

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

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| Civil Parish & District: Newton Abbot, Teignbridge | National Grid Reference: SX 8578 7123 | Number: |
| Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording at No. 6 Wolborough Street, Newton Abbot, Devon. | | Photo attached: Y |
| Planning Application no: 13/02900/FUL | Recipient museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum | |
| OASIS ID: oakforda1-173494 | Museum Reference no: 14/16 | |
| Contractor's reference number/code: OA1152 | Dates fieldwork undertaken: 11-02, 12-02 and 13-02-2014 | |

Background

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology on behalf of SLR Consulting in February 2014 during work at No. 6 Wolborough Street, Newton Abbot, Devon (SX 8578 7123). The site (Fig. 1) lies in an area of archaeological potential immediately in the rear of the property aligned on Wolborough Street. In 2007 archaeological investigations (HER Event No. EDV4214) to the south, on the other side of Wolborough Street have previously demonstrated the survival of pits and other 'cut-features' such as post-holes, gullies, ditches, etc associated with medieval settlement to the rear of properties on Wolborough Street (Gent *et al.* 2007). The work was therefore required by Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET) under a condition attached to the grant of planning permission (13/02900/FUL).

Description of the works

A watching brief was maintained during works associated with the construction of an extension to the existing building. A small foundation trench for the extension, 1m in width and measuring 29 m in length, was excavated.

The trenching (Fig. 2-3) exposed a coarse grey sand (103) containing occasional gravel and slate at a depth of 0.32m. This deposit was overlain by a 0.09m thick layer of clayey sand, (102), at a depth of 0.23m below present ground level. Finds were recovered from both deposits and are itemised and discussed below. The truncated remains of a cobbled surface (105) were exposed in the western part of the development, measuring 0.82m in length and 0.45m in width. This consisted of large water-worn stones that overlay deposit (102). The cobbled surface may be contemporary with an east-west aligned stone foundation (104). This may have been part of an earlier building shown on the 1905 second edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 4). Although no finds were recovered the surface is likely to date to the late 19th to early 20th century. These deposits were sealed by a layer of modern aggregate (101) and tarmac (100).

Finds

by Graham Langman

The archaeological watching brief at No. 6 Wolborough Street, Newton Abbot produced material weighing 1.366 kilograms of a post-medieval date. This is summarised in table 1, a separate more detailed listing of finds, by material and context has been produced and will reside with the site archive.

| Class Of Archaeological Material | Quantity | Weight |
|----------------------------------|----------|--------|
| Faunal bone | 4 | 55 |
| Clay pipe | 1 | 7 |
| Ironwork | 1 | 104 |
| Post-Medieval Pottery | 14 | 332 |
| Shell | 1 | 16 |

| | | |
|---------------|-----------|-------------|
| Slate | 1 | 325 |
| Tile | 3 | 527 |
| Totals | 25 | 1366 |

Table 1: quantities of archaeological material by class, all weights are in grams

The Pottery

The pottery examined derives from two contexts, layers (102) and (103). Although very modest in size, it is of some archaeological interest. The fabrics present are summarised in table 2.

| Fabric | sherds | vessels | comments |
|--|---------------|----------------|---|
| North Devon plain yellow-glazed slipware | 1 | 1 | dish sherd with internal yellow-glazed slip. 1650-1750 |
| South Somerset gritty ware | 10 | 1 | storage jar, internal surface green-glazed. Rim with external applied thumbled strip and body sherds with external applied horizontal and vertical clay strips. 1450-1550 |
| South Somerset coarseware | 1 | 1 | cup sherd, external and internal surfaces green-glazed. 17th/18th century |
| Totnes-type coarseware | 2 | 1 | body sherds with internal surface green-glazed, probable bowl. 1500-late 18th century |
| Totals | 14 | 4 | |

Table 2: pottery fabrics and quantities

The overall condition of the sherds studied is fresh and un-abraded, a good indication that they have lain undisturbed until recent excavation. Of particular interest is a South Somerset gritty ware storage jar from layer (103). It is the earliest vessel present and broadly datable to the years 1450-1550, found in association with post-medieval Totnes-type wares, and therefore, a date of 1500-50 is proposed for this feature. South Somerset gritty wares are not a common find in Devon, in part due to its limited production date as well as there being less plentiful 16th century pottery groups available to study. The two vessels, North Devon and South Somerset types, from layer (102) found in association with a tobacco clay pipe, are clearly later (1650-1720/30).

The wares represented are domestic in nature and include table forms (cup and dish) and kitchen types (bowl and storage jar).

Other Finds

The eco-facts of faunal bone and shell are in good condition, two complete sheep's tibia from contexts (102 and 103) have been identified together with one half of an oyster shell (102).

The single clay pipe stem, context (102), is broadly dateable to the years 1650-1720 or 30.

Roof furniture from context (103) consists of a roof slate fragment, of a late medieval date and a Totnes-type ridge fragment with a high crest (15th/16th century). These artefacts may reflect repair or refurbishment during the early post-medieval period from a nearby dwelling.

A single complete large ironwork nail, context (102) with adhering mortar covering the length of the shank is suggestive that this item was driven into a wall as a fixture.

Dating

Based on the very small collection examined, there is clear hiatus in activity between layers (102) and (103) of perhaps 100-200 years. Context (103) is early post-medieval (1500-50) whereas (102) post dates 1650 and could be as late as the 1720's or 30's.

Conclusion:

Following excavation of the foundation trenches the works identified a series of extensive layers dating from the early 16th to the early 18th century. The finds assemblage from these deposits is clearly domestic in nature (bone, shell and pottery refuse), while the ironwork, slate and tile might be associated

with localised building works. Further development at the rear of the plot took place in the 18th-19th century, surviving in the form of a wall (104) and cobbled surface (105). This is the only report on these works.

OASIS entry

A project archive will not be produced (as agreed with Stephen Reed, Archaeologist, DCHET, 17th February 2014). A summary of the archaeological investigations has been submitted to the on-line archaeological database OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological InterventionS).

Bibliography

T.H. Gent, P. Jones and M. Leverett 2007 'Building recording and archaeological excavation at 23, 25 and 27 Wolborough Street, Newton Abbot, Devon'. Exeter Archaeology Report No 07-21.

Recorder:

MFR Steinmetzer (Oakford Archaeology)

Date sent to HER:

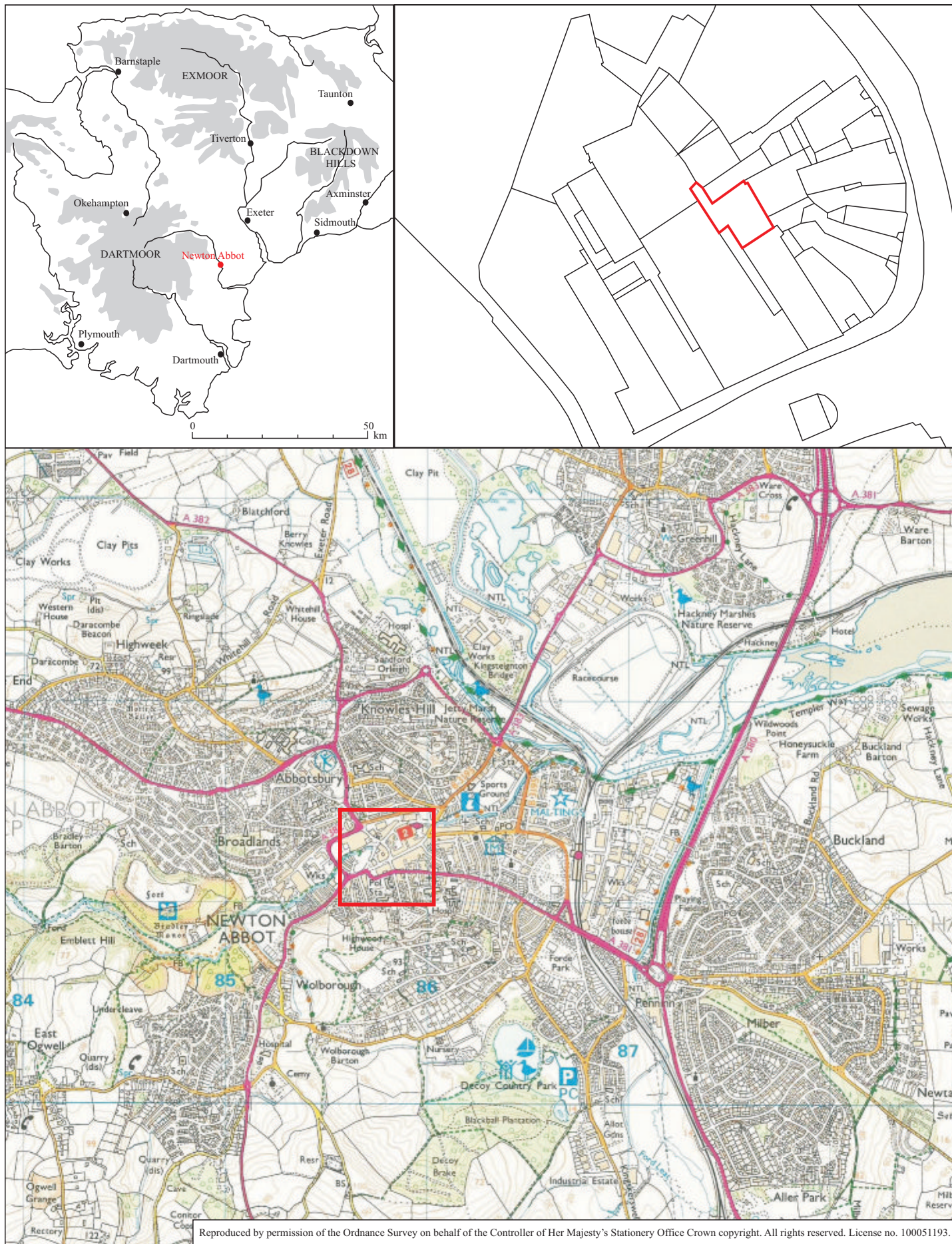


Fig. 1 Location of site.

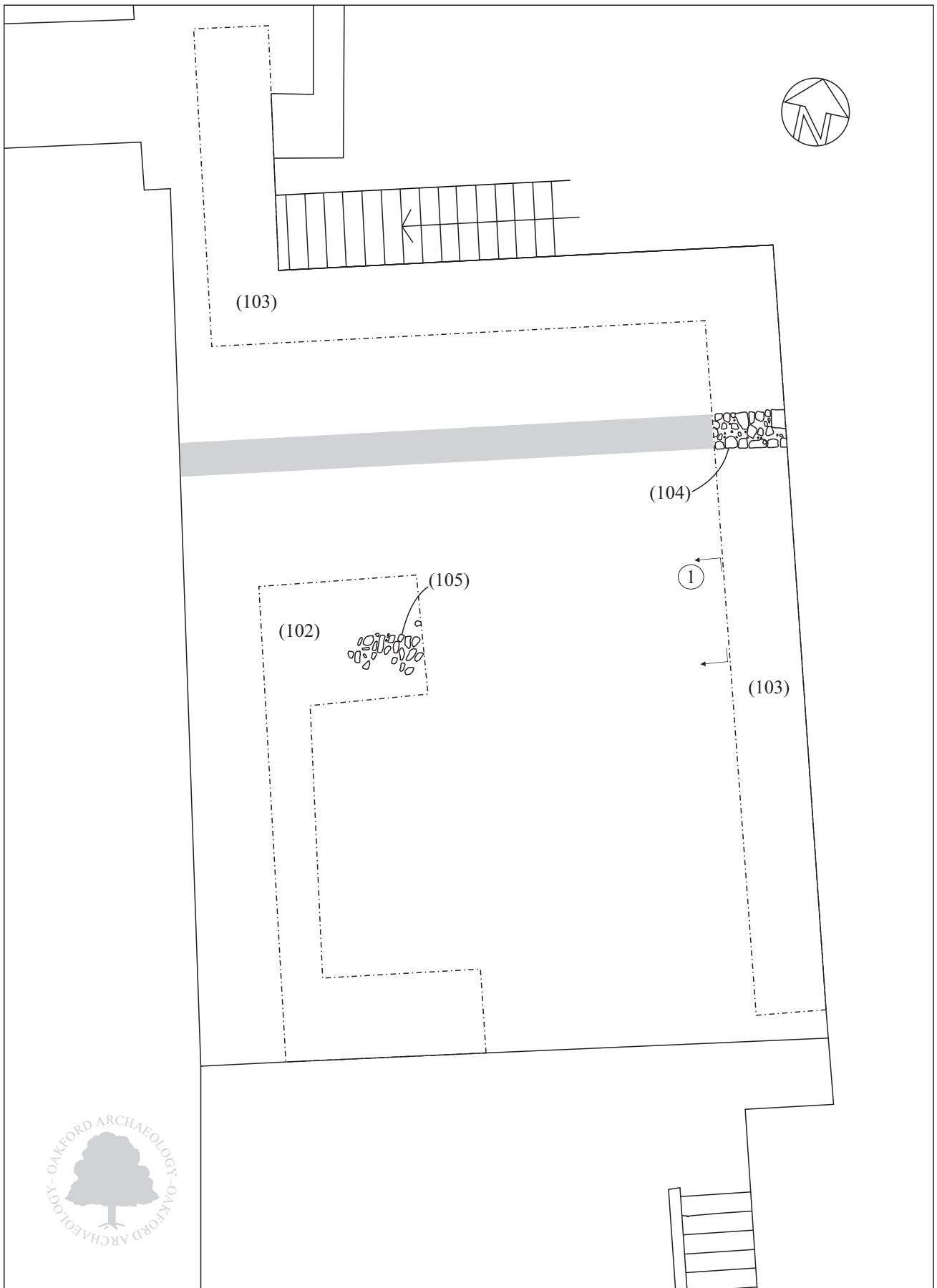
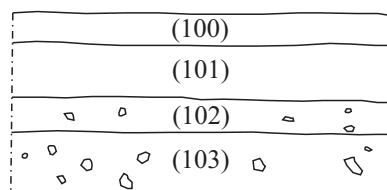


Fig. 2 Plan showing location of observations with principal features identified (black) and building (grey) from the second edition Ordnance Survey map of 1905.

1

S †

† N



0

1

metres

all datums are arbitrary



Fig. 3 Section 1 showing deposit sequence.

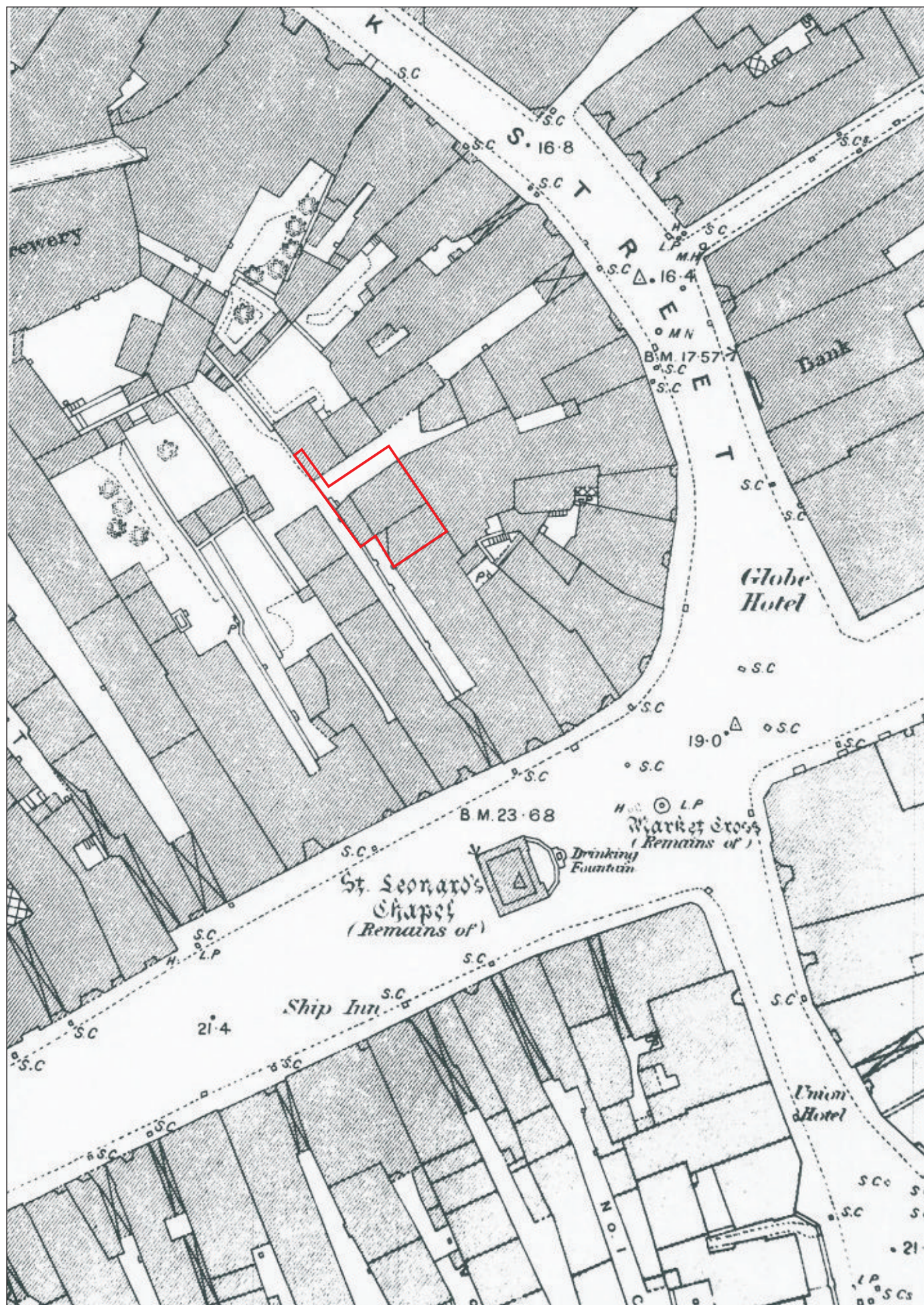


Fig. 4 Detail from the second edition 1905 Ordnance Survey map Devonshire Sheet CIX.15.



Pl. 1 Close-up view deposit sequence. 0.5m scale. View to west.



Pl. 2 General view of wall (104). 0.5m scale. View to south.



Pl. 3 Close-up view of South Somerset gritty ware from context (103).