

Dartmoor National Park Authority Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: South Tawton, West Devon	National Grid Reference: SX 6534 9451	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording at Park Cottage, South Tawton, Devon.		Photo attached: Y
Planning permission: 0149/19	Recipient museum: n/a	
OASIS ID: oakforda1-506864	Museum Accession no: n/a	
Contractor's reference number/code: OA1643	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 24/06/2022	
<p>Description of works: An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology in June 2022 at Park Cottage, South Tawton, Devon (SX 6534 9451). The site (Fig. 1) lies within the historic core of the village of South Tawton, a settlement of possible Saxon origin and recorded in the 1086 Domesday survey as <i>Tavetone</i> when it became a royal manor held by King William. Park cottage is a Grade II Listed (1326080) former 17th century farmhouse which was extensively altered in the 19th and 20th centuries when it was subdivided into four dwellings. The work was therefore required by the Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA).</p> <p>A watching brief was maintained during groundworks for the construction of a two-storey extension (Fig. 2, Pls. 1-3). The work involved the excavation of an area approximately 5m long, 2.5m wide and up to a depth of 0.75m.</p> <p>Results: The works (Pl. 3) exposed shillet natural subsoil (103) at a depth of 0.5m. This was in turn overlain by a 0.08m thick layer of mid yellowish- brown clayey silt (102). Interpreted as a remnant subsoil this deposit was truncated by a NW-SE aligned linear feature (107) with gradually breaking sides and a flat base. This probable ditch was approximately 0.7m wide and 0.36m deep. No finds were recovered from its single mid greyish brown silty clay fill (108). Although undated the ditch pre-dates the construction of the farmhouse in the 17th century, the remains perhaps of a former tenement plot or field boundary. This feature was in turn sealed underneath a 0.37m thick layer of dark yellowish brown loam (101). This is the remains of a former garden soil and was overlain underneath a 0.08m thick layer of concrete.</p> <p>The Finds: by John Allan and Marcie Weeks</p> <p>A small collection of archaeological material was recovered from the works. Two sherds of 16th-17th century North Devon gravel free and a single sherd of 16th-18th century white painted ?North Devon redware were recovered from the former subsoil (102). A total of 78 finds were recovered from the former garden soil (101), including a single sherd of 15th-16th century North Devon unglazed coarseware; five sherds of 16th-17th century North Devon glazed gravel free coarsewares, including two rim sherds; a single sherd of 16th-18th century plain redware or coarseware with streaked glaze patterning on the inner surface; 13 sherds of 17th-18th century North Devon glazed gravel tempered coarsewares, including two base and three rim sherds; two sherds of late 17th-18th century Bristol-Staffordshire yellow slipware, including one base ?tankard and one fine rim sherd; a single rim sherd from an 18th century North Devon plain yellow slipware; 38 sherds of Staffordshire industrial white and creamwares, including hand painted pearl ware, marmalade jar and transfer ware (post-1780); two sherds of 19th century miscellaneous redware with glaze, one sherd possibly with trailed slipware or sgraffito but second colour has now gone; seven fragments of 17th-19th century clay tobacco pipe stem, one fragment with partial bowl and spur present, three fragments thicker and therefore possibly earlier in date; one sherd of late 19th century aqua clear glass; a single fragment of 20th century redware brick with partial hole remaining; one iron nail; five fragments of animal bone</p>		

Project archive and OASIS entry

Due to the limited nature of the findings a project archive will not be produced. A summary of the investigations has been submitted to the on-line archaeological database OASIS (Online Access to the Index of archaeological InterventionS).

Recorder:

MFR Steinmetzer (Oakford Archaeology)

Date sent to HER:

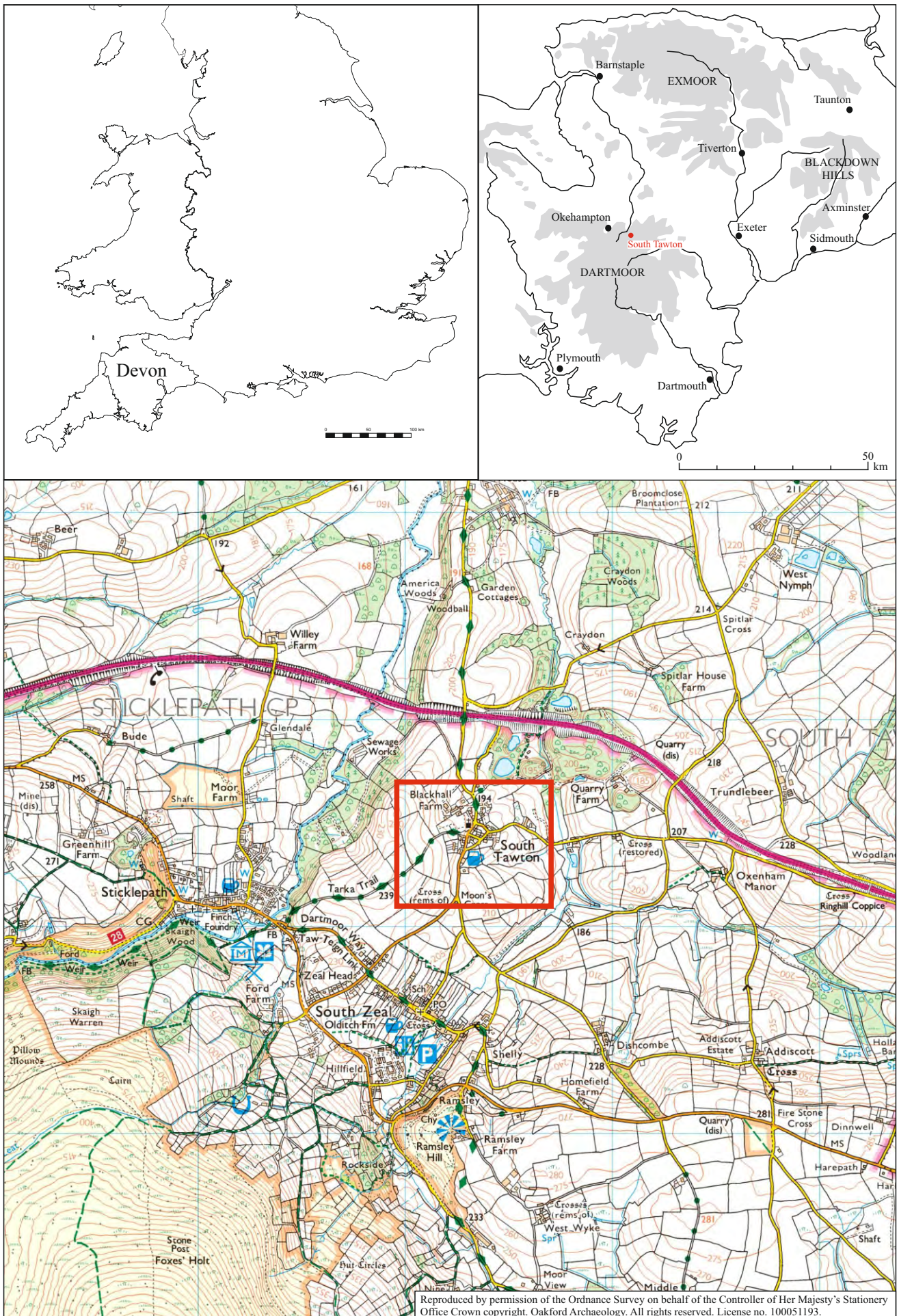


Fig. 1 Location of site.

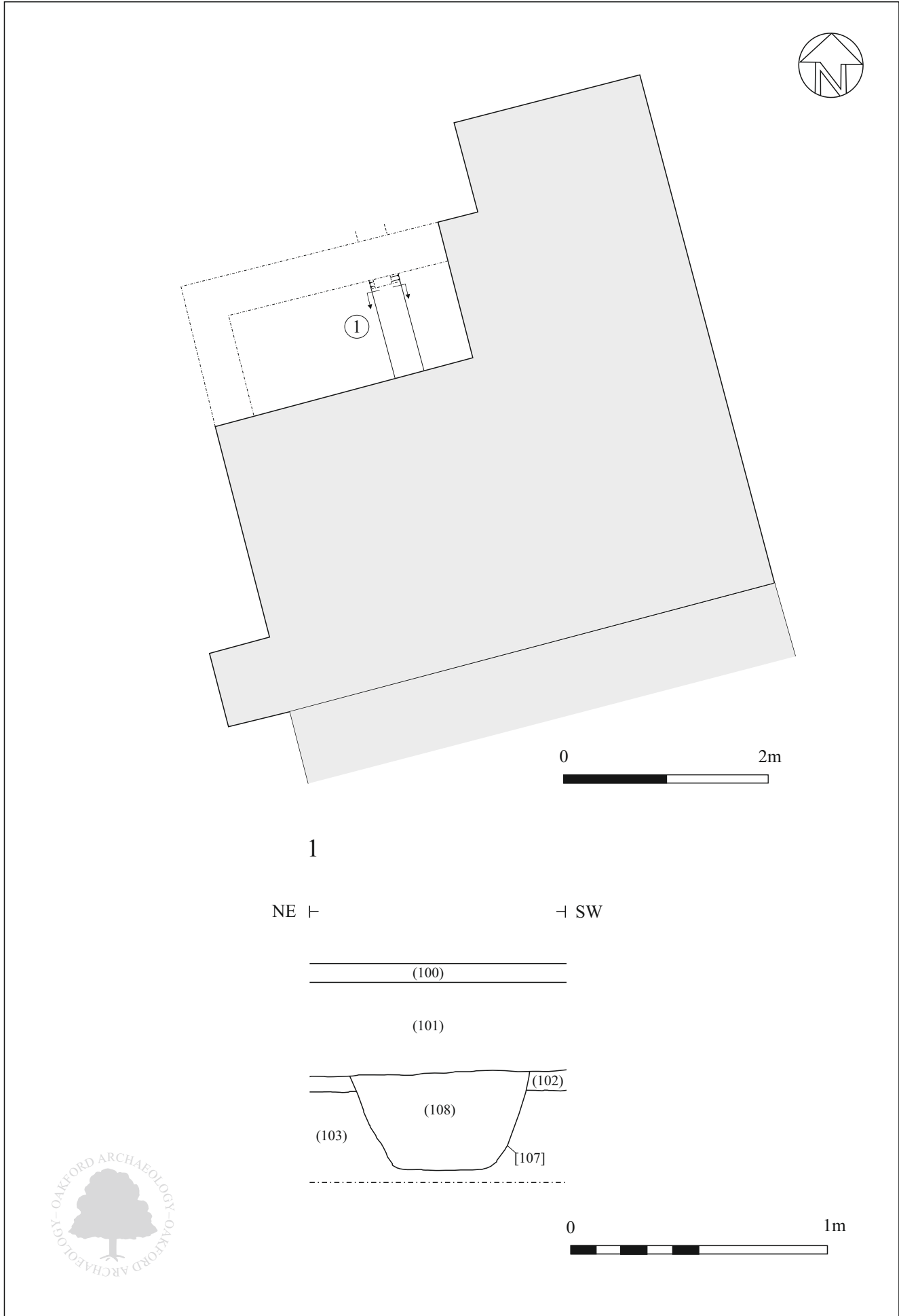


Fig. 2 Plan showing location of observations.



Pl. 1 Section through Ditch [107]. 1m scale. Looking southeast.



Pl. 2 General view of Ditch [107]. 1m scale. Looking southeast.



Pl. 3 General view of excavations showing Ditch [107]. 2m scale.
Looking east.