

Dartmoor National Park Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Moretonhampstead, Dartmoor	National Grid Reference: SX 7544 8700	Number:
Subject: Archaeological evaluation and monitoring at Coombe Court, Moretonhampstead, Devon.		Photo attached: Y
Planning Application no: 0485/13	Recipient museum: n/a	
OASIS ID: oakforda1-117967	Museum Accession no: n/a	
Contractor's reference number/code: OA1158	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 24-25/03/2014, 22/07/2012	
<p>Background: In March 2014 Oakford Archaeology were commissioned by SLR Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Coombe Court, Moretonhampstead (SX 7544 8700). The house (Fig. 1) is a grade II listed building and is thought to have a 17th century longhouse at its core. The shippon and cross passage have been demolished and the remainder of the house has been heavily replanned in the 19th and 20th centuries. Two wings were added in the 18th centuries. The work was therefore required by the Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) under a condition attached to the grant of planning permission (0485/13).</p> <p>Description of works: An archaeological evaluation was carried out prior to the start of groundworks. Four trenches, measuring 25m in total, were excavated (Fig. 2), across the shippon, cross-passage, and inside the hall and dining room. The sequence in the trenches were:</p> <p>Trench 1: 100 0-0.5m+ mid to dark brown silty clay (topsoil) 101 0.5m+ mid yellowish brown silty clay (growan – natural subsoil) 102 0.5m+ rubble foundation 103 0.5m+ rubble foundation</p> <p>Trench 2: 200 0-0.5m+ mid to dark brown silty clay (topsoil) 201 0.5m+ mid yellowish brown silty clay (growan – natural subsoil) 202 0.5m+ rubble foundation</p> <p>Trench 3: 400 0-0.05m Concrete 401 0.05-0.3m mid reddish brown silty clay 402 0.3+ mid yellowish brown silty clay (growan – natural subsoil)</p> <p>Trench 4: 400 0-0.5m suspended concrete floor 401 0.5+ mid yellowish brown silty clay (growan – natural subsoil)</p> <p>Results: The heavily robbed-out south and east walls (102 and 103) of the Shippon were identified in Trench 1. These were located at a depth of 0.5m below present ground level. They were between 0.5-0.7m wide and consisted of unbonded granite rubble. A continuation of the south wall (202) was identified in Trench 2. This was approximately 1.2m wide and spread towards the south, possibly as a result of robbing.</p>		

No evidence of the east wall, the cross-passage or floors was found. This is not entirely surprising as the internal levels would probably have been higher than the external levels, due to the ground sloping away naturally towards the east, and removed when the shippon was demolished.

Trenches 3 and 4 showed that the earlier floors had been removed when the modern concrete floors were inserted. However, following the removal of the suspended concrete floor in the hall three large granite slabs were uncovered immediately in front of the fireplace. These formed part of an earlier arrangement; although the rear of the fireplace had been patched up with granite rubble and some early 19th century bricks.

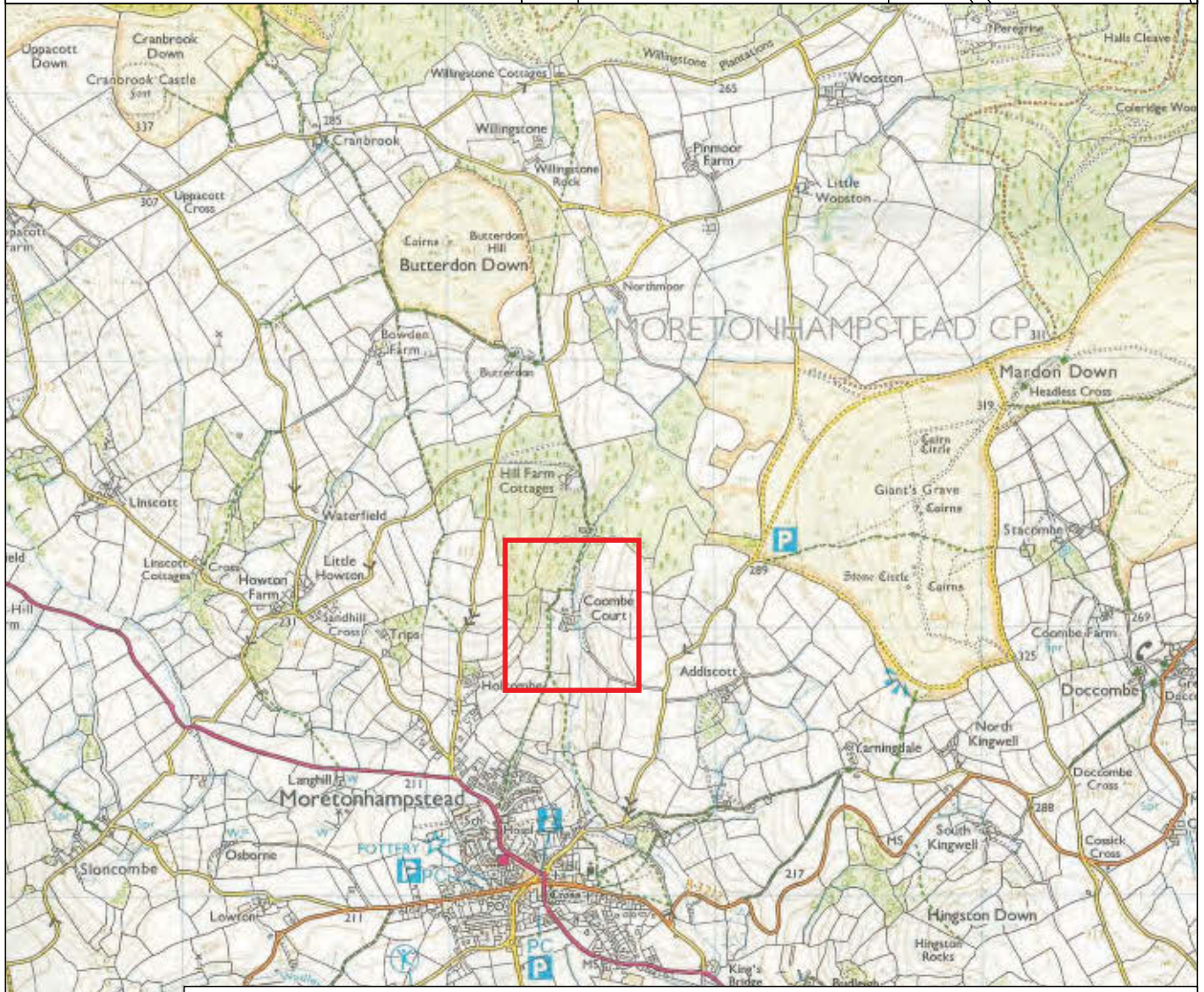
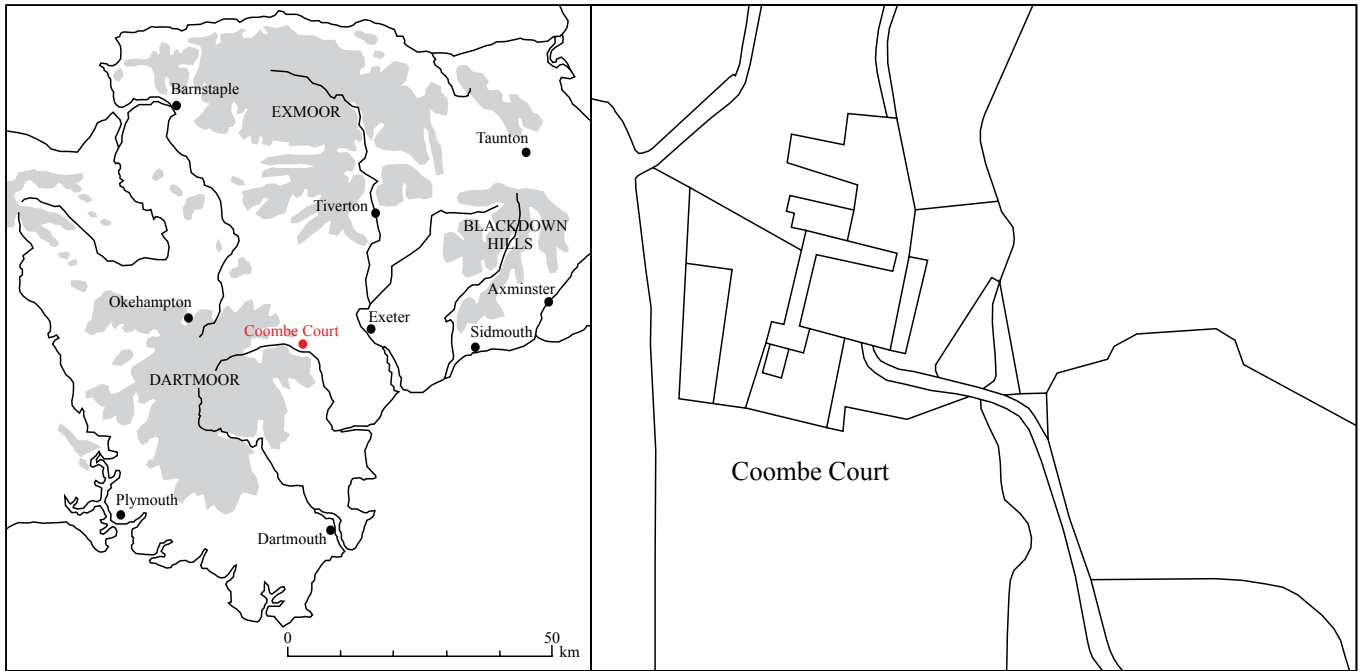
Project archive and OASIS entry

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:



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Fig. 1 Location of site.

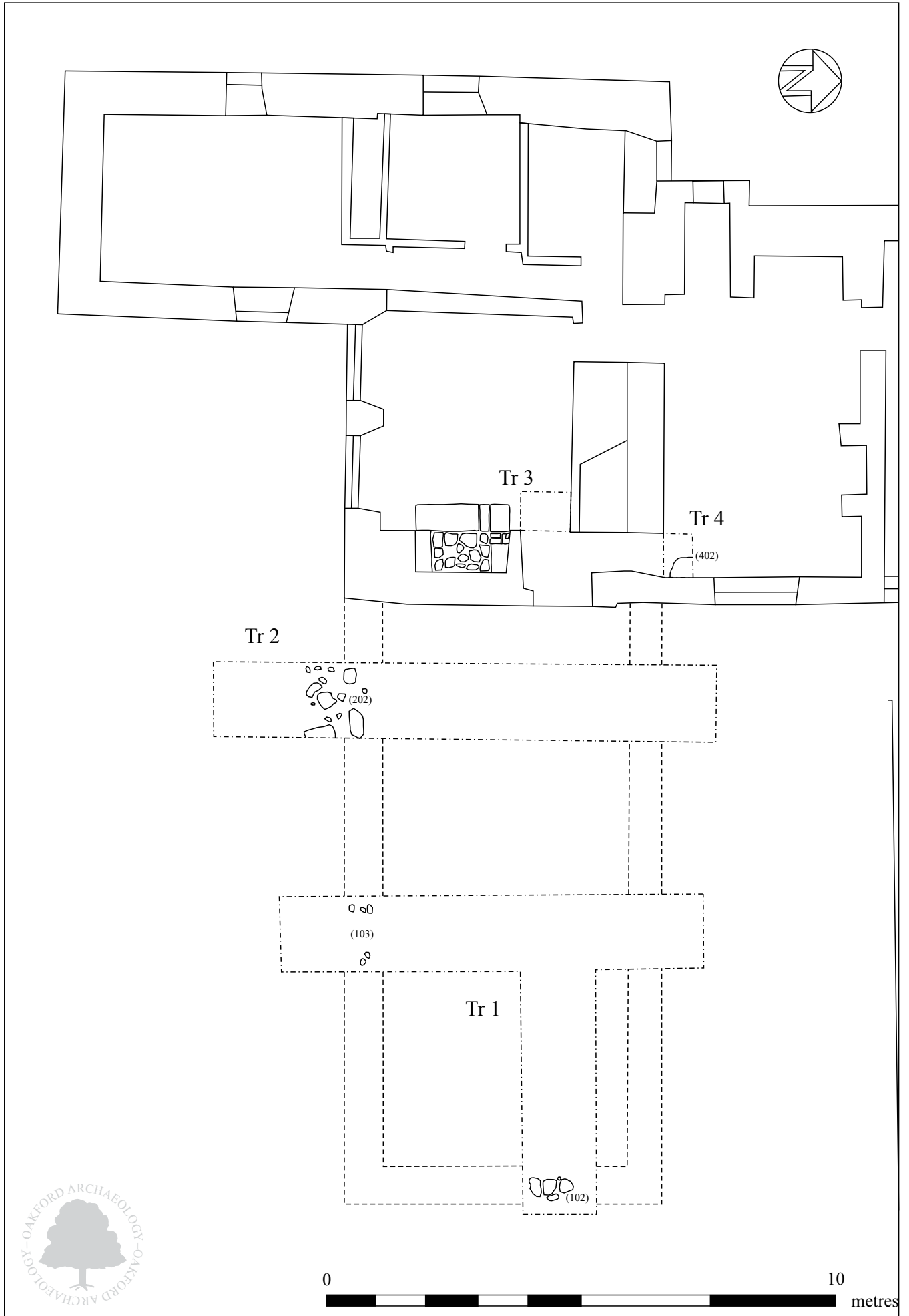


Fig. 2 Plan of house and garden showing location of observations.



Pl 1 General view of trenching in area of Shippon. Looking northeast.



Pl. 2 Close-up of wall (202). Looking west.



Pl. 3 Close-up of wall (107). Looking west.



Pl. 4 Close-up of wall (103). Looking west.



Pl. 5 Close-up of Trench 3, Hall, showing depth of raised floor. 0.5m scale. Looking east.



Pl. 6 Close-up of Trench 4, Sitting Room. Looking north.



Pl. 7 General view of fireplace, Hall. 2m scale. Looking east.