

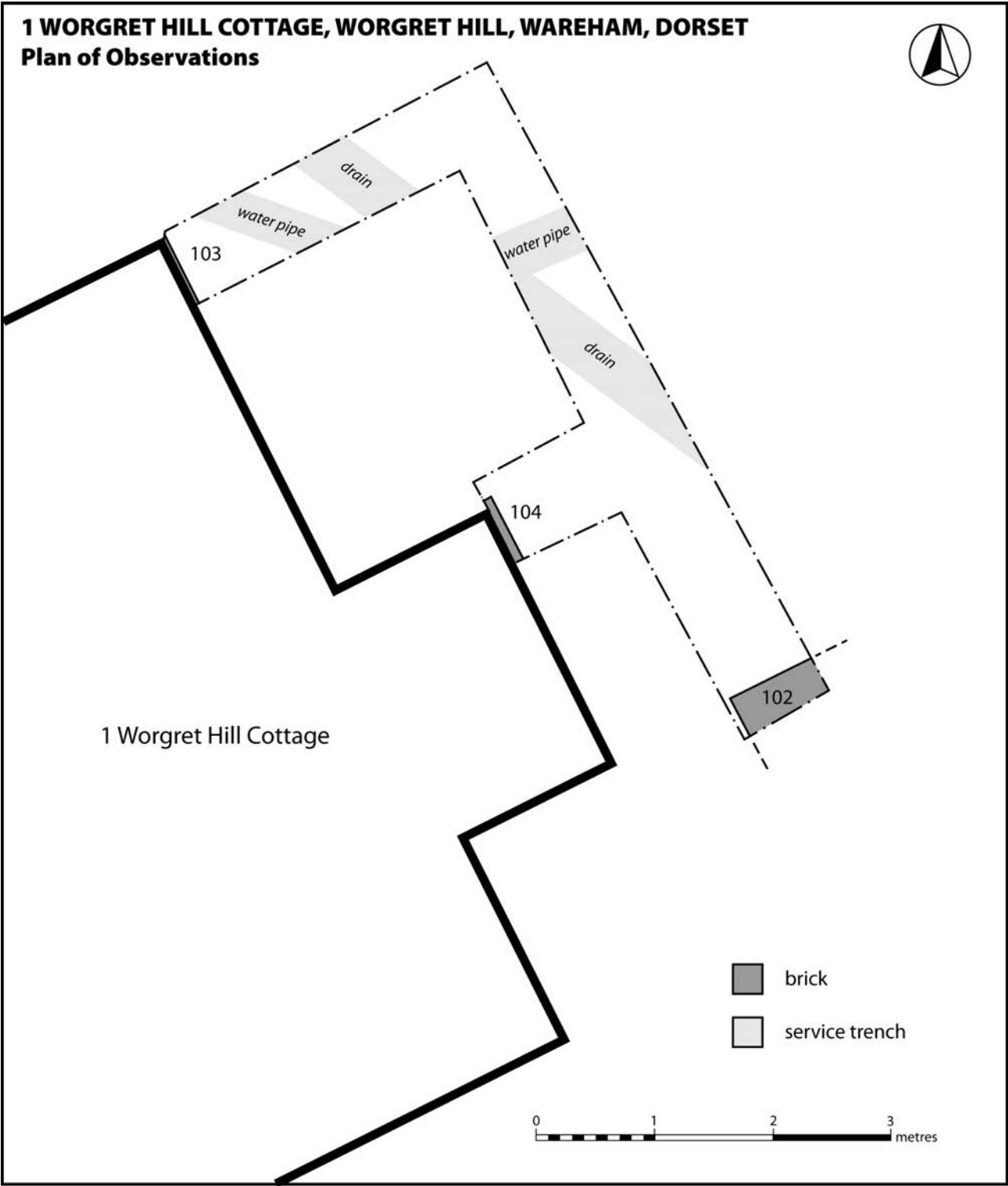


Figure 2: Plan of Observations



Plate 1: Footings trench viewed from southeast. 1m scale.



Plate 2: Footings trench viewed from northwest. 1m scale.



Plate 3: Feature 102, viewed from NNW. 1m scale.



Plate 4: Worgret Cottage viewed from east.



Plate 5: Base of cottage wall 103 at northern end, viewed from east. 1m scale.



Plate 6: Base of porch wall 104 viewed from east. 1m scale.

Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context	Description and Interpretation	Depth (m) below ground level
100	Garden soil: Dark greyish-brown sandy loam with occasional to moderate flint gravel.	0.00 – 0.25m
101	Natural Sand and Gravels: Pale grey and orange coarse sand and flint gravels.	0.25m+
102	Brick Structure: Square or rectangular brick structure built from pink and yellow brick. This feature was recently opened up and filled with concrete. The owner stated that the interior was rendered and had a brick corbelled top.	0.25m +
103	Footings of Cottage: Three basal courses (0.26m) of brick projecting about 30mm forward of wall face. Three courses above to the lowest stone quoin.	0.00 – 0.50m
104	Footings of Porch: Three basal courses (0.26m) of brick projecting about 10mm and 60mm forward of wall face. Three courses above to the lowest stone quoin.	0.00 – 0.50m