

***A Watching Brief at
Cold Weston Cottage,
Cold Weston, Clee St Margaret,
Shropshire, 2011***

by
H R Hannaford

Archaeology Service



Archaeology Service Report Number 301
© Shropshire Council
October 2011

**A WATCHING BRIEF AT COLD WESTON COTTAGE,
COLD WESTON, CLEE ST MARGARET, SHROPSHIRE, 2011**

by
H R HANNAFORD MifA

A report for

Mr R Lodge

Archaeology Service

Historic Environment Team, Environment,
Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND
Tel: (01743) 252575 Fax: (01743) 252505



CONTENTS

	Page No
SUMMARY	1
1 INTRODUCTION	2
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	2
3 THE WATCHING BRIEF	3
4 REFERENCES	3

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: Location of the foundation trenches

Photo 1: The study area, looking north

Photo 2: The deposits in the southern arm of the foundation trenches, looking southeast

SUMMARY

In July 2011 groundworks were carried out for an extension to Cold Weston Cottage, Cold Weston, Clee St Margaret, Shropshire. The study area lay within the core of the deserted medieval settlement of Cold Weston, and it was considered possible that archaeological remains might be encountered during the groundworks for the development. A watching brief on the development was carried out by the Archaeology Service, Shropshire Council. No significant archaeological features or deposits were seen during the course of the watching brief.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Cold Weston is situated in south Shropshire, about 30km south of Shrewsbury town centre. Cold Weston Cottage lies within the remains of Cold Weston deserted medieval settlement (Shropshire Historic Environment Record [HER] No. 01264). The settlement is situated at a height of about 260m above sea level on the north-facing slope of Weston Hill. It is one of a series of deserted medieval settlements that are to be found on the plateau of high ground surrounding Brown Clee Hill in South Shropshire. The settlement is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Shropshire County Monument No. 358) under the terms of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, although the cottage is not included within the scheduled area.

1.2 In July 2011 work began on the construction of an extension on the southwest side of Cold Weston Cottage following the removal of an existing extension and shed. The groundworks involved the excavation of foundations for the extension.

1.3 The development area lies within the core of the area covered by the deserted settlement remains and it was considered that there was a possibility that archaeological remains might be encountered during the groundworks for the development.

1.4 Because of the potential significance of the archaeological resource it was considered necessary that the groundworks associated with the development be accompanied by the implementation of a programme of archaeological work.

1.5 The Archaeology Service, Shropshire Council, was commissioned by the site owner, Mr R Lodge, to carry out this programme of archaeological work in accordance with a scheme of investigation approved by the Historic Environment Team, Shropshire Council.

1.6 The aim of the programme of archaeological work was to allow for the preservation by record of any archaeological remains that were encountered during the groundworks.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 There may have been a settlement at Cold Weston in 1086, and the settlement is mentioned in a number of documents of the 13th century, one of which concerns a watermill. The settlement declined in the early 14th century, and contracted still further in the post-medieval period. The settlement remains consist of a two-cell church (HER 10811) of 12th century date surrounded by extensive well-preserved settlement earthworks covering some 8ha. There is a substantial holloway or sunken road running north-south which is flanked by house platforms at its north end and by a series of scarps and terraces along its whole length, possibly representing former crofts. A probable mill site also survives, in the form of a rectangular, now dry, pond with an earthwork extension protruding into it from its northeast side. A substantial bay defines its northwest side, and from behind this two former artificial water courses run downhill. Traces of ridge and furrow (HER 04554) also survive as part of the earthwork remains. (Watson, 1986) It is possible therefore that archaeological remains relating to both the medieval and post-medieval settlement may survive within the study area.

2.2 Shropshire County Council's Archaeology Service carried out a watching brief on groundworks associated with the conversion of the redundant St Mary's Church, Cold Weston, into a dwelling. The cutting of service trenches, soakaways, a pit for a septic tank, and an access track to the church were archaeologically monitored, but were not

seen to reveal or disturb any significant archaeological features or deposits (Hannaford, 1994).

3 THE WATCHING BRIEF

3.1 The foundation trenches for the current development were excavated by machine under archaeological supervision following the demolition of the existing extension. The trenches were excavated to a depth of 0.95m and a width of 0.5m.

3.2 The natural subsoil consisted of a reddish brown clay (5) mottled sparingly with patches of greenish grey sandy clay. It lay at a depth of between 0.2m and 0.4m below the present ground surface, beneath the existing garden soil and the remains of the floor and hardcore of the previous extension.

3.3 No significant archaeological features or deposits were seen during the watching brief.

4 REFERENCES

- Eyton, Rev R W**, 1854: *Antiquities of Shropshire*, vol. i
Hannaford H R, 1994, *A Watching Brief at Cold Weston Deserted Medieval Settlement, Shropshire*, SCC Archaeology Service Report No 52
Rowley, T, 1972: *The Shropshire Landscape*
Thorn, F and C (eds), 1986: *Domesday Book: Shropshire*, Phillimore, Chichester
Watson, M D, 1986: *Cold Weston - Archaeological Assessment*, HER Report
Watson, M D, 1986: *Cold Weston - Summary of Documentary Evidence*, HER Report

ABBREVIATIONS

HER	Historic Environment Record, Shropshire Council
OS	Ordnance Survey
SA	Shropshire Archives, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury
TSAS	Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological Society
TSAHS	Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society

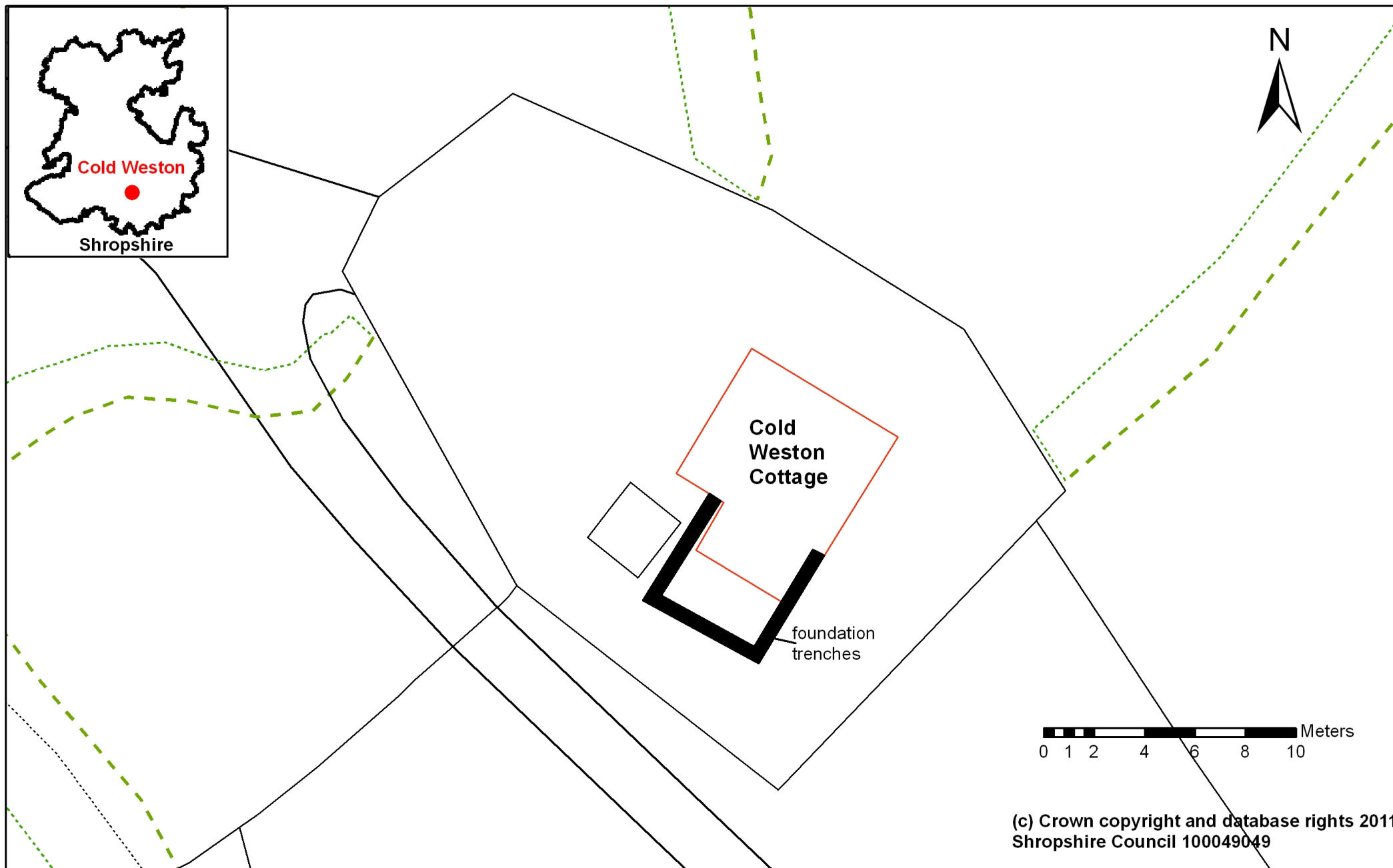




Photo 1: The study area, looking north



Photo 2: The deposits in the southern arm of the foundation trenches, looking southeast

COLD WESTON COTTAGE 2011