

# Waggoners Cottage, Chiselborough, Somerset: Results of an archaeological watching brief

NGR: 346926, 114902

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AC archaeology

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# WAGGONERS COTTAGE, CHISELBOROUGH, SOMERSET: RESULTS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Centred on NGR 346926/114902

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## SUMMARY

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by AC archaeology in July 2015 during groundworks in advance of the proposed construction of a dwelling house with associated access, parking and erection of a double car port at Waggoners Cottage, 12 North Street, Chiselborough, Somerset. The excavations and archaeological monitoring, centred on NGR 346926/114902 were carried out over 5 days. The remains of a wall of unknown date and function were present, but no dateable artefacts were recovered.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of archaeological monitoring undertaken by AC archaeology Ltd during the excavation of footings in advance of the construction of a dwelling house at Waggoners Cottage, Chiselborough, Somerset (Appendix 1).
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Mr Nigel Bell and carried out during July 2015 as a requirement of planning consent (Ref 14/04663/FUL). The work involved the excavation of reduced levels and footings, up to 4m deep, undertaken by R. Chapman Ground Works site staff.
- 1.3 The area lies at around 50m OD. The superficial geology comprises sand and clay overlying Yeovil sands.

### 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site is located in the core of the village, which has Saxon origins. A prehistoric flint scatter, including a leaf-shaped arrow head was found to the south of Ball Copse in 1976-77 (SCC HER ref 53742). The nearby parish church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul (SCC HER ref 53737) was recorded here in the 12th century.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The principal aims of the archaeological monitoring were;
  - To record any archaeological features and finds which may be revealed or disturbed by the site works;
  - To provide an interpretive report on the results of the monitoring.
- 3.2 Attendance on site was *comprehensive*- an archaeologist was present during all ground disturbance, and the level of attendance was consistent, over two days. The excavations were undertaken by tracked excavator, with a c.0.6m wide toothed bucket.

3.3 Field observations were recorded using the standard AC archaeology pro-forma recording system, comprising written and graphic records and in accordance with AC archaeology's *General Site Recording Manual, Version 2*. A digital photographic record was also made. The archive has been prepared using the unique site code ACW818.

3.4 Footings for the house were excavated into the garen which sloped down to the west. An area measuring 20m by 12m in plan and 4m deep was excavated (Appendix 1 and Plates 1-4).

#### 4. RESULTS

4.1 Descriptions of deposits encountered are summarised in Table 1.

4.2 At the northwest corner of the development and forming part of the retaining garden wall was a wall (105), constructed of six courses of roughly hewn, hamstone, with ashlar quoins. It was 2.5m long and 1.2m deep, with a south and west face. The wall retained subsoil and modern soil to the east.

4.3 The exposed stratigraphy comprised (100) topsoil, measuring 200mm thick, above (101) a yellowish-brown colluvial subsoil, measuring 2m thick. This overlay (102) substratum, a subsoil of brownish yellow, soft sandy clay. To the north, beneath the topsoil was (103), a layer of redeposited substratum used to raise the level of the garden. Below this was (106), a buried soil or earlier garden surface.

Context	Max. Depth	Stratigraphic sequence
(100)	200mm	Topsoil: greyish brown, friable silty loam.
(101)	2m	Subsoil: yellowish brown colluvium, friable clayey sand.
(102)	4m	Subsoil: brownish yellow with very pale brown and olive mottling, soft sandy clay.
(103)	850mm	Redeposited subsoil: brownish yellow, soft sandy clay containing modern iron, and glass.
(104)	1.2m+	Modern disturbance: brown, friable clayey silt containing <1% charcoal flecks <3% angular ham stone 400mm long max. Contains modern glass, pottery and iron.
(105)	1.2m	South and west faced ham / limestone wall, 6 random course with corner stones / quoins stressed, with lime mortar. The wall may have been part of a small building and later part of garden retaining wall.
(106)	180mm	Buried soil / earlier garden surface: dark greyish brown, friable silty loam.

**Table 1: Summary of observed deposits**

4.4 Modern (20th century) finds were present, but not retained.

## **5. COMMENT**

- 5.1** The groundworks revealed deposits of post-medieval and modern date only. The stone retaining wall revealed at the NW end of the site appears to relate to one of several rectangular structures shown on the street frontage on the 1887 1st edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map. The nature or function of these structures is unknown.
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Plate 1: General view of works from the south



Plate 2: View of the natural substrata from the southwest



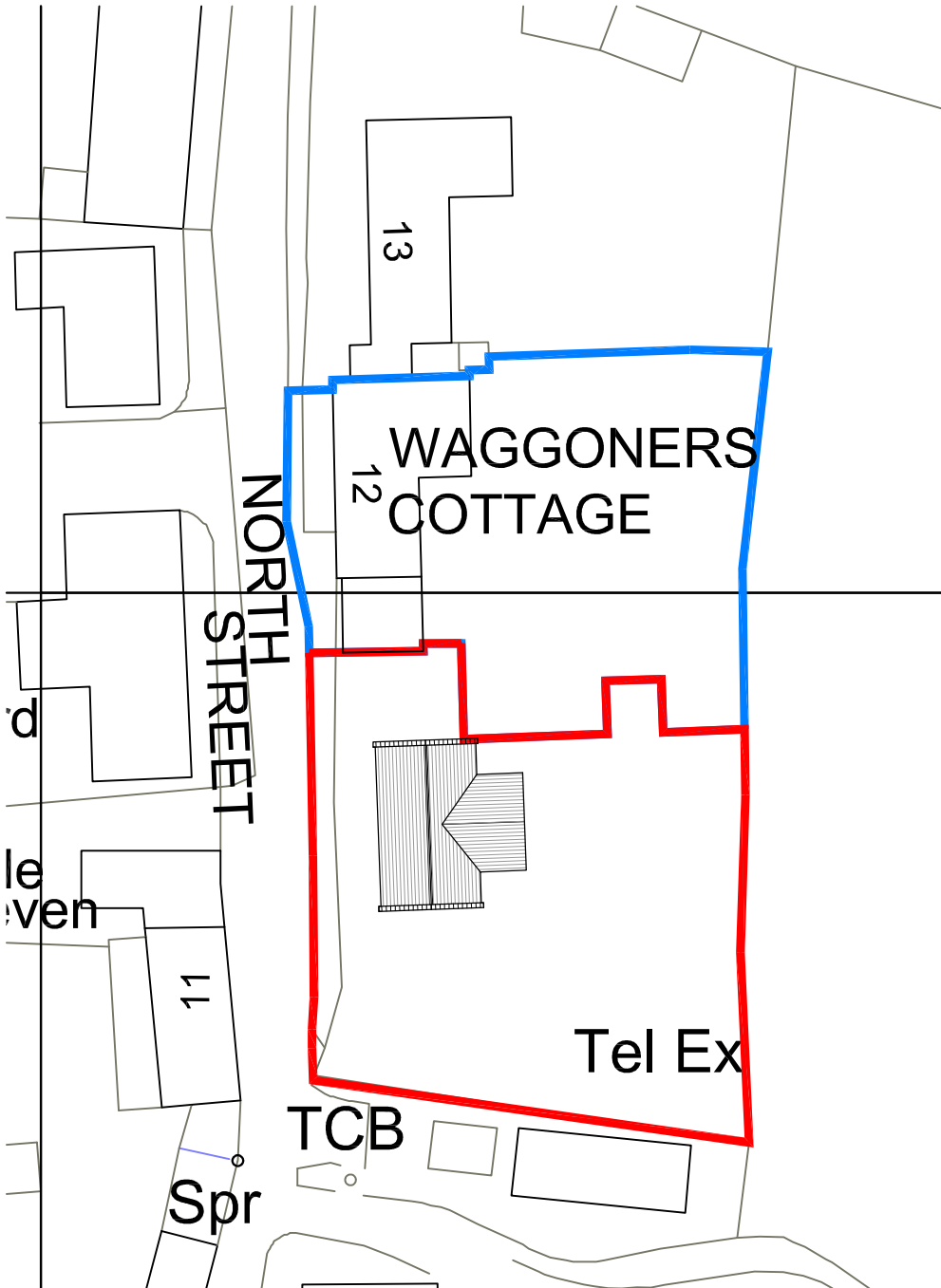
Plate 3:  
Wall 105, from the southwest  
(scale 0.25m)



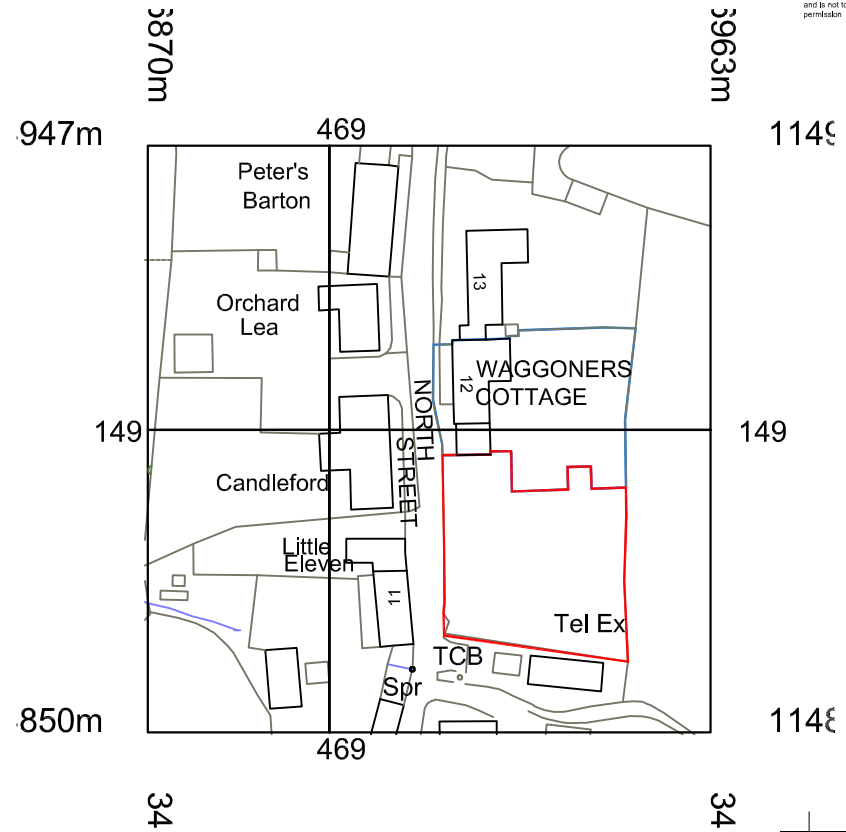
Plate 4: Wall 105 (scale 0.25m)



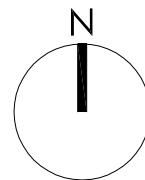
# Appendix 1



Block Plan 1:500



Site Location Plan 1:1250



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**Project**  
 Proposed residential development  
 at Waggoners Cottage  
 Chiselborough Yeovil Somerset

**Client**  
 Mr Andrew Hopping

**Drawing Title**  
 Site Location and Block Plan

**Scale** As Noted @ A4 **Date** 14/10/14

**Drawn** L.G **CHKD** J.P

**DWG No.** 3384/005 **Rev.** -







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