

## 5. HISTORY – FABRIC, CARTOGRAPHIC & ARCHIVE EVIDENCE

### 5.1 Lack of evidence of early origins

No fabric that indicates that any part of the building pre-dates the late C18 has been found.

### 5.2 Tithe map c. 1840,

The hamlet of West Worlington is within East Worlington parish. The tithe map for East Worlington parish, prepared in c. 1840, shows the hamlet with a similar form to that which remains today, figure 29. A building is shown on the site of Down Cottage but it is merely a simple rectangle not the footprint of the building that exists today. The tithe apportionment does not record the building as a dwelling. While, for example, the cottages west of the church (Church, Middle and Lower Cottages) are recorded as cottages, no such description is provided for Down Cottage. Plot 305 to the rear of Down Cottage is recorded as *Kitchen Orchard*, an orchard associated with *Town Living*, a 31 acre holding based at what is now Town Farm, Plot 303, figure 30. Town Living appears to be associated with land on the east side of the lane. It is suggested that Down Cottage originated as an outbuilding for Town Living; this explains its lack of any historic features and lack of a characteristic cottage plan form.

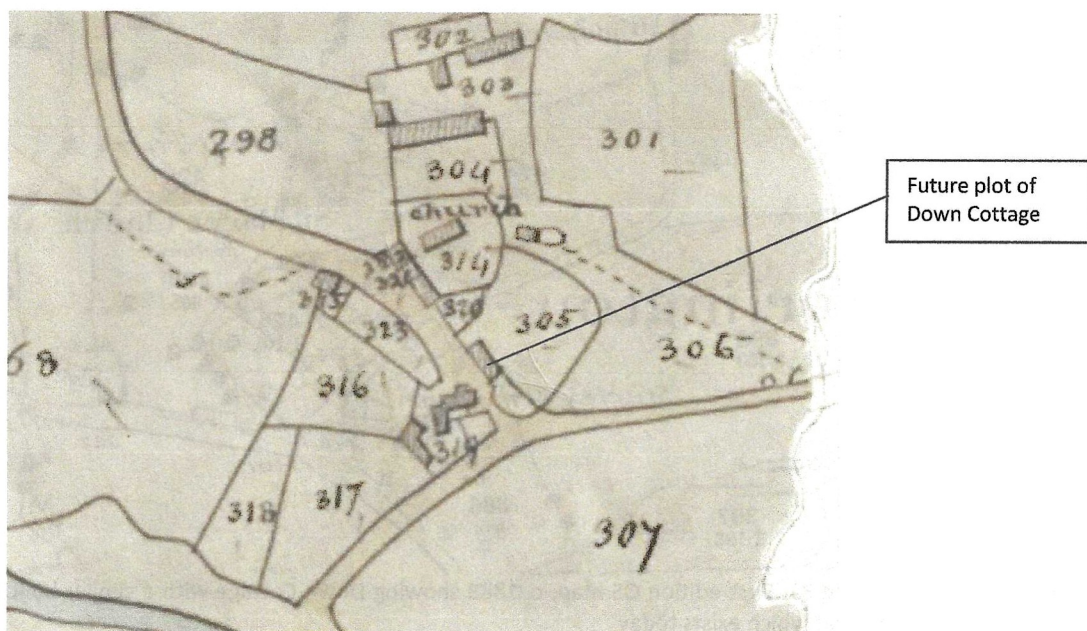


Figure 29. East Worlington parish tithe map, c. 1840

Town Living						
293	Great Backside	Arable	5	1	2	
294	Little Backside		2	2	26	
295	Clay Meadow	Meadow	1	3	21	
296	The Backside	Arable	3	3	9	
297	Hill Close	Pasture	3		35	
298	Bell Close	Arable	1	2	28	
299	Orchard	Orchard			10	
300	Water Meadow	Meadow	1		21	
301	East Orchard	Orchard	1	2	20	
302	Orchard				39	
303	Swilling House & Garden			1	12	
304	Garden	Garden			26	
305	Hitchin Orchard	Orchard		1	20	
306	Town Hill	Orchard & Water	1		14	
307	Marsh Meadow	Meadow	2	3	21	
308	Marsh	Pasture	1	3	20	
309	Hayway				15	
310	Hayway	Hayway			18	
311	Hayway	Pasture		2	24	
312	Long Marsh		1	2	21	
313	Hayway	Orchard		1		
314	House & Premises			1		
			21	1	21	3 2 2

Figure 30. East Worlington tithe apportionment

5.3 First edition OS map 1888

The OS map of c. 1888 shows significant change with the plan form of the building on the site of Down Cottage, figure 31. The map now shows the yard and/or built form to the rear of the building and what appears to be the narrow outbuilding extending from its north gable along with a southern garden. It appears that far from being a late C18 cottage that Down Cottage is a later C19 conversion of a former outbuilding.

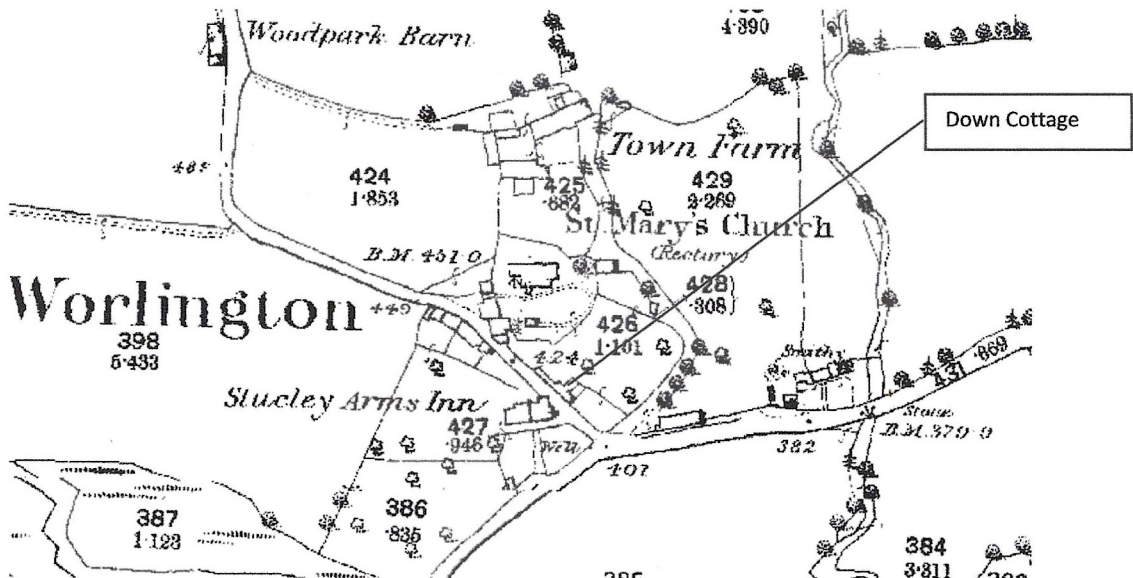


Figure 31. First edition OS map, c. 1888 showing Down Cottage with a similar built form footprint to that which exists today

5.4 Second edition OS map c. 1904

The OS map of c. 1904 clearly shows a building with a very similar footprint to Down Cottage today, figure 32.

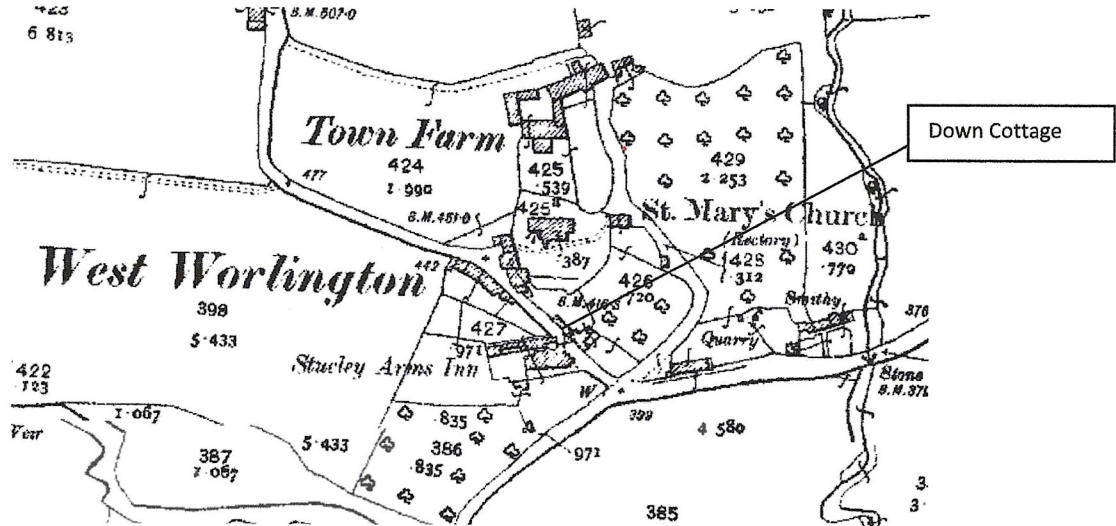


Figure 32. OS map, c. 1904 showing Down Cottage with a similar footprint to that which exists today

5.5 Early C20 photograph

An undated photograph of the hamlet, in the ownership of the Stephens', published as a postcard by English Heritage, just shows the front elevation and eaves of what is now Down Cottage, figure 33. The photograph is considered to show the building with a far less steeply pitched roof than that which exists today; it used to have a thatch roof that was characteristic for Devon.

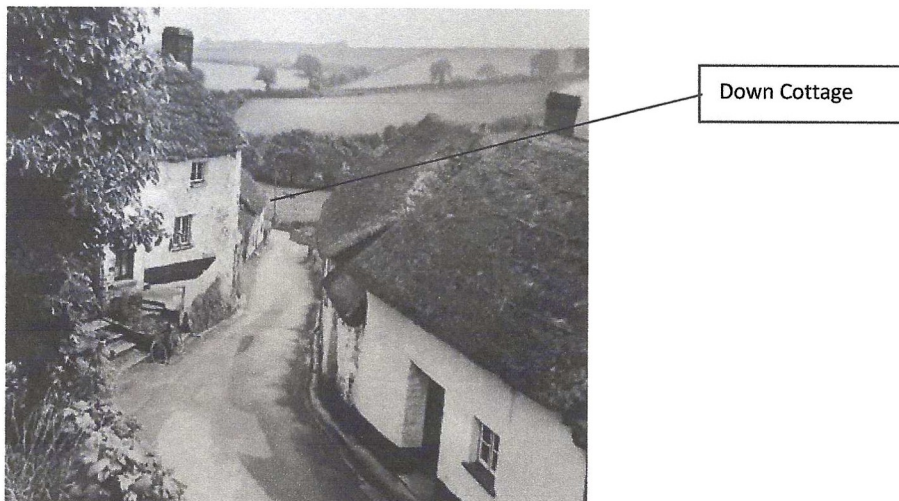


Figure 33. Early C20 photograph of West Worlington, published by English Heritage