

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Honiton, East Devon	National Grid Reference: SX 8578 7123	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording on land behind 112 High Street, Honiton, Devon.		Photo attached: Y
Planning Application no: 1/2431/FUL	Recipient museum: n/a	
OASIS ID: oakforda1-223473	Museum Reference no: n/a	
Contractor's reference number/code: OA1278	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 07-08/09/2015	
<p>Background</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology for Mr Ben Blackburn in September 2015 on works associated with the construction of four new dwellings behind 112 High Street, Honiton, Devon (ST 1619 0060). The work was required by East Devon District Council (EDDC) as advised by the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>The site (Fig. 1) lies on the southern edge of the historic town of Honiton. Little is known of Honiton prior to the Saxon period when it probably formed part of a great estate centred on Axminster. It isn't until the early 13th century that a new borough was founded by William de Vernun, fifth Earl of Devon. This was probable laid out on a new site along the main Exeter to London Road (The High Street). The medieval burgage plots are still clearly visible running at right-angles to the High Street defining long narrow property strips of generally similar length. The ends of the plots are defined by two long straight boundaries on either side of the High Street, running exactly parallel with it. These boundaries were probably 'back lanes' in the medieval town; the lane still exists at King Street on the south-west and fragments of lanes or tracks are located on the northern side.</p> <p>Description of the works</p> <p>A watching brief was maintained during works associated with the construction of the new building. A number of foundation trenches, 0.45-0.6m in width, 0.7-1m in depth and measuring 70 m in length, were excavated.</p> <p>The trenching (Fig. 2) exposed a mid-yellow clay (100) containing occasional gravel at a depth of 0.65m. This deposit was overlain by a 0.05-0.15m thick layer of dark brown black silty clay (101), at a depth of 0.23m below present ground level. This was in turn overlain by a mid-greyish brown silty clay (102) containing gravel, limestone rubble, 19th century brick, as well as tarmac, modern metal and plastic. Finds were recovered from this deposit and are itemised and discussed below. The truncated remains of a well (103) were exposed in the eastern part of the development, measuring 1.95m in width and was excavated to a depth of 2.5m. The well lining consisted of late 18th/early 19th century hand-made bricks and roughly squared limestone rubble. The well had been backfilled with mid yellowish brown silty clay (104) containing frequent limestone rubble and gravel, as well as modern brick and plastic sheeting. The well is likely to have been associated with an earlier arrangement pre-dating the buildings shown on the 1840 Tithe map, although it probably continued in use throughout the 19th century.</p> <p>The Finds:</p> <p>In total there were 15 sherds (total weight 195g) that were post-medieval in character and recovered from (102). These consisted of nine sherds of transfer-printed white refined earthenware, four sherds of early 19th century Staffordshire white ware, and two sherds of 17th-18th century South Somerset coarseware. The wares represented are domestic in nature and include table forms (plate, cup and dish)</p>		

and kitchen types (storage jar).

Conclusion:

Following excavation at the rear of the site the works identified a single feature, a well dating to the late 18th-early 19th century. Due to modern disturbance no evidence was found of medieval activity.

This is the only report on these works.

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:

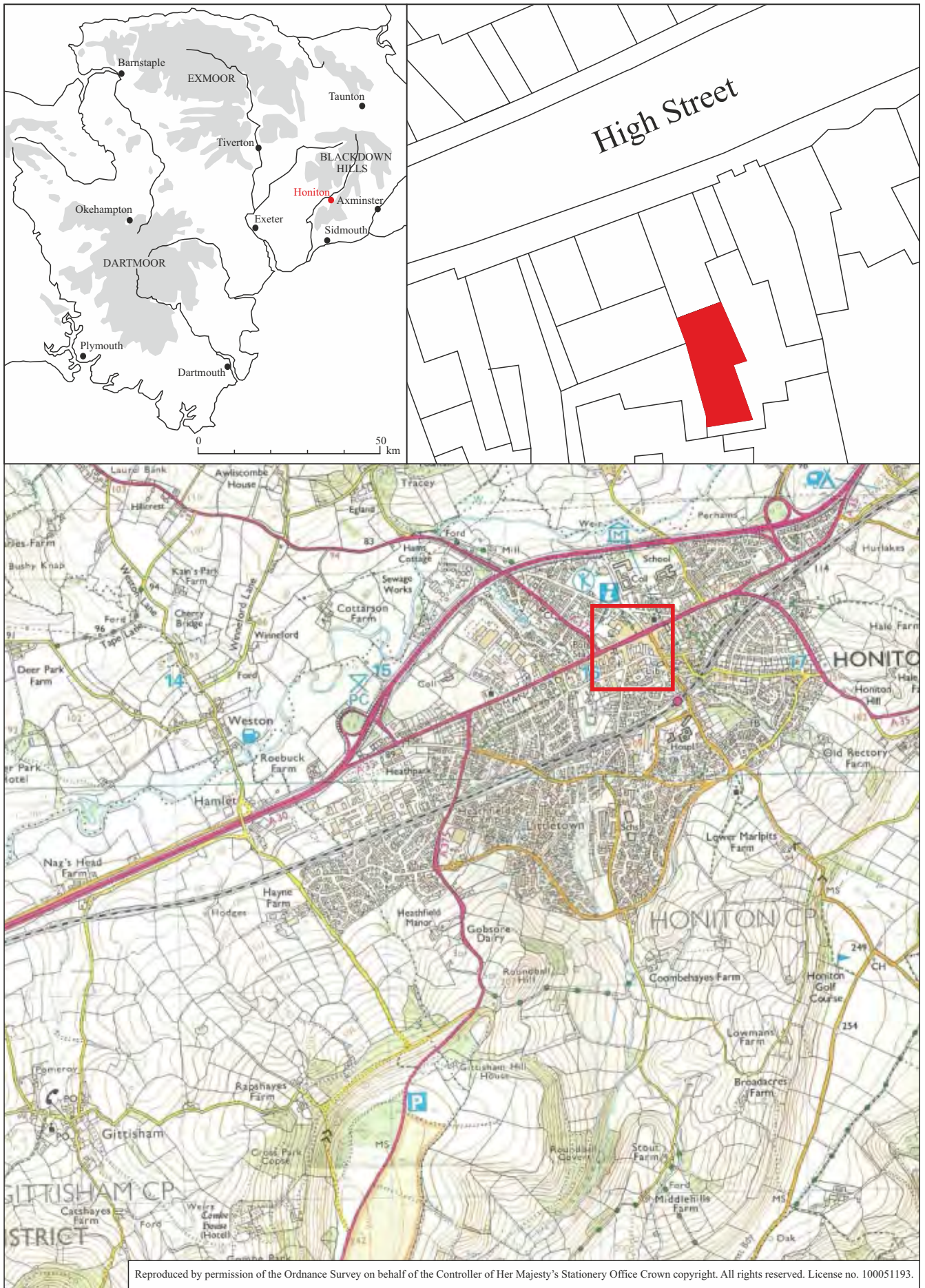


Fig. 1 Location of site.

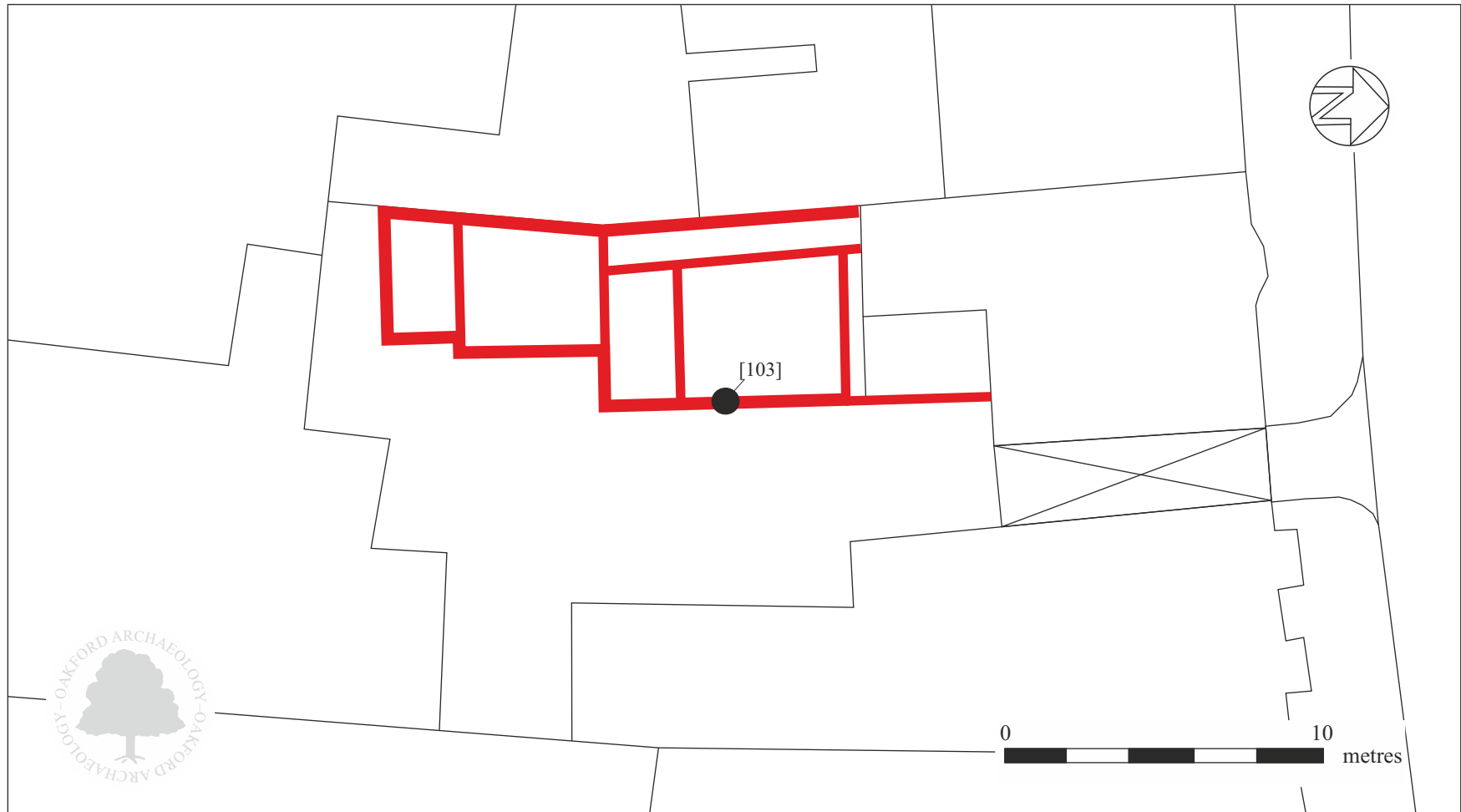


Fig. 2 Plan showing location of observations (red) and principal feature identified (black).



Fig. 3 Detail from the 1840 Honiton Tithe map.

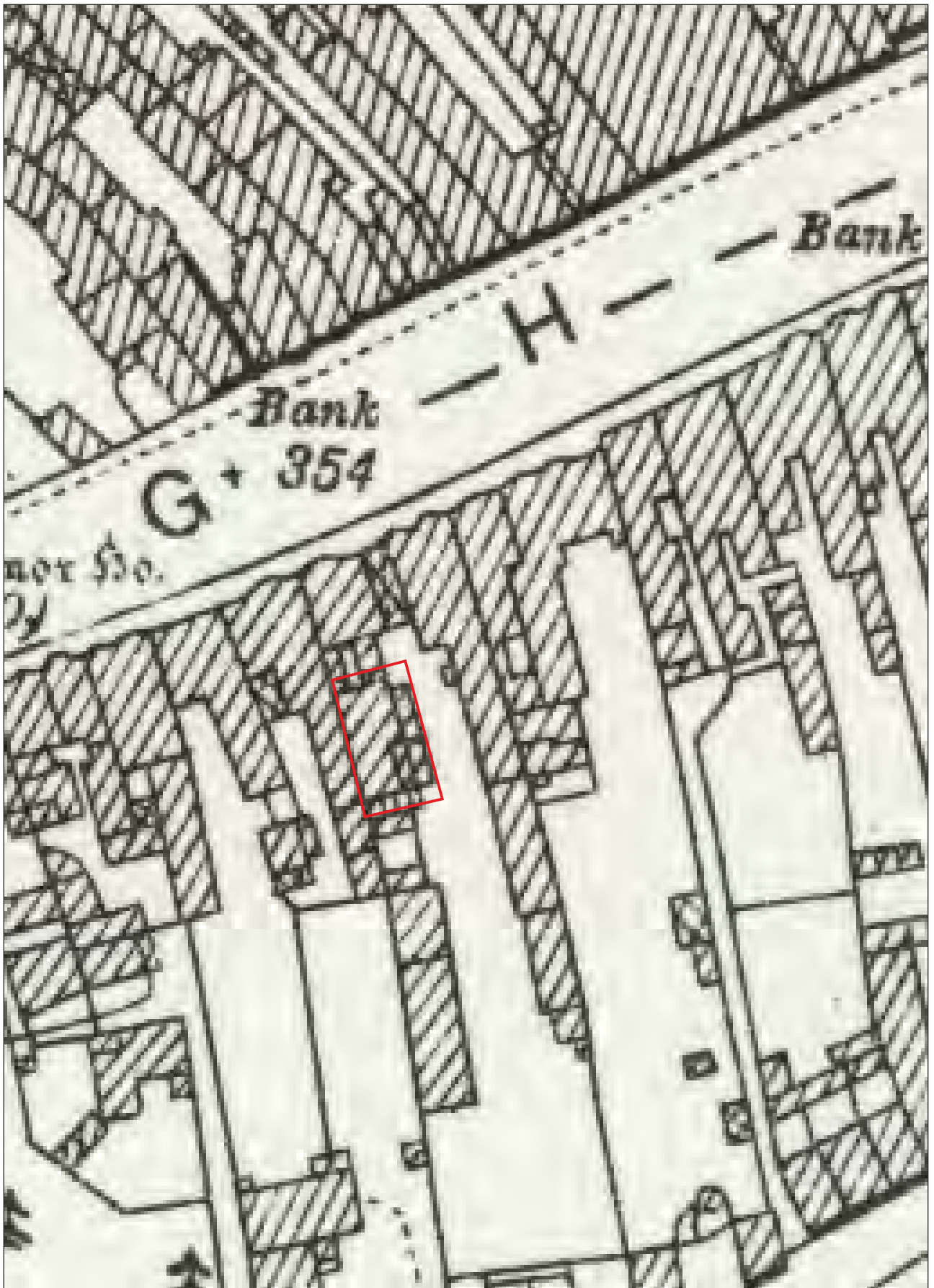


Fig. 4 Detail from the 1st edition 1888 Ordnance Survey map Devonshire Sheet LXX.4.



Pl. 1 General view of site. Looking northeast.



Pl. 2 General view of Well [103]. 0.5m scale. Looking northeast.



Pl. 3 Close-up showing depth of deposit sequence. 0.5m scale. Looking east.