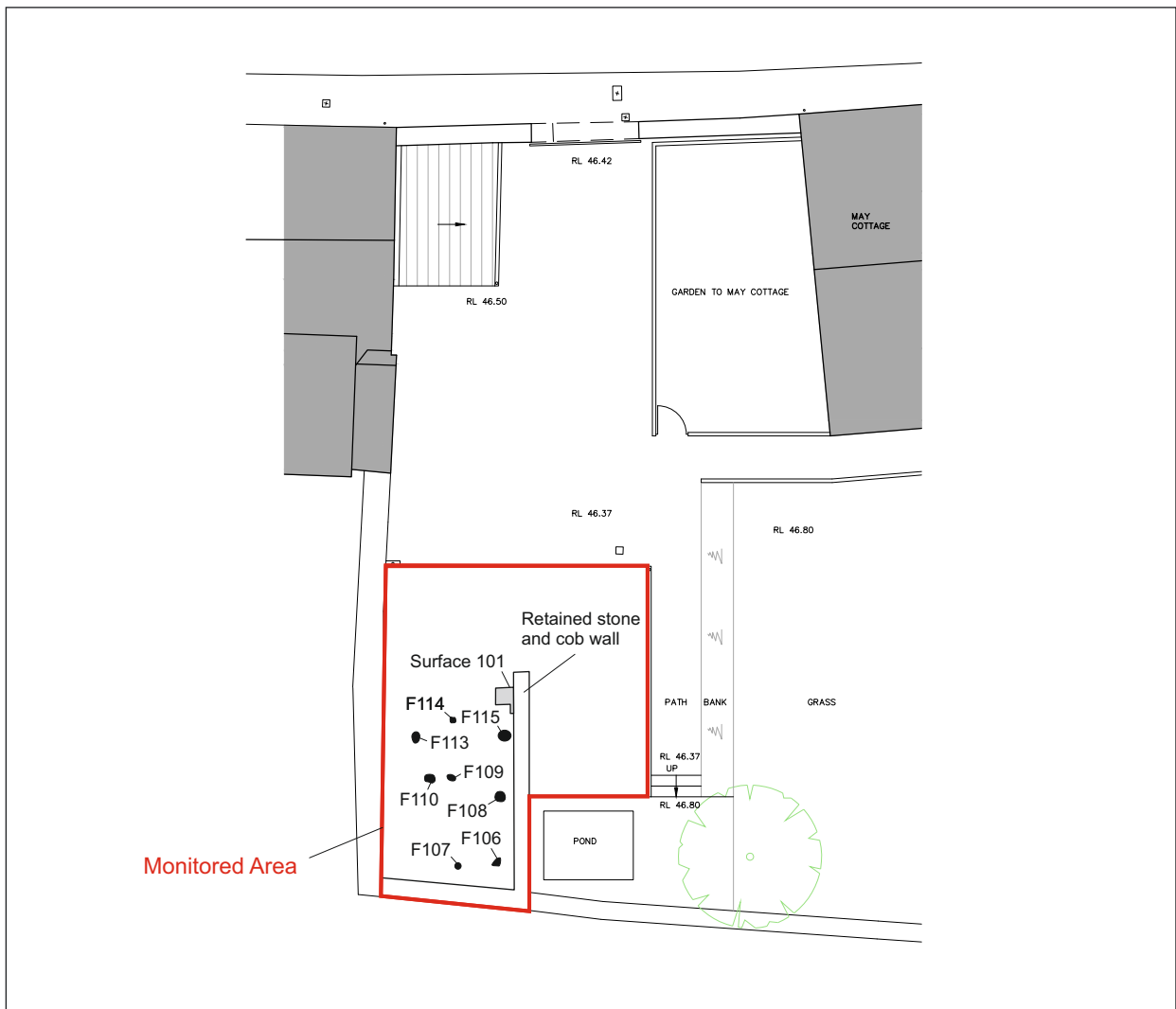


Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Thorverton, Mid Devon	National Grid Reference SS 92492 02070	Number:
Subject: The Old Post Office, Thorverton, Devon: Results of archaeological monitoring and recording		Photo attached? Plates 1-3
Planning Application no: 18/00288/HOUSE and 18/00289/LBC	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS ID: 331743	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD1863	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 6-7 August 2018	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out by AC archaeology during groundworks associated with the extension to and conversion of an existing garage structure at the Old Post Office, Thorverton, Devon (SS 92492 02070). The site is located on the southwest side of the junction between School Lane and Bullen Street, with Thorverton Primary School to the south. It lies to the rear of the Old Post Office and Post Office Cottage street frontage building range and comprised what was a yard area with the existing garage structure. The monitored groundworks consisted of the bulk reduction of the area followed by the excavation of footings trenches (Fig. 1). The walls of the existing structure were retained in the development.</p> <p>The Old Post Office and the next door Post Office Cottage are Grade-II listed along with the adjoining wall in School Lane. The Old Post Office is late medieval in origin, with late 16th to early 17th century remodelling and 17th century extensions comprising a kitchen wing and the cottage. The 1841 Thorverton parish tithe map depicts a building in the position of the garage structure.</p> <p>Results</p> <p>The southern and west property boundary that also formed two walls of the garage were constructed from stone rubble. The projecting east wall of the former garage was constructed with a stone rubble base with cob top.</p> <p>Natural subsoil (context 105) consisted of a mid red silty-clay. It was overlain by a mixed levelling layer comprised of mid brownish-red silty-clay and redeposited natural subsoil (116). This was a maximum of 0.4m thick and was cut by the projecting wall of the former garage structure. Two fragments of undiagnostic clay tobacco pipe stem were present in this layer. In the northeast portion of the former garage and abutting the projecting wall, layer 116 was overlain by a sandy bedding layer for a patch of surviving floor surface comprised of stone cobbles and brick (101). A total of eight postholes were also present within the former garage (F106, F107, F108, F109, F110, F113, F114 and F115). These measured between 0.15m and 0.3m across and 0.3m to 0.5m deep. Each contained the rotted remains of a wooden post. A residual prehistoric worked flint flake was recovered from one of the postholes. The garage and yard area were then overlain by the concrete surface that was present prior to commencement.</p> <p>Comments</p> <p>Based the stone rubble and cob wall fabric style and the tobacco pipe stem fragments present in the levelling layer (116) that pre-dated its construction, the structure was of probable late 18th to 19th century date. Internal features and deposits exposed suggested that it had previously had an internal cobbled surface, while the series postholes perhaps represented internal division or fixed furniture. No other features, deposits or finds were present that provided an indication on any particular function that the structure represented prior to its latter use as a garage.</p> <p>The recovered residual flint flake provides a general indication of prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site.</p>		
Recorder: Simon Hughes, AC Archaeology		Date sent to HER: October 2018



Ordnance Survey © Crown Copyright 2015. All rights reserved. Licence number 100022432



Based on drawing prepared by 5 points Architecture

PROJECT

The Old Post Office, Thorverton, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Site location and monitored area with archaeological features shown





Plate 1: General view of site looking southeast (scale 1m)



Plate 2: Showing group of eight postholes. View to south (scale 1m)



Plate 3: Cobbled surface 101. View to south (scale 1m)