Archaeological Watching Brief for

OLD STONEY COTTAGE

For R Hibbert

Blair Poole MSc MIfA

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Archaeological Watching Brief for

OLD STONEY COTTAGE

Client:	R Hibbert
Local Authority:	Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
NGR:	323388,387733
Planning App:	APP/11/00910
Author(s):	B Poole
Doc Ref:	LP1382C-AWB-v.1.2
Site Code:	SGM/OSC 12
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1. Introduction

- 1.1. This document is an addendum to a previously submitted Historic Building Recording Report for Old Stoney Cottage, Newton (POOLE 2012A). This document will outline the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out on the site in December 2012.
- 1.2. The archaeological watching brief was carried out in response to a planning condition attached to the planning consent (APP/11/00910) granted for the above site by Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council (MWBC). The development will entail partial demolition of upstanding structures and associated groundworks for services and new build.
- 1.3. The site is located at Old Stoney Cottage, Carr Lane, Newton, Wirral, CH48 1PG (FIGURE 1). The National Grid Reference is 323388,387733.
- 1.4. Fieldwork was undertaken by Blair Poole of L-P: Archaeology on behalf of Mr R Hibbert. This document has been prepared by Blair Poole.

2. Planning Background

- **2.1.**Planning consent has been granted for redevelopment works at Old Stoney Cottage, Newton. The application reference is APP/11/00910.
- 2.2.In March 2012 the Department for Communities and Local Government issued the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT 2012). The NPPF sets out planning policies on the conservation of the historic environment and replaces all previous Planning Policy Guidance, specifically PPS5. Section 12 of this document sets out planning policies on the conservation of the historic environment. The local planning authority is WMBC and in considering any planning application for development they are bound by the policies provided by the NPPF.
- 2.3.WMBC is also bound by the saved policies held within the deposited Unitary Development Plan (UDP), adopted February 2000, which provides the policy framework for the Council's decisions on individual planning applications. Under updated legislation this document is to be replaced by the Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West. However, at present the UDP is still in use.
- **2.4.**Condition 3 of the planning conditions attached to the development states:
 - Prior to the commencement of any works, a programme of archaeological work shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Concurrently with the implementation of the development, the archaeological work shall be undertaken in accordance with the detail of the approved programme. For the avoidance of doubt, the programme shall detailed written schemes of investigation for evaluation, watching briefs and recording by photogrammetry rectified photography.
- **2.5.**The structure is not a designated Listed Building and does not lie within an Area of Archaeological Potential. However, the site lies between areas of known archaeological activity at West Kirby, Frankby and Saughall Massie. The site area is not included in the Merseyside Historic Characterisation Project (NML 2011).
- 2.6. The site has been identified by WMBC as a property of archaeological interest and it is therefore regarded as an undesignated heritage asset under the terms of the NPPF. As such there is an inherent duty to adequately investigate the property's special interest in advance of development.

2.7.AIMS

- **2.7.1.** The aims of the archaeological works are:
 - to record the archaeological date, character and nature of any deposits or features present

2.8.GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY

- **2.8.1.** The British Geological Survey (BGS) records the superficial deposits in the area as being Devensian, glacial, till of sand and clay. The bedrock is recorded as being one a number of the local Sandstone groups, which meet in the vicinity.
- **2.8.2.** The site lies on the Wirral peninsula, in a rural setting between West Kirby to the west, Frankby to the south and Saughall Massie to the east.

3. Methodology

- 3.1.A detailed approved methodology can be found in the written scheme of investigation submitted in advance of works (POOLE 2012B). The following section will outline the basic methodology employed during the archaeological watching brief.
- **3.2.**A suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist monitored all excavation activities to ensure that appropriate care was taken during the removal of homogeneous post medieval and modern disturbed deposits.
- **3.3.**All machine excavation was undertaken in spits. The groundworks were closely monitored and care was taken to observe all deposits for archaeological significance.
- **3.4.** All deposits were recorded stratigraphically, both in plan and section.
- **3.5.**Excavated material was examined in order to retrieve artefacts to assist in the analysis of the spatial distribution of artefacts.

4. Archaeological & Historic Background

TIMESCALES USED IN THIS REPORT:

PERIOD	FROM	TO	
PREHISTORIC			
PALAEOLITHIC	450,000	12,000 BC	
MESOLITHIC	12,000	4,000 BC	
NEOLITHIC	4,000	1,800 BC	
BRONZE AGE	1,800	600 BC	
IRON AGE	600	43 AD	
HISTORIC			
ROMAN	43	410 AD	
EARLY MEDIEVAL	410	1066 AD	
MEDIEVAL	1066	1485 AD	
POST MEDIEVAL	1485	PRESENT	

Table 1- Timescales used in this report

4.1.This is a site specific historic background taken from the previously submitted Historic Building Recording report (POOLE 2012A) to place the site in the context of the historic development of the area. As such it is not intended to be a complete history of the Wirral.

4.2.PREHISTORIC

- **4.2.1.** The earliest evidence for human activity in the area dates to the Mesolithic period (BRACK 1980). This activity is mostly known from the Wirral, showing an exploitation of marine resources in this area (CROSBY 1996). The nature of finds from the Mesolithic period is often ephemeral and difficult to spot, as well as being dispersed in nature.
- **4.2.2.** Mesolithic occupation was identified during excavations in Greasby, 1km to the east of the site, including stake holes and a hearth as well as flint tools (COWELL 1992).
- **4.2.3.** Approximately 2km to the north of the site, at Meols, Neolithic stone axes and ceramics have been recovered (COWELL 1991).

- **4.2.4.** Bronze Age activity has also been identified at both Meols and West Kirby, 2km north and west of the site respectively (SHONE 1911). At West Kirby this included funerary urns (VARLEY & JACKSON 1940).
- **4.2.5.** During the Iron Age it is thought that the Cornovii occupied the area (BRACK 1980). This is supported by finds from Meols (GRIFFITHS ET AL 2007). It has been suggested that Meols had become an important sea port by the Iron Age and the finds recovered from the area clearly show links with the continent (GRIFFITHS ET AL 2007). The artefacts recovered from Meols include coins dating to the 1st century BC including a silver coin minted in Syria and bronze coins of Augustus (GRIFFITHS ET AL 2007). One theory for the growth of the port was for trade in salt from the brine deposits in Cheshire.
- **4.2.6.** There is no known evidence of Prehistoric activity on the site.

4.3.ROMAN

- **4.3.1.** Roman activity has been identified at Meols with finds including glass and ceramic from the area (BURNLEY 1981). Margary (1973) suggests that a Roman road ran between Chester and Meols, passing through Willaston and Mollington. Following this alignment it is possible that the road passes close by Newton. A Roman road has been identified in Greasby, less than 1km to the east of the site (GRIFFITHS ET AL 2007).
- **4.3.2.** There is no known evidence of Roman activity on the site.

4.4.EARLY MEDIEVAL

- **4.4.1.** Place name evidence, and records of church dedications, have been used to suggest that early Christianity was active on the Wirral peninsula from the 5th or 6th centuries (ROBERTS 2002). It is likely that occupation continued from the Roman period into the Early Medieval period
- **4.4.2.** Following the battle of Chester in AD616, Aethelfrith incorporated the area into Mercia (CROSBY 1996). It is clear that there was defined settlement on the Wirral from the 7th century where Mercian, Anglo-Saxon, settlements grew, such as at Eastham (CROSBY 1996).

- 4.4.3. The geography of the Wirral allowed sea trade to flourish and by the 9th century trade links were well established between the Wirral and Scandinavian settlers in Ireland (HARDING 2002). By the beginning of the 10th century, around AD902 a group of Scandinavian settlers were expelled from Ireland (HARDING 2002). It is thought that the Wirral formed the first stop for these individuals, which led to a large influx of Hiberno-Norse groups settling in the area (HARDING 2002).
- **4.4.4.** Place name evidence from the Wirral shows the large extent of the settlement of the Norse groups. The three surrounding settlement, West Kirby, Frankby and Greasby have all been suggested as having Scandinavian origins (CAVILL ET AL 2000).
- **4.4.5.** There is no known evidence of Early Medieval activity on the site.

4.5.MEDIEVAL

- 4.5.1. There is no mention of Newton, or Newton-cum-Larton as it has been previously known, in the Domesday book (MORRIS 1978). Greasby is mentioned as being held by Nigel of Burcy and being a reasonably sized agricultural settlement (MORRIS 1978). It is interesting to note that although it has been said that when the Normans crossed Cheshire they 'laid the county to waste' in a number of cases this does not appear to have happened (HIGHAM 2004). Greasby is one such settlement. Its pre and post conquest value is very similar (MORRIS 1978).
- 4.5.2. The Wirral was controlled by the Earl of Chester and through this period it grew in population, mainly comprising agricultural settlements (CROSBY 1996). A number of manors are recorded as being established in the area and originally the Medieval manor of Newton belonged to the Banastres, an old Lancashire family that held lands across Cheshire (ORMEROD 1882).
- **4.5.3.** There is no known evidence of Medieval activity on the site. However, due to its location it is likely that during this period the site fell within an area of agricultural use serving the nearby, larger, settlements of West Kirby, Meols and Greasby (WILLIAMS-MORTIMER 1847).

4.6.POST MEDIEVAL

- **4.6.1.** The Wirral continued to grow into the Post Medieval period and although Chester was the dominant trading port at this time, there were ports located around the peninsula (CROSBY 1996). The area was also known for its agricultural communities forming small settlements on areas of fertile ground (HARDWICKE-RIDEOUT 1927).
- **4.6.2.** The earliest cartographic evidence for the village comes from John Speeds map of 1610. Newton is clearly noted as a settlement between West Kirby, Greasby, Frankby, and Saughall Massie. This 17th century layout still closely represents the settlement pattern as it is seen today.
- **4.6.3.** By 1668 the lands and title for the manor of Newton had passed to Thomas Bennet (ORMEROD 1882). Details after this point regarding the estate are not readily available, although it is known that by the 1840s the estate had passed to Shalcross Jackson a noted preacher in the area (WILLIAMS-MORTIMER 1847).
- **4.6.4.** During the Post Medieval period the settlement was linked to Larton, to the south. Together they formed Newton-cum-Larton (ORMEROD 1882). Larton has since been annexed and forms part of Frankby, whereas Newton falls within the catchment of West Kirby (BRACK 1980).
- **4.6.5.** The earliest detailed plan of the settlement comes from the 1841 Tithe map which shows a building on the site occupying the northern junction of the crossroads. This would have been a prime location for a structure and as such it is possible that a building had been at this point for some time before the 1841 survey.
- **4.6.6.** The building shown on the Tithe map appears to be narrower in form than the standing building. It is possible that the standing building has been widened since the mid 19th century and the stone from the structure shown on the Tithe map used to form the current garden wall.
- **4.6.7.** By 1870 the village of Newton was recorded as still being a small agricultural community totalling ten houses centred around a crossroads (MARIUS 1872).
- 4.6.8. The 1872 Ordnance Survey (OS) map of the area clearly shows a building and

- walled garden occupying the site. This matches the layout of the Tithe map, where the walled garden was shown as part of the structure.
- **4.6.9.** By the 1899 OS map the main structure appears to have been divided into two dwellings fronting onto the main road to the south. This layout is repeated on the 1911 and 1935 OS maps of the area. The 1955 OS map shows the building as a single dwelling. The footprint of the current building matches those seen from the 1841 map onwards. However, it should be noted that only the southwestern elevation retains any original historic fabric. The remainder of the structure was rebuilt in the early 21st century.

5. Results

- **5.1.**An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the excavation for footings of an extension to the south of Old Stoney Cottage. The footings measured 7.2m east-west by 5.8m north-south. A trench 0.6m wide by a maximum of 1.35m deep was excavated to accommodate the footings (FIGURE 2).
- **5.2.**As the extension is located in a walled garden, the turf layer was removed prior to excavation. The topsoil (100)measured a maximum of 0.2m thick at the northern end of the excavation. This thinned to a fine layer 0.02 to 0.05m thick at the southern end of the excavation.
- **5.3.**Minimal finds were recovered from (100), comprising modern metal fragments of nails, screws and cutlery, as well as plastic. A single sherd of ceramic was recovered from (100) which was identified as 18th to 19th century brown glazed coarse ceramic. This appears to be a fragment of a chamber pot.
- **5.4.**At the southwest corner of the excavation area a discrete deposit of natural sand (102) was identified below (100) which extended approximately 1m onto the site (FIGURE 3). This was fine grained glacial sand which contained no finds or inclusions, and extended to a maximum thickness of 1.2m.



Plate 1 - Southwest facing section of footing excavation

5.5.Underlying the topsoil (100) and the glacial sand (102) was the natural boulder clay (101), which could be seen to be present across the site. This clay had no inclusions or finds and extended beyond the base of the trench at 1.35m below ground level.

were preset within t	he excavations.		

6. Summary & Conclusion

- **6.1.**An archaeological watching brief was carried out on a groundworks at Old Stoney Cottage, Newton. This work monitored groundworks for the footings of an extension to the south of the main building.
- **6.2.** The archaeological monitoring was carried out by Blair Poole of L-P: Archaeology on behalf of mr R Hibbert in December 2012.
- **6.3.**The site lies in a rural area situated between known areas of archaeological activity. The wider area shows evidence of Prehistoric, Roman and Medieval activity.
- **6.4.**The earliest evidence for activity on the site dates to the 17th century. This is represented by architectural elements within the south wall of the main building.
- **6.5.**The stratigraphic sequence identified during the excavation for the footings revealed a thin garden topsoil overlying the natural sand and clay deposits.
- **6.6.**No archaeological features or deposits were present within the excavated area. It is thought that the site had been used as a walled garden and/or animal pen since construction between the 17th and 19th centuries.

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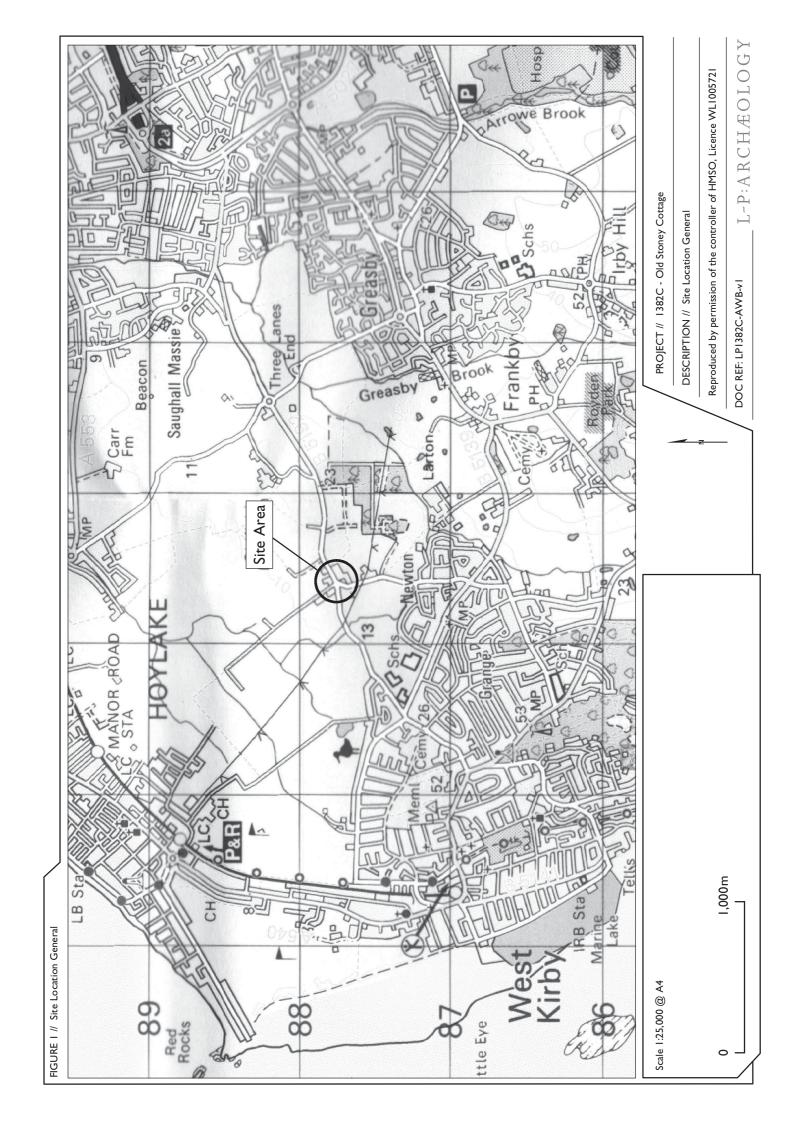
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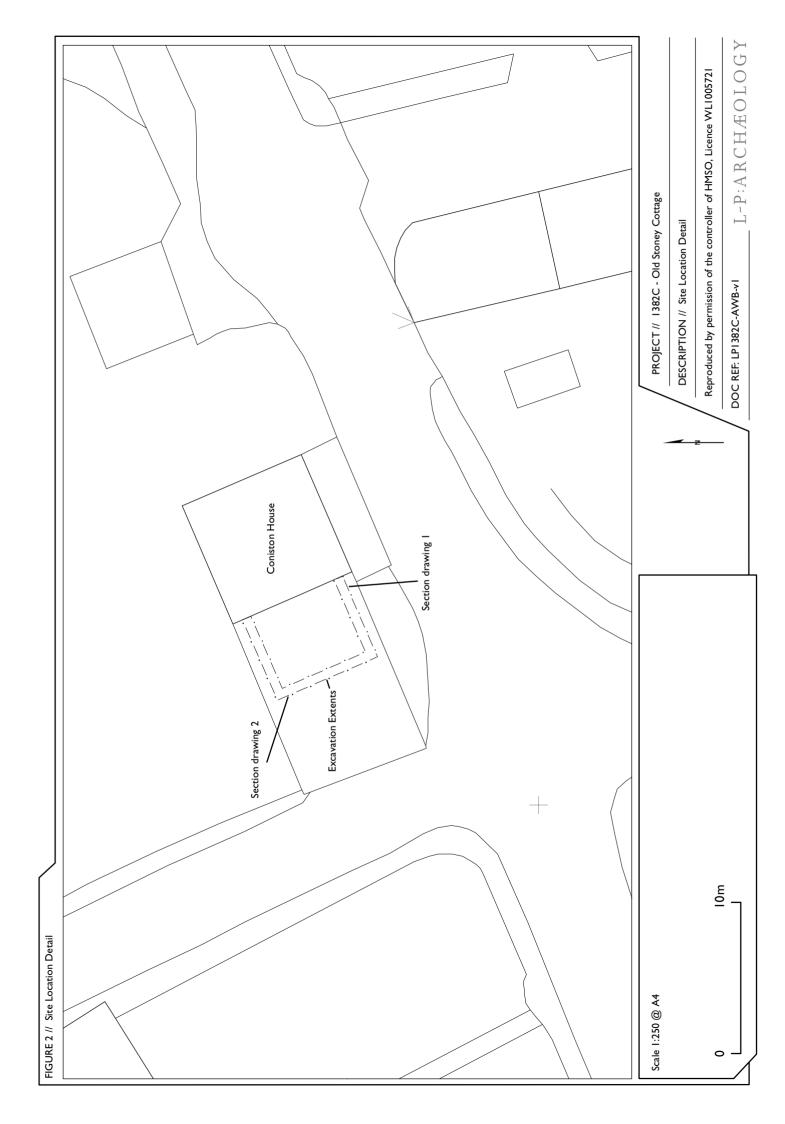
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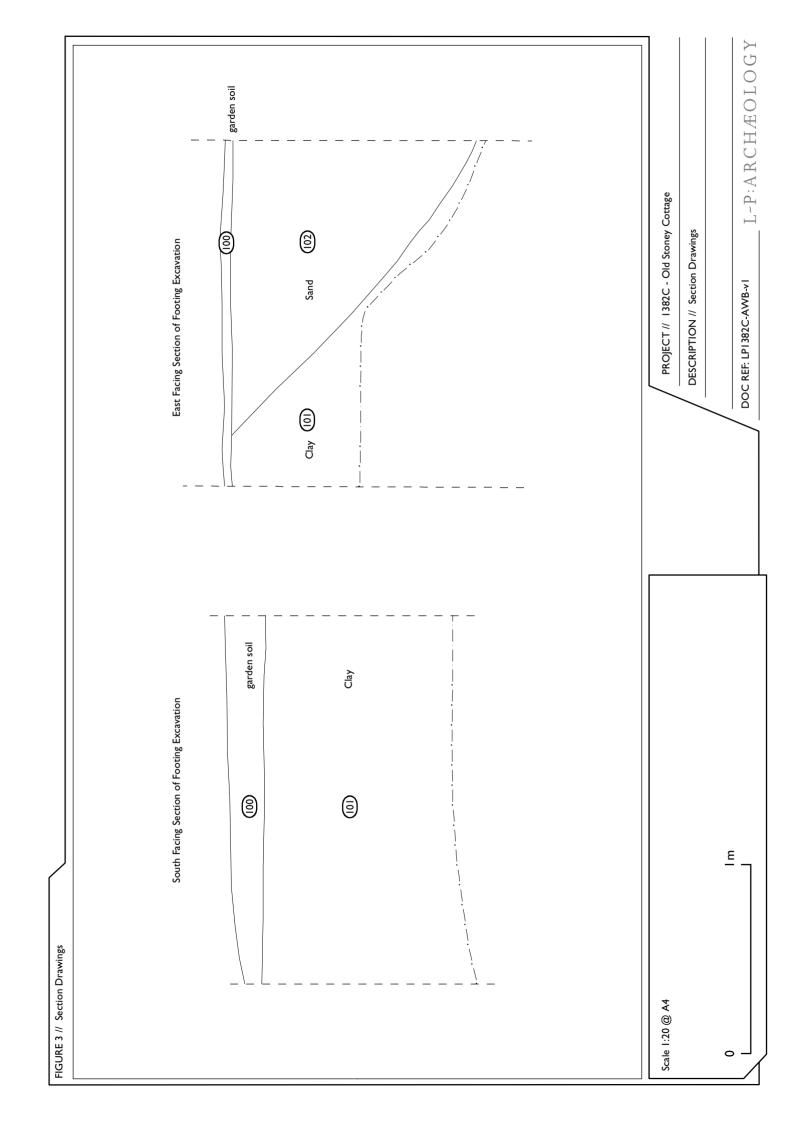
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FIGURES







OASIS FORM

APPENDIX I

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

List of Projects | Manage Projects | Search Projects | New project | Change your details | HER coverage | Change country | Log out

Printable version

OASIS ID: lparchae1-139051

Project details

Project name Old Stoney Cottage

Short description of the Archaeological watching brief on excavations for footing of an

project extension within the garden of a cottage with 17th century fabric.

Project dates Start: 01-01-2012 End: 11-12-2012

Previous/future work Yes / No

Any associated project

reference codes

SGM/OSC 12 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential

Monument type NONE None
Significant Finds NONE None
Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country England

Site location MERSEYSIDE WIRRAL BIRKENHEAD Old Stoney Cottage

Postcode CH48 1PG

Study area 8.00 Square metres

Site coordinates SJ 323388 387733 52 -3 52 56 30 N 003 00 25 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 20.00m Max: 21.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation L - P : Archaeology

1 of 3

Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator L - P : Archaeology

Project director/manager Blair Poole
Project supervisor Blair Poole
Type of sponsor/funding Developer

body

Name of sponsor/funding

body

Mr R Hibbert

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
Digital Archive Exists? No
Digital Contents "none"
Paper Archive Exists? No
Paper Contents "none"

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

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Author(s)/Editor(s) Poole, B.

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Historic Building Recording of

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L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

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Author(s):	B Poole
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Site Code:	SGM/OSC 12
Date:	August 12

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Table 1-Timescales used in this report

Abstract

Planning approval for partial demolition of structures and new build works has been granted at Old Stoney Cottage, Newton. This report details the results of the historic building recording carried out on the site on 25^{th} July 2012.

Old Stoney Cottage is not a Listed Building and the site does not lie within a Conservation Area. However, the structure has been defined as a heritage asset by Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council.

Research shows that the site lies in a landscape that has seen human activity since the Mesolithic period and sites in the surrounding area have shown human activity through all subsequent periods, through to the modern day. Although the site lies within this prehistoric and historic landscape, to date, the earliest evidence for development on the site is the 17th to 18th century structure at the location of the standing building.

It is clear that the structure has been significantly modified over time, most recently and substantially in the early 21st century. However, its footprint respects that of the structure that occupied the site in the 19th century and the southwestern wall does contain fabric which likely relates to the earliest structure on the site, dating to the 17th to 18th century.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This document refers to the redevelopment of Old Stoney Cottage, Newton, and has been produced in response to a planning condition attached to the planning consent (APP/11/00910) granted for the above site by Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council (WMBC).
- 1.2. The site is located at Old Stoney Cottage, Carr Lane, Newton, Wirral, CH48 1PG (FIGURE 1). The National Grid Reference is 323388,387733.
- 1.3. This historic building report has been prepared by Blair Poole of L P: Archaeology on behalf of Ray Hibbert, and represents the initial phase of archaeological work at the site. This element of the work encompasses a rectified photographic and drawn survey of the southwestern elevation and general photographic and measured survey of the three remaining elevations. Phase two will comprise an archaeological watching brief on groundworks associated with the development, which will be recorded in a second stand alone report.
- **1.4.**The fieldwork was carried out by Blair Poole of L-P: Archaeology on 25^{th} July 2012.

2. Planning Background

- 2.1.Planning consent has been granted for redevelopment works at Old Stoney Cottage, Newton. The application reference is APP/11/00910. The development will entail partial demolition of upstanding structures and associated groundworks for services and new build.
- 2.2.In March 2012 the Department for Communities and Local Government issued the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT 2012). This document sets out planning policies on the conservation of the historic environment and replaces all previous Planning Policy Guidance, specifically PPS5. Section 12 of this document sets out planning policies on the conservation of the historic environment.
- **2.3.**The Local Planning Authority is WMBC and in considering any planning application for development they are bound by the policies provided by the NPPF.
- 2.4.WMBC is also bound by the saved policies held within the deposited Unitary Development Plan (UDP), adopted February 2000, which provides the policy framework for the Council's decisions on individual planning applications. Under updated legislation this document is to be replaced by the Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West. However, at present the UDP is still in use.
- **2.5.**Condition 3 of the planning conditions attached to the development states:

Prior to the commencement of any works, a programme of archaeological work shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Concurrently with the implementation of the development, the archaeological work shall be undertaken in accordance with the detail of the approved programme. For the avoidance of doubt, the programme shall detailed written schemes of investigation for evaluation, watching briefs and recording by photogrammetry rectified photography.

Reason: To safeguard any archaeological interest of the site and to accord with Policy CH25 of the Wirral Unitary Development Plan.

2.6.The structure is not a designated Listed Building and does not lie within a Conservation Area. However, the site lies situated between three Conservation Areas, West Kirby to the west, Frankby to the south and Saughall Massie to the east.

- 2.7. The site has been identified by WMBC as a property of archaeological interest and it is therefore regarded as an undesignated heritage asset under the terms of the NPPF. As such there is an inherent duty to adequately investigate the property's special interest in advance of development.
- **2.8.**The site area is not included in the Merseyside Historic Characterisation Project (NML 2011).
- **2.9.**The building is not recorded in Pevsner's buildings of England (POLLARD & PEVSNER 2006).

3. Aims

- **3.1.**The aims of the historic building recording were:
 - To promote the understanding and appreciation of the structure.
 - To document the structure prior to material changes and to deposit a permanent record of the structure in a suitable archive.

4. Methodology

- **4.1.**A detailed methodology can be found in the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation (POOLE 2012). All work was carried out in accordance with this document. Below is an outline of the methodology used for the historic building recording.
- **4.2.**Pro-forma sheets for external elevations were completed recording the following information:
 - ♦ Elevation face, overall dimensions and materials used as well.
 - Decorative or architectural features.
 - Number and description of windows and doors as well as materials used for frames, sills and lintels.
 - ♦ Evidence of demolished structures or extensions, with relevance to phasing evidence.
 - ♦ Construction detail, such as joints and wall ties.
- **4.3.**A Leica Total Station was used to accurately record the elevations of the structure and to record rectification points for photogrammetric survey.
- **4.4.**A photographic record was taken using a Nikon F65, 35mm camera, with 28-80mm lens, and DMC-G1, digital camera, with 14-45 lens.
- **4.5.**Black and white, non reflective, rectification targets were temporarily mounted on all faces and their points accurately recorded using the total station. Further reference points were recorded for accuracy.
- **4.6.**Cameras were calibrated in advance of works.
- **4.7.**An appropriate scale was used in all relevant photographs. No artificial light sources were required.
- **4.8.** A full photographic index and record was completed during the survey.
- **4.9.**The photographic survey included;
 - Detailed images of each elevation for rectification purposes.
 - ♦ A general view of the building and its setting in the wider landscape.

- ♦ The buildings external appearance.
- **4.10.**A drawn record will also be made of the buildings, which will include the following;
 - ♦ Scale drawings of relevant elevations.
 - ♦ Site plan at an appropriate scale.
 - ♦ Plan of photography, showing location and direction of each photograph.

5. Archaeological & Historic Background

TIMESCALES USED IN THIS REPORT:

450,000 12,000	12,000 BC
	12,000 BC
12,000	
	4,000 BC
4,000	1,800 BC
1,800	600 BC
600	43 AD
43	410 AD
410	1066 AD
1066	1485 AD
1485	1901
	410 1066

Table 1 - Timescales used in this report

5.1.This is a site specific historic background to place the site in the context of the historic development of the area. As such it is not intended to be a complete history of the Wirral.

PREHISTORIC

- **5.1.1.** The earliest evidence for human activity in the area dates to the Mesolithic period (BRACK 1980). This activity is mostly known from the Wirral, showing an exploitation of marine resources in this area (CROSBY 1996). The nature of finds from the Mesolithic period is often ephemeral and difficult to spot, as well as being dispersed in nature.
- **5.1.2.** Mesolithic occupation was identified during excavations in Greasby, 1km to the east of the site, including stake holes and a hearth as well as flint tools (COWELL 1992).
- **5.1.3.** Approximately 2km to the north of the site, at Meols, Neolithic stone axes and ceramics have been recovered (COWELL 1991).

- **5.1.4.** Bronze Age activity has also been identified at both Meols and West Kirby, 2km north and west of the site respectively (SHONE 1911). At West Kirby this included funerary urns (VARLEY & JACKSON 1940).
- **5.1.5.** During the Iron Age it is thought that the *Cornovii* occupied the area (BRACK 1980). This is supported by finds from Meols (GRIFFITHS ET AL 2007). It has been suggested that Meols had become an important sea port by the Iron Age and the finds recovered from the area clearly show links with the continent (GRIFFITHS ET AL 2007). The artefacts recovered from Meols include coins dating to the 1st century BC including a silver coin minted in Syria and bronze coins of Augustus (GRIFFITHS ET AL 2007). One theory for the growth of the port was for trade in salt from the brine deposits in Cheshire.
- **5.1.6.** There is no known evidence of Prehistoric activity on the site.

ROMAN

- 5.1.7. Roman activity has been identified at Meols with finds including glass and ceramic from the area (BURNLEY 1981). Margary (1973) suggests that a Roman road ran between Chester and Meols, passing through Willaston and Mollington. Following this alignment it is possible that the road passes close by Newton. A Roman road has been identified in Greasby, less than 1km to the east of the site (GRIFFITHS ET AL 2007).
- **5.1.8.** There is no known evidence of Roman activity on the site.

EARLY MEDIEVAL

- **5.1.9.** Place name evidence, and records of church dedications, have been used to suggest that early Christianity was active on the Wirral peninsula from the 5th or 6th centuries (ROBERTS 2002). It is likely that occupation continued from the Roman period into the Early Medieval period
- **5.1.10.**Following the battle of Chester in AD616, *Aethelfrith* incorporated the area into Mercia (CROSBY 1996). It is clear that there was defined settlement on the Wirral from the 7th century where Mercian, Anglo-Saxon, settlements grew, such as at Eastham (CROSBY 1996).
- 5.1.11. The geography of the Wirral allowed sea trade to flourish and by the 9th

century trade links were well established between the Wirral and Scandinavian settlers in Ireland (HARDING 2002). By the beginning of the 10th century, around AD902 a group of Scandinavian settlers were expelled from Ireland (HARDING 2002). It is thought that the Wirral formed the first stop for these individuals, which led to a large influx of Hiberno-Norse groups settling in the area (HARDING 2002).

- 5.1.12.Place name evidence from the Wirral shows the large extent of the settlement of the Norse groups. The three surrounding settlement, West Kirby, Frankby and Greasby have all been suggested as having Scandinavian origins (CAVILL ET AL 2000).
- **5.1.13.**There is no known evidence of Early Medieval activity on the site.

MEDIEVAL

- 5.1.14. There is no mention of Newton, or Newton-cum-Larton as it has been previously known, in the Domesday book (MORRIS 1978). Greasby is mentioned as being held by Nigel of Burcy and being a reasonably sized agricultural settlement (MORRIS 1978). It is interesting to note that although it has been said that when the Normans crossed Cheshire they 'laid the county to waste' in a number of cases this does not appear to have happened (HIGHAM 2004). Greasby is one such settlement. Its pre and post conquest value is very similar (MORRIS 1978).
- 5.1.15.The Wirral was controlled by the Earl of Chester and through this period it grew in population, mainly comprising agricultural settlements (CROSBY 1996). A number of manors are recorded as being established in the area and originally the Medieval manor of Newton belonged to the Banastres, an old Lancashire family that held lands across Cheshire (ORMEROD 1882).
- **5.1.16.**There is no known evidence of Medieval activity on the site. However, due to its location it is likely that during this period the site fell within an area of agricultural use serving the nearby, larger, settlements of West Kirby, Meols and Greasby (WILLIAMS-MORTIMER 1847).

POST MEDIEVAL

- 5.1.17. The Wirral continued to grow into the Post Medieval period and although Chester was the dominant trading port at this time, there were ports located around the peninsula (CROSBY 1996). The area was also known for its agricultural communities forming small settlements on areas of fertile ground (HARDWICKE-RIDEOUT 1927).
- 5.1.18.The earliest cartographic evidence for the village comes from John Speeds map of 1610. Newton is clearly noted as a settlement between West Kirby, Greasby, Frankby, and Saughall Massie. This 17th century layout still closely represents the settlement pattern as it is seen today.
- **5.1.19.**By 1668 the lands and title for the manor of Newton had passed to Thomas Bennet (ORMEROD 1882). Details after this point regarding the estate are not readily available, although it is known that by the 1840s the estate had passed to Shalcross Jackson a noted preacher in the area (WILLIAMS-MORTIMER 1847).
- **5.1.20.**During the Post Medieval period the settlement was linked to Larton, to the south. Together they formed Newton-cum-Larton (ORMEROD 1882). Larton has since been annexed and forms part of Frankby, whereas Newton falls within the catchment of West Kirby (BRACK 1980).
- **5.1.21.**The earliest detailed plan of the settlement comes from the 1841 Tithe map (FIGURE 3), which shows a building on the site occupying the northern junction of the crossroads. This would have been a prime location for a structure and as such it is possible that a building had been at this point for some time before the 1841 survey.
- **5.1.22.**By 1870 the village of Newton was recorded as still being a small agricultural community totalling ten houses centred around a crossroads (MARIUS 1872).
- **5.1.23.**The 1872 Ordnance Survey (OS) map of the area (FIGURE 3) clearly shows a building and walled garden occupying the site. This matches the layout of the Tithe map, where the walled garden was shown as part of the structure.
- **5.1.24.**By the 1899 OS map the main structure appears to have been divided into two dwellings fronting onto the main road to the south (FIGURE 4). This layout is

repeated on the 1911 and 1935 OS maps of the area (FIGURES 4 & 5). The 1955 OS map shows the building as a single dwelling (FIGURE 5). The footprint of the current building matches those seen from the 1841 map onwards. However, it should be noted that only the southwestern elevation retains any original historic fabric. The remainder of the structure was rebuilt in the early 21^{st} century.

6. Results

- **6.1.**A survey of the external elevation of Old Stoney Cottage was carried out by L-P: Archaeology on 25^{th} July 2012. The results, detailed below, have been divided by elevation.
- 6.2. The building is a two storey stone structure with grey slate apex roof, sited on a northeast-southwest alignment. The stone is of local red sandstone. The entrance facade is the northwest elevation. The main public facade is the southeast elevation, facing the main road. The southwest facade is a gable end that overlooks a small enclosed walled garden. The northeast facade is a gable end that overlooks a small raised lawn.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

6.3.The southwestern elevation measured approximately 9m wide by 7m high and formed the gable end of the building overlooking a small walled garden. The elevation was of random coursed stone construction, with irregular sized and shaped stone blockwork (PLATE 1).



Plate 1 - Southwest elevation

6.4. The structure is accessed via a series of stone steps leading up to a small patio area, which services an inserted wooden door at the western end of the elevation (FIGURE 6).

- **6.5.**The blockwork showed several phases of construction, indicating distinct areas of renovation and redevelopment. The mortar was a soft sandy material present across the entire elevation and as such it represents a recent re-pointing activity, likely dating to the early 21st century.
- **6.6.**At the base of the southern corner of the elevation and in various patches within the lower section of the elevation, evidence of early building material was identified. The worn, rounded stonework possibly dating to the 17th century. Although this is possible a more conservative interpretation would be that of mid to late 18th century blockwork, common in the area.
- **6.7.**This dating suggests that this wall represents part of the fabric of the structure shown on the 1841 Tithe map (FIGURE 3).
- **6.8.**A large portion of the mid and lower section of the elevation can be seen to be constructed of a slightly different stonework. This is thought to represent a later rebuilding or repair to the wall, possibly 18th to 19th century in date.
- **6.9.** The upper section of the wall, forming the gable face, can be seen to be a much later area of stone blockwork. This upper area appears to be where the roof line has been raised by approximately 1.2m. The earlier roofline is visible as a scar on the elevation (PLATE 2).



Plate 2 - Roof scar on southwestern elevation

6.10. Above this scar the blockwork is much more regular and of a different material. The presence of a modern brick in the construction indicates a late 20^{th} to early 21^{st}

- century date for the modification. Correspondence indicates that this work may have been carried out as recently as 2005.
- **6.11.**Two buttresses had recently been removed from this elevation and ghosting at ground floor level could be seen where they had been removed (PLATE 3).



Plate 3 - Ghosting for buttresses on southwest elevation, 1m scale

- 6.12.As the buttresses had not been keyed into the wall they can be seen to have been later supports added to the building. The buttresses appeared to have been of a rough construction, from viewing the remnants at the base of the wall. This form of work was most common for agricultural or low status buildings in the 19th century. This date indicates that the repaired stonework in the wall pre-dates this.
- **6.13.**At the extents of the elevation, at ground floor level, the garden wall was identified as being built into the main structure.

NORTHWEST ELEVATION

6.14.The northwest elevation was of local red sandstone block in a squared, built to course, bond with a soft sandy mortar (PLATE 4). The blockwork matched that of the upper section of the southwestern elevation and dates to the same phase of construction, dating to the 21st century.



Plate 4 - Northwest elevation

- **6.15.**At the southern end of the elevation, where the garden wall is keyed into the structure, the elevation retains some early fabric. However, this is restricted to the garden wall and the immediate coursing around it.
- **6.16.**The elevation measured approximately 8.5m wide by 4.5m high. The slate roof is visible on this elevation. Along the roofline only one of the three chimneys can be seen, located approximately central to the facade.
- 6.17. There are four windows of varying size on the elevation. Two at ground floor level and two at first floor level (FIGURE 7). At ground floor these are four pane and eight pane wooden frame awning windows with sandstone lintel and tile sill. At first floor level the widows are six and eight pane wooden frame awning windows with sandstone lintels and tiled sills.
- **6.18.**The door is located at the northern end of the elevation and is a wooden frame four panel door, with sandstone lintel and stone slab threshold.

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

6.19. The northeastern elevation is a gable end of the building and is constructed of local red sandstone in regular coursed blockwork with a soft sandy mortar. A single stone chimney extends from the eastern section of the gable wall (PLATE 5). It is evident that this wall forms part of the 21st century rebuilding of the structure.



Plate 5 - Northeast elevation, 1m scale

6.20.The northeast elevation contains two windows. At ground floor level an eight pane wooden framed awning window with sandstone lintel and slate sill is located at the northern end. At first floor level a six pane, wooden frame, awning window with sandstone lintel and tile sill is located just off centre, towards the northern corner (FIGURE 8).

SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

- **6.21.**The southeast elevation overlooks the main road to the south and is the public face of the structure.
- 6.22. This elevation is of local red sandstone in a regular coursed bond with a soft sandy mortar (PLATE 6). As with the northwestern and northeastern elevations, this is a 21 st century construction and only contains earlier fabric in the lower southern corner, where the garden wall is integrated into the structure.



Plate 6 - Southeastern elevation

- 6.23. Two of the three stone chimneys are visible extending from the slate roof to the north of the building (FIGURE 9). The elevation is evenly spaced in a standard rectangular two unit form, with two windows at ground floor level and two windows, respecting their lower counterparts, at first floor level. The windows are uPVC framed four pane awning windows. These are different in form to those seen on the other elevations in that they are a darker colour, are more basic in style and have larger panes.
- **6.24.**The lower southern corner of the southeastern elevation joins the existing garden wall. At this point, where the wall is keyed into the structure, there is a limited amount of earlier building fabric within the elevation. This is restricted to a single vertical course at the point where the garden wall joins the structure.

GARDEN WALL

6.24.1.The southwest elevation overlooks and enclosed walled garden. The wall forming the boundary of the garden appears to be at least 18th century in date and is keyed into the main structure at the corners of the southwestern elevation (PLATE 1).



Plate 7 - Walled garden, looking southwest. 1m scale

6.25.The wall is of the same local sandstone (PLATE 7), in a random coursed bond, that the early sections of the southwestern elevation is constructed of. It is likely that the garden is a feature of the original layout of the structure. The garden could have been used as a kitchen garden of animal pen.

7. Summary & Conclusions

- **7.1.**Old Stoney Cottage, Newton, has been granted planning approval for partial demolition of structures and new build works. This report details the results of the historic building recording carried out on the site on 25th July 2012.
- **7.2.**The site is located at Old Stoney Cottage, Carr Lane, Newton, Wirral, CH48 1PG, (NGR 323388,387733).
- **7.3.**The building is not a Listed Building and the site does not lie within a Conservation Area. However, the structure has been defined as a heritage asset by WMBC. This report details the results of a survey on the external elevations of the structure.
- **7.4.**Historic research shows that the site lies in a landscape that has seen human activity since the Mesolithic period, approximately 7000 years ago. Sites in the surrounding area show human activity in all subsequent periods, through to the modern day.
- **7.5.**Although the site lies within this rich historic landscape, to date the earliest evidence for development on the site dates to the 17th century. This is represented by architectural elements within the standing building.
- **7.6.**The standing building retains the same footprint as seen on historic maps dating to the 19th century, although the majority of the current structure is 21st century in date. However, the southwestern gable wall contains architectural material relating to the earlier building on the site.
- **7.7.FIGURE 10** shows areas of modification on the southwestern elevation including an earlier, lower, roof line and ghosting of two demolished buttresses. As the previous roof line was substantially lower, it is thought that the building was either a single storey low status or agricultural building, or had occupation space in a loft area.
- 7.8. The lower southern corner of the structure contains the earliest fabric, 17th to 18th century in date. There are several areas of repair and rebuilding in the lower and mid section of the elevation, all thought to date to the 19th century or earlier. The buttresses were not keyed into the structure represented a 19th to 20th century support. The upper fabric is 21st century in date, as is the inserted doorway and pointing. FIGURE 11 is a rectified photograph of the southwestern elevation.

- **7.9.** The reaming three elevations are all 21st century in date, with all modern furniture. The only areas with surviving *in situ* earlier architectural fabric are at the southern extents of the northwest and southeast elevations, where the garden wall is keyed in.
- 7.10.It is clear that the structure has been significantly modified over time, most recently and substantially in the early 21^{st} century. However, its footprint respects that of the previous structure that occupied the site and the southwestern wall does contain fabric which likely relates to the earliest structure on the site, dating to the 17^{th} to 18^{th} century.

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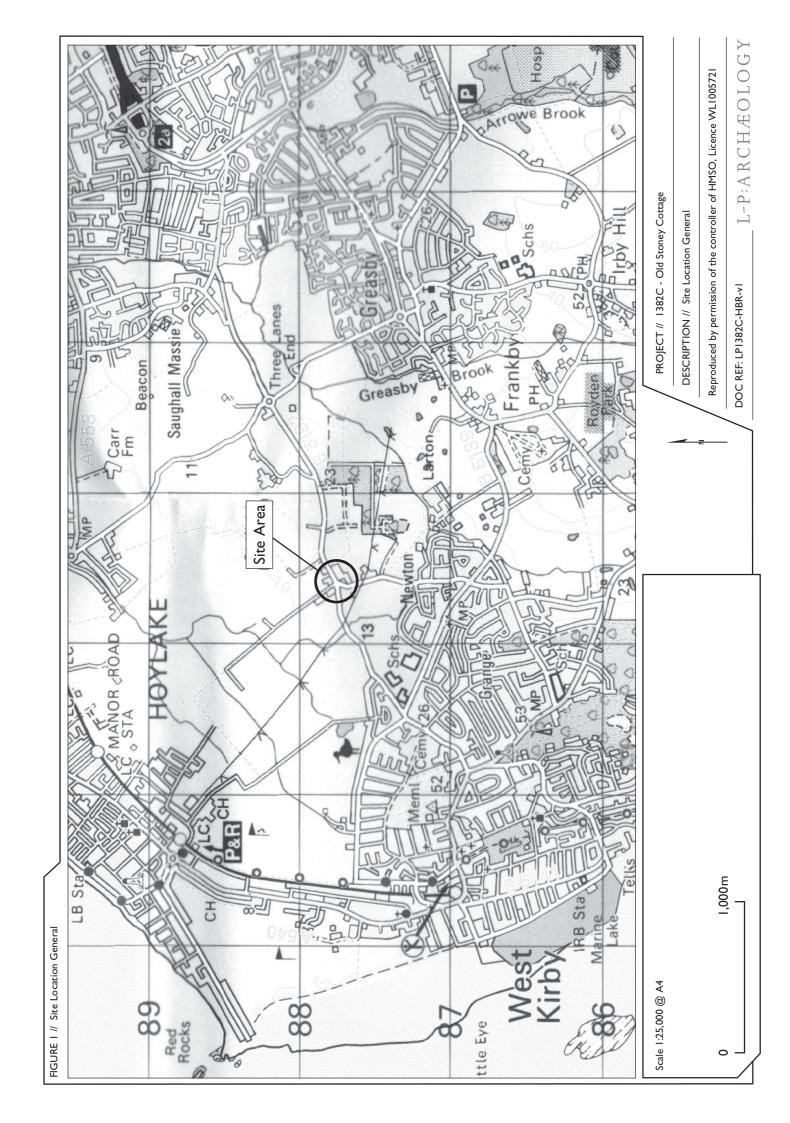
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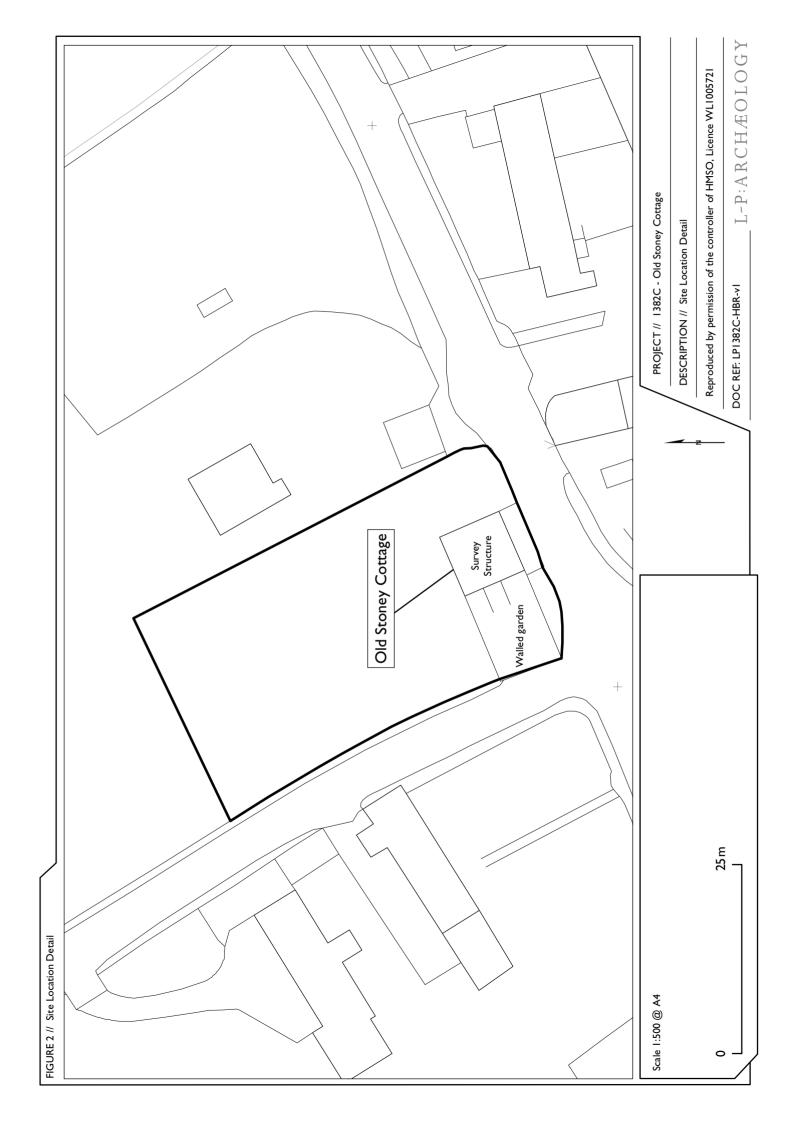
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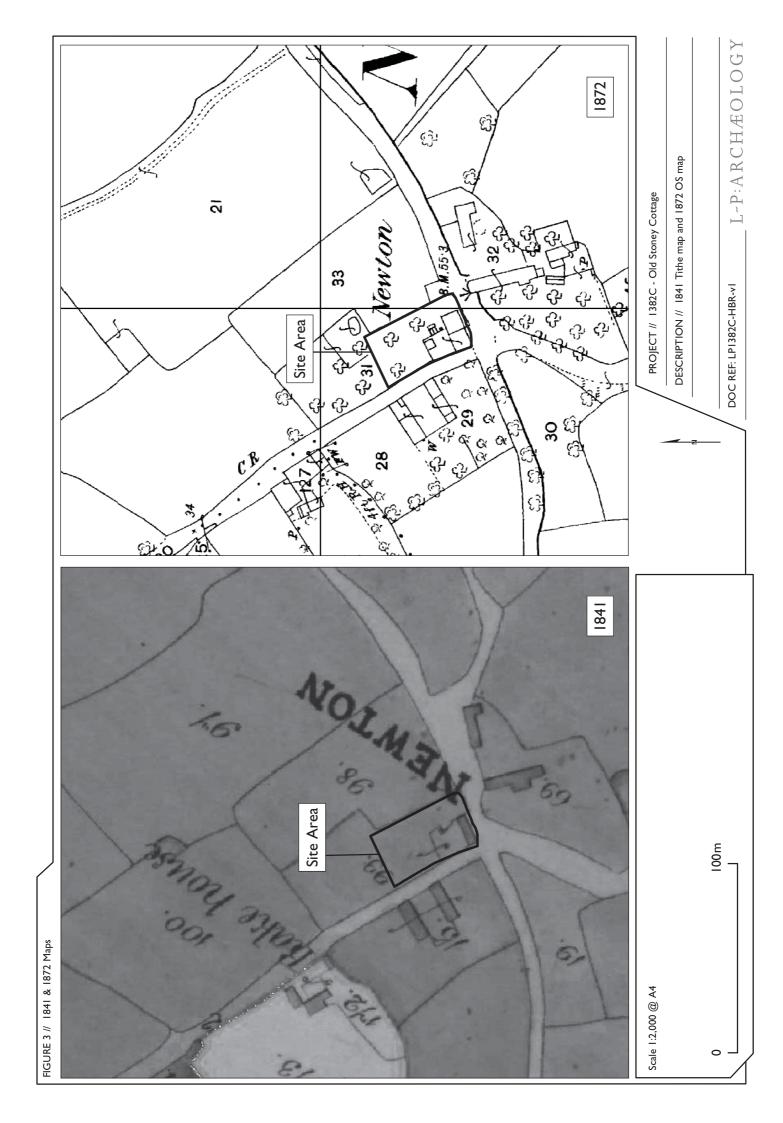
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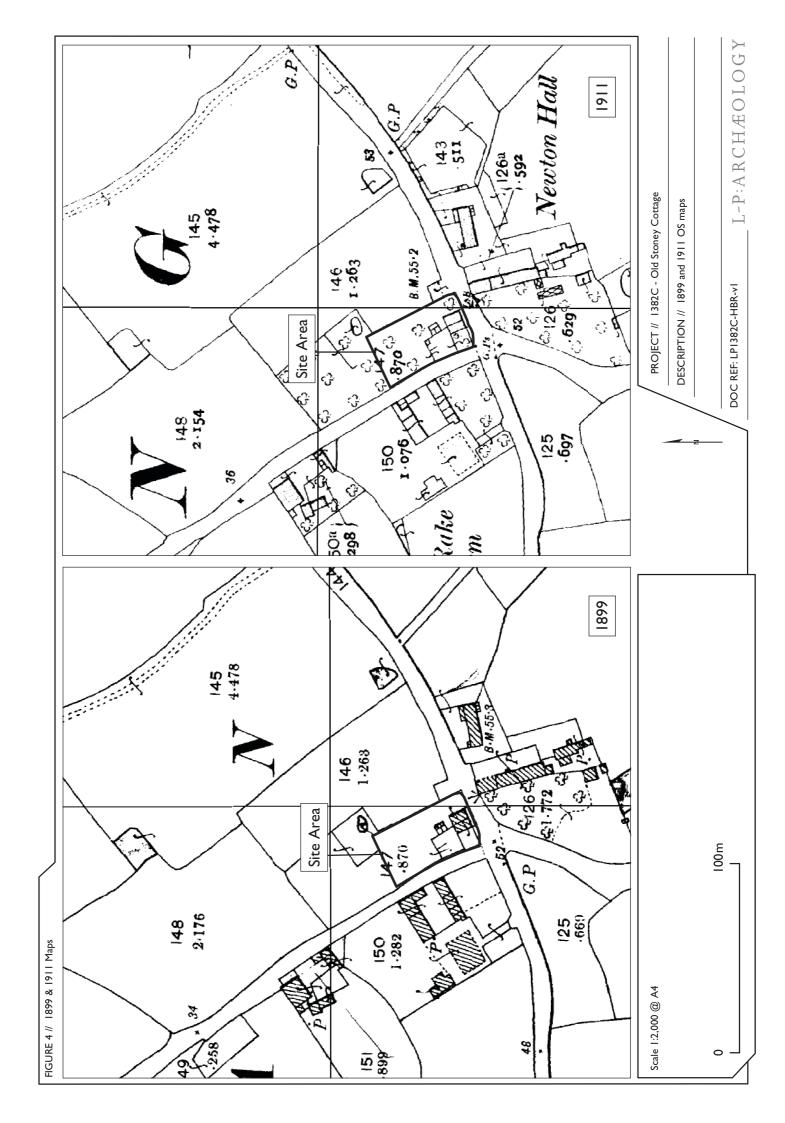
FIGURES

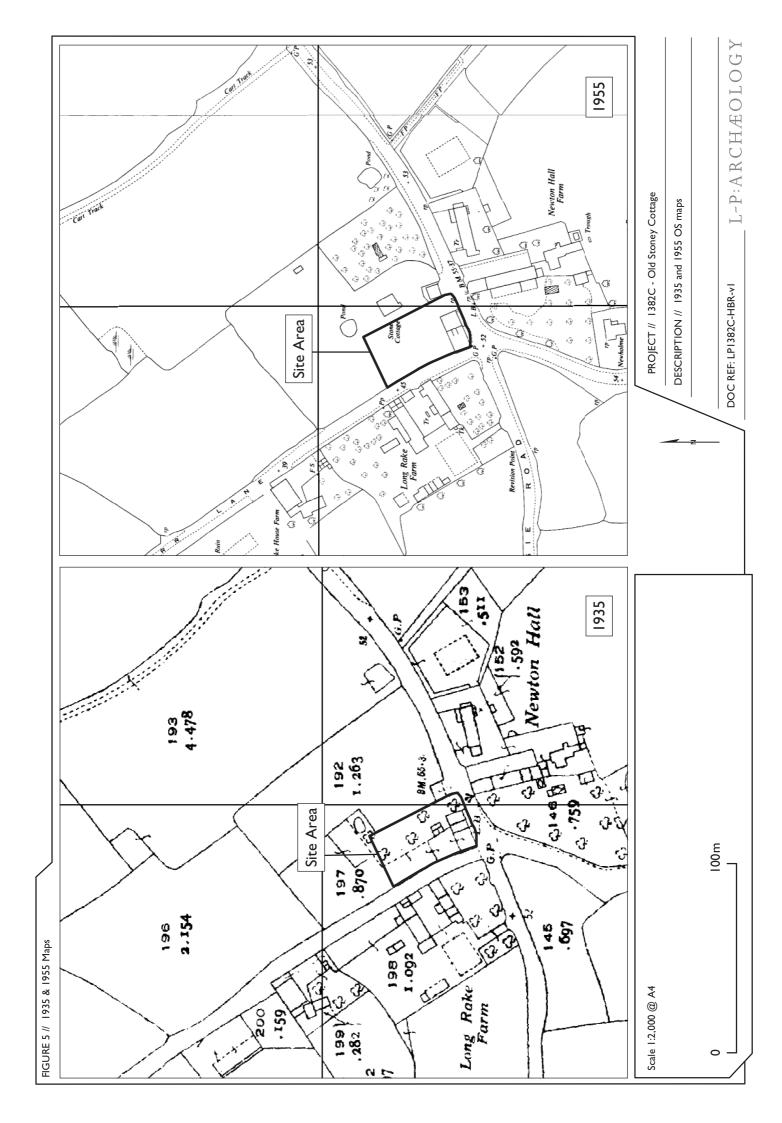
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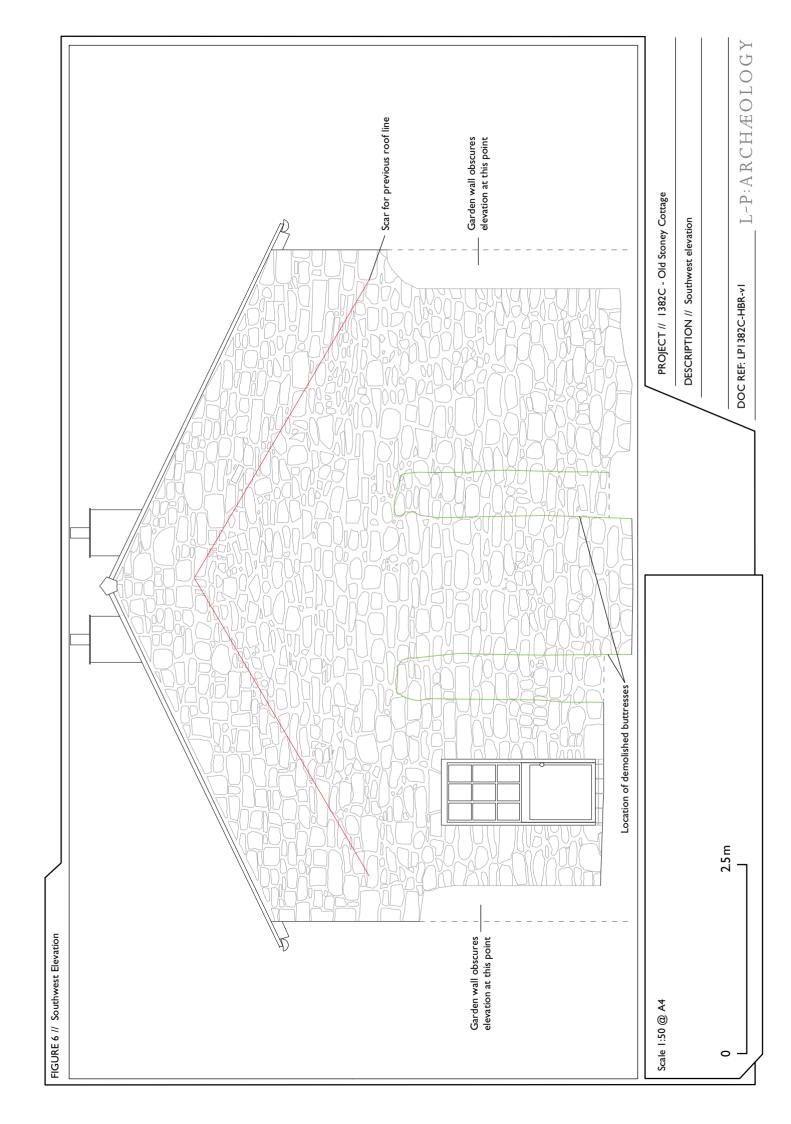


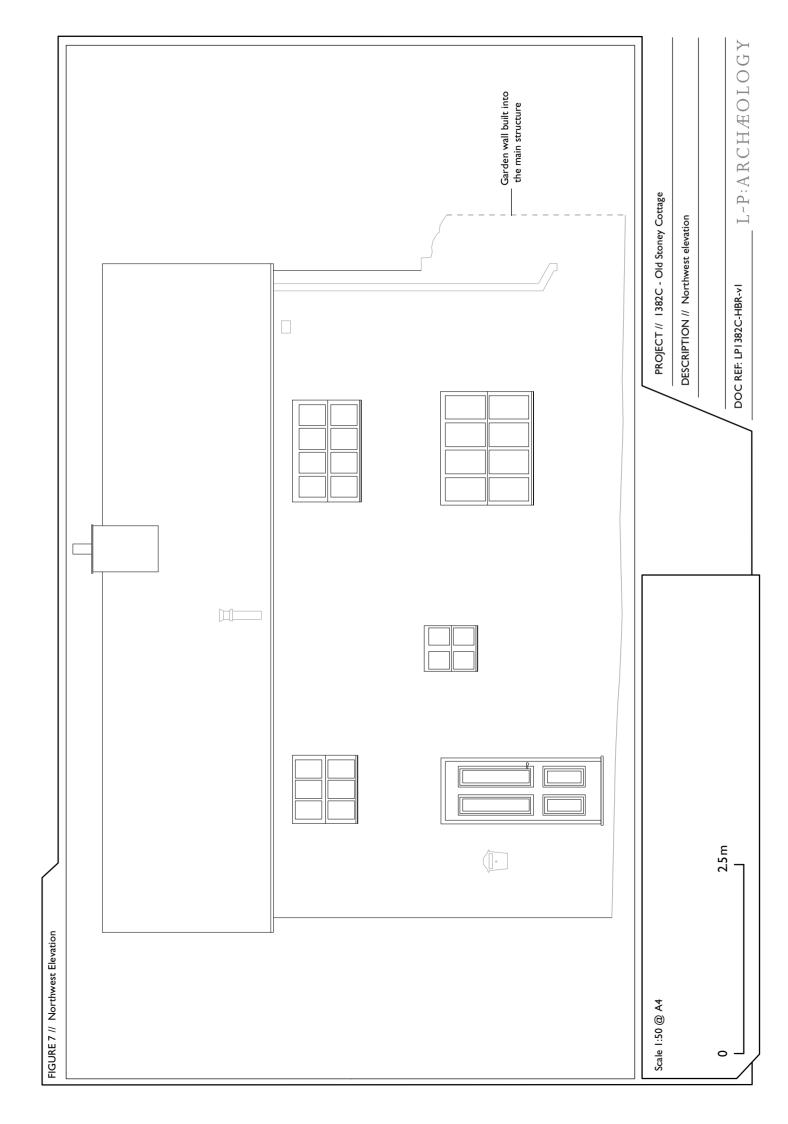


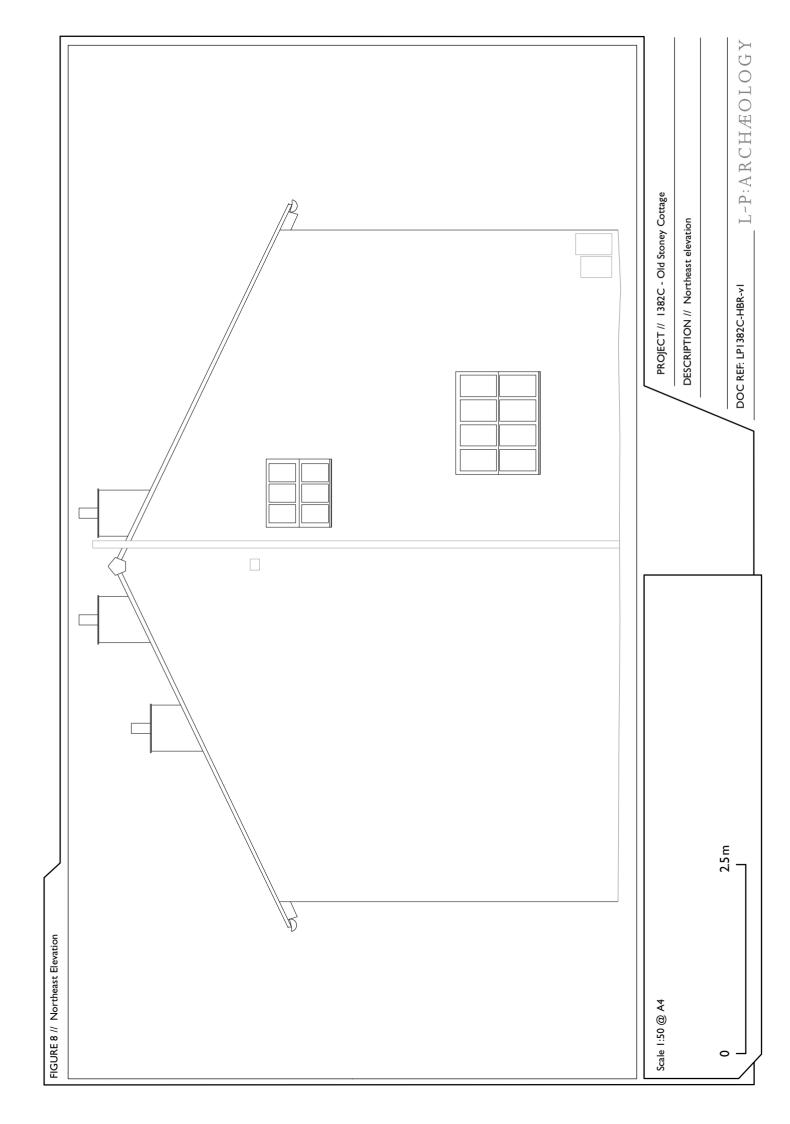


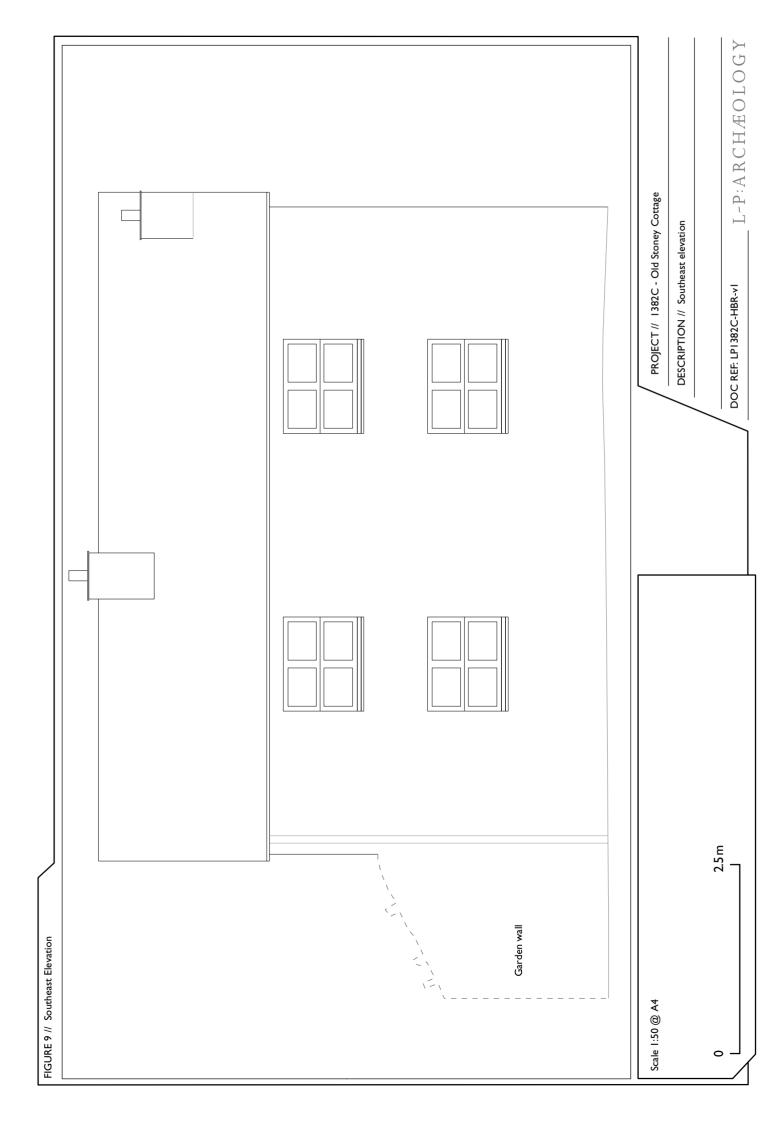












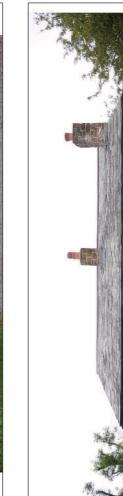
DESCRIPTION // Rectified Southwest elevation

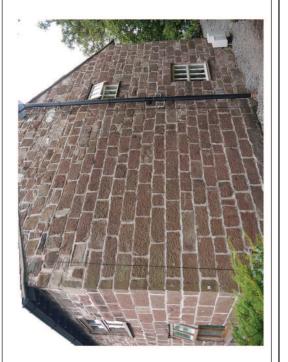


FIGURE 11 // Rectified Southwest elevation

Scale 1:50 @ A4







General views of the structure

DESCRIPTION // General views

PROJECT // 1382C - Old Stoney Cottage

DOC REF: LP1382C-HBR-v1

