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***A one-up, one-down cottage at Kenn Moor Gate, Yatton: Salvage  
photographic recording***

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*Stonehurst Cottage immediately before demolition in 2005*

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## **Abstract**

*The survival of an early 19<sup>th</sup> century one-up one-down cottage in a plot at Kenn Moor Gate was brought to the attention of YCCCART in early 2005. A visit identified that it was indeed the case, and a series of photographs were taken. In spite of efforts to protect the site from demolition, it was removed on the orders of the local authority later that year.*

## **Acknowledgements**

This survey would not have been carried out without the permission of the owner Mr D Burn.

## **Introduction**

Yatton, Congresbury, Claverham and Cleve Archaeological Research Team (YCCCART) is one of a number of Community Archaeology teams across North Somerset, supported by the North Somerset Council Development Management Team.

The objective of the Community Archaeology in North Somerset (CANS) teams is to carry out archaeological fieldwork, for the purpose of recording, and better understanding of, the heritage of North Somerset.

For further information on CANS, see <http://cansnetwork.co.uk>

## Site Location



*Fig 1: Site location*

The site lies 420m north of Claverham Court Farm, in the hamlet of Kenn Moor Gate, in Yatton, in North Somerset. The site is at ST44526762, some 14 km south-west of Bristol.

The site is in a privately owned garden.

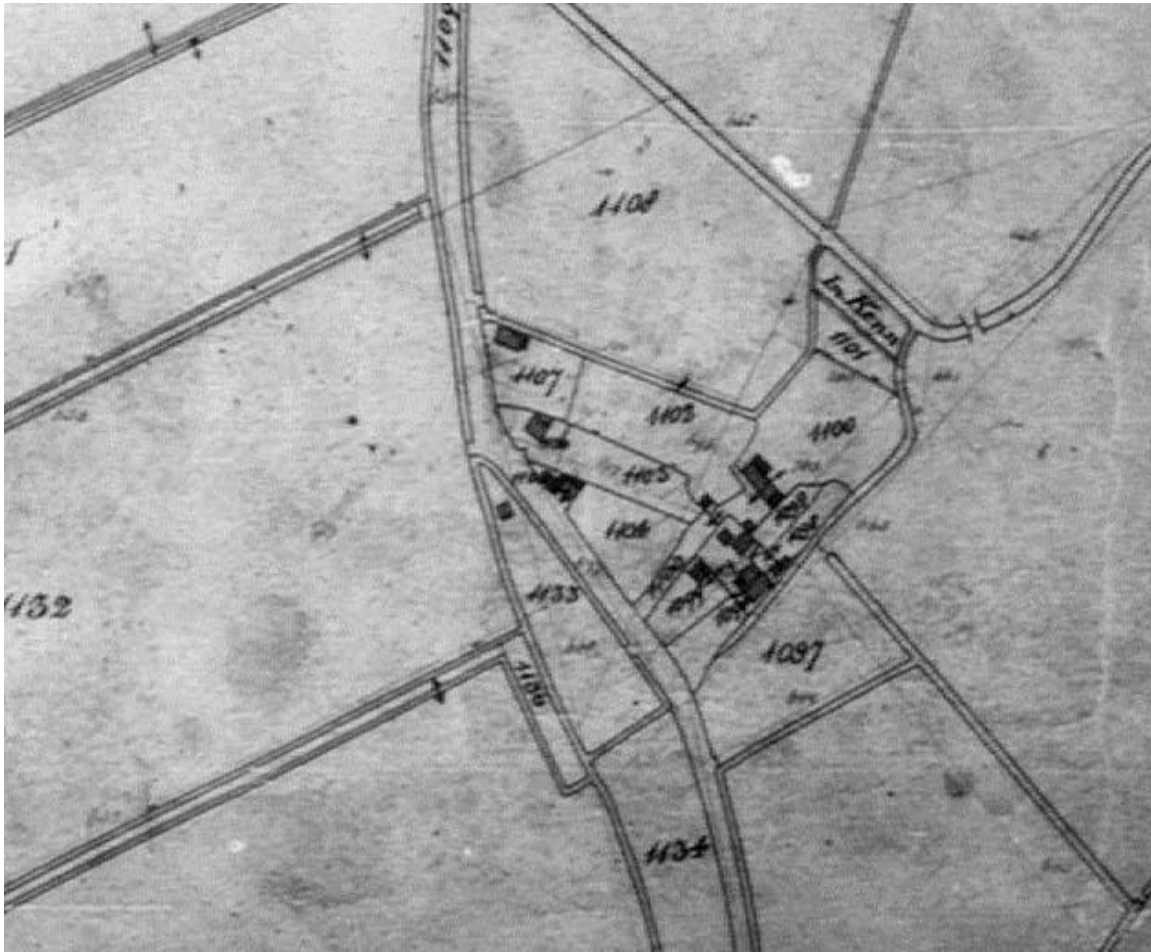
### **Land use and geology**

The site lies on the edge of a lobe of Keuper Marl, which is covered only a few metres from the site by the peats of Claverham and Kenn Moors.

The site was used in 2005 as part of a domestic garden.

## Historical & archaeological context

The earliest known map depicting this site is the Yatton Tithe Map of 1840 (fig 2 below). It does not appear on the known earlier maps of 1700 or 1821, so was presumably built between 1821 and 1840.



*Fig 2: The building shown on the map of c1840*

The building (at the west end of the enclosure labelled '1105' on the figure) is depicted as a simple rectangular structure, presumably the rectangular building that still formed the core of the building immediately before demolition in 2005.

By the time of the OS 1:2500 plan of 1885, the structure had acquired a small extension to its eastern end, and a small shed to its west, probably an outside toilet. The structures had not changed at all by the time of the OS 1:2500 plan of 1903 (Fig 3).

The next large scale OS plan dates to 1973, by which time the building had acquired the

form it had in its final years, with three consecutive extensions. A small, apparently early 20<sup>th</sup> century extension, followed by a later stone extension to its east, which had been partly demolished for the insertion of a window, which wall had then been rebuilt in brick.

A one-storey final extension, in brick to sill height and glazed above, was added to the east end of the original house at some later stage, probably in mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Survey objectives**

The survey had the following objectives:

- 1) To record and date the remains of the cottage and its subsidiary structures before demolition.
- 2) To assess whether the building, a rare example of an unaltered type of building known once to have been far more common, would be eligible for addition to the DCMS List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest.

### **Methodology**

Photographs were taken informally during a preliminary site visit, when neither scales or other photographic material were available. The building was demolished before further recording could be carried out. They were recorded using a Canon Powershot S50 5-megapixel digital camera on 07 April 2005.

The report was written in September 2010 using Open Office s writer 3.2.

Photographs were taken by members of YCCART, and remain the copyright of YCCART.

## Results

22 photographs were recorded in all of the site, both interiors and exteriors. These are partly reproduced in this report, and they and site notes have been used to generate a description of the building, which follows.

*Main building.* Rectangular rendered farmhouse, gabled with end stack to west and false stack to west gable. Roof in double Roman tiles. No evidence internally or externally of central door: current entrance to rear of east end of structure (now in extension) possibly original. One offset four-light casement to east side of ground floor front elevation: one central four-light casement to centre of first floor. Central small three-light casement in east gable under false stack to first floor.

*Interior:* Ground and first floors open, with stair consisting of open ladder in cupboard to right of stack. First floor consists entirely of wooden planks. Stack stepped back at first floor; brick fireplace of uncertain age to ground floor with rustic bressumer. Cupboard to left of fireplace in front elevation wall.

*Extensions to north-east of building.* Rendered single-storey one-room, with monopitch roof, materials unknown. Door under adjacent 'conservatory': sash window to front elevation, casement to side, all 20<sup>th</sup> century. Front elevation parallel to house, side right angles to ditch, giving odd 'pointed' corner.

*Second extension.* Rendered rubble stone with large frontage area replaced in coursed brick to insert 4-light casement window. Single door against first extension, Monopitch roof, unknown materials. Small galvanised iron extension to east for toilet.

Also rear catslide tool shed against main building, shaped to plot, door opening into first extension. Glazed corridor half-height in brick along east end of main building to main door, glazed roof.

## Photographs



*Fig 3: Cottage from the road, extensions to right of picture. Note false stack to right gable.*



*Fig 4: Cottage from garden*



*Fig 5: Open stair in cupboard*





*Fig 6: Cupboard in front wall and fireplace*



*Fig 7: Stack on first floor - top of stair to right*



*Fig 8: Interior of first extension showing non right-angle corner and windows*

The rest of the site photos are in the YCCART archive.

## **Discussion**

This building was a rare survival of a type once common in this area of the West Country. A simple rectangular cottage with one open room downstairs and one up, connected by a very simple open ladder stair in a cupboard by the stack, must have once been a very common sight. Not enough of these buildings now survive to be certain if the eccentric placing of windows, the non-central door and the 'fake' stack in the east gable are normal, or an aberration of the builder.

The extensions are certainly eccentric and presumably home built, mostly during the early-mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.

This type of building is not generally valued by national conservation bodies because of its very simplicity, and thus in its unaltered state appears to be extinct in the area.

Unfortunately, the building was not seen during demolition, so the further clues this might have yielded have been lost.

Recover of the names of owners and occupiers should be straightforward, but is beyond the remit of this site record.

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**Date**            September 2010