

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Buckland Monachorum, West Devon	National Grid Reference: SX 4901 6666	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording at Buckland Abbey, Devon.		Photo attached: Y
Planning Application no: n/a	Recipient museum: National Trust	
OASIS ID: oakforda1-177864	Museum Accession no: n/a	
Contractor's reference number/code: OA1101	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 03/01 - 06/01, 20/02, 21/02, 24/02 and 25/02/2014	
<p>Description of works: An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology between January and February 2014 at Buckland Abbey, Devon (SX 4901 6666). The site (Fig. 1) lies within the scheduled area to the north and northeast of the main Buckland Abbey complex (SM 24846), in an area of high archaeological potential. The work was therefore required by English Heritage (EH), advised by the National Trust Archaeologist (NT).</p> <p>A watching brief was maintained during works associated with the excavation of new cable trenches and additional trenches for undergrounding overhead cables (Fig. 2). The trenching was 207m long and on average 0.4-0.8m deep. Excavations around the tithe barn, guest house/infirmary and formal garden were kept to a maximum of 0.5m below current ground level in order to reduce the chances of impacting upon the known archaeological resource.</p> <p>Results: As expected inspection of the exposed area around the tithe barn, guest house/infirmary and formal garden exposed no evidence of archaeological activity.</p> <p>The groundworks across the road to the north of the pond exposed stratified archaeological deposits (Fig. 3). The earliest feature identified was a disturbed cobbled surface (101), located at a depth of 0.27m below present ground level. This consisted of small and medium waterworn pebbles and was exposed for 1.35m at the western end of the trench. This was overlain by light yellow silty clay (102). Located at a depth of 0.2m below present ground level this was at least 2.08m wide and may represent a make-up deposit for later surface 103. A single fragment of 19th century cbm was recovered from this deposit. This was overlain by disturbed small and medium waterworn pebbles set in mid brown silty clay (103) which has been interpreted as a 19th century cobbled trackway. It was 3.45m wide and overlain by a modern shillet and aggregate surface (104).</p> <p>To the north trenching in the orchard exposed a simple soil sequence of a 0.3m thick mid to dark brown silty loam topsoil (105), overlying a 0.2m thick mid reddish brown silty loam subsoil (106). A mid yellow silty sand natural (107) with shale natural encountered at a depth of 0.5m below current ground level.</p> <p>Works around Tower cottage and the Cider barn exposed a 0.3m thick mid brownish red silty clay imported topsoil (108), overlying a 0.5m thick mid grey silty clay (109) containing frequent shillet fragments and rare flecks of lime mortar.</p> <p>Conclusion: The results of the archaeological excavations demonstrated that the remains of two earlier cobbled road surfaces, dating to the 19th century, survived below the road to the north of the pond. The surfaces were cut by modern activity. Elsewhere the trenches exposed deposits consistent with modern activity.</p>		

Project archive and OASIS entry

The site records have been compiled into a fully integrated site archive which is currently held at Oakford Archaeology's offices under project number 1101, pending deposition with the National Trust. 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:

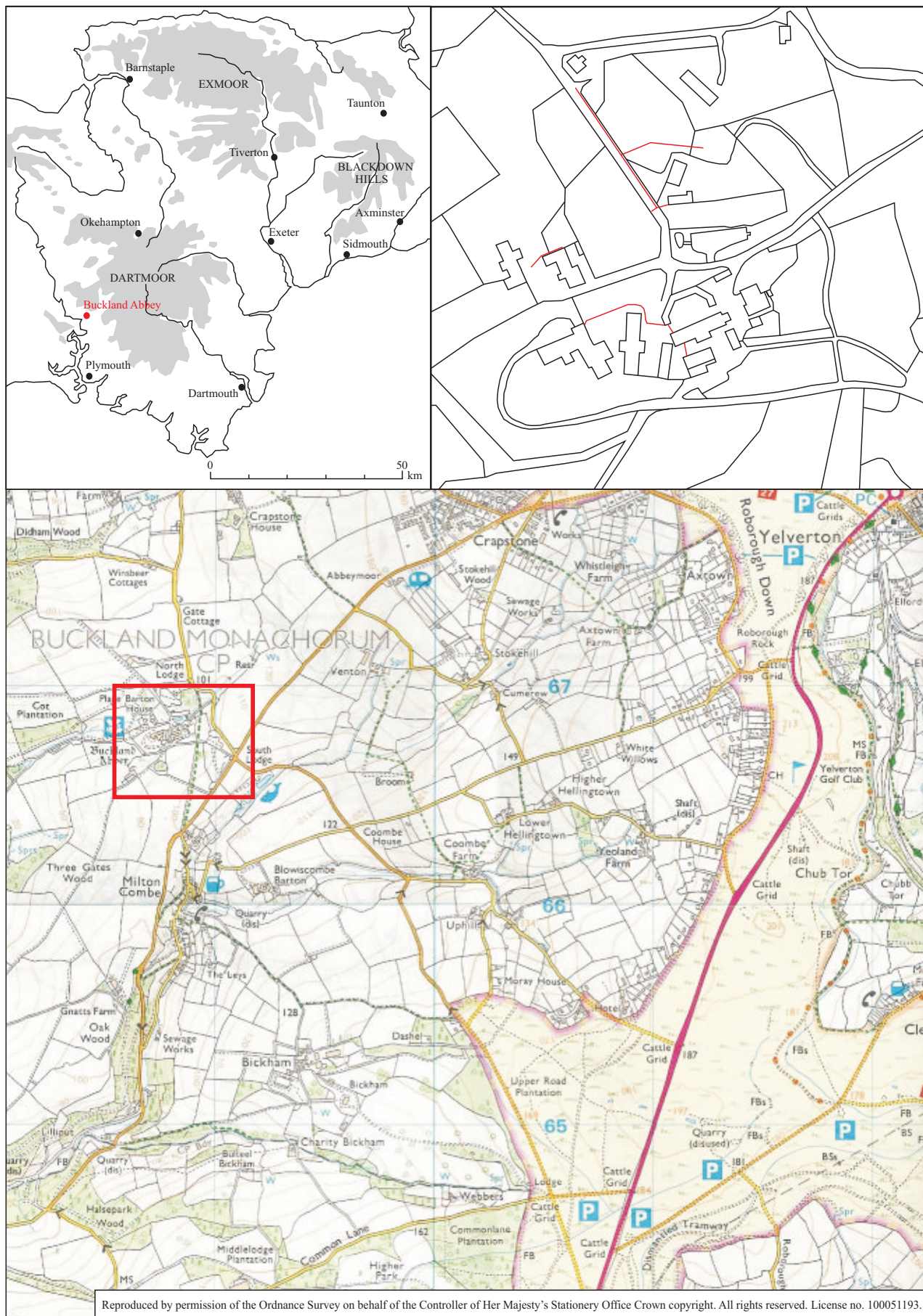


Fig. 1 Location of site

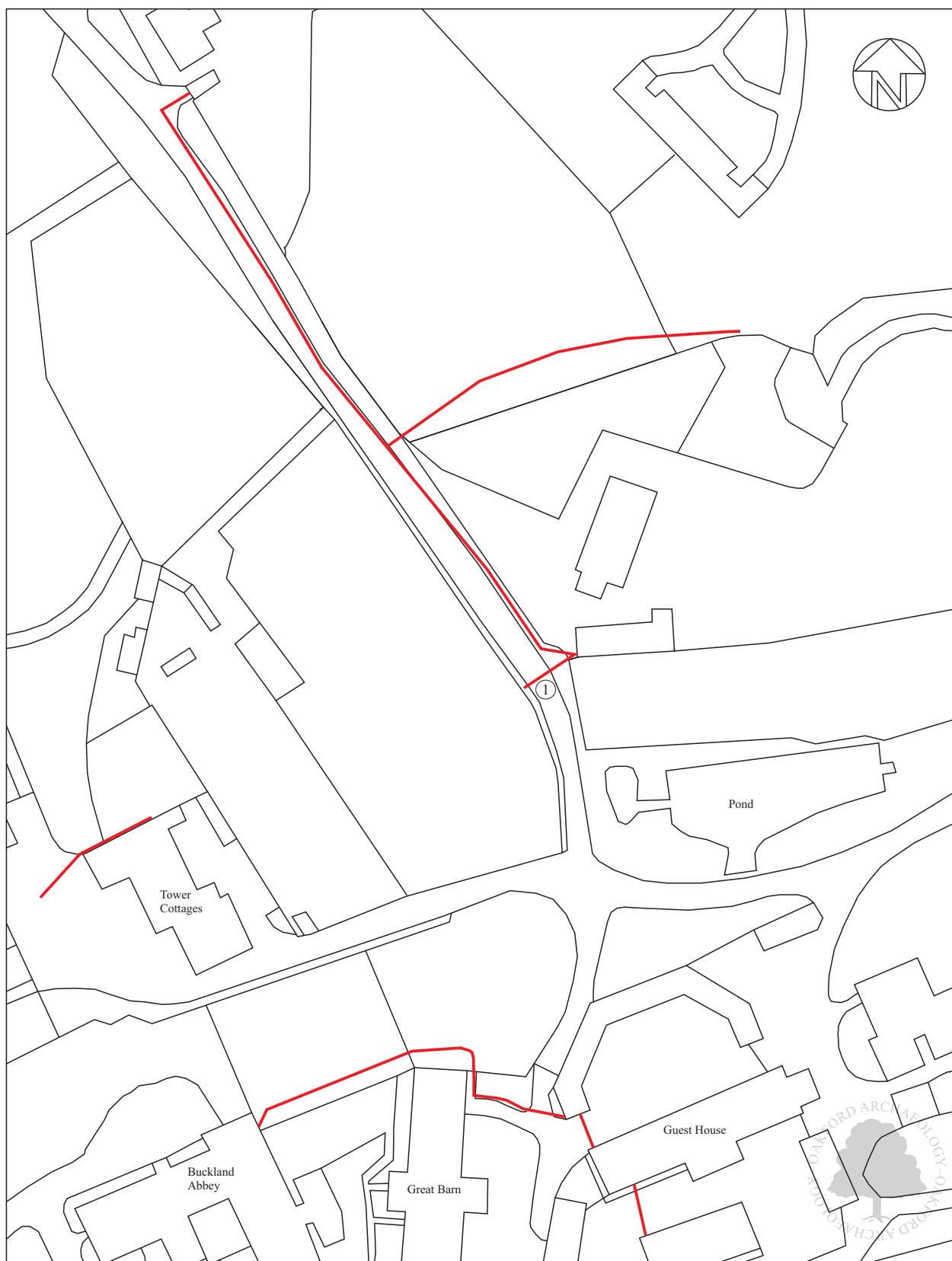


Fig. 2 Plan showing extent of groundworks (red) and location of section across road (1).

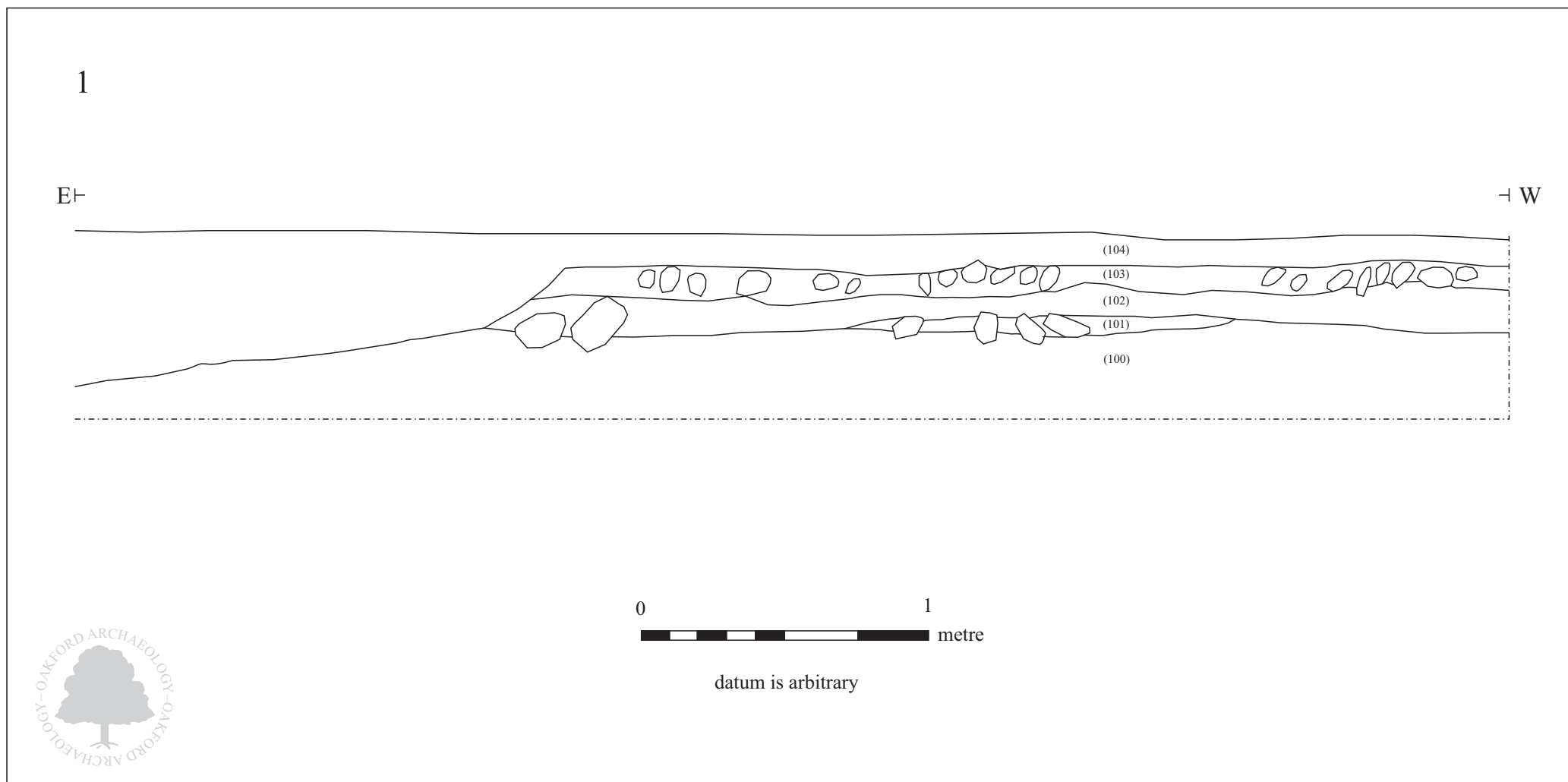


Fig. 3 Section through road.



Pl. 1 General view of trenching from Ox Yard to Tithe Barn showing shallow nature of excavations. Looking east.



Pl. 2 General view of trenching in formal gardens. Looking southeast.



Pl. 3 Section through earlier road surfaces. 1m scale. Looking south.



Pl. 4 General view of road section showing earlier surfaces. 2m scale. Looking southeast.



Pl. 5 General view of trenching in area of track. Looking north.



Pl. 6 General view of trenching in Orchard. Looking east.