



**A.P.A.C. Ltd.**

Archaeological Perspectives Analysis Consultancy

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF**

DB2:WB/CCT/12

**2 Crown Cottages Tintern**

**Monmouthshire County Council Planning**

**Planning Application No: DC/2012/00529**

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11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012



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## 1 Non Technical Summary

*This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief conducted during ground disturbance; landscaping and foundation work, for a wooden cabin at the rear and within the curtilage of a private dwelling.*

*The disturbance to the ground surface was minimal, in the areas covered by this watching brief and no features were discovered.*

*However, work to provide access to the site for the mechanical digger did impact on certain structures of significance outside of the designated area.*

*With the permission of the client these structures were cleared and recorded.*

## 2 Introduction

### 2.1 Location and scope of work

The property, 2 Crown Cottages, Old Forge Rd, Tintern NP16 6TW, is located at Grid Ref: 352192 200272, fig 01. The area to be developed is to the rear of the property, a garden area on 3 terraces.

A planning application, DC/2012/00529, to build a rear extension, reposition an existing shed and oil tank, erect a home office and associated works within a residential curtilage was submitted to the Monmouthshire County Council, planning (MCC) in June 2012.

A decision was made in August 2012, to allow the work with imposed conditions, (MCC 23/08/2012). Relating to the archaeology; on the advice of Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT), was condition 3, based on Welsh Office Circular 60/96 section 22:

*The developer shall ensure that a suitably qualified archaeologist is present during the undertaking of any ground disturbing works in the development area, so that an archaeological watching brief can be conducted. The archaeological watching brief shall be undertaken to the standards of the Institute for Archaeologists. The Local Planning Authority shall be informed, in writing, at least two weeks before the commencement of the development of the name of said archaeologist and no work shall begin until the Local Planning Authority has confirmed in writing, that the proposed archaeologist is suitable. A copy of the watching brief report shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority within two months of the fieldwork being completed by the archaeologist.*

(MON1360/JBHD)

A.P.A.C. Ltd was contacted to undertake the watching brief and submitted a Design Brief Specification (DB:WB/CCT/12. 24/08/1) which was approved.

The work covered by this watching brief involved the creation of a level area, to provide a concrete base for a wooden cabin. It was also proposed to connect the cabin to the electricity supply by a cable which would be laid in a trench from the house. This became unnecessary as the cable was run along the edge of the boundary of the property culminating in an above ground section to the cabin.

The groundwork involved in this watching brief consisted of shallow excavation using a small tracked mechanical digger to level a small area of ground at the rear of the site.

### 2.2 Geology and topography

The site is located on the solid geology of the Upper Old Red Sandstone, Tintern Sandstone Group with a drift deposit of Alluvium (OS 1981).

The site is surrounded by SSSIs and LNRs but is itself not designated. It is however located within the Wye Valley AONB.



The general topography of the site location is a narrow steep sided, wooded valley, centred on the Angidy stream which generally falls in an easterly direction to the Wye at Tintern. The woodland, some of which is owned and managed by the Forestry Commission is a mixture of deciduous and coniferous trees. A broad fire break occurs south west of the site which opens up the aspect of the location.

The specific topography is an approximate 20m x 19m strip of land with three terraces dropping the level some 7m, fig 02. *(The client gave permission for the survey to be undertaken after the work had been started, in order to best record the archaeological features).*

### 2.3 Archaeological and historical background

The fact that Crown Cottages stand off Old Forge Rd, in an area well known for its iron industry clearly suggests the potential for archaeological resources to be disturbed. The immediate vicinity of the property occupies ground associated with the wireworks complex of the Angiddy Valley; known to have been in existence since at least the mid 16th century.

Late 19<sup>th</sup> century representations of the site are shown in figs 03 and 04; Ordnance Survey maps for 1879–1881 & 1881–1886, respectively. Crown cottages were not represented as they were not built until 1902/4. The centre of the site, now a terraced garden, was dominated by a sluice from the leat which is shown splitting into two: one right angle continuing towards the river and one curve east towards a building. The image is clearer in fig 04.

In 1901 the curved continuation of the leat has disappeared leaving only the right angle sluice and still no representation of Crown Cottages, Fig 05.

By the time of the 1921 Survey the Crown cottages are shown and the leat has disappeared from the record as has a large building that used to stand SE of the leat split.

The garden area itself is terraced with a series of stone revetments, characteristic of the Angidy leats found elsewhere along the valley, (Parr & Tucker 1979, Pickin 1979–81, A.P.A.C. Ltd 2008, 2008a & 2009).

A few hundred yards east of the property on roughly the same terrace, an evaluation project undertaken by Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service established the significant remains of post medieval mill buildings, (GCC 2009).

## 3 Aims and Objectives

### 3.1 Watching Brief

The aim of the watching brief is to establish the presence/absence of archaeological structures or other significant features within the works area.

Should any archaeological resources be revealed their presence will be recorded and a decision made as to any mitigation measures.

To carry out an archaeological watching brief to the standards laid down in the Institute of Field Archaeologists, Guideline for Watching Briefs.

This will entail a programme of observation and investigation in the specified area during ground works and to produce an archive report of the same.

### 3.2 Watching Brief Methodology

#### *Fieldwork*

Groundwork covered by the condition took place at the upper west corner of the garden terrace and consisted of the removal of the shallow sloping bank at the south of the terrace, which was then deposited at the north of the terrace, to produce a level area. Plates 01 & 02 show the profile of the ground prior to the levelling work being undertaken.



In order to gain access to the upper terrace it was necessary to create an access slope for the mechanical digger. Plate 03 shows the access being created by digging into the upper bank along a pre-existing path.

After the watching brief condition had been complied with, the client allowed for the machine to be used to investigate some areas of interest that had been impacted upon during the creation of the access ramp. These were cleared quickly for recording.

The following day, again with the client's permission, a basic topographic survey was undertaken to locate the exposed archaeological resources to known surroundings. The results are shown in fig 02.

### 3.3 Watching Brief Results

#### *Soils and ground conditions*

Ground and soil conditions encountered during the watching brief were good.

#### *Description*

No archaeological resources were discovered during the watching brief.

Operations to allow for the watching brief to be undertaken did however impact upon archaeological resources which can be related to the industrial period of the area.

During removal of the parts of the terrace retaining walls; to create a path for the digger to the top of the terraces, it was found they had been created fairly recently, probably as landscaping work during the building of Crown Cottages.

This was evident from the fill behind the surviving lengths of dry stone walling, which consisted of large quantities of fill material of loose stone in a black loam with a good quantity of domestic rubbish, namely blue&white transfer print and plain china crockery, glass sherds and bottles, bits of rusty metal cans and even two broken spades, Plate 04.

Two of the bottles, Codd's type, were from local mineral works known to be in operation at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century: Arnold Perrett & Co Ltd, Lydney and C. N Ballinger, Pont Mynwy, Monmouth. One large piece of china bowl base carried a trade mark: Ridgways Royal Semi Porcelain, Delft, England with a crown which is dateable to around 1910, (Godden, 1991).

The walling itself was very poor and not structural and had been built directly on to the natural as can be seen in Plate 03.

At the top of the created slope, the digger turned to reach the top terrace and uncovered the edge of a mortared wall, Plate 05. At this point the upwards slope was extended past the archaeology to leave it in situ. The position of the wall is shown in Plate 06 at the ranging rod, and marked 1 fig 02. A small smear of yellow clay was found at the base of the wall, the same found elsewhere in the Angiddy valley relating to leats and used as a sealant (APAC. Ltd. 2008/2009).

An anomaly was noticed with 2, fig 02, Plate 07; a large buttress of squared pudding stone standing just over 1 m high with a definite right angled corner to the west. The wall stands forward of a terrace revetment which extends to the east, Plate 08.

The client agreed for a small amount of clearing to the west of the corner of structure 2 to check if the buttress was in fact a building extending south. However, during the clearing, structure 3 was uncovered, Fig 02 Plate 09.

Structure 3 is a channel of ash mortared stone laid in a descending path with alternately offset stones, Plate 10. A partial single course of edging stones remained in place making the original channel width approximately 700mm.

The direction of the channel can be seen in Plate 11 from the horizontal ranging rod, between the vertical ranging rod and the corner of Crown cottage and by projection to the Angidy River behind the wooden shed. A view from the bottom of the slope up shows that the channel runs against the stone buttress 2, Plate 12. The lower stone wall is associated with later landscaping work.



## 4 Discussion and Interpretation

### 4.1 Reliability of field investigation

The archaeological resources discovered were unfortunately outside of the remit of the watching brief and deemed not of such significance or condition to warrant excavation. In addition, the structures discovered are to be left in place so there was no reason to disturb them further at this point.

There can be little confirmation of what the exact nature of the resources are but it is possible to offer a reasonable interpretation based on the available map progressions.

### 4.2 Overall interpretation

It was anticipated that part of a leat system would have been found running across the site, however the work revealed; where excavation was undertaken, that the leat system was absent, probably having been removed during early 20<sup>th</sup> century landscaping.

What does remain however are the probable remains of the sluice that ran from the split in the leat shown on the two early Ordnance Survey maps figs 03 & 04.

The remains of wall 1, is a mystery. It could be part of the leat or sluice system which would explain the yellow clay or it may be part of the building shown above the leat on the first three Ordnance Survey maps but gone by 1921.

Similarly the buttress 2 remains unexplained however there is a difference in that it is never recorded on the maps which may indicate that it had gone out of use or knowledge by the time the maps were drawn.

It is possible to speculate that a 7m head of water would be useful to drive a waterwheel from a launder supported by stone buttresses if a leat were accessible.

## 5 Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge the contribution of Mr J Moore in allowing me to record as much of this resource as possible.



## 6 Bibliography and references

- Anderson architecture                      Propose Extension and Alteration at Crown Cottages, Tintern, Monmouthshire.  
Site Location Plan, Existing.              No: 1030/02 A.  
Block Plan Existing                          No: 1030/03 A.  
Block Plan Proposed                         No: 1030/04 A.
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Existing Shed and Oil Tank, Erection of Home Office in Rear Garden: 2  
Crown Cottages, Tintern. 07/08/2012.
- MON1572/ JBHD                                PL.APP. No: 201000529/FUL. Proposed Rear Extension, Repositionong of  
Existing Shed and Oil Tank, Erection of Home Office in Rear Garden: 2  
Crown Cottages, Tintern. 08/08/2012.
- Monmouthshire County  
Council DC/2012/00529                        Householder Application for planning Permission 18/06/2012  
Approval of Planning Permission 23/08/2012
- WOC 60/96                                        Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology.  
Welsh Office Circular 60/96.





## ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Site Name: 2 Crown Cottages, Tintern  
Site Code: WB/CCT/11  
PRN: -  
NPRN : -  
SAM: -  
Other Ref No: A.P.A.C. Ltd Report No. 174  
NGR: S0 352206 200269  
Site Type: Industrial  
Project Type: Watching Brief  
Project Officer: Neil Phillips  
Project Dates: September 2012  
Categories Present: N/A  
Location of Original Archive: A.P.A.C. Ltd  
Location of duplicate Archives: Gwent Records Office,  
Number of Finds Boxes: 1  
Location of Finds: Client  
Museum Reference: #####  
Copyright: A.P.A.C. Ltd  
Restrictions to access: None

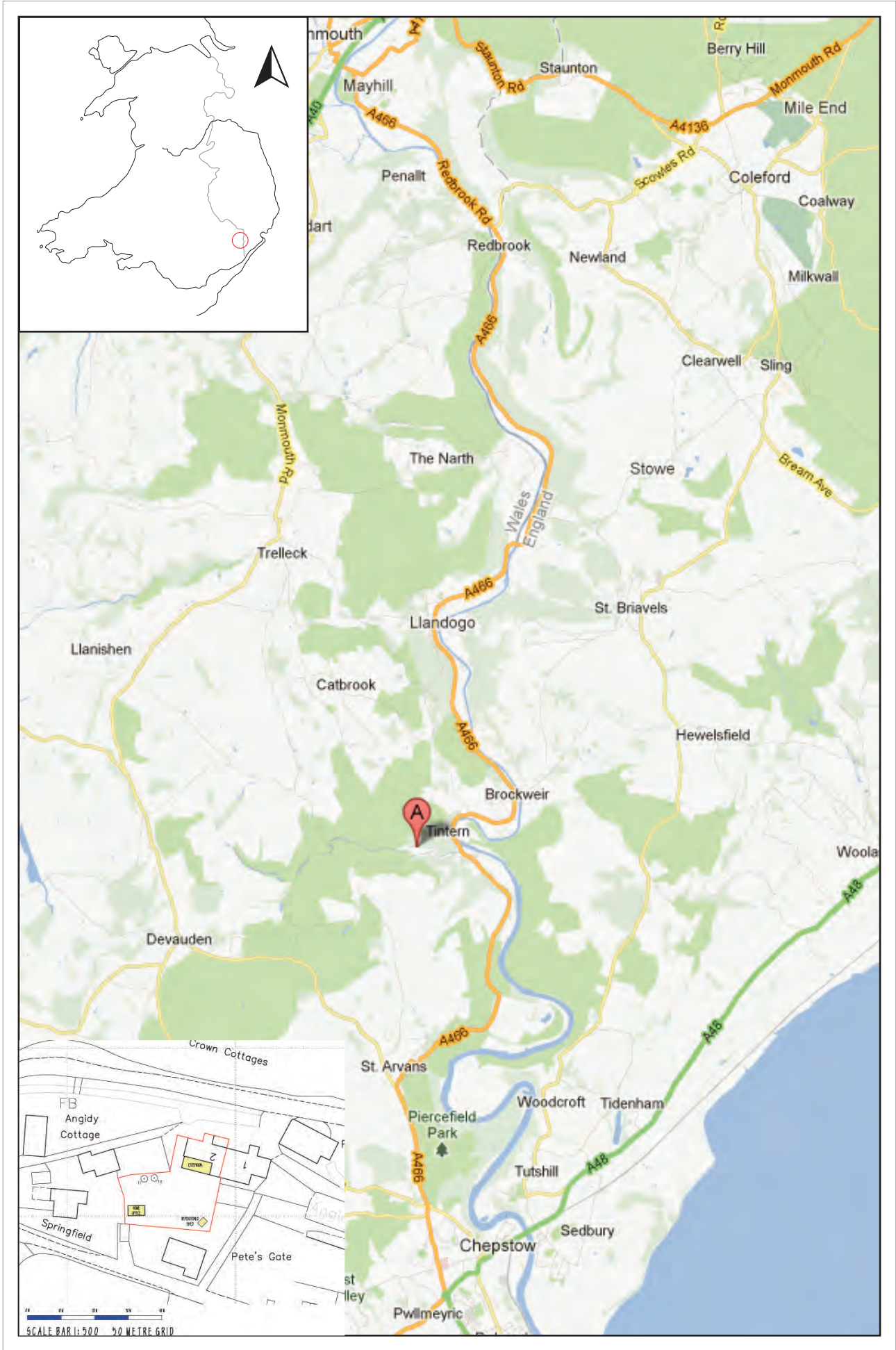


Fig 01: Location

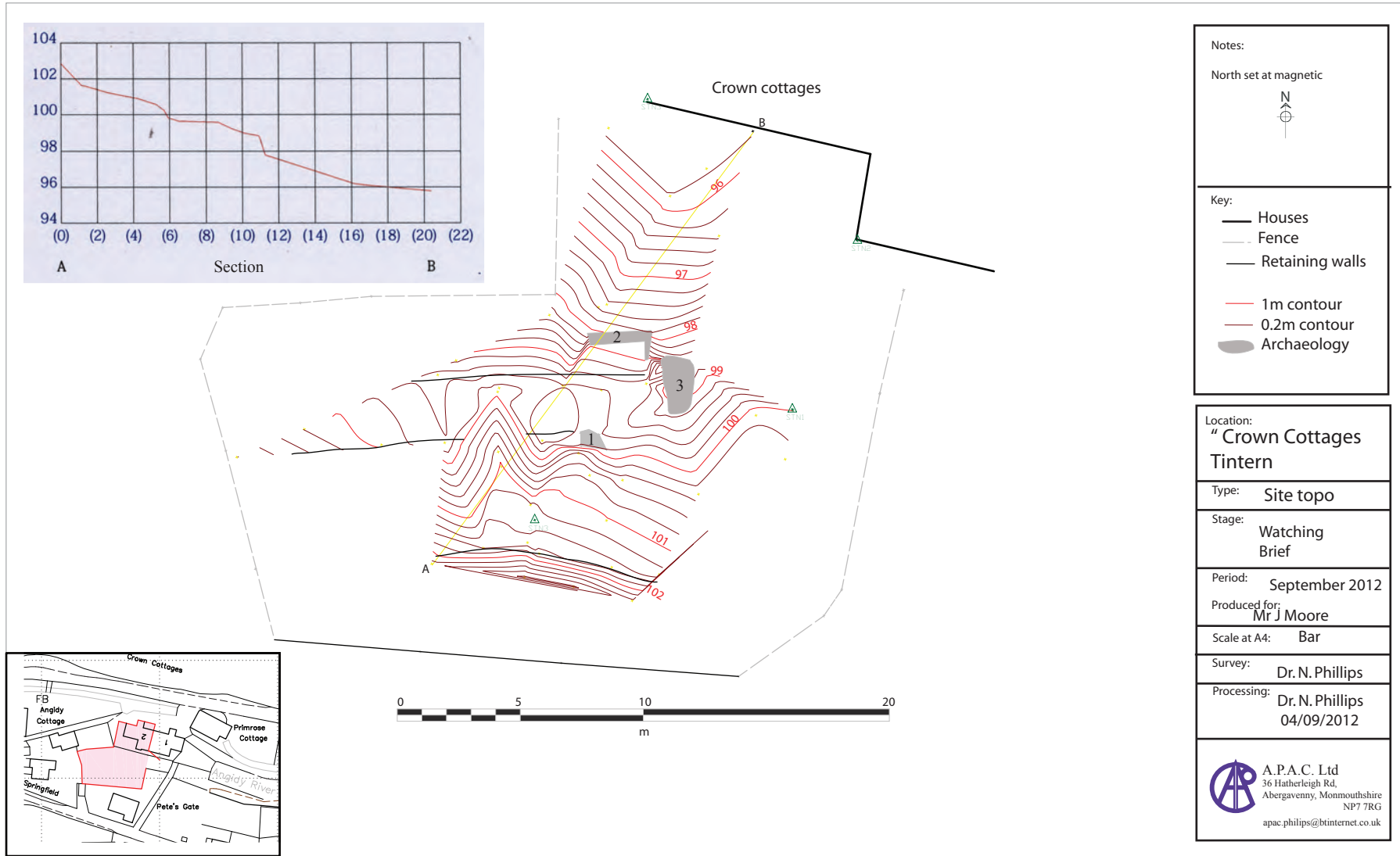

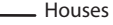

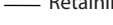
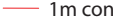
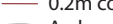
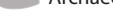



Figure 02: Site survey

Notes:
North set at magnetic

Key:
 Houses  Fence  Retaining walls  1m contour  0.2m contour  Archaeology
Location:
"Crown Cottages Tintern
Type:
Site topo
Stage:
Watching Brief
Period:
September 2012
Produced for:
Mr J Moore
Scale at A4:
Bar
Survey:
Dr. N. Phillips
Processing:
Dr. N. Phillips 04/09/2012
 A.P.A.C. Ltd 36 Hatherleigh Rd, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire NP7 7RG apac.phillips@btinternet.co.uk

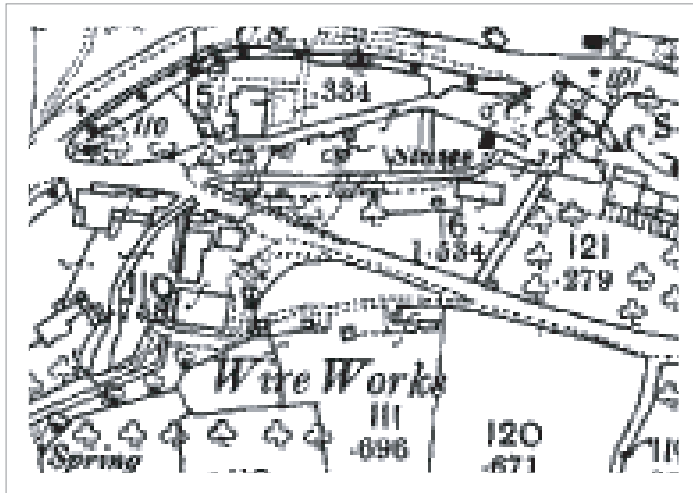


Figure 03 Monmouthshire 1879-1881 1:2500

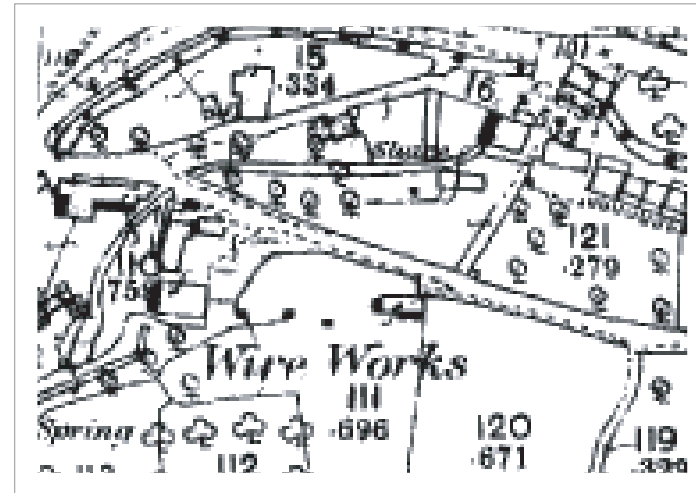


Figure 04 Gloucestershire 1881-1886 1:2500

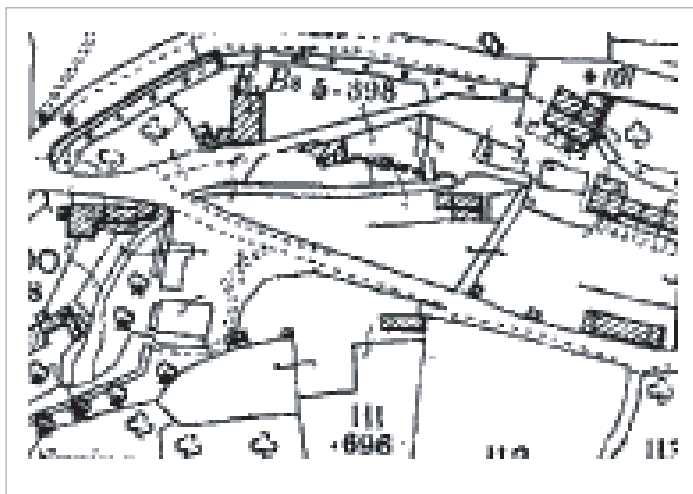


Figure 05 Monmouthshire 1901-1902 1:2500

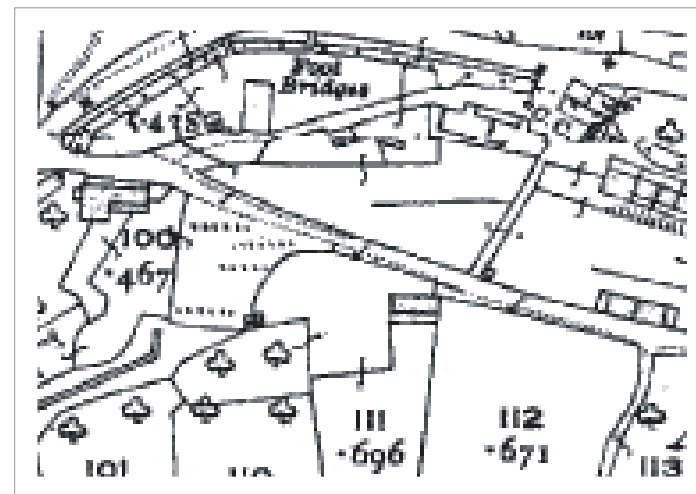


Figure 06 Monmouthshire 1921 1:2500



Plate 01: Upper terrace where the cabin foundation is to be placed, Second terrace below to right



Plate 02: Upper terrace where the cabin foundation is to be placed



Plate 03: Removal of upper terrace garden wall revetment to provide a foundation for replacement wall.



Plate 04: Test section through upper terrace to reveal 19th/20th century land fill



Plate 05: Overview of walls section with 1m scale



Plate 06: Overview of access path at upper terrace. Wall section at ranging rods



Plate 07: Section of structure, significantly different from the terrace revetment wall and at different alignment



Plate 04: View up the terrace. Channel at ranging rods, Stone structure centre right, Terrace revetting bottom centre





Plate 09: Stepped ash mortared channel with mortared sides. Partial single course remaining



Plate 10: Top section exposed of the stepped channel



Plate 11: Path of the channel to the Angidy river behind the wooden shed. The view shows the drop in elevation



Plate 12: View up the terrace. Channel at ranging rods, Stone structure centre right, Terrace revetting bottom centre



Digital Photographic Record

Photo No	Date	Camera	Size	Area	View	Description	Plan	SP no:
DSC02659	24/08/2012	DSC-F828	2448x3264	External	S	Site visit, Retaining walls at base of terrace partially removed, re soil is natural		
DSC02660	24/08/2012	DSC-F828	3264x2448	External	SW	Site visit, same view from further away, for location.		
DSC02677	03/09/2012	DSC-F828	3264x2448	External	E	Upper terrace where the cabin foundation is to be placed		<b>2</b>
DSC02678	03/09/2012	DSC-F828	3264x2448	External	E	Upper terrace where the cabin foundation is to be placed, Second terrace below to right		<b>1</b>
DSC02679	03/09/2012	DSC-F828	3264x2448	External	S	Stone wall revealed during the creation of an access route for the digger, to the top terrace		
DSC02680	03/09/2012	DSC-F828	3264x2448	External	W	Overview of access path at upper terrace. Wall section at ranging rods		<b>6</b>
DSC02681	03/09/2012	DSC-F828	3264x2448	External	V	Wall section cleared to reveal ash mortar		
DSC02682	03/09/2012	DSC-F828	3264x2448	External	V	Overview of walls section with 1m scale		<b>5</b>
DSC02683	03/09/2012	DSC-F828	3264x2448	External	W	Removal of upper terrace garden wall revetment to provide a foundation for replacement wall.		<b>3</b>
DSC02684	03/09/2012	DSC-F828	3264x2448	External	S	Test section through upper terrace to reveal 19th/20th century land fill		<b>4</b>
DSC02685	03/09/2012	DSC-F828	3264x2448	External	S	Section of structure, significantly different from the terrace revetment wall and at different alignment		<b>7</b>
DSC02686	03/09/2012	DSC-F828	3264x2448	External	S	Stepped ash mortared channel with mortared sides. Partial single course remaining		<b>9</b>
DSC02687	03/09/2012	DSC-F828	3264x2448	External	V	Top section exposed of the stepped channel		<b>10</b>
DSC02688	03/09/2012	DSC-F828	3264x2448	External	N	Path of the channel to the Angidy river behind the wooden shed. The view shows the drop in elevation		<b>11</b>
DSC02689	03/09/2012	DSC-F828	3264x2448	External	SW	View up the terrace. Channel at ranging rods, Stone structure centre right, Terrace revetting bottom centre		<b>12</b>
DSC02690	03/09/2012	DSC-F828	3264x2448	External	S	View up the terrace. Channel at ranging rods, Stone structure centre right, Terrace revetting bottom centre		<b>8</b>
DSC02691	03/09/2012	DSC-F828	2448x3264	External	S	View up the channel giving impression of gradient and showing stepped build.		