

**YCCART 2012/ Y10
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**Manual Survey of Thomas Cox's Cottage
Goblin Combe**

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH TEAM (YCCART)**

General Editor: Vince Russett



The remains of the cottage.

Page No.	Contents
3	Abstract Acknowledgements Introduction
4	Site location Land use and geology
5	Historical and archaeological context Survey objectives Methodology
6	Results Discussion
7	Recommendations References and Sources

Abstract

A small cottage, once called 'Thomas Cox's house' was situated beside the track in Goblin Combe and is known to have been built before 1799. It was demolished some time in the 20th century, after it fell into disrepair. The remains consist of three piles of earth and rubble, left after clearance by a bulldozer. However, the boundary of the garden plot can still be seen, and it was recorded by the Yatton, Congresbury, Claverham and Cleeve Archaeological Research Team (YCCCART) in January 2006.

Acknowledgements

YCCCART are very grateful to the Goblin Combe Environmental Centre who manage Goblin Combe and Cleeve Wood, for allowing YCCCART to survey and photograph this site. They are also very grateful to Vince Russett for editing this report.

Introduction

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, better understanding and management of the heritage of North Somerset.

Site location



Fig 1: Site of Thomas Cox's house

The parish of Cleeve is situated in North Somerset and the centre of Cleeve village lies on the A370 Bristol to Weston-super-Mare road about 8km. from Bristol. The remains of the cottage are about 0.5km south-east of the village, on the south side of a track leading from Cleeve to Wrington in Goblin Combe, at O.S. ST4628 6548. It was at one time known as 'Thomas Cox's house'.

Land use and geology

The site lies in thick woodland, in a deep and narrow combe known as Goblin Combe, which is eroded into the underlying Clifton Down Limestone formation. It is currently under the management of the Goblin Combe Environmental Centre, as a public open space.

Historical and archaeological context

Once known as 'Thomas Cox's house', the earliest reference to the cottage appears in the Poulett Rental map of 1798-1800. It is also shown on the Enclosure map for Wrington, Yatton and Kenn of 1810. It was probably abandoned by 1902, and by 1978 only the bases of the walls remained. It is not known when it was finally demolished. The irregular shape of the garden boundary seen on the Poulett map is still partly visible today.

Local rumour suggested that it was at one time the local post office, but while the postal delivery route (by horse) from Cleeve Receiving House to Wrington certainly passed close to the cottage, there is no evidence to substantiate this rumour.

Survey objectives

The survey had the following objectives:

1. To record the remains of the cottage
2. To continue the training of YCCCART members in the techniques of manual survey.

Methodology

A simple tape survey of the remains of the cottage and its garden was completed and drawn, at a scale of 1:100.

Results

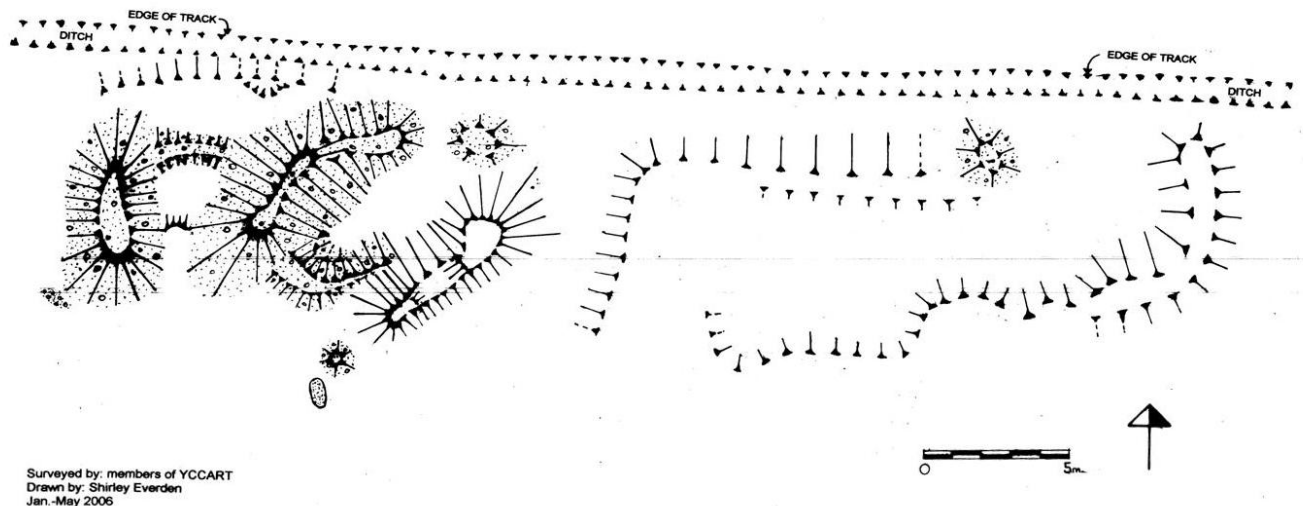


Fig 2: Thomas Cox's House

The cottage has been reduced to three piles of rubble and earth, in which no distinguishing features or plan could be seen. However the boundary of the garden was still visible as a low earthwork, extending about 20m. from the cottage, beside the track.

Discussion

This cottage is one of many that have been demolished or have fallen down: the 'Survey of the Ancient Parishes of Yatton and Cleeve' (Barracough and Campbell 1998) lists at least 180 cottages or houses that no longer exist, not including agricultural buildings. The sites of many of these have been concealed beneath more recent structures, but it is important to record the remains on those sites that can still be identified, as a part of the history of the parishes of Yatton and Cleeve. Many of the known cottage sites are scattered in the outer areas of the parishes, and although there are clearly clustered central areas in each of the 19th century villages, it appears that a considerable proportion of the inhabitants were living well away from the central clusters, in virtual isolation. Of this, Thomas Cox's cottage is clearly an example.

Recommendations

It is not recommended that any physical or geophysical investigations should be carried out at this site, as it is unlikely that any information remains in, on or under the ground.

References

Barraclough, M. and Campbell, M. (compilers) 1980-1998	<i>Survey of the Ancient Parish of Yatton including Cleeve and East and West Hewish.</i> Compiled from Poulett's map of 1799 and J.P.Sturge's map of Yatton of 1821
<i>Poulett Rental Map, 1798-1800</i>	SRO DD\SAS/C212/MAP/167
<i>Poulett Estates papers, 1798</i>	SRO DD\PT
<i>Smyth-Pigott sales papers</i>	SRO DD\FS/18/1-4
Sturge, J. P., 1821	Map of Yatton SRO D\P\yat/13/1/3
<i>Enclosure map for Wrington, Yatton and Kenn, 1810</i>	SRO Q/RDe 135
<i>Yatton and Congresbury Tithe Apportionment, 1840</i>	SRO D\D/Rt/A/368

Author: Shirley Everden. April 2011