



# BRISTOL & WEST ARCHAEOLOGY

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Church Cottage, Stinchcombe  
Gloucestershire

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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Client: Mr, Mrs Davidson

18 May 2017

# Bristol & West Archaeology

**Planning Authority:**

**Stroud District Council**

**Planning Ref: S.16/0696/HHOLD**

**National Grid Reference:**

**ST 73012 98895**

**Author: Raymond K Ducker**

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Parkfield House, Parkfield, Pucklechurch, Bristol BS16 9NS. Tel. 0117 9372450  
Email [bruce.williams@bristolandwestarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:bruce.williams@bristolandwestarchaeology.co.uk)

**Church Cottage, Stinchcombe Gloucestershire**  
**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

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## **Church Cottage, Stinchcombe Gloucestershire**

### **Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

#### **Summary**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Bristol and West Archaeology on land at Church Cottage, Stinchcombe, Gloucestershire. Initial ground works comprised the removal of retaining walls, tarmacadam and concrete surfaces, after which reduced level platforms for a single-storey and two-storey extensions were excavated.

Deposits recorded during this work comprised topsoil, subsoil and clay of geological origin. An area of concrete floor and a modern rubbish pit were also observed.

**Church Cottage, Stinchcombe Gloucestershire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Thanks are owed to the project commissioners, Mr and Mrs Davidson.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Planning consent was granted by Stroud District Council for the construction of a two-storey and single-storey extension and associated works (App Ref S.16/0696/HHOLD) at Church Cottage, Stinchcombe, Gloucestershire. Attached to the consent was a planning condition (Condition No 3) for an archaeological watching brief during development groundworks.
- 1.2 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (BWA 2017) commissioned by Mr and Mrs Davidson which detailed the methodology to be adopted by Bristol & West Archaeology to undertake the archaeological work. It was guided in its composition by Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIFA 2014), Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE: The Project Managers' Guide (EH 2006).
- 1.3 The work will be entered in the Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record and in the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS). An accession number will be requested from Museum of Gloucester as the likely recipient of the project archive.

## **2. SITE LOCATION AND GEOLOGY**

### **Location**

- 2.1 The site is centred on NGR ST 73012 98895 and is a detached property located off Echo Lane (B4060) on the north east side of St Cyr's Church, Stinchcombe.

### **Geology**

- 2.2 The underlying strata are interbedded Siltstone and Mudstone - the Dyrham Formation, sedimentary bedrock formed during the Jurassic (BGS 2017).

## **3. OBJECTIVES AND RECORDING METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 The Watching Brief followed the methodology outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (BWA 2013) and involved monitoring of all intrusive ground-work where potential survival of archaeological deposits, features or structures remained.
- 3.2 All archaeological and non-archaeological features and deposits were recorded on standard BWA Ltd Sheets with scaled plans and section drawings as appropriate. All records, drawings and photographs have been prepared as a standard archive according to English Heritage MAP2 standards and will be stored eventually at the Museum of Gloucester together with the material finds.

## **4. HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 No previous archaeological work has been undertaken on the site. It is located in the centre of the village alongside the village church, dedicated to St Cyr and Grade II\* Listed, and opposite Church Farm, and is shown on the 1st edition OS 1883-1884.

Because of the site's location it was considered possible that archaeological remains could be revealed by groundworks for the proposed extensions to Church Cottage.

## **5. RESULTS**

- 5.1 Two areas were reduced in level for extensions to the south and east of an earlier extension of the cottage.
- 5.2 To the south of the extension the ground rose in level from west to east during the dig and there was a corresponding increase in depth. A very basic stratigraphy was recorded, comprising topsoil (101) sealing indistinct subsoil (102) over deposits of archaeologically sterile clay (103) which were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m.
- 5.3 At approximately the centre of the reduced level excavation the sequence of deposits was interrupted by a shallow concrete pad, reportedly part of a lean-to external WC. In the south east corner of the dig a modern rubbish pit (Cut and Fill 104) was also revealed.
- 5.4 The reduced level excavation around the east side of the cottage revealed the same stratigraphy as to the south, whilst removal of adjacent floor surfaces exposed only the underlying archaeologically sterile clay, perhaps suggesting this part of the site had been terraced out during construction of the 1970s extension.

## **6. CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1 Construction of the extension revealed a simple stratigraphic sequence. No deposits or features of archaeological interest were found and no artefacts retained.

## **7. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES**

BWA 2017, Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Church Cottage, Stinchcombe, Gloucestershire.

**8. APPENDIX 1 TABLE OF CONTEXTS**

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Date
100	-	U/S Finds number	-	-	-	-
101	Deposit	Dark brown/greyish brown sandy silt with rare small limestone fragment inclusions. Topsoil.	Whole area of extension on S side – in section on E side.		Up to 250mm	-
102	Subsoil	Mid-brown/yellowish brown silty clay forming indistinct band between (101) and (102). Subsoil.	Whole area of extension on S side – in section on E.		100mm	-
103	Natural	Stiff/plastic strong brown clay – becomes yellow as depth increases.	Whole area of extension on S and E sides.		1.2m	-
104	Cut and Fill	Modern rectangular, vertical-sided pit with containing abundant glass and pottery.	In section 500mm x 500mm		1m	C19



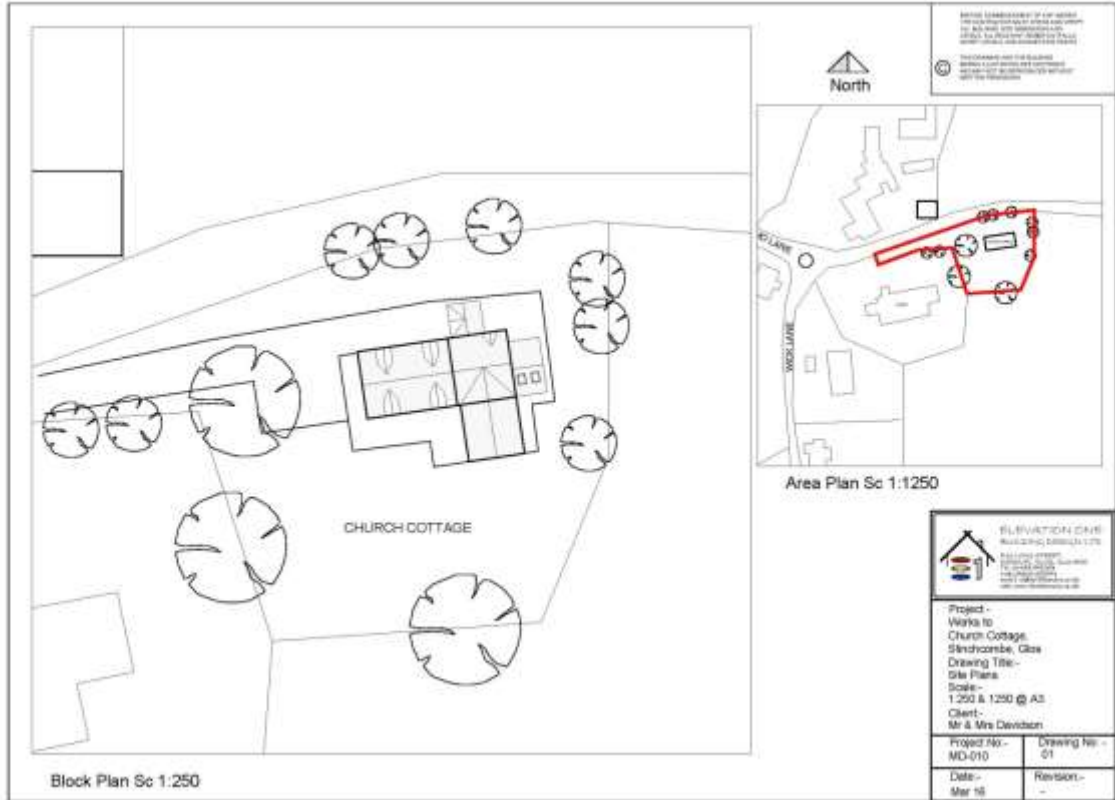


Figure 1. Site Location, scale as shown.



Plate 1. Section of the reduced level platform on the south side of the property during excavation, looking SE. Scale 1m.



Plate 2. Section of the reduced level platform on the south side of the property at completion of excavation, with Pit Cut and Fill (104) on left. Looking E. Scale 2m.





Plate 3. Concrete Surface exposed in section of excavation of the reduced level platform on the south side of the property. Looking ENE. Scale 2 x 1m.



Plate 4. Reduced level platform on the east side of the property after removal of revetment walls and floor surfaces. Looking NE. Scale 2m.