

**A WATCHING BRIEF AT
COPALL PADDOCK, BISHOP'S CASTLE, SHROPSHIRE, 2018**

by
H R HANNAFORD MCIFA

A report for
Francine Murray

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In June 2018 the Archaeology Service carried out a watching brief on groundworks for a new development at Copall Paddock, Bishop's Castle, Shropshire.

1.2 The development site lies within the medieval town of Bishop's Castle (Shropshire Council Historic Environment Record [HER] No. PRN 05153) and in a block of tenement plots on the west of Church St, Bishops Castle (PRN 05150) developed in the later medieval period outside of the town walls located to the north. The historic editions of the Ordnance Survey maps indicate that the site itself was part of the back plots and paddocks of properties fronting the road in the 19th century.

1.3 In accordance with condition 3 of the planning permission for the development (Planning Ref.: 17/04364/FUL), the Archaeology Service was commissioned by the developer to carry out a programme of archaeological work in the form of a watching brief during the groundworks for the development. The aim of the archaeological watching brief was to allow for the preservation by record of any archaeological remains that were encountered during the groundworks.

2 PREVIOUS WORK

2.1 The only previous archaeological work carried out in the vicinity of the development site was on land to the rear of The Six Bell's Brewery, approximately 50m to the south. In 1998 a series of six test-pits excavated there revealed an agricultural soil of approximately 0.5m depth lying above the natural clay. Assorted 18th - 20th century artefactual material was recovered (Walmsley, 1998).

3 THE WATCHING BRIEF

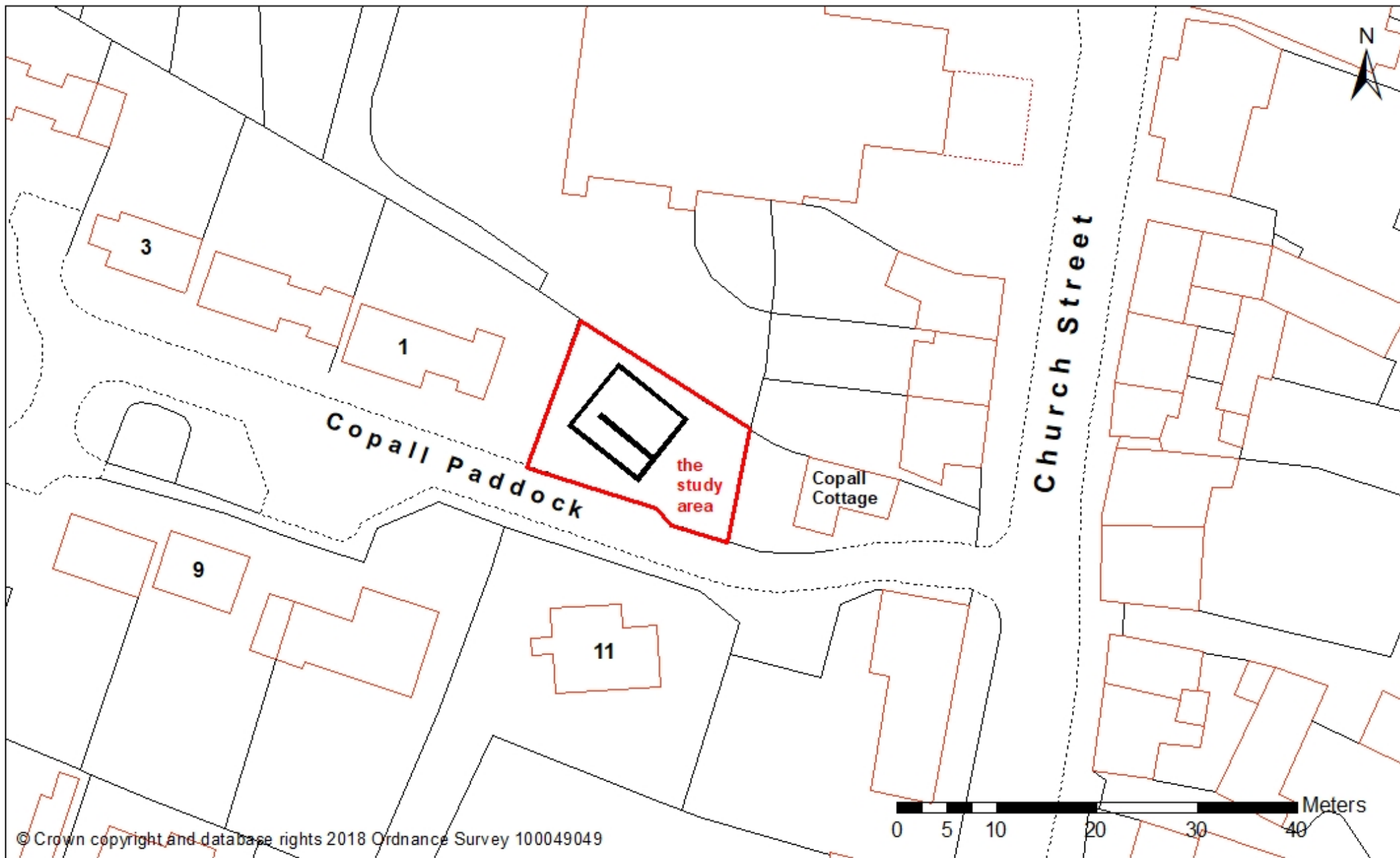
3.1 The foundation trenches for the new house were excavated with a mechanical mini-digger to a width of 0.45m and a depth of 1m. The existing garden soil was seen to be about 0.5m deep, and lay above natural buff to light yellowish-brown clay. In the centre of the new house plot, a shallow scoop filled with modern building rubble and about 0.25m of tarmac had been cut into the former garden soil.

3.2 No archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

4 REFERENCES

Walmsley, C, 1998: *Archaeological investigation on land to the rear of The Six Bells Brewery at Bishop's Castle*, Tameside Archaeological Society





© Crown copyright and database rights 2018 Ordnance Survey 100049049



COPALL PADDOCK, BISHOP'S CASTLE 2018

Figure 2: The study area and foundation trenches

Archaeology Service, Shropshire Council,
 Historic Environment Team, Business Growth & Prosperity,
 Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

Scale: 1:500



Photo 1: The development site, looking W



Photo 2: One of the foundation trench, showing the garden soil and the natural clay, looking S