



THE ARCHAEOLOGY CO.

Chapel Croft, Newton in Bowland

Watching Brief

December 2021

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the site levelling and foundation excavation at Chapel Croft, Newton in Bowland. The excavation revealed no archaeological features, with the exception of land drains and a bank of redeposited clay rising to the east, to the south side of the barn, likely put in place in 1871.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Steven Price of The Archaeology Co. has been commissioned to perform a watching brief during the groundworks at Chapel Croft Farm, Newton in Bowland. The proposal is for the “replacement dwelling and conversion of barn to two dwellings”. Condition 9 of planning permission application 3/2020/0732 states:

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agent or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. This must be carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which shall first have been submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure and safeguard the recording and inspection of matters of archaeological/historical importance associated with the site. The work should be carried out by an appropriately qualified and experienced professional archaeological contractor to the standards and guidance set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (www.archaeologists.net).

- 1.2 This procedure followed the advice of Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework. This came into effect in March 2012 and requires that “Local planning authorities should make information about the significance of the historic environment gathered as part of plan-making or development management publicly accessible. They should also require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible” (NPPF 2019, 141).



- 1.3 Victoria Oyston has commissioned Mr. Steven Price BA (Hons), MA, MPhil, PCIfA of The Archaeology Co. to carry out the archaeological watching brief. Steven Price is a Practitioner of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists with over 15 years' experience

2. SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The site is located on the east side of the B6478, approximately 1km to the south west of Newton in Bowland, within the Ribble Valley, Lancashire. The postal address is Chapel Croft, Slaidburn Road, Newton in Bowland, Lancashire BB7 3DL and the NGR is SD 70360 49577. The site slopes downward towards the west and slightly to the north and the underlying geology consists of Millstone grit and glacial clay.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The purpose of a watching brief, as stated by the ClfA is:

- “to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, their presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.
- To provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.” (ClfA 2014)

3.2 The results of a watching brief are used to produce a record of the location, nature and date of any archaeological remains encountered on the site. It also adds to the knowledge about the previous history of activity on the current site and its surroundings as well as providing information to influence future planning decisions in the area.



4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The project was carried out in accordance with the recommendations of The Management of Archaeological Projects 2nd ed. 1991 and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct.
- 4.2 As per the condition, an archaeologist was present during groundworks associated with the development. Ground levelling was undertaken on the 23rd and 24th June, with foundation trenches excavated from the 25th November.
- 4.3 Ground excavation was carried out with a toothless ditching bucket in level spits, with opportunities for archaeological observation. The attending archaeologist was given opportunity to direct the machine to stop to allow inspection, excavation and/or recording of potential archaeological features. Where archaeological features were deemed to be present, they were archaeologically exposed and recorded. All possible features and deposits were examined and tested. Any encountered archaeological remains were cleaned manually to define their extent, nature, form, condition and, where possible, date. Hand excavation was undertaken by trained professional archaeologists.
- 4.4 Context sheets were used for recording on site features. Photographic recording took the form of digital photography (DSLR 12 Megapixel Olympus E600). An appropriate photo scale was present in each of the shots and a photo register compiled, recording the direction and subject of each shot. Features were located in plan at 1:50 scale.
- 4.5 Finds recovery and sampling programmes were in accordance with best practice (following current Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' guidelines) and recorded by context. Finds storage during fieldwork and any site archive preparation followed professional guidelines (UKIC).

5. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 Bowland was absorbed into the kingdom of Northumbria in the seventh century. After the collapse of Northumbria in the late ninth century, the westernmost areas of Bowland became part of Amounderness, a territory forged by the Scandinavian hold Agmundr. In the early tenth century, Amounderness was annexed by Aethelstan as a spoil of war. It was granted to Wulfstan I, Archbishop of York, in 934. Amounderness encompassed a significant portion of western and south-western Bowland (Spencer & Jolly 2010).
- 5.2 The name Bowland derives from the Old English *boga-*, or Old Norse *bogi-*, meaning “bow or bend in a river” and Ekwall (1922) suggests it comes from the tenth century to describe the topography of the Hodder basin (Spencer & Jolly 2010). Newton-in-Bowland (formerly known as Newton-on-Hodder) was first recorded in the Domesday Book as *‘Neutone’*.
- 5.3 By the late thirteenth century, the Lord of Bowland had made Slaidburn his demesne. After 1399, the Lordship of Bowland became the property of the Sovereign, part of the Duchy of Lancaster, and as such, the Lords of Bowland became known as Lord Kings of Bowland. By the late fourteenth century, the Forest of Bowland had become a Royal Forest (Spencer & Jolly 2010).
- 5.4 The extent of the early forest is detailed in Perambulations of the fifteenth and seventeenth centuries. These record several now vanished place names, but also show that Newton was one of several places that marked the outer edge of the original forest (Spencer & Jolly 2010).
- 5.5 A deed from the 28th March 1528 records the grant of a house called Chapel Croft in Newton in Bowland as well as land in Newton in Bowland. Elizabeth Hoghton granted it to Christopher Lister, Stephen Tempest, Thomas Lister and Lawrence Lister (“Deeds and Papers relating to Thornton and Area”. In “Lister Kaye Collection” Yorkshire Archaeological and Historical Society Ref: MD234/66). The Lister family were relatives of the Parkers, a notable family in the area who received the manor in the 18th century. Chapel Croft thus appears to have been present from at least the

16th century. The present house and barn were built in the 17th century, the barn having a datestone reading "IPCP 1671" and the house datestone reading "IPOIP 1669". The field boundaries around the property are irregular which also suggests that the fields were in use prior to the enclosure act of 1773. These irregular fields lie to the east of the farm, running up to Meanly. Those to the north, south and west are more regular and rectangular, suggesting they were not used until after the act had passed (Adkins *et al.* 2008; Baker & Butlin 1973).

- 5.6 From the middle of the 19th century the farm has changed occupants a number of times. By 1841, the farm was in the occupation of William Middlebrough, a 50-year-old farmer, and his family. Matthew Isherwood was the occupant in 1851, recorded as a mason and farmer of 15 acres. He lived with his wife Mary and two children. The 1850 OS map shows the site at this time. The barn appears as a rectangular building on the same alignment as the present building. On the southern side is a projection, presumably the threshing barn door. However, the western side is not shown to be as wide as it is at present, apparently being a uniform width throughout. At the western end of the north elevation is a small extension. The house is shown to the north of this as a rectangular building aligned roughly east – west, with a yard between them.
- 5.7 Matthew Isherwood was still the occupant of the farm in the 1861 census, and had an increased amount of land, with 23 acres. By 1871, it would appear that Matthew had died and the farm was then in the hands of his wife Mary and their son, John. Chapel Croft is not recorded by name in the 1881 census, although John Isherwood is recorded at "Meanley" (a farm c. 800m to the east) as a farmer of 22 acres. Chapel Croft is likewise not recorded in the 1891 census returns. The 1894 OS map shows the barn much as it appears today, with the western side wider than the eastern and the extension to the north no longer present. The house is also much the same, although with a pair of small extensions to the south and east sides. By 1901 the farm was occupied by Thomas Rushton and his family, who were still in occupation of the farm in 1911. The 1908 map shows no change to the site.

6. RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The site was levelled by machine over a 2-day period to 177.5m AOD. Due to the sloping ground, little was removed from the western and northern ends, with it being already at this level. To the east and south the ground rose up, with up to 1m removed from this side of the site. This revealed the natural glacial clay (03) close to the surface across the whole site, c.150mm below the topsoil (01). Above this was a dark grey sandy loam (02), c. 50mm deep. Modern plastic was found within context (02). No foundations were revealed for the former house, suggesting it had been built on top of the natural clay, rather than cut into it. This may have been the case for earlier buildings on the site also, as no other foundations were found.
- 6.2 A stone built land drain was found to the south side of the site, aligned roughly north - south and running away from the barn. This lay below a layer of redeposited yellow/brown stiff clay (04), which formed a bank leading upwards towards the east. No artefacts were found. This redeposited clay bank cut across the threshold of a doorway to the east side of the barn, although respected the threshold of the wide barn door. This suggests that the bank was put in place when the barn was widened in 1871 (Price 2021).
- 6.3 The majority of the site was cleared to the natural clay (03) during the excavation. However, the far western side of the site remained untouched and thus the foundation trenches were also watched when they were excavated later. These revealed a similar situation, with the natural clay close to the surface, below a modern subsoil (02), with the topsoil over. Below the clay, the Millstone grit bedrock (05) was also partially revealed. At the western end the north - south aligned trench lay directly over a modern land drain, cut into the natural clay. No further archaeology was found.



7. ARCHIVE

- 7.1 The results of the archaeological investigation form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current Historic England guidelines (“The Management of Archaeological Projects”, 2nd edition, 1991), the “Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage” (UKIC 1990), and current ClfA “standards and guidance for the creation, compilation, transportation and deposition of archaeological archive” (published October 2009). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the ClfA in that organisation’s code of conduct.
- 7.2 No significant finds were recovered. As such the digital archive will then be deposited with ADS, including a digital copy of the report as well as associated photographs. A copy of the final report will also be deposited with the Lancashire Historic Environment Record in PDF/a format.



8. COPYRIGHT

- 8.1 Full copyright of this commissioned report and other project documents shall be retained by the author of the report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Abbreviations

ADS	Archaeological Data Service
CifA	Chartered Institute for archaeologists
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
OS	Ordnance Survey

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Maps

1850 OS map Yorkshire sheet CLXV

1894 OS map Yorkshire sheet CLXV.9

1908 OS map Yorkshire sheet CLXV.9



Appendix 1: Figures

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Figure 1: Location plan

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Figure 3: 1850 OS map Yorkshire sheet CLXV

Figure 4: 1894 OS map Yorkshire sheet CLXV.9

Figure 5: 1908 OS map Yorkshire sheet CLXV.9

Figure 6: Site plan showing extent of site clearance and trench locations

Figure 7: Section drawings

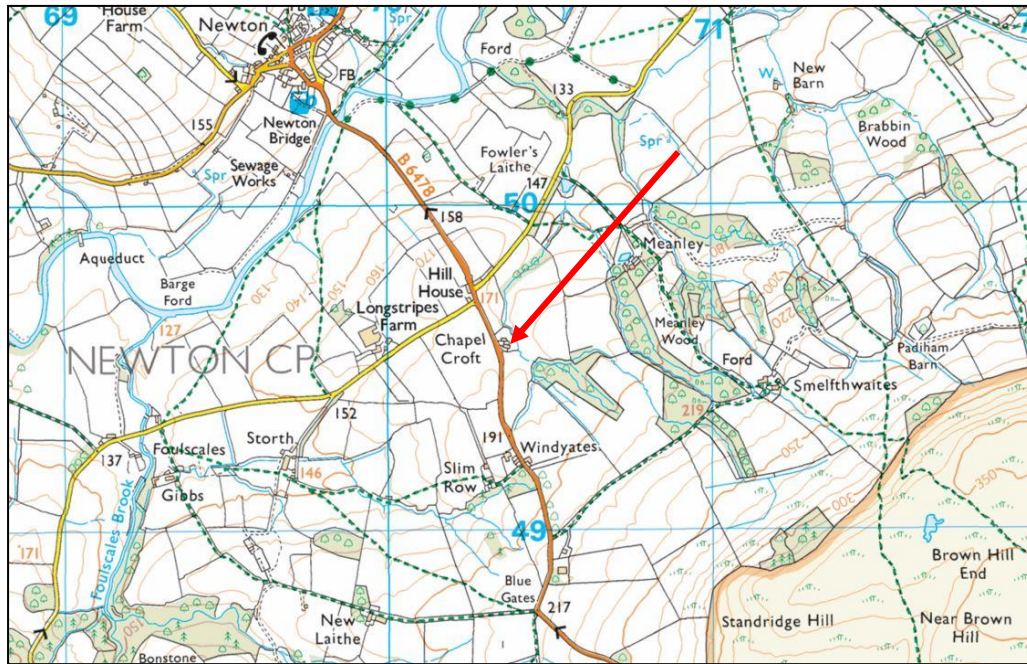


Figure 1: Site location plan (OS Licence Number: 100057911)



Figure 2: Site plan (courtesy of client)



Figure 3: 1850 OS map Yorkshire sheet CLXV (courtesy of Lancashire Archives)

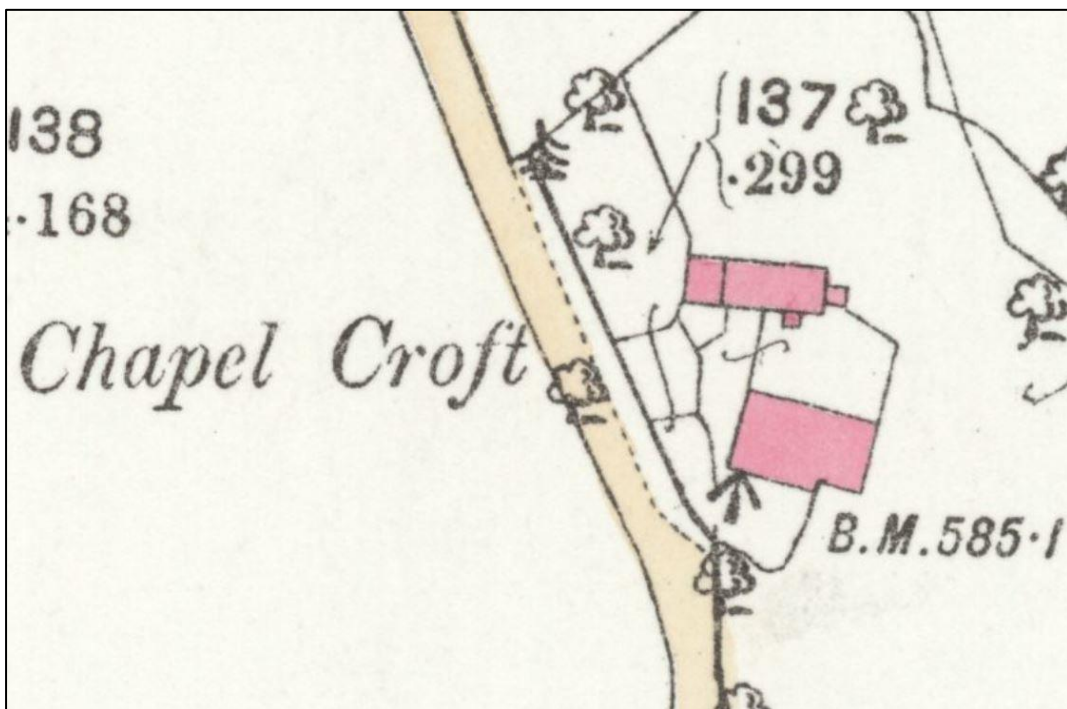


Figure 4: 1894 OS map Yorkshire sheet CLXV.9 (courtesy of Lancashire Archives)

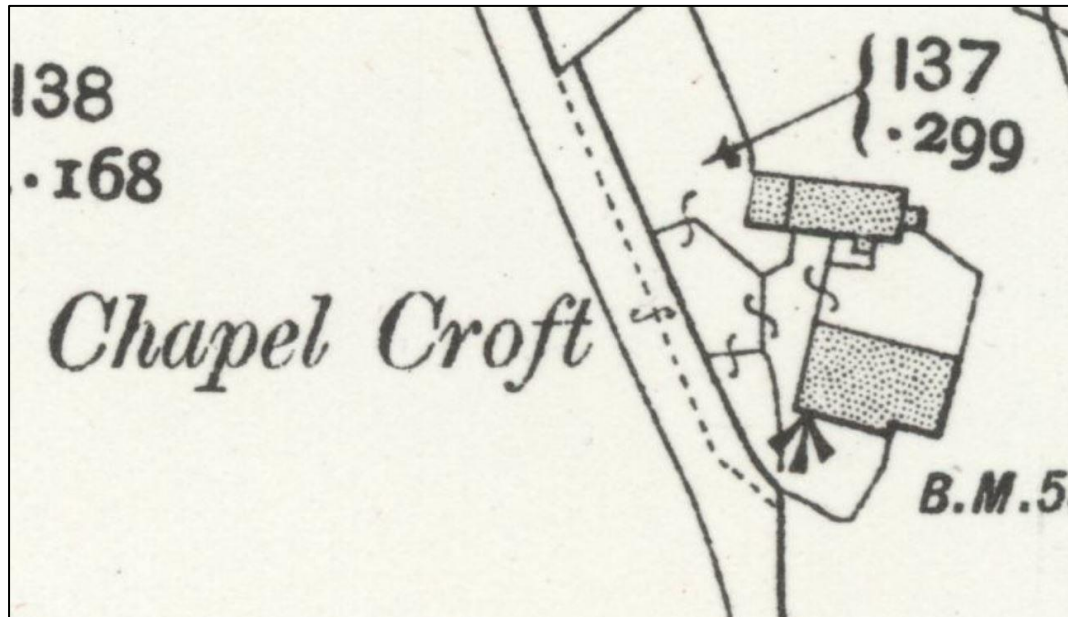


Figure 5: 1908 OS map Yorkshire sheet CLV.9 (courtesy of Lancashire Archives)



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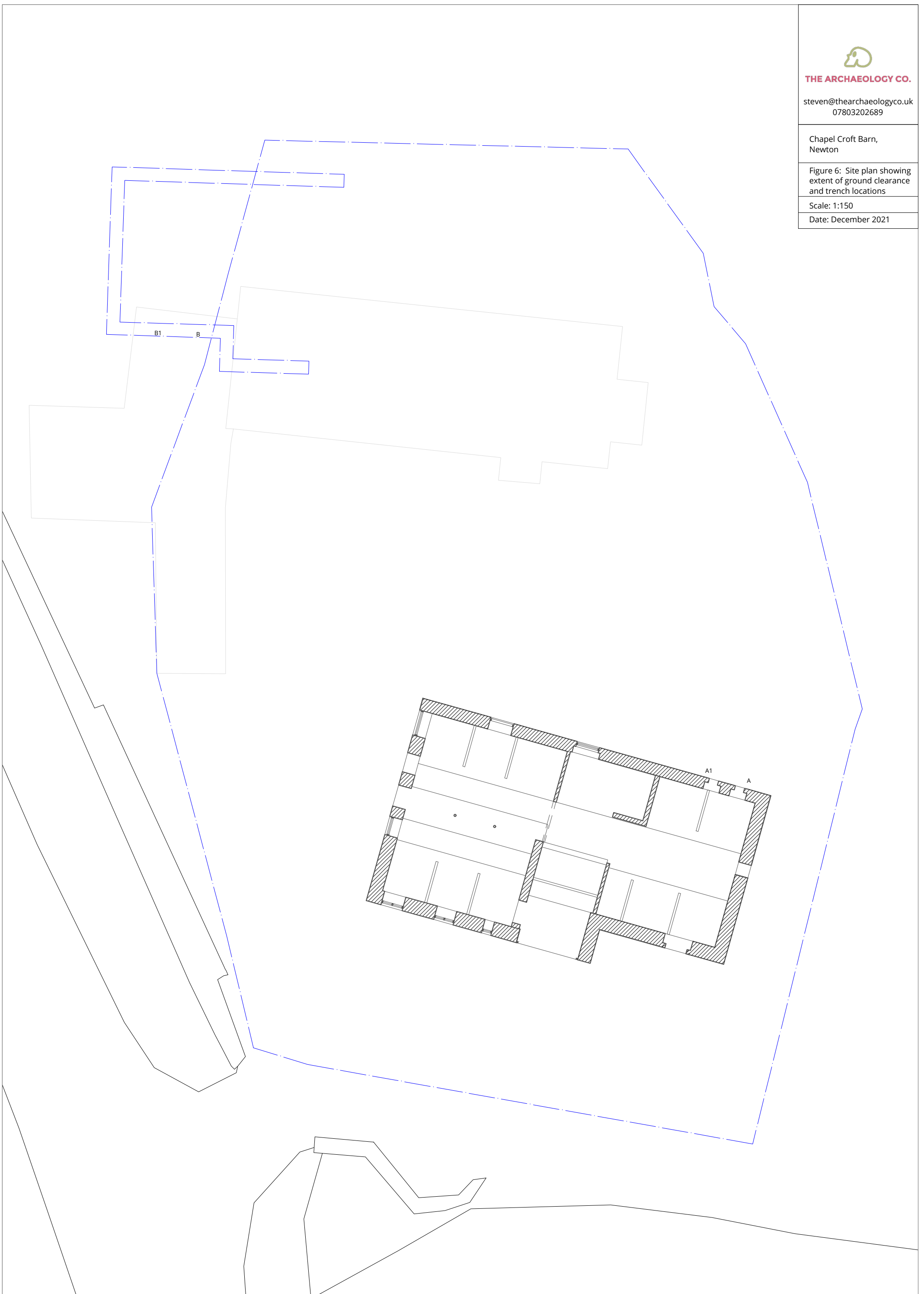
steven@thearchaeologyco.uk
07803202689

Chapel Croft Barn,
Newton

Figure 6: Site plan showing
extent of ground clearance
and trench locations

Scale: 1:150

Date: December 2021





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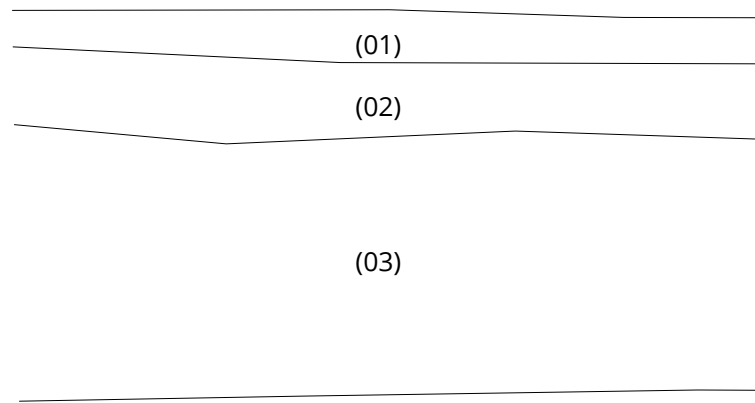
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Chapel Croft Barn,
Newton

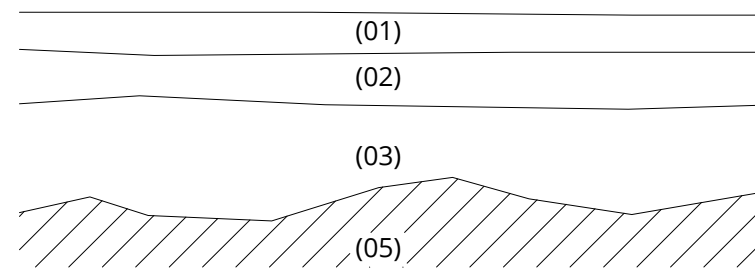
Figure 7: Section drawings

Scale: 1:20

Date: December 2021



Section after land clearance A - A1



Trench section B - B1

Figure 8: Photographic Register

Plate No.	Digital No.	Description	View to
1	P6230436	General shot of west side of site before clearance	N
2	P6230437	As above showing barn	E
3	P6230439	North side prior to clearance	E
4	P6230444	Northwest corner of site at commencement of clearance	W
5	P6230449	Natural clay (03) revealed	W
6	P6230460	Working shot	SE
7	P6230463	Working shot	SE
8	P6230472	Deeper ground at north end towards to east	SE
9	P6230476	As above showing revealed natural clay (03)	SE
10	P6230487	Deeper ground along north side of barn showing natural clay (03)	S
11	P6230488	Detail of section shown above	S
12	P6230490	Working shot to northeast corner	E
13	P6230494	Cleared land to north of site	W
14	P6230495	Cleared land to north of site	NE
15	P6230496	Cleared land to north of site	E
16	P6230498	Clearance to west of barn	SW
17	P6230502	Clearance to west of barn	S
18	P6230504	Clearance to west of barn	E
19	P6230505	As above after clearance	S
20	P6230514	Clearance to east side of barn showing clay (03)	SW
21	P6230516	Clearance to east side of barn showing clay (03)	S
22	P6240519	South side of site prior to clearance after removal of concrete	N
23	P6240520	South side of site prior to clearance after removal of concrete	E
24	P6240521	Working shot	E
25	P6240523	As above showing redeposited lay (04)	E
26	P6240527	Working shot	E
27	P6240528	Section showing redeposited clay (04)	N
28	P6240535	South side of site after clearance	E
29	PB251142	Initial trench opening	S
30	PB251154	Trench section showing land drain	S
31	PB251146	Trench section showing natural clay (03)	S
32	PB251155	Further trench opening	NE
33	PB251156	Working shot	NW
34	PB251157	Working shot	NE
35	PB251162	Trench showing natural clay and bedrock (05)	NE
36	PB251145	General shot of trench section	SE



Appendix 2: Plates



Plate 1: General shot of west side of site before clearance



Plate 2: As above showing barn



Plate 3: North side prior to clearance



Plate 4: Northwest corner of site at commencement of clearance



Plate 5: Natural clay (03) revealed



Plate 6: Working shot



Plate 7: Working shot



Plate 8: Deeper ground at north end towards to east



Plate 9: As above showing revealed natural clay (03)



Plate 10: Deeper ground along north side of barn showing natural clay (03)



Plate 11: Detail of section shown above



Plate 12: Working shot to northeast corner



Plate 13: Cleared land to north of site



Plate 14: As above



Plate 15: As above



Plate 16: Clearance to west of barn



Plate 17: As above



Plate 18: As above



Plate 19: As above after clearance



Plate 20: Clearance to east side of barn showing clay (03)



Plate 21 as above



Plate 22: South side of site prior to clearance after removal of concrete



Plate 23: As above



Plate 24: Working shot



Plate 25: As above showing redeposited lay (04)



Plate 26: Working shot



Plate 27: Section showing redeposited clay (04)



Plate 28: South side of site after clearance



Plate 29: Initial trench opening



Plate 30: Trench section showing land drain



Plate 31: Trench section showing natural clay (03) over bedrock (05)



Plate 32: Further trench opening



Plate 33: Working shot



Plate 34: Working shot



Plate 35: Trench showing natural clay and bedrock (05)



Plate 36: General shot of trench section