



Alma Cottage, 4 Watery Lane, Studland, Dorset

Archaeological Recording during Internal Alter- ations



Report No. 53491/3/1

December 2018

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Table of Contents

Part 1: Introduction

1.1	Project Introduction.....	1
1.2	Project Brief and Specification	1
1.3	Site Location.....	1
1.4	Geology	1
1.5	Archaeological and Historical Background	1
1.6	Previous Archaeological Fieldwork	1
1.7	Aims and Objectives	1
1.8	Methods	2
1.9	Archive and Dissemination	2

Part 2: Architectural Description

2.1	Introduction	2
2.2	Exterior	2
2.3	Interior	3

Part 3: Results

3.1	Introduction	3
3.2	Deposits Beneath Cottage.....	3
3.3	Internal Walls	4
3.4	Structure Below Floor in North Room.....	4
3.5	Sub-Floor Deposits	4
3.6	Drain.....	4

Part 4: Finds

4.1	Finds assemblage.....	4
4.2	Metal Objects.....	5
4.3	Pottery.....	5
4.4	Clay Tobacco-Pipe	5
4.5	Flint.....	5
4.6	Glass	5
4.7	Bone Objects.....	5
4.8	Animal Bone	5
4.9	Marine Shell	5

Part 5: Discussion and Conclusions

5.1	Discussion	6
5.2	Conclusions	6

Part 6: References

Figures

Plates

Appendix 1: Context Summary

List of Figures

1	Site Location.....	7
2	Plan of Observations.....	8
3	Sections and Elevations.....	9
4	Suggested Original Plan of Cottages.....	10

List of Plates

1	General view of external north elevation of Alma Cottage	11
2	Sondage dug in NE corner of South Room showing mortared stone footings 104 and brick footings 114 above, looking north	11
3	Sondage in South Room looking east showing stone footings 104	11
4	North Room looking west with bread oven and blocked doorway visible in background, together with dwarf wall beneath floor	12
5	North Room looking east with exposed Structure 111	12
6	Structure 111 looking WNW with drain 115 visible through external wall	12
7	View south along Structure 111 towards internal wall between the north and south rooms	13
8	Detail of relationship between structure 111 and internal wall between North and South Rooms.....	13
9	Drain 115 through north external wall and Structure 111 to right with vertical line scored in north wall just visible to left of scale	13
10	External view of drain 115. View from north.....	14
11	Drain 115 through north wall footings.....	14
12	Drain 115 with concrete 117 at end of drain. View from north	14

Project Report Summary Page

Project Details			
OASIS Reference	terraina1-342215 & terraina1-342216		
Project Title	Alma Cottage, 4 Watery Lane, Studland, Dorset		
Short Description of Project	<p>During renovation works at No. 4 Alma Cottage, Studland, which forms half of a symmetrical pair of mid-nineteenth century estate cottages, the remains of an 'old wall' and some medieval pottery were found by the builders beneath the floor of the 'front' room of No. 4. Terrain Archaeology was asked by the National Trust to investigate. The 'old wall' was found to be a dwarf wall to support a suspended wooden floor and was an original part of the structure of the cottage. Adjacent to this wall was a drain running out to the exterior. The evidence suggests that the north 'front' room was originally unheated and was probably the parlour or back kitchen, while the 'back' room to the south was formerly the main living room. There is a bread oven placed centrally, shared between the two halves of the cottage.</p> <p>The medieval pottery appears to have been derived from the subsoil beneath the cottage.</p>		
Project Dates	Start: 28-02-2018	End: 28-02-2018	
Previous/Future Work	No/No		
Project Code	53491		
Monument Type and Period	Estate Cottage (Post-medieval)		
Significant Finds	Sherd (Medieval); Sherd (Post-medieval)		
Project Location			
County/District/Parish	Dorset/ Purbeck/ Studland		
Site Address	Alma Cottage 4 Watery Lane, Studland, Dorset, BH19 3AL		
Site Coordinates	SZ 03770 82367		
Site Area	12.5 m ²		
Height OD			
Project Creators			
Organisation	Terrain Archaeology		
Project Brief Originator	Martin Papworth		
Project Design Originator	Terrain Archaeology		
Project Supervisor	Peter Bellamy		
Project Manager	Peter Bellamy		
Sponsor or Funding Body	The National Trust		
Project Archive			
Archive Type	Physical	Digital	Paper
Location/Accession No	National Trust	National Trust	National Trust
Contents	Pottery, iron, bone object, clay tobacco pipe, glass	Photographs	Context sheets, plan, section, report

Alma Cottage, 4 Watery Lane, Studland, Dorset

Archaeological Recording During Internal Alterations, February 2018

1. Introduction

1.1 Project introduction

Terrain Archaeology was contacted by Martin Papworth of the National Trust, to investigate the discovery of 'an old wall' and the discovery of some medieval pottery beneath the floor of No. 4 Alma Cottage, Watery Lane, Studland, during internal building works. Alma Cottage is a mid nineteenth century semi-detached estate stone cottage with stone slate roof.

The fieldwork was carried out on the 28th February 2018 by Peter Bellamy.

1.2 Project Brief and Specification

No written brief was issued by The National Trust for this project.

1.3 Site Location

The site lies on the south side of Watery Lane on the southern edge of Studland village at SZ 03770 82367.

1.4 Geology

Bedrock geology is mapped as Eocene clay of the Creekmoor Clay Member, with no recorded superficial deposits (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

1.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

The documentary history and description of the house was set out in a heritage statement by Bob Edwards of Forum Heritage Services, as part of the Listed Building Consent Application (6/2017/0497) for the alterations to No. 4 Alma Cottage (Edwards 2017). The following is taken from that document.

The historic map evidence shows that Nos. 4 and 5 Watery Lane were built between 1840 and 1889. The house is not shown on the 1840 Studland Tithe Map, which shows the site as part of a field called Lower Mead (plot 22), which was owned by Mr Bankes and formed part of a farm occupied by Mary and John Galpin. The two cottages are first recorded in an 1886 survey of the Bankes Estate in as built in stone and tiled, with No. 4 being occupied by John Marsh. The two cottages were noted as having two ground floor rooms and three rooms to the first floor (DHC D-BKL/E/A/1/36).

It is not known when the use of the name 'Alma' for these cottages began, but the name is derived from the battle of the Crimean War fought in 1854.

The 1889 Ordnance Survey 25 inch map depicts the houses within a curtilage carved out of the north-west part of Lower Mead, accessed by a path running up to the centre of the pair from the road. The rear yards were divided by a boundary. The houses were provided by a pair of outside toilets on the south-west boundary of the plot.

1.6 Previous Archaeological fieldwork

There has been no previous archaeological fieldwork undertaken on the site.

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 the structures beneath the floor of the building revealed by the internal works to an appropriate professional standard.
- To record the archaeological context of the discovery of the medieval pottery on the site.
- To present the results in a report to the appropriate standard.

1.8 Methods

The observation and recording of the groundworks was undertaken to the standards of the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a). The observations were undertaken after significant building works had already started on the property. The floors and some of the internal plaster had been removed (Plates 4-5).

All features and deposits were recorded using components of Terrain Archaeology's system of complementary written, drawn and photographic records, regardless of their perceived date and archaeological significance. A photographic record of the works was maintained in digital format, which includes aspects of their setting, conduct and technical detail.

1.9 Archive and Dissemination

1.9.1 Paper Archive

The project archive, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, and appropriate background documentation, has been compiled in a stable, cross-referenced and fully indexed archive in accordance with current guidelines (Brown 2011; CIfA 2014b) and the requirements of the receiving museum. It is currently stored by Terrain Archaeology under the project code 53491. In due course, the archive will be accessioned for long-term curation and storage by the National Trust.

1.9.2 Artefacts

The artefacts retained from the site will be deposited alongside the Written Archive with the National Trust.

1.9.3 Report

A copy of this report will be lodged with the National Trust Sites and Monuments Record and with Dorset 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 *terraina1-342215* and *terraina1-342216*. A digital copy of this report will be uploaded for inclusion in the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) online 'grey literature' library.

2. Architectural Description

2.1 Introduction

The architectural description has been extracted and paraphrased from Edwards (2017) and is limited to the parts of the building affected by the observed works.

2.2 Exterior

The front (north) elevation of the building faces north and consists of a symmetrical pair of two-storey cottages, each having a steeply pitched small gable above a two-light iron-framed lattice window to the first floor set either side of a central stack (Plate 1). Beneath the first-floor windows are the doorways, both with flat stone hood on large stone brackets. Between the two doors is a narrow two-light iron-framed lattice casement with wider two-light casements with iron lattice frames to either side. The walls of the cottages are built in coursed roughly dressed rubble limestone with dressed quoins. The gabled roof has stone tiles diminishing in size to the ridge.

The rear, south, elevation of the cottages is similar to that of the front having the two steeply pitched gables over the upper floor windows. The doors to the rear elevation are set towards the gable ends and have the same large brackets originally supporting flat stone hoods.

Towards the rear of the east gable of No. 4 is a modern single-storey extension built in concrete block with a mono-pitched corrugated asbestos roof.

2.3 Interior

The ground floor plan of No. 4 consists of two principal rooms; a living room facing north and the kitchen facing south. To the west of the front (northern) room is a narrow space in front of the former bread oven, which lies between the two cottages. The stairs rise up against the inside of the east gable wall from the rear entrance at the south-east corner.

North Room: The front door gives access into the living room. The room had softwood butt-edged floorboards with some variation in width, particularly to the west part of the room, laid upon a solid, compacted substrate, which included ash and small fragments of coke/clinker. To the west of the entrance was a slight step up where the wooden floor has been replaced with concrete, forming a small 'lobby' lit by the central narrow two-light window in the front elevation, with a large masonry stack, incorporating a bread oven, taking up much of the space. In the west wall of this lobby there is an irregularity in the plaster, indicating the presence of a former door opening leading into No. 5. In the south-east corner is the bulkhead of the stairs, beneath which is an alcove framed by modern timber and boarding. A door in the south wall gives access into the kitchen.

South Room: To the rear is the kitchen which has a chimney breast which extends forward of the face of the large masonry stack seen from the front room. To the north of this chimney breast there is a small doorway to a cupboard, the back of which is formed by vertical boards. The door to this cupboard is narrower than the door between the kitchen and living room but has the same architrave, though with a modern door. The door to the kitchen from the rear entrance lobby is modern. The floor to the kitchen is modern concrete.

3. Results

3.1 Introduction

At the time of recording the wooden floor of the north room (living room) had been taken up and some of the fill below the floor removed. The concrete floor in the 'lobby' remained in place. The concrete floor in the kitchen had also been removed. The plaster on the lower parts of the north and east walls of the living room had also been taken off (Plates 4 and 9). A test pit had been dug by the builders in the north east corner of the north room but had been backfilled again before the recording took place.

Traces of a wall running across the eastern part of the north room had been partly exposed by the builders (Plate 5). The whole length of this wall was then cleaned up and the spoil removed from both sides to expose the base. A 0.5 m square test pit was dug in the north-east corner of the south room (kitchen) to investigate whether the wall beneath the north room continued into this area (Figure 2; Plates 2-3). The builders had also dug outside the north wall of the cottage to check drainage runs and the area where the drain runs through the north wall was cleaned up (Figure 2; Plates 10-12).

The context descriptions are presented in Appendix 1.

3.2 Deposits Beneath Cottage

A firm dark grey silty sand subsoil (103, 110) lies at a depth of 0.45 m below the floor level of the south room and 0.5 m below the floor level of the north wall (Figure 3). This deposit was not excavated, but a hole dug by the builders into layer 110 in the north-east corner of the north room produced some sherds of medieval pottery.

3.3 Internal Walls

Part of the internal wall footings between the north and south rooms and between the south room and the stair were exposed. The structure was similar for both walls. The footings were built directly on top of the subsoil (103, 110) and consisted of two courses of ironstone and limestone rubble, with a single course of tabular limestone on top, bonded with lime mortar (Figure 3; Plates 2–3, 8). Over these stone footings were two courses of brick capped with a timber plate (105). The brickwork of the internal walls (106) was constructed directly on top of this timber plate.

Part of the footings and the lower parts of the wall between the north room and the bread oven area were exposed by the works. This showed that the footings were similar to those described above with large ironstones at the base with a thin layer of limestone slat over and the bricks of the wall above (Plate 4). This exposure also showed that the wall originally continued to a point 0.85 m south of the north wall.

3.4 Structure Below Floor in North Room

A footing (111), similar to those of the internal walls, was found in the east part of the north room. It consisted of two courses of ironstone rubble, with occasional flint, bonded with lime mortar, set directly on top of subsoil 110. On top of this was a slick of mortar containing impressions of a former brick footing. At the south end, some of the bricks (112) survived indicating that the brick was two courses high and was of one build with the internal wall footing 105 (Figure 2–3; Plates 5–8). The north end of 111 butted the north wall of the cottage (Figure 3). The structure is roughly faced to the east and is aligned with a line scored into the mortar on the internal face of the north wall of the cottage (Plate 9).

3.5 Sub-floor Deposits

3.5.1 North Room

The subsoil 108 was covered by a thin spread of decayed mortar debris (109), over which was a 0.38 m thick deposit of stone and brick rubble in a loose fine dark greyish-brown silty sand matrix (101) (Plate 4). The floor overlying this rubble infill had been removed before recording.

3.5.2 South Room

The subsoil 103 was covered by a thin spread of decayed mortar debris (102), over which was a 0.38 m thick deposit of stone and brick rubble in a loose fine dark greyish-brown silty sand matrix (108) (Plates 2–3). Above this rubble layer was the existing concrete floor (100).

3.6 Drain

A drain (115) exiting through the north wall was found just to the west of structure 111 (Figure 2; Plate 9). It is formed by leaving a gap in the stonework and is lined with mortar along the sides and base. Externally the drain has a flat limestone base, with sides formed by two layers of bricks set on edge and capped with flat limestones (Figure 3; Plates 10–12).

4. Finds

4.1 Finds Assemblage

A small assemblage of finds was recovered and these are quantified in Table 1 below. Most of the material was collected by the builders during their works.

Context	Metal Objects	Medieval Pottery	Post-medieval pottery	Clay tobacco pipe	Flint	Glass	Bone Objects	Animal Bone	Marine Shell
108	--	1/31g	1/2g	--	--	--	--	--	--
118	3/55g	1/10g	10/316g	3/14g	--	2/81g	--	2/11g	1/1g
119	5/76g	2/45g	11/144g	4/18g	1/45g	--	1/1g	--	--
<i>Total</i>	<i>8/131g</i>	<i>4/86g</i>	<i>21/453g</i>	<i>7/32g</i>	<i>1/45g</i>	<i>2/81g</i>	<i>1/1g</i>	<i>2/11g</i>	<i>1/1g</i>

Table 1: Quantification of finds by context (count/weight in grams)

4.2 Metal Objects

Eight metal objects were recovered: five nails from contexts 118 and 119 and two items of cutlery from context 118. The cutlery consisted of a broken base metal teaspoon and a steel fork. The spoon is a flatware teaspoon with a stylised scallop shell bowl support and probably originally with a Fiddle and Thread handle, of nineteenth century date. The three-tined fork is of eighteenth century type and is missing its handle, which was probably of organic material.

The iron key fragment (from context 119) has a circular shaft and cast collar with two key wards in the forward part of the bit. The size of the key suggests it was used in a chest or furniture lock rather than a door.

The nails are all incomplete. There is a single large wrought iron nail from context 118 and the remainder from context 119 are all square-sectioned cut nails.

4.3 Pottery

4.3.1 Medieval Pottery

Four sherds of medieval pottery (86g) were recovered; one from context 108, one from context 118 and two from context 119 (Table 1). These were two sandy fabric cookpot sherds, of 12th/13th century date (context 118 & 119), a jug strap handle of grey sandy fabric and partial green glaze, possibly late 13th/14th century (context 108) and one unglazed jug base sherd of possibly East Dorset sandy ware of 13th/14th century date (context 119).

4.3.2 Post-medieval Pottery

Twenty-one sherds of post-medieval and modern pottery were recovered from both the north room (contexts 108, 118) and south room (context 119). The south room produced seven sherds of local earthenwares, one sherd of 19th century stoneware and four sherds of nineteenth and twentieth century industrial whitewares. The north room produced three local earthenwares, six nineteenth and twentieth century industrial white wares including one tin-glazed sherd and one lid from a condiment jar.

4.4 Clay Tobacco Pipe

A total of seven fragments of clay tobacco pipe stem was recovered from the north and south rooms (118, 119). One stem fragment from 119 also had part of a spur.

4.5 Flint

A single broad hard-hammer struck primary flint flake was recovered from the south room (context 119). This flake is either an accidental removal or waste from the knapping of wall flint.

4.6 Glass

The glass consists of a single green bottle sherd and a clear glass knob handle with cut radial line decoration, perhaps from a domed cake cover or similar.

4.7 Bone Objects

A bone button 17 mm in diameter, with two thread holes, was recovered from the south room (Context 119).

4.8 Animal Bone

Two animal bones were recovered (context 118). These were a chicken leg bone and part of a long bone possibly pig.

4.9 Marine Shell

A single fragment of razor shell was recovered probably from the North Room (context 118).

5. Discussion and Conclusions

5.1 Discussion

The initial impetus for the archaeological recording was the discovery of medieval pottery and an 'old wall' below the floor of No. 4 Alma Cottage. The pottery and the 'wall' are not related and it has been confirmed that the wall is clearly an integral part of the present building and not part of an earlier structure on the site.

The medieval pottery has a twelfth to fourteenth century date range and none can be considered to be derived from a primary context. It appears to have been recovered from the subsoil layer beneath the cottage. The footings of the cottage were dug into this subsoil layer, which clearly pre-dates the building. It is unclear from the present evidence whether the pottery represents evidence of specific medieval occupation on the site of Alma Cottage or is part of more general manuring activity, though the latter is more likely.

The observations of the exposed parts of the cottage recorded during the building works has helped clarify some of the difficulties of interpretation of the building highlighted by Edwards (2017). It has confirmed that the wooden floor removed as part of the building works was not the original floor. It appears that the original floor was a suspended wooden floor supported by dwarf walls. At some time, the floor was replaced by infilling the sub-floor void with soil and rubble (108) and new softwood boards laid directly on top. The date of the replacement is not known.

Edwards' (2017) suggestion that the north room was originally unheated appears to be correct as no trace of a hearth or flue was observed and the evidence from the exposed part of the footings of the partition wall between the north room and the bread oven 'lobby' confirms that the north room was divided off from the bread oven with a door near the north end mirroring the blocked door in No. 5 (Figure 4). The fact that the north room was not heated and the discovery of a drain running out through the north wall lends credence to the suggestion that the north room was originally the parlour or back kitchen and the southern room was the main living and kitchen space (Edwards 2017). The bread oven appears to be a facility shared between the two cottages accessed from the north rooms of both Nos. 4 and 5. This is a not uncommon feature in estate cottages of this date (Edwards 2017). A suggested original layout for the ground floor of Nos. 4 and 5 Alma Cottage is shown in Figure 4.

5.2 Conclusions

The 'old wall' in the cottage proved to be an integral part of the original construction of the mid-nineteenth century cottage, built to support the original suspended wooden floor in the north room of the cottage. It became buried when the floor was replaced by infilling the underfloor void with soil and rubble before laying new boards directly on top. The date of floor replacement is uncertain. The observations, including the discovery of a drain running out through the north external wall, confirmed the hypothesis that the north 'front' room was originally an unheated parlour or back kitchen and the south 'back' room was originally the main living room.

The medieval pottery was not associated with the structure, but was recovered from the subsoil layer beneath the cottage and it is unclear whether it represents evidence for a former medieval settlement on the site or is midden debris from manuring activity.

6. References

- Brown, D. H., 2011 *Archaeological Archives. A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*. Second Edition, September 2011. Archaeological Archives Forum.
- CIfA, 2014a *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. December 2014. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- CIfA, 2014b *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*. December 2014. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- Edwards, B., 2017 *Alma Cottage, No. 4 Watery Lane, Studland, Dorset. Heritage Statement*. Forum Heritage Services, September 2017.

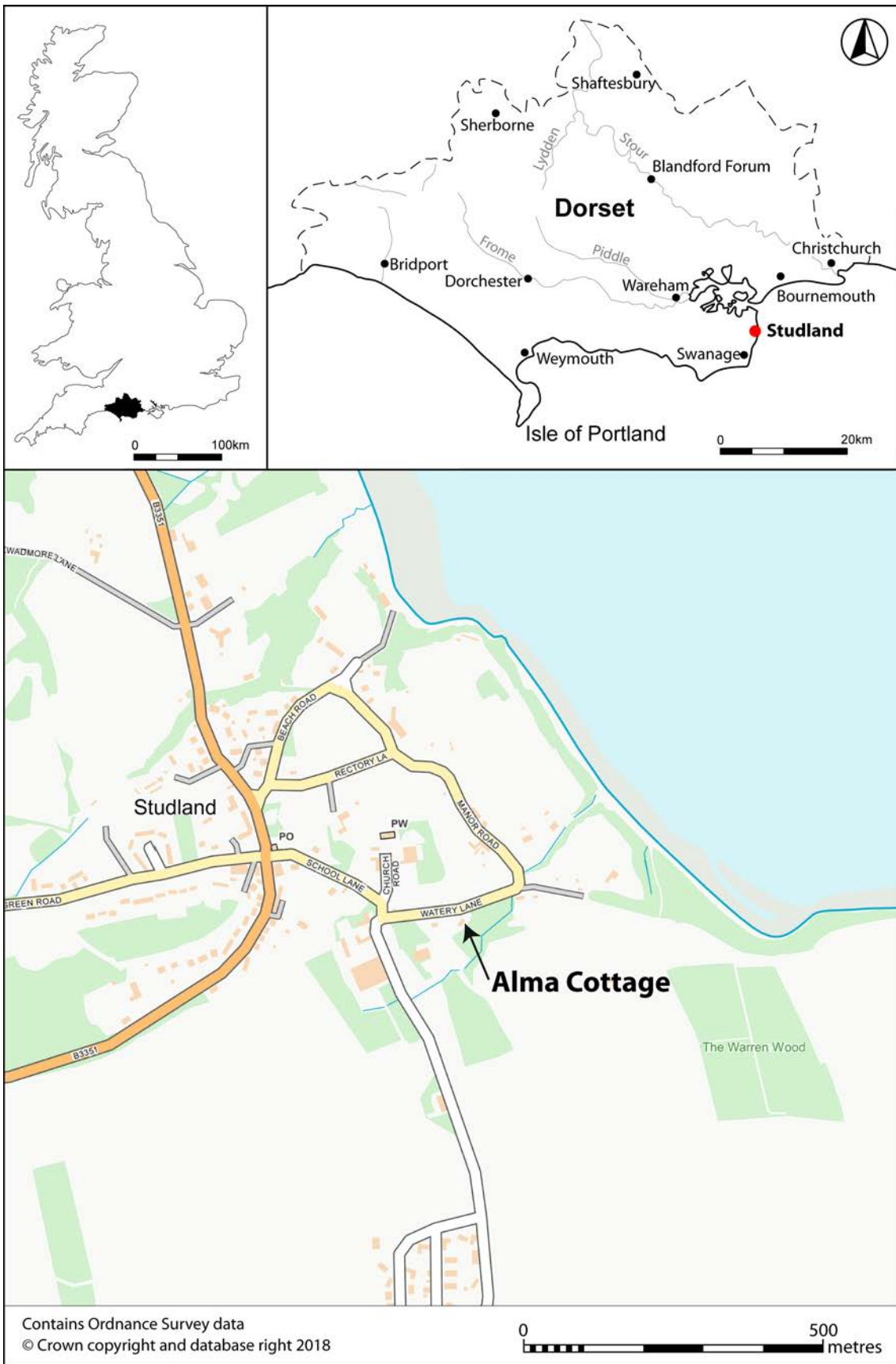


Figure 1: Site Location.

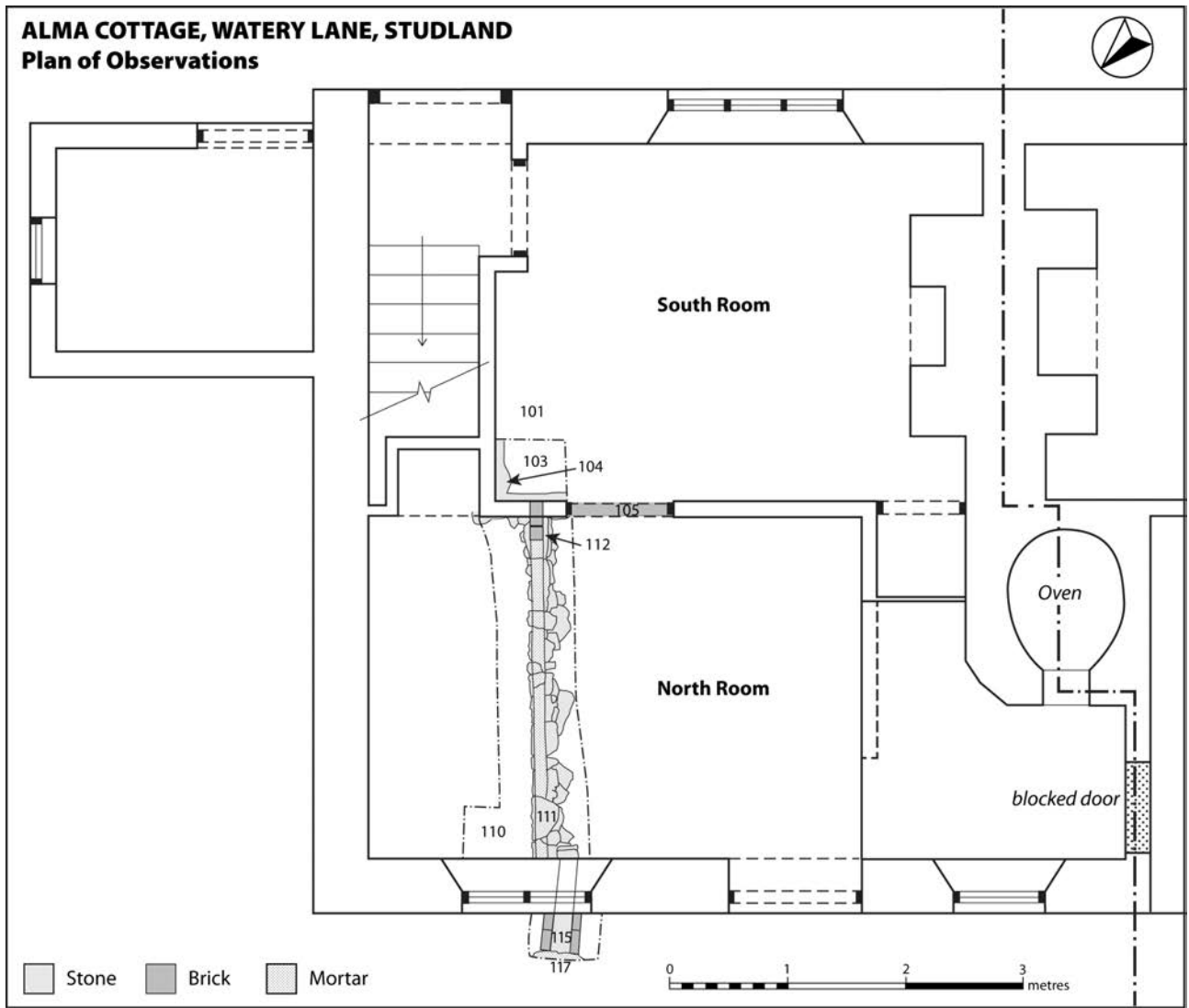


Figure 2: Plan of Observations.

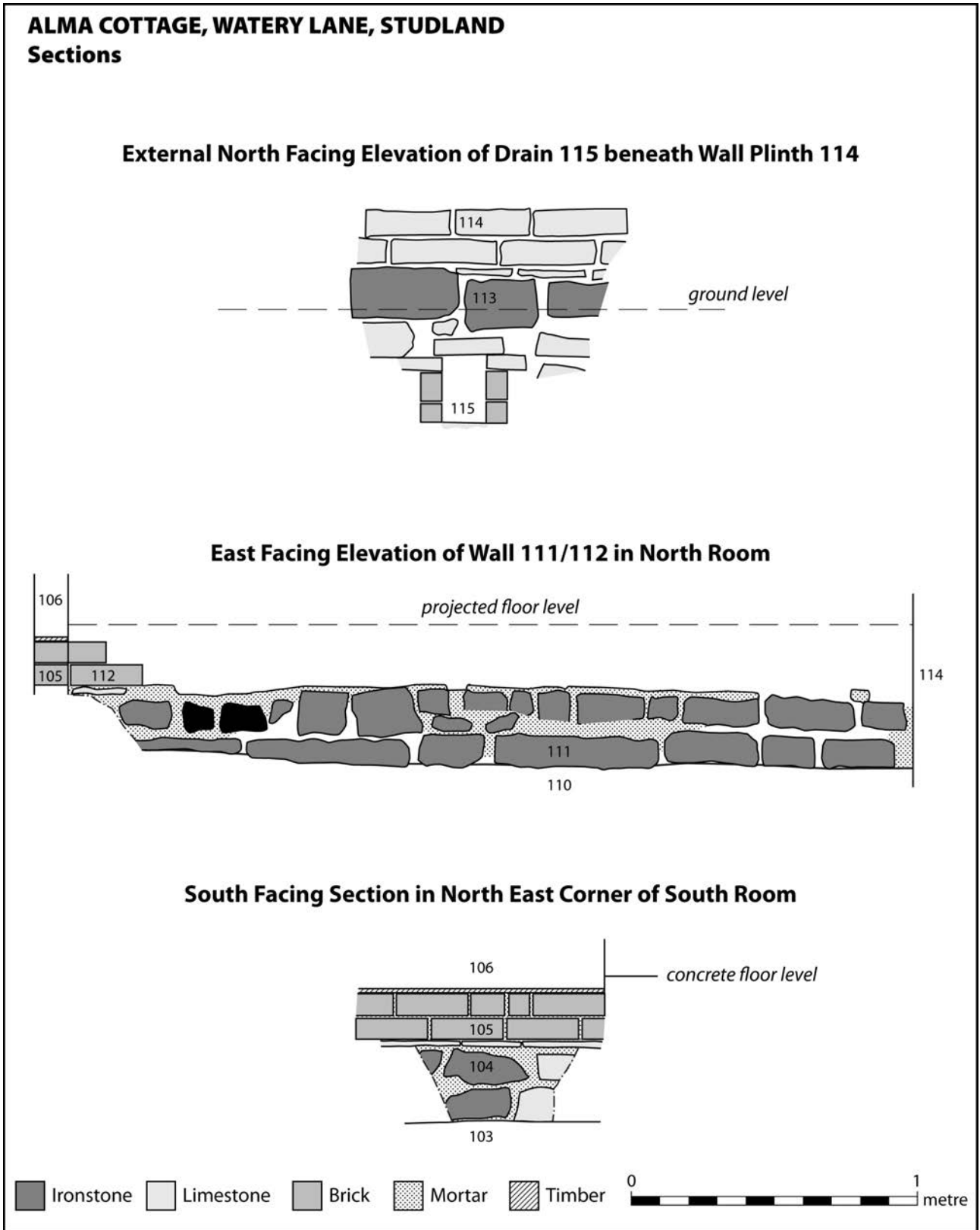


Figure 3: Sections and Elevations.

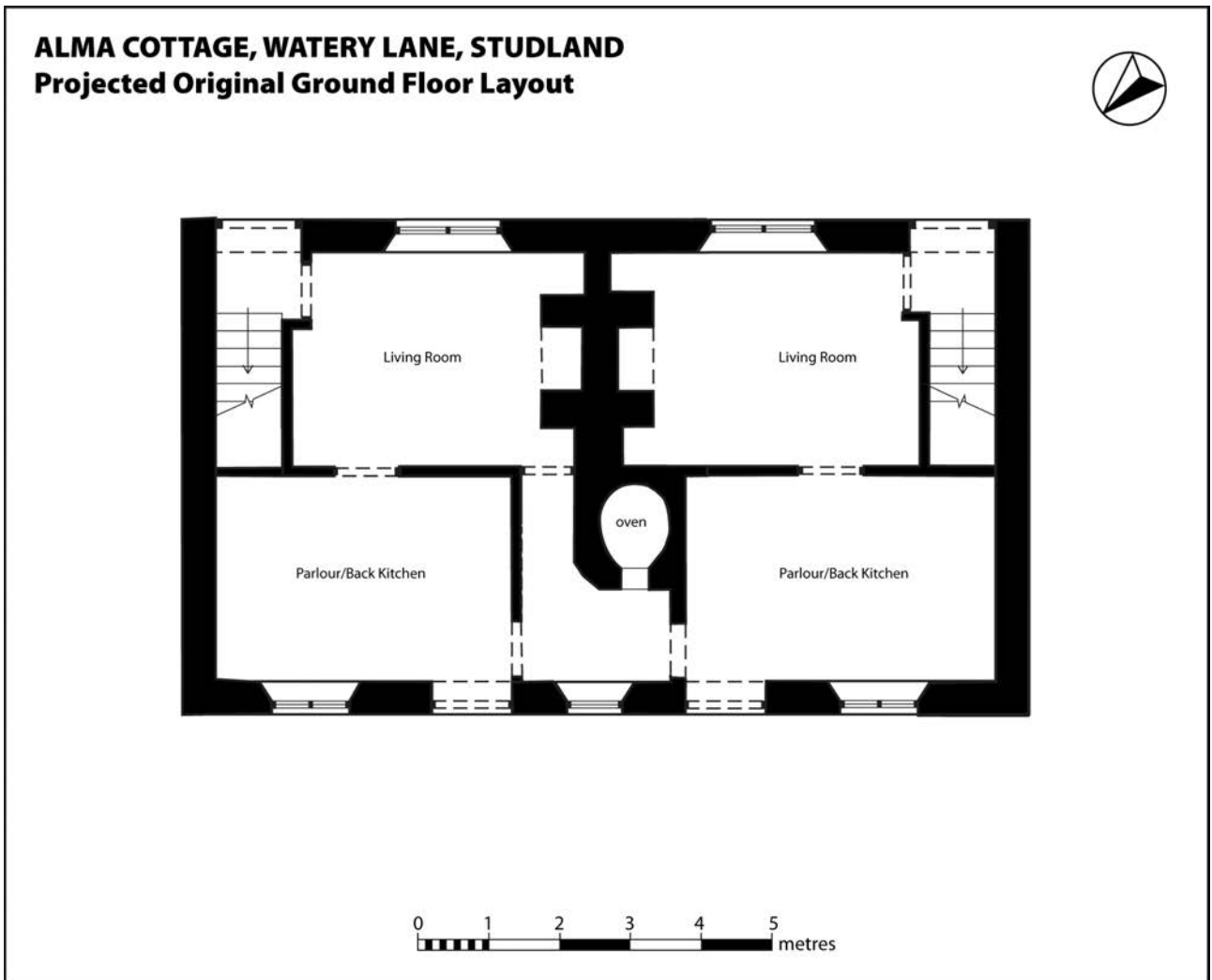


Figure 4: Suggested Original Plan of Cottages.



Plate 1: General view of external north elevation of Alma Cottage.



Plate 2: Sondage dug in NE corner of South Room showing mortared stone footings 104 and brick footings 114 above, looking north. 1m scale.



Plate 3: Sondage in South Room looking east showing stone footings 104. 1m scale.



Plate 4: North Room looking west with bread oven and blocked doorway visible in background, together with dwarf wall beneath floor. 1m scale.



Plate 5: North Room looking east with exposed Structure 111. 1m scale.



Plate 6: Structure 111 looking WNW with drain 115 visible through external wall. 1m scale.



Plate 7: View south along Structure 111 towards internal wall between the north and south rooms. 1m scale.



Plate 8: Detail of relationship between structure 111 and internal wall between North and South Rooms. 1m scale.



Plate 9: Drain 115 through north external wall and Structure 111 to right with vertical line scored in north wall just visible to left of scale. 1m scale.



Plate 10: External view of drain 115. View from north. 1m scale.



Plate 11: Drain 115 through north wall footings. View from north. 1m scale.



Plate 12: Drain 115 with concrete 117 at end of drain. View from north. 1m scale.

Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context	Area	Description and Interpretation	Depth (m) below ground level
100	South Room	Concrete Floor: Concrete, 70 mm thick. Removed before recording.	0.00 – 0.07m
101	South Room	Sub Base: Loose fine dark greyish-brown silty sand with frequent stone and brick rubble. Immediately below concrete floor 100	0.07 – 0.45m
102	South Room	Mortar Debris: Yellowish-brown decayed lime mortar and small lumps.	0.45m
103	South Room	Subsoil: Firm dark grey silty sand.	0.45m+
104	South Room	Stone Footings: Two courses of ironstone rubble with occasional limestone rubble, bonded with yellowish-brown lime mortar, on subsoil 103. Over ironstone rubble is a single course of tabular limestone bonded with yellowish-brown lime mortar. Footings project about 0.2m beyond wall 105 above.	0.21 – 0.45m
105	South Room	Brick Footings: Single skin brick wall footings between kitchen and living room. Two courses topped with a timber plate. Set on stone footings 104.	0.04 – 0.21m
106	South Room	Internal Wall: Single skin brick wall between kitchen and living room, built on top of timber sole plate above brick footing 105.	0.00 – 0.04m
107	North Room	Floor: Softwood timber boards. Removed before recording.	0.00 – 0.05m
108	North Room	Sub Base: Loose fine dark greyish-brown silty sand with frequent stone and brick rubble. Immediately below floor 107	0.05 – 0.50m
109	North Room	Mortar Debris: Yellowish-brown decayed lime mortar and small lumps.	0.50m
110	North Room	Subsoil: Firm dark grey silty sand.	0.50m+
111	North Room	Stone Footings: Two courses of ironstone rubble with occasional flint, bonded with yellowish-brown lime mortar, on subsoil 110. Over ironstone rubble is mortar scar of brick footings 112.	0.20 – 0.50m
112	North Room	Brick Footings: Single skin brick wall over footings 111. Originally probably two courses high. Bonded into 106.	0.05 – 0.20m
113	External	External Stone Wall Footings: Ironstone rubble and some limestone slat at base of north wall. Overlies drain 115.	+0.15 – 0.09m
114	External	External Stone Wall Plinth: Roughly dressed rubble limestone plinth at base of north wall of cottage. Overlies footings 113.	+0.35 – +0.15m
115	External	Drain through Wall: Drain through north wall of cottage with the sides formed by brick set on edge and a tabular limestone capping. The end of the drain is buried beneath concrete 117.	0.09 – 0.41m+
116	External	Garden Soil: Dark brown sandy loam.	0.00 – 0.40m+
117	External	Concrete: Concrete deposit at end of drain 115. Not fully exposed. Probably part of a later drain or manhole beneath the garden.	0.25m+
118	North Room	Unstratified Finds from North Room. Collected by builders.	
119	South Room	Unstratified Finds from South Room. Collected by builders.	