



OXFORD
ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeological Excavation at Vinnimore Farm, Lustleigh, Devon



on behalf of
Dartmoor National Park Authority

Report No. 17-17

Project No. 1404

November 2017

Moor than meets the eye
Landscape Partnership





OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

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Report No 17-17

Revision: 01
Date: November 2017

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Summary

This report records the excavations undertaken by Oxford Archaeology in April 2017 of the deserted farm house to the south of Lustleigh, Devon (SX 7786 8012). The work was part of a broader programme of activities encompassing research, training, public archaeology and education activities. The site work comprised the hand-excavation of six trenches totalling 20.6m in length and 1m wide.

Trenches 1 and 2 exposed the remains of substantial, though heavily robbed, stone fireplaces in the western and eastern gable ends and were designed to provide further insight into the layout of the building and its relationship with the outbuildings. Two distinct surfaces were identified within the main range. Trenches 3 and 4 provided complete cross-sections across the earth banked up against the western and northern edges of the farm house and outbuildings.

The work in Trench 5 and 6 failed to expose any floor surfaces in the western and eastern outbuildings. It is likely that the site was comprehensively robbed from the early-19th century onwards.

The finds recovered from the site contained a small quantity of early modern window glass dating to the period 1550-1650. By the later post-medieval period the assemblage is dominated by local coarsewares from North Devon, while a small quantity of Low Country stonewares and tin-glazed pottery have also been recovered. By the 18th century these are replaced by English wares.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of the excavations undertaken in April 2017 at Vinnimore Farm, Lustleigh, Devon (SX 7786 8012). The excavation was part of a campaign of community excavations devised and initiated by the Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) and both the DNPA and Oxford Archaeology (OA) provided excavation staff and post-excavation services. The project forms part of the parish of Lustleigh's Parishscapes project and was funded under the DNPA-led "Moor than meets the Eye" HLF supported Landscape Partnership scheme.

1.1 The site

The site is located in the Becka Brook Valley, on flat ground at approximately 85m AOD and due west of the confluence of the river Bovey and the Becka Brook. The underlying solid geology consists of mudstone and sandstone belonging Ashton Mudstone Member and Crackington Formation laid down in the carboniferous period, and overlain by alluvial clay, silt, sand and gravel deposits (BGS Sheet 326).

The site is recorded on the Historic Environment Record as monument MDV28070. Recorded by Dr T. A. P. Greeves in 1985 it is described as "the structure consists of two contiguous buildings, with an open-fronted enclosure attached on the eastern side. The westernmost building measures approximately 8m long and 5m wide internally and the remains of a hearth can be seen at the western end. There is an apparent entrance on its south side and in a wall opposite this are two fine slotted gateposts. The other building measures very approximately 5m squared. The eastern enclosure is around 5m long and 3m wide. The walls survive to a maximum height of 1 meter."

Renewed interest in the site was sparked by the creation of the "History Hunter's" volunteer group in 2011. The History Hunters have been undertaking a detailed archaeological survey of the East Dartmoor National Nature Reserve and environs in order to improve the understanding and management of the areas rich historic environment. Part of the group's work on Vinnimore Farm has included both historical map research and producing archaeological survey drawings of the farm building and curtilage.

1.2 Archaeological and historical background

There is evidence for prehistoric activity dating back to the second millennium BC on the moorland heights to the south and southwest of the site. Although little is known of settlement activity and land use in the Iron Age, Roman and early medieval periods there is evidence for medieval tinning works a short distance upstream, on the less steep Boveycombe side of the River Bovey.¹

Lustleigh is mentioned for the first time in the early 10th century in the will of King *Ælfred* and dated 901. In addition, the circular nature of the graveyard suggests the presence of an early Christian site, c.f. Ashburton, Gulval, Kingsteignton, Woodbury and Lustleigh,² and it is probable that the original settlement grew up around the site of the parish church of St John the Baptist.

¹ Lander 2017.

² Pevsner 1952.

Vinnimore Farm is a deserted building located deep in the Becka Brook Valley to the south of Lustleigh. Historic map evidence indicates that the settlement was occupied during the 18th century but the date of its origin remains unknown. The site is shown for the first time on Benjamin Donn's 1765 map of Devon (Fig. 2) where it is called Ferny Moor. Unfortunately, no other details of the property at this time are given.

Nothing much is known about the site and its development throughout this period and a medieval date has been speculated based on the buildings style and layout. The farmhouse consists of a rectangular building subdivided into two “rooms” with two open-fronted outbuildings at the south-east end. The layout and location of the farm complex is quite unusual given its position within the floodplain of the Becka valley and this has given rise to questions concerning the age, function and development of the structure. John Wyatt's 1802 Dartmoor Prison Map (Fig. 3) and C.& J. Greenwood 1827 map of Devon (Fig. 4) show a single building in the centre of the site, with access seemingly gained directly from the old Manaton-Lustleigh road to the southwest of the site, although because the site is not shown in great detail the nature of the activities taking place in the building is not known.

Surrounding the building are four fields each enclosed by substantial earth and stone banks. An auction advert in The Western Times in 1829 provides the only known description of the site “*Lot 3. Several pieces of pasture land, called or commonly known by the name of Vinnimore Meadow, Housefield, and Bridgefield, containing together by admeasurement, about 5 acres, and parcels also of the said messuage, called Hisley, and situated near the aforesaid coppice, in Lustleigh.*”³ Some of the field banks are faced with well finished granite stonework. The four fields enclose an area of 2.2ha with Vinnimore located in the centre. Access to all the fields is achieved through entranceways from the main access track. A pair of fine slotted, granite gateposts survives either side of the entranceway into the southern field opposite the building.

By the 1830's Vinnimore had become part of the Lower Hisley estate and is shown on the 1831 Lower Hisley estate map (Fig. 5). The site is shown in the greatest detail thus and the map clearly depicts the wider western end of the main farm house and the narrower eastern section representing the outbuildings. The map also clearly shows the four fields associated with the farm, suggesting perhaps that two fields were cultivated at any one time, while the remaining two fields were laid down to pasture.

However, a decade later the 1841 Lustleigh tithe map (Fig. 6) shows that the main farmhouse and the central outbuilding have been demolished and that only the eastern building survived. Although the apportionment records three of the fields as arable and one as pasture no information was available on the remaining section of the farmhouse and it is likely that it is used as a field barn or animal stall by this time. The area was mapped in the greatest detail thus far by the Ordnance Survey in 1864 (Fig. 7). The map showed the four fields although by this date all the buildings had finally been demolished. No alterations are shown on the 1885 and 1905 Ordnance survey maps (Figs. 8-9) and the site remained unchanged until the post-war period.

Although the building and the associated fields are now covered by regenerating woodland, local anecdotal evidence suggests that the site was clear of trees until the period immediately after the Second World War.

³ 18th April 1829 The Western Times.

2. AIMS

The objectives of the project are to recover the ground plan and building sequence of the house and outbuildings, to ascertain the date and purpose of the buildings, and identify the presence or absence of a medieval phase. Other general aims of the Vinnimore Farmstead excavation are to improve our understanding of the age and construction of the associated field banks, to actively engage the local community in archaeological excavation, and to inform future management of the site.

3. METHODOLOGY

The work comprised the hand excavation of 6 trenches totalling 20.6m in length, with each trench on average 1m wide. The position of all trenches was agreed with the Dartmoor National Park Authority Archaeologist prior to commencement on site. The positions of the trenches as excavated are shown on Fig. 10.

The standard OA recording system was employed. Stratigraphic information was recorded on *pro-forma* context record sheets and individual trench recording forms, plans and sections for each trench were drawn at a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate and a detailed black and white print and colour (digital) photographic record was made. Registers were maintained for photographs, drawings and context sheets on *pro forma* sheets.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

The building (pl. 1), although heavily overgrown, was constructed of local stone and aligned approximately NW-SE. Preliminary investigations showed that the building consisted of two large rooms with an outbuilding at the eastern end. The structure measured c.22m long and 6.25m wide and appeared to be sighted on a raised platform. The structure has suffered greatly since it was abandoned with the remaining walls tumbling down to cover much of the interior of the building and the external wall faces. This decay has been accelerated by the presence of large trees and shrubs whose expansive root systems have done much damage.

A generally uniform overlying layer sequence of topsoil onto weathered natural subsoil was encountered in all areas. The depth of the overlying deposits ranged from 0.2-0.3m. A detailed plan is included as Fig 10 and context descriptions for each trench are set out in Appendix 1.

4.2 The western room (Fig. 10, pls. 2-7)

Located at the western end of the building complex was a large room measuring approximately 6m long and 5.5m wide, and accessed by a centrally placed opening in the south elevation of the room. The remains of a larger fireplace were partially visible within the western elevation of the room and it was therefore decided to investigate this as part of the excavations with the aim to recover dateable artefacts, floors, occupational layers and earlier features. The remains of the eastern wall were buried underneath a great tumble of collapsed masonry. It was therefore decided to excavate a trench across this to reveal the true thickness of the wall and expose the full-extent of the room. In addition, it was hoped that the excavations would identify any structures and features built into the wall and/or investigate any original openings into the adjacent room.

Trench 1 was excavated across the western and central area of the room. The removal of a heavily disturbed, 0.2m thick topsoil (119) revealed alluvial subsoil containing large granite boulders directly underneath. The remains of a fragmentary cobbled surface were exposed along the western edge of the trench. Cobbled surface (108), consisting of small to medium size water-worn granite and sub-angular granite rubble, was located immediately in front of a large fireplace located in the northwestern gable. Excavation of the fireplace identified the presence of two episodes of flooring. The original well-worn hearth stones (107) were associated with cobbled surface 108. The former was in turn overlain by medium to large size granite fragments (109) worn smooth across the exposed upper surface and closely set together. Three medium to large smooth-worn granite fragments (113) located in the north corner of the house are likely associated with the later floor surface. The northwestern fireplace retained its large granite jambs and granite rubble back to a height of c.1m. In addition, the remains of a heavily truncated bread oven were identified within the masonry to the northeast. Partial excavation showed that the oven floor, as well as most of the structure itself, had been demolished. The excavations recovered two sherds of 17th century window glass and four clay pipe bowl fragments dated 1650-1690, and 17 sherds of post-medieval and later industrial wares.

Extended to the south to cover the possible entrance to the western room Trench 1 exposed the eastern reveal and partial remains of a threshold of a centrally placed doorway.

Excavations at the southeastern end of the room exposed the fragmentary remains of a large fireplace, mirroring the arrangement identified in the northwestern gable. This retained some of the southern jamb, although this had been partly broken-up, and a granite rubble back. The hearth floor consisted of two large smooth-worn granite slabs, loosely fitted and packed at the rear with small smooth-worn granite rubble. No evidence was found for either floor surfaces identified at the northwestern end. The excavations recovered five sherds of North Devon sgraffito ware, including one dish with a bird head decoration dated 1660-1700, and a further six sherds of post-medieval and later industrial wares from topsoil (100).

Trenches 3 and 4 were excavated to investigate the build-up of soil along the western and northern edge of the building and to determine whether this had accumulated naturally during the lifetime of the property and beyond, or whether it had been deliberately built-up to prevent flood damage to the farmhouse. While the results of the excavations were inconclusive 31 sherds of early modern window glass dating to the period 1550-1650 were recovered from trench 3.

4.3 The central room (Fig. 10, pls. 8-9)

Located at the centre of the building was a large open-fronted room, measuring approximately 4.5m long and 4.7m wide. It was unclear whether the lack of wall running across the open-ended southwest side was an original feature or whether this had been robbed following the abandonment of the farmhouse. It was therefore decided to investigate the southern boundary for evidence of construction detail, examine the internal layout and clarify the function of this room.

Trench 5 was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.3m and failed to identify the remains of a southern wall, suggesting that the space was either always open-fronted or perhaps demarcated with a timber partition or gate rather than a stone boundary wall. Furthermore, investigation of the interior failed to identify the remains of a floor. The complete absence of

any flooring or hard-standing within this part of the farmhouse is not altogether surprising as the floor may simply have consisted of a beaten earth floor.

The excavations recovered a single greensand chert scraper of possible mesolithic date and 12 sherds of post-medieval and later industrial wares from the topsoil (117).

4.4 The eastern outbuilding (Fig. 10, pls. 10-11)

Located at the eastern end of the building was a second open-fronted room measuring c.2.35m long and 4.7m wide. The preliminary survey indicated that this structure had been added to the main farmhouse complex at a later date. As with the central room it was unclear whether the lack of wall running across the open-ended southwest side was an original feature or whether this had been robbed following the abandonment of the farmhouse. It was therefore decided to investigate the southern boundary for evidence of construction detail, examine the internal layout and clarify the function of this room.

Trench 6 was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.3m and failed to identify the remains of a southern wall, suggesting that the space was either always open-fronted or perhaps demarcated with a timber partition or gate. Furthermore, investigation of the interior failed to identify the remains of a floor. The complete absence of any flooring or hard-standing within this part of the farmhouse is not altogether surprising as the floor may simply have consisted of a beaten earth floor.

The topsoil (116) contained 20 prehistoric lithics, 4 sherds of 17th-18th century Delft ware, and 24 sherds of post-medieval or later industrial wares.

5. THE FINDS

by John Allan

5.1 Introduction

This is an interesting assemblage from a relatively remote settlement on the edge of Dartmoor. The assemblage is mainly composed of post-medieval finds with some interesting imports. The sherds are largely in a good condition, although some of the material is abraded. All of the pottery comes from unsealed contexts with evidence of truncation through 19th-20th century activity. The finds are briefly described below and itemised in Appendix 2.

5.2 Lithics

The lithic assemblage comprises a total of 9 struck flints from trenches 1, 5 and 6. Three are flakes, including one struck flake from microlith technology and one greensand chert scraper of possible mesolithic date. All date from the Mesolithic to early Bronze Age periods and were residual in the topsoil.

5.3 Post-medieval pottery

The post-medieval pottery assemblage comprises 82 sherds and ranges in date from the 16th-19th century. A number of diagnostic vessel forms are recognisable. Where applicable, fabrics are given their unique code as designated by Allan (1984).

Stonewares

A single sherd of salt-glazed Westerwald stoneware jug (pl. 12) dated to the period 1660-1700 was recovered from the topsoil to the southeast of the farmhouse. Rhenish stonewares were imported to Exeter in large quantities from Raeren and Frechen, and at a later date

Westerwald material, representing nearly half of the cities imports throughout this period (Allan 1984). They were common imports to the region, though not to Dartmoor.

In addition, 3 sherds of 18th century English stoneware were also recovered.

Tin-glazed wares

Four sherds of Dutch tin-glazed pottery (pl. 13) were recovered from the topsoil in Trench 6. The two sherds with blue painted decoration were probably made in London in the early 18th century, while the 2 white sherds are delftware attributed to the Netherlands and dating to the period 1670-1760.

By the beginning of the 16th century the Dutch produced tiles and pottery using a new manufacturing technique, Delftware, the term describing earthenware with a lead glaze to which tin oxide has been added. The first Delftware factory in England was established in Norwich in 1567 although production soon moved to London. The earliest Dutch potters settled in Aldgate and Southwark, but by the mid-1600s a flourishing industry developed in Southwark and Lambeth. This industry thrived throughout the 17th-18th century, although it began to decline by c.1760, when it was overtaken by cream-ware, a cream coloured earthenware produced in Staffordshire and across England (Allan 1984).

Coarsewares

The coarseware sherds (pls. 14-15) consist mostly of small body sherds and display few diagnostic features. The majority of the post-medieval coarseware assemblage is dominated by North Devon and South Somerset fabrics, with only three sherds of Totnes type recovered, perhaps surprising given the location of the site. The recognisable local fabrics include 3 sherds of Totnes-type; and 14 sherds of South Somerset red ware (or derivatives of) including 5 sherds with trailed slip decoration and a single sherd with manganese brown glaze; while North Devon gravel tempered and gravel-free wares account for a further 30 sherds, including a single jug with rouletting and one chamber pot. Seven sherds North Devon sgraffito, including one dish with bird head dated 1660-1700 and one dish with spiral pattern dated 1660-1700, and 10 sherds of plain slipware were also recovered. These all span the period 16th-19th century.

English wares

Seven sherds of late 17th-18th century Bristol-Staffordshire yellow slipware (pl. 15) were recovered from the topsoil in trenches 5 and 6. These were exported to Exeter from the late 17th century, although their number rapidly increased from c.1720 onwards before going out of use by the early 19th century.

5.4 Glass

Three fragments of English green bottle glass dated to the period after 1780 was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 1, while a single sherd from a green glass globular vessel, perhaps flask gated to the 19th century was recovered from the same context.

In addition, 33 sherds of early modern window glass (pl. 16) dated to the period 1550-1650 was recovered from the topsoil in trenches 1 and 3.

5.5 Clay pipe

There are six early bowls dating to 1650-1690, with a further six clay pipe stems dating to the 17th century (pl. 16). The remaining 10 bowls and pipe stems date to the 18th-19th century.

5.6 Metal

A single sherd of an 18th century cast-iron cooking pot, 6 Fe nails, 1 Fe boot heel, and two 20th century threaded bolt and key fiddlehead were recovered from trenches 5 and 6.

5.7 Conclusion

With a few exceptions the assemblage is fairly usual for a rural settlement of this time period. The absence of early pottery and the presence of early modern window glass suggests that the farm and farmhouse were established sometime around 1600.

As expected, North Devon fabrics dominate the assemblage throughout the post-medieval period, although perhaps surprising given the location of the site.

The imported pottery from Vinnimore echoes trends identified in Exeter, with the presence of Rhenish stonewares and Dutch or London tin-glaze wares reflecting the cities trade patterns in the late 17th centuries; before being replaced by English wares from the early 18th century onwards, reflecting a decline in trade with the Low Countries. The presence of Staffordshire/Bristol and South Somerset slip-wares suggests the continued consumption of table wares in the 18th and early 19th centuries, while the presence of small quantities of bottle glass suggests the consumption of wine, as well as cider, which is associated with agricultural occupation. Although the assemblage is relatively small it indicates a certain level of occupation of the site into the early 19th century when the farmhouse was demolished.

6. CONCLUSIONS

Although limited in scope and scale, the excavation has established the presence of a farmstead and associated fields at Vinnimore from c.1600. Although by its nature the limited work undertaken to date can only provide an indication of the nature of the occupation at Vinnimore and its subsequent development, it is likely that the farm represents an early 17th century newtake. No evidence for earlier medieval occupation was uncovered during the excavations, although it remains unclear whether the creation of a small farmstead in the Becka Brook valley represents local population pressure, a speculative small holding or perhaps the local inhabitants engaging in specialist activities such as tin mining or agricultural pursuits, for instance the movement of livestock from nearby farms to Trendlebere Down or Lustleigh Cleave.

The excavations revealed that the main farmhouse and central outbuilding were built in a single phase. Although the function of the latter is not fully understood it may have been in use as a barn or livestock stalls. The eastern outhouse was added at a later date, perhaps to provide a covered cart shed or stock enclosure.

Due to the extensive robbing of the house in the mid-19th century and the spread of trees in the post-war period, the excavation was unable to recover any further information on the layout of the farmhouse and the specific functions of each ‘room’. However, the layout of the main house can be inferred from a number of similar properties in the South-West (Figs. 11-12). The farmhouse at Vinnimore seemingly relates to other buildings built from about 1600 onwards which developed away from the standard three-room-and-cross-passage layout characteristic of the medieval period and towards a more symmetrical façade and internal layout.⁴ The off-centre cross-passage had been abandoned in favour of a centrally placed

⁴ Alcock 2015.

doorway flanked by large windows. Due to the date of the window glass recovered these would have been of the typical 17th century three or four-light design with casements rather than the later Georgian sash window. The entrance would have led onto a lobby and a small corridor providing access to the two main ground-floor rooms and perhaps a staircase at the rear leading to bedrooms on the first-floor. To the left of the passage was the kitchen with its large fireplace and bread-oven in the northwest gable, while to the east lay the parlour with its large fireplace in the southeast gable. The remains of two successive floor surfaces were identified within the service end of the main range, representing the only surviving stratified deposits within the entire farmhouse complex. Many lower status buildings in Devon and other parts of the country had no first-floor sleeping arrangements and the kitchen or parlour often contained sleeping berths for the family and farm hands until the late 19th century.

No evidence for a separate access to the adjoining outbuilding was uncovered and it must be assumed that the latter was always accessed from the farmyard to the south of the house.

7. PROJECT ARCHIVE

The site records have been compiled into a fully integrated site archive currently being held by Oxford Archaeology (project no. 1404) pending deposition with the Lustleigh Community Archive. Details of the investigations, including a copy of this report have been submitted to the on-line archaeological database OASIS (oakforda1-302053).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This community excavation was commissioned by the Dartmoor National Park Authority and funded by the HLF-supported Moor than meets the eye Parishscapes project. Thanks are due to Andy Crabb (DNPA), Lee Bray (DNPA), Moor than Meets the Eye's Community Heritage Officer Emma Stockley and Community and Events Officer Andrew Bailey for their help and input throughout. Further thanks are due to David Rickwood and Jane Craven (Woodland Trust), Albert Knott (Natural England) for allowing the excavation to go ahead on their land. Special thanks are due to Peter F. Mason and the Lustleigh Society, Reg Lander and the East Dartmoor National Nature Reserve (EDNNR) 'History Hunters' and the Bovey Tracey Heritage Trust without whose exemplary and dedicated work we would never have known about the site. Special thanks are also due to Barry and Tanya Welch who undertook the original plane table survey. Thanks are due Jonathan Martin and to all the volunteers for their kind help during the excavation. The finds analysis was carried out by John Allan; the illustrations for this report were prepared by Marc Steinmetzer.

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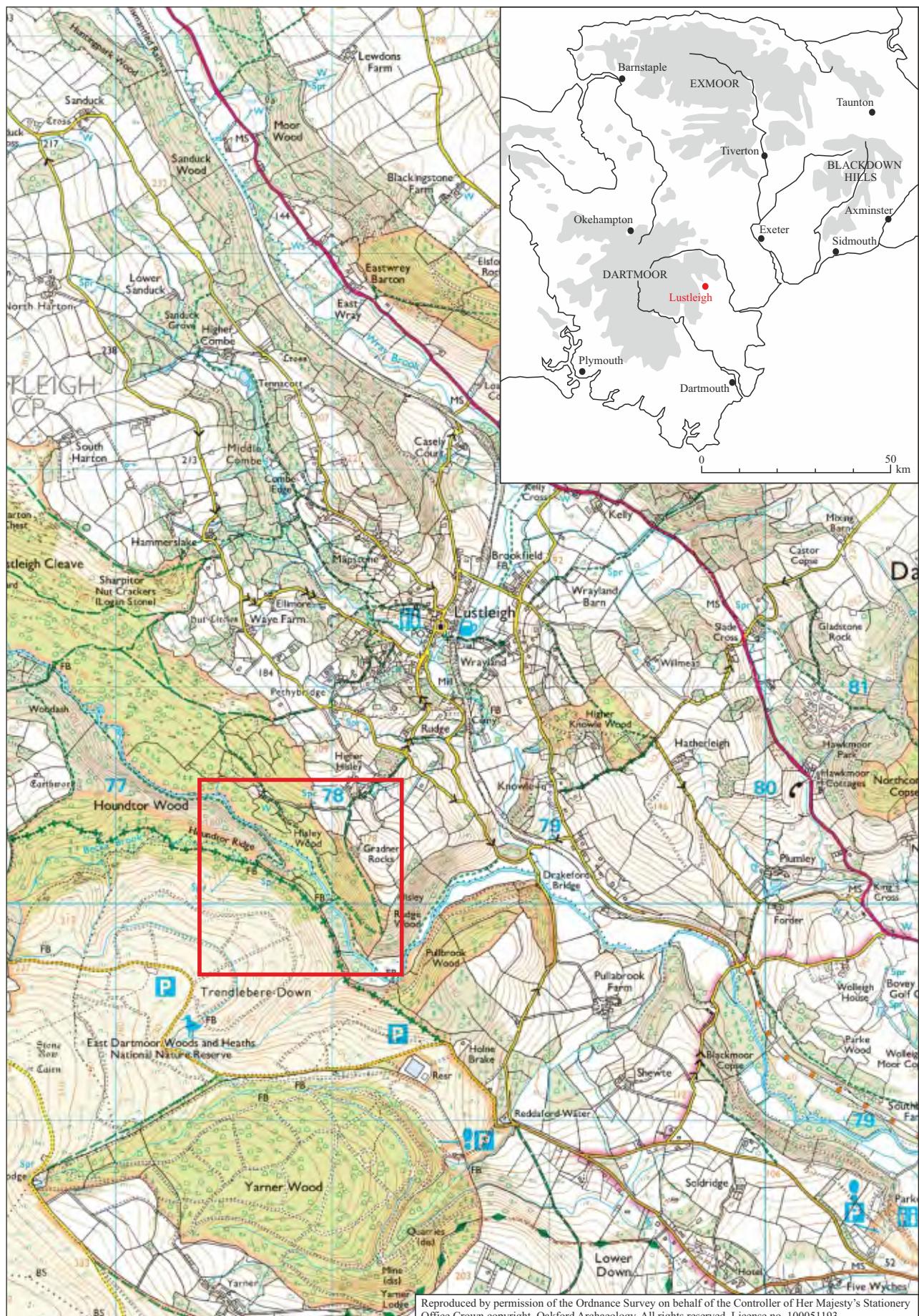


Fig. 1 Location of site.



Fig. 2 Detail from Benjamin Donn's 1765 map of Devonshire.

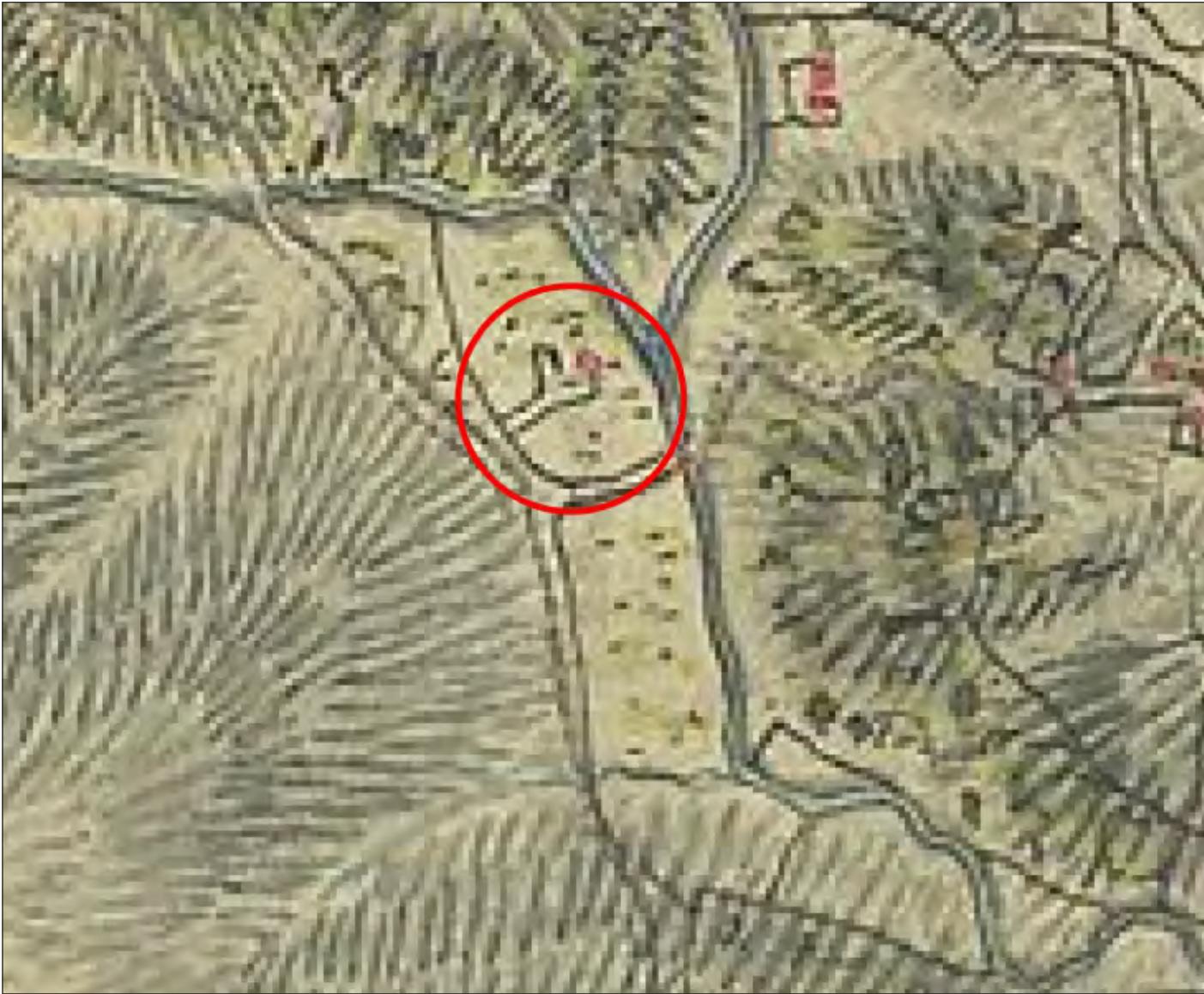


Fig. 2 Detail from Wyatt's 1802 map.



Fig. 4 Detail from Greenwood's 1827 map.

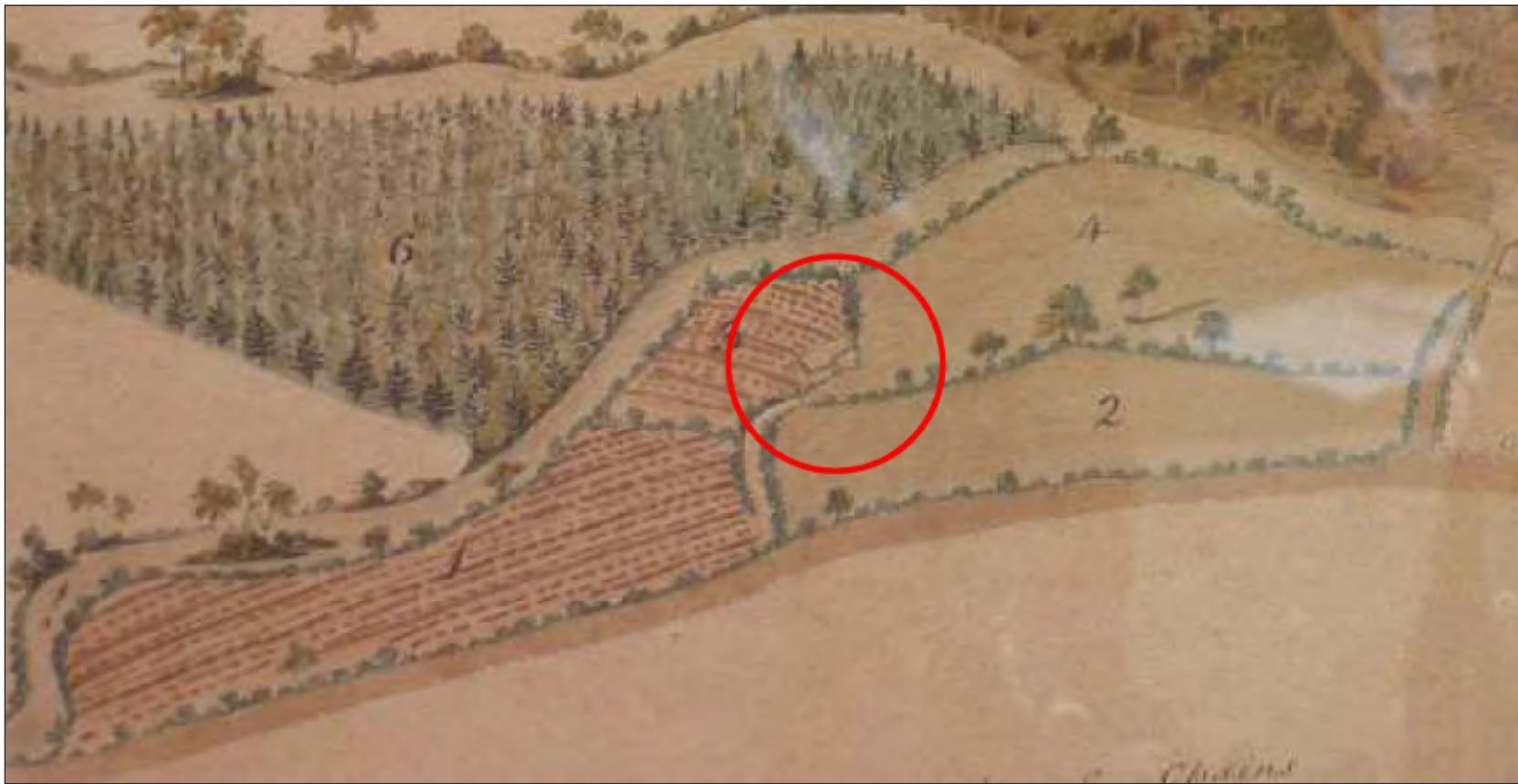


Fig. 5 Detail from the 1831 Lower Hisley estate map.

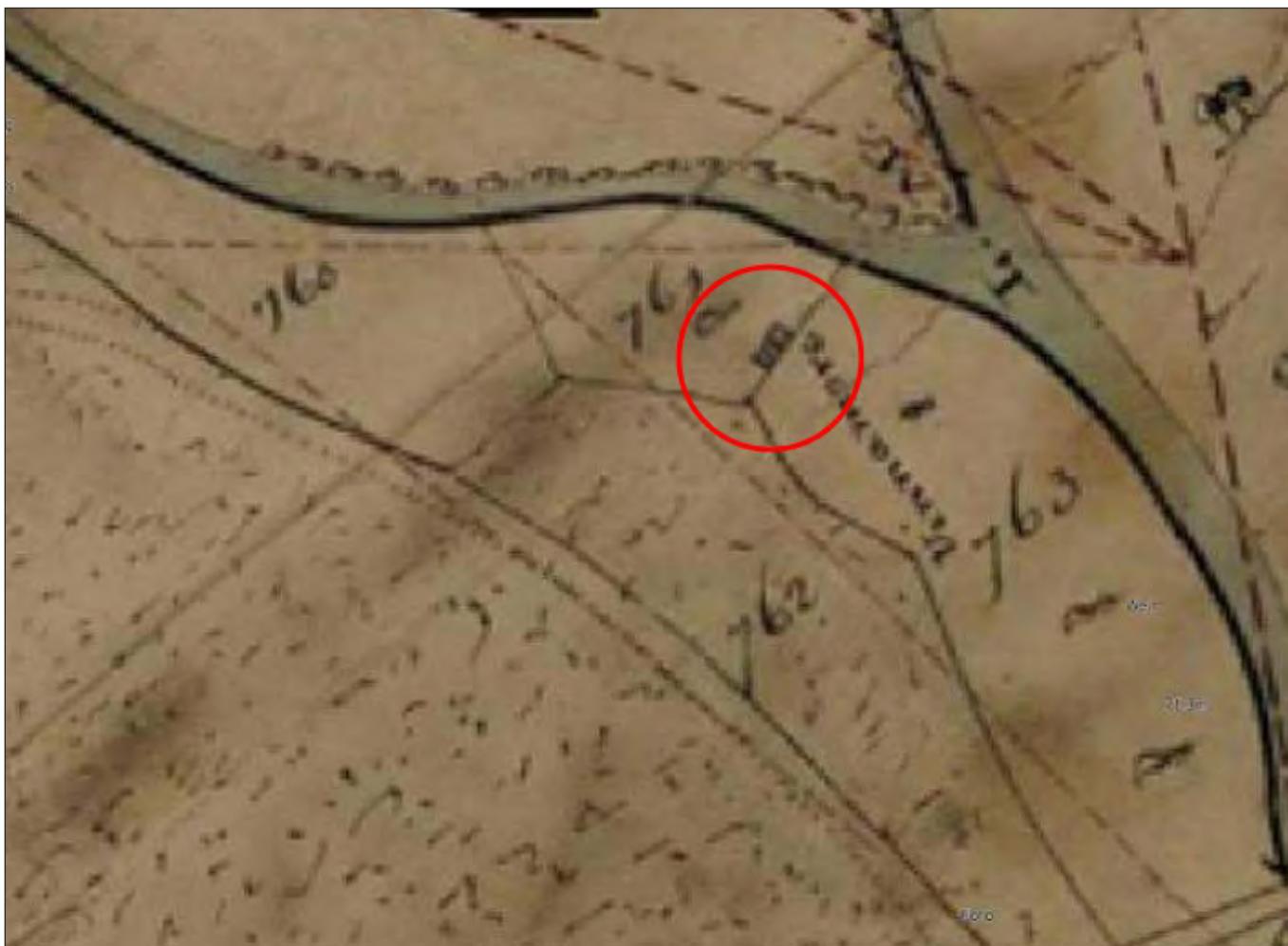


Fig. 6 Detail from the 1841 Lustleigh Tithe map.

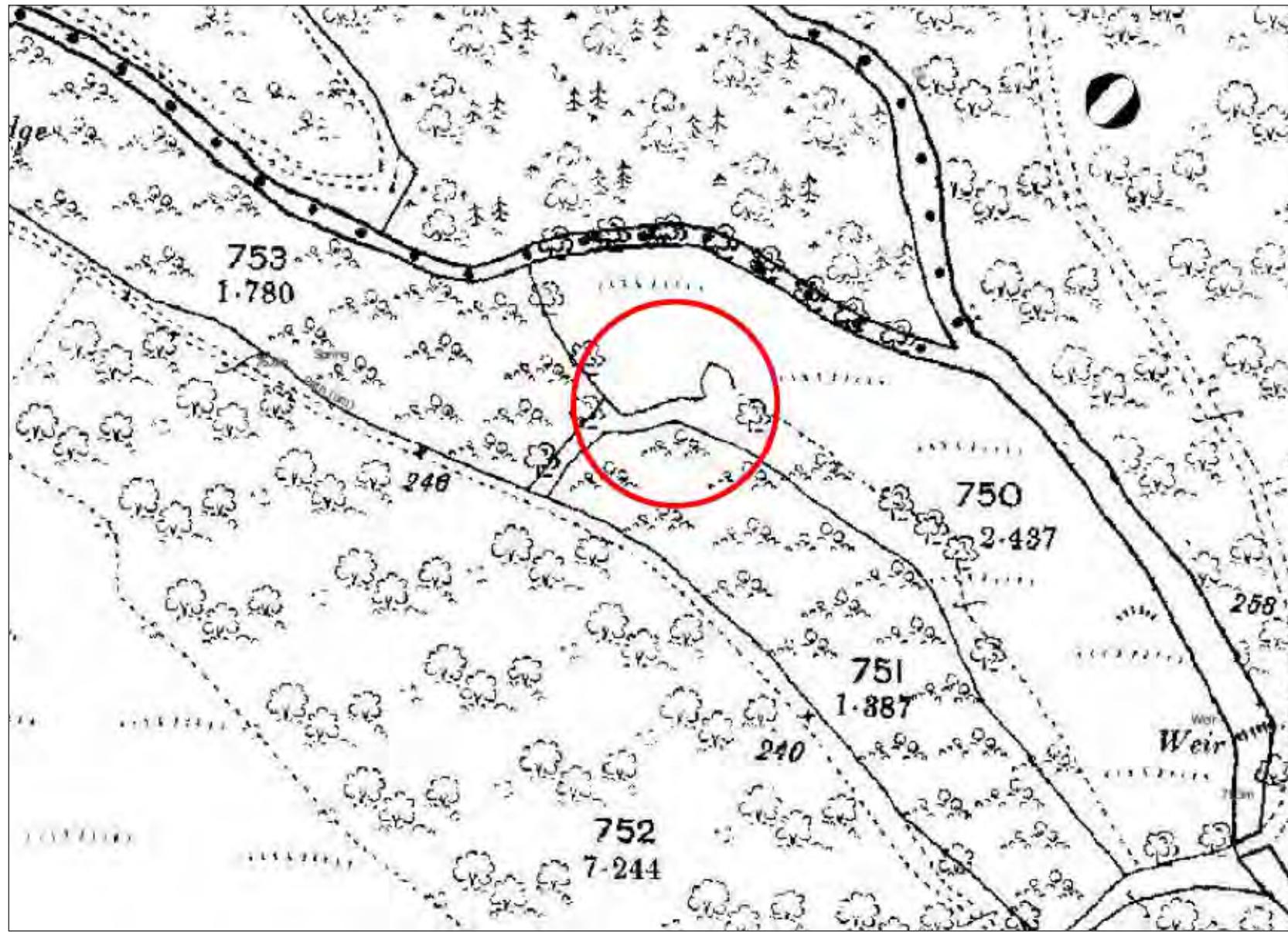


Fig. 7 Detail from the 1864 1st edition Ordnance Survey map.



Fig. 8 Detail from the 1st edition 1885 Ordnance Survey map Devonshire Sheet C.8.



Fig. 9 Detail from the 2nd edition 1904 Ordnance Survey map Devonshire Sheet C.8.

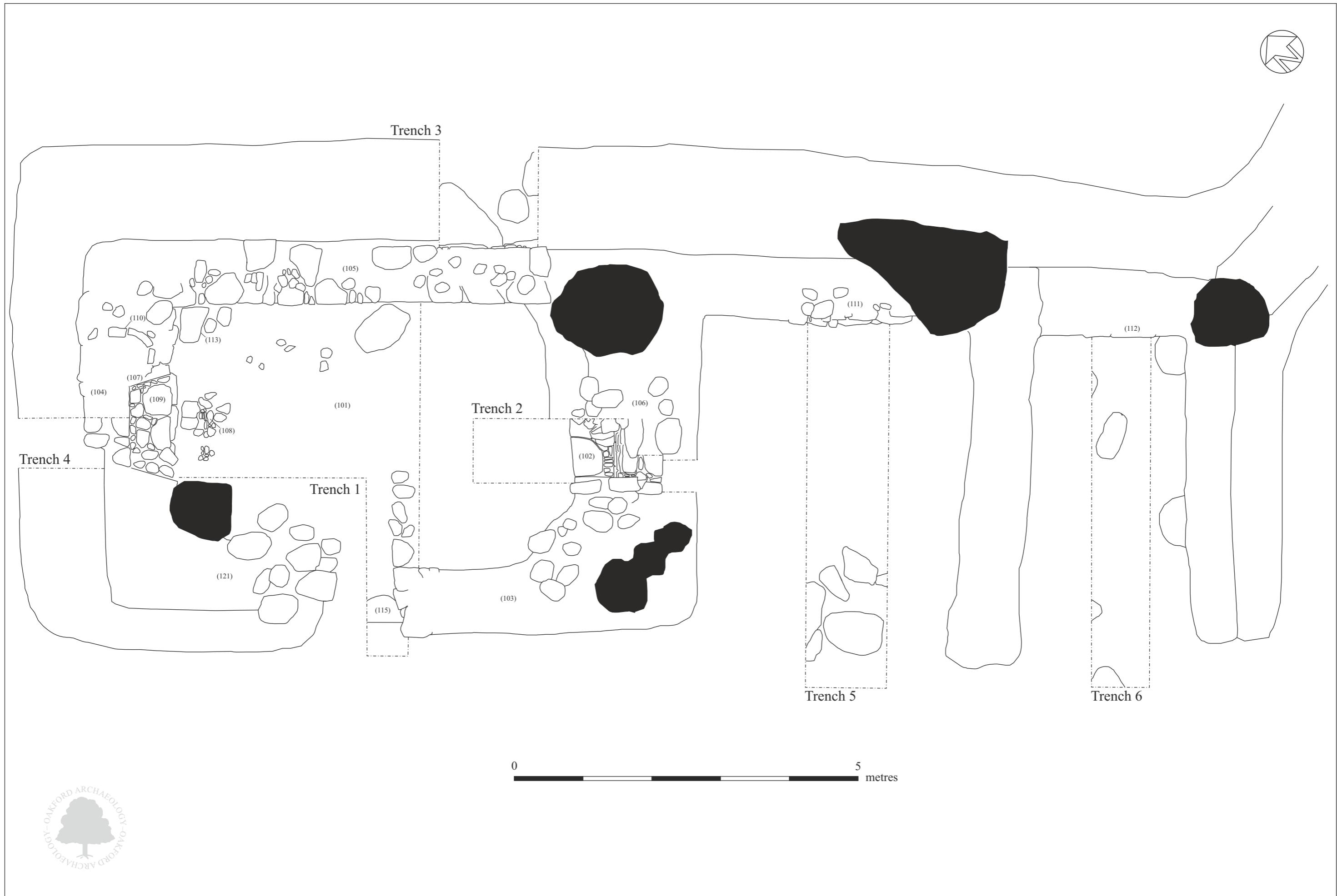


Fig. 10 Plan showing location of observations.



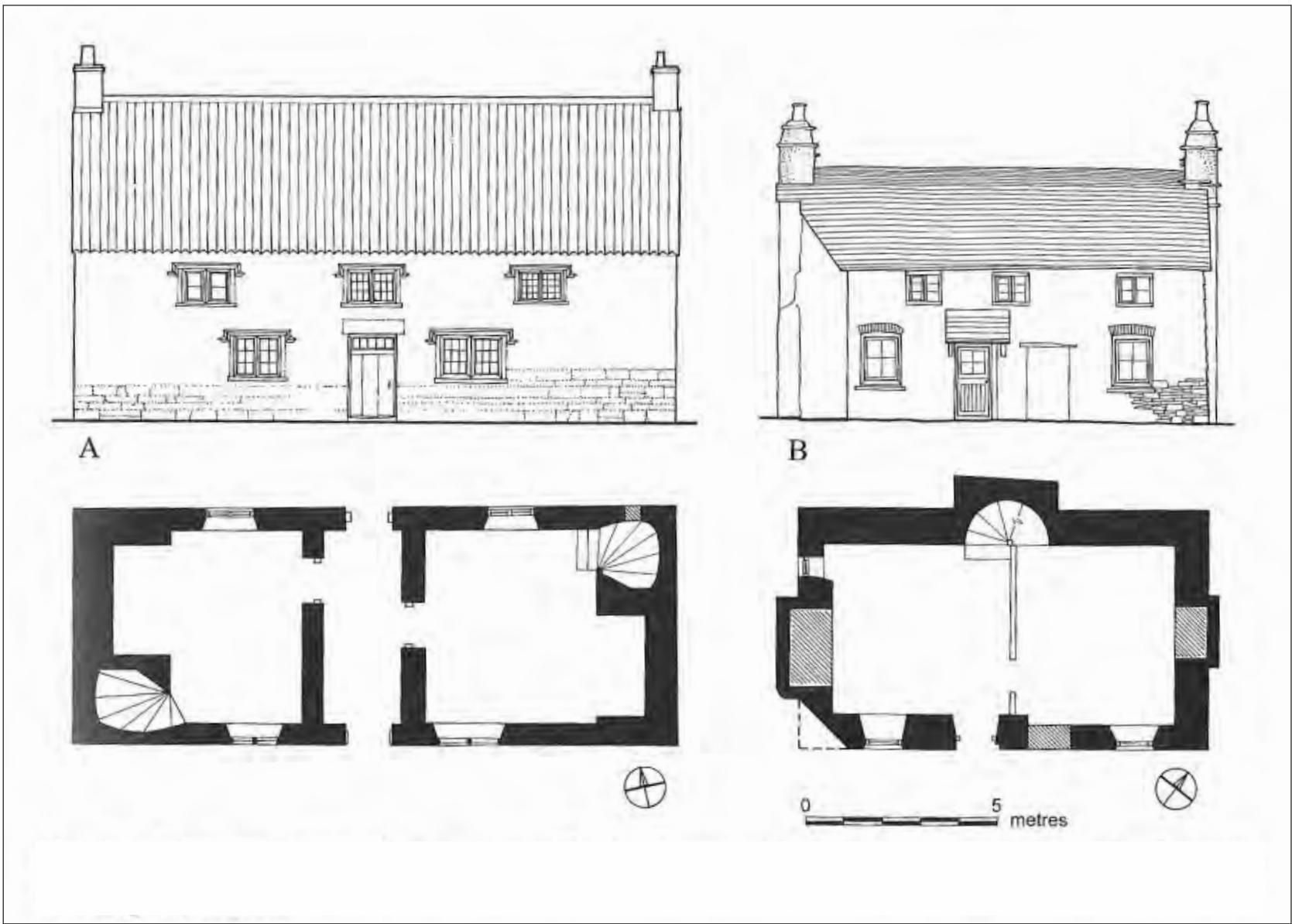
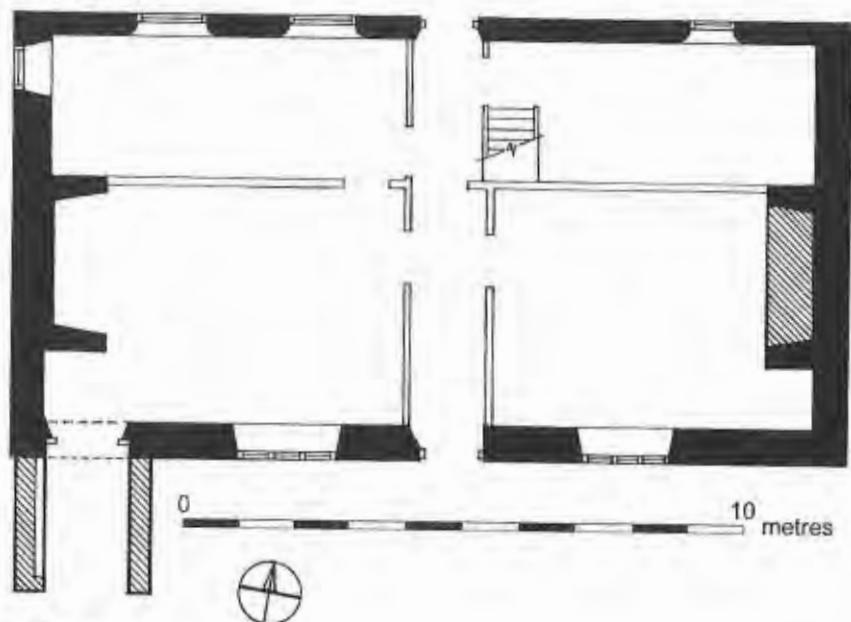


Fig. 11 Plan and elevations of typical 2-room cottages: Burt's Cottage, Knole, Somerset (left) and Staple Cottage, Dartington, Devon (right).

Ground floor



First floor

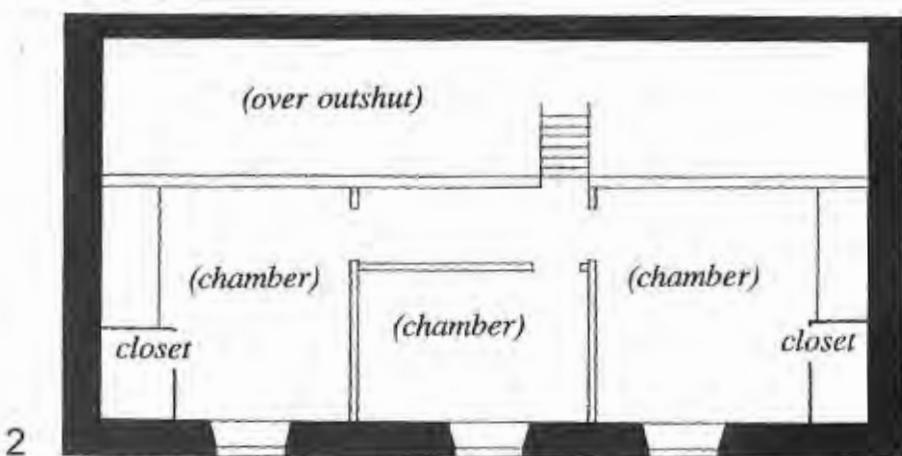


Fig. 12 Plan of Moxhayes, Membury, showing layout of late 17th century 2-room cottage.



Pl. 1 General view of Vinnimore Farmhouse prior to excavation. Looking west.



Pl. 2 General view of kitchen during excavation.
Looking north.



Pl. 3 General view of kitchen showing large fireplace and breadoven at western end. 1m scales. Looking north.



Pl. 4 Close-up of fireplace in western gable showing successive floor levels within fireplace. 0.5m scale. Looking northwest.



Pl. 5 General view of eastern gable end during excavation. Looking east.



Pl. 6 Close-up of fireplace in eastern gable. 0.5m scale. Looking southeast.



Pl. 7 General view of north side of farmhouse during excavation. Looking south.



Pl. 8 General view of western outbuilding during excavation. Looking north.



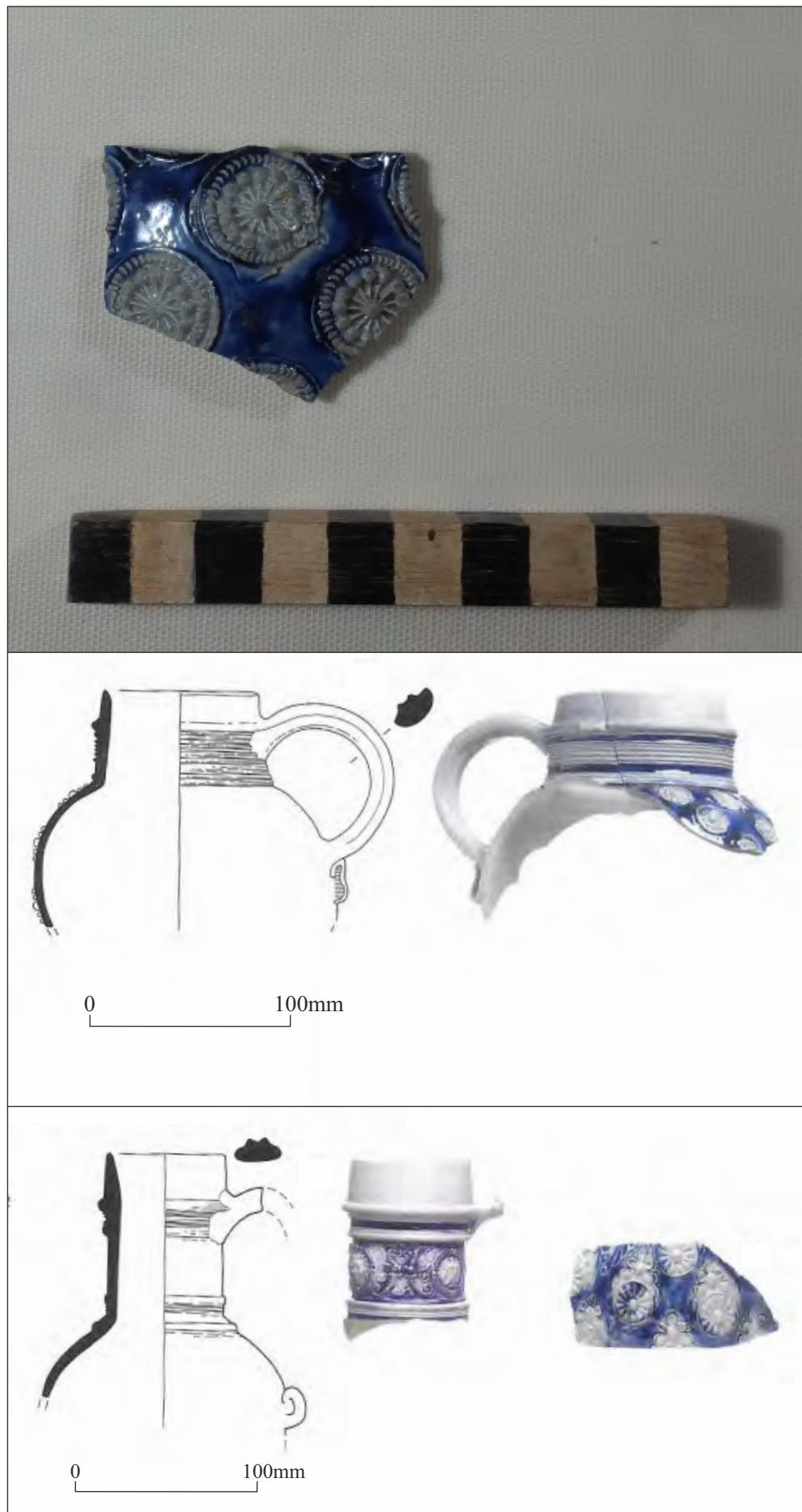
Pl. 9 General view of interior of western outbuilding.
2m scale. Looking northeast.



Pl. 10 General view of interior of eastern outbuilding. 2m scale. Looking northeast.



Pl. 11 Open-day. Malcolm Billinge, one of our volunteers looking through the finds recovered from the excavations.



Pl. 12 (top) salt-glazed Westerwald jug 1660-1700; (middle) and (bottom) similar salt-glazed Westerwald jugs reproduced from 'Down at the old Ship and Ball - taverns, trade and daily life in the London Borough of Southwark' Post-medieval Archaeology 50/2 (2016), 181-226.



Pl. 13 (top) Delft ware blue decoration early 18th century prob.
London; (bottom) Delft ware white late 17th-18th century.



Pl. 14 North Devon coarsewares 17th-18th century (top left) North Devon gravel-free; (top right) North Devon gravel tempered; (bottom left) North Devon gravel-free; (bottom right) North Devon gravel-free jug with rouletting .



Pl. 15 (top left) North Devon sgraffito with bird head decoration 1660-1700; (top right) North Devon slipware late 17th-18th century; (bottom left) Bristol-Staffordshire yellow slipware with combed decoration late 17th-18th century; (bottom right) South Somerset red ware 17th-18th century.



Pl. 16 (right) early modern window glass 1550-1650; (top left) six clay pipe stems and one bowl with broad heel pre-1700; (bottom left) one bowl with broad foot pre-1700 and one bowl with spur 1700-1800.

APPENDIX 1:

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS BY TRENCH

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
100	0-0.2m	Mid brown silty loam	Topsoil
101	0.2m+	Mid orange yellow silty clay	Natural subsoil
102		Southeast fireplace	Southeast fireplace
103		South wall	South wall
104		West wall	West wall
105		North wall	North wall
106		East wall	East wall
107		Northwest fireplace	Northwest fireplace
108	0.2m+	Floor	Floor
109	0-0.1m	Floor	Floor
110		Bread-oven	Bread-oven
111		North/east wall	North/east wall – central outbuilding
112		North/east wall	North/east wall – eastern outbuilding
113	0-0.1m	Floor	Floor
114	0-0.5m	Mid brown silty loam	Topsoil
115			Threshold
116	0-0.3m	Mid brown silty loam	Topsoil
117	0-0.3m	Mid brown silty loam	Topsoil
118	0-0.2m	Mid brown silty loam	Topsoil
119	0-0.2m	Mid brown silty loam	Topsoil
120	0-0.2m	Mid brown silty loam	Topsoil
121		South wall	South wall

APPENDIX 2:
FINDS QUANTIFICATION

Context	Area	Spot date	Quantity	Notes
100	Parlour		13	2 sherds North Devon gravel free including 1 jug with rouletting 16 th -17 th century; 2 sherds North Devon gravel tempered including 1 bowl 17 th -18 th century; 5 sherds North Devon sgraffito ware including 1 dish with bird head 1660-1700; 1 sherd of North Devon plain yellow slipware late 17 th -early 18 th century; 1 sherd South Somerset plain coarseware 17 th century; 1 Fe threaded bolt 20 th century; 1 Fe key fiddlehead 20 th century.
114	North kitchen trench		44	31 sherds early modern window glass 1550-1650; 1 sherd Totnes type standard bowl sooted 16 th -17 th century; 3 sherds North Devon gravel free including 1 chamber pot 16 th - 17 th century; 7 sherds North Devon plain slipware deglazed and burnt 17 th century; 1 sherd North Devon sgraffito dish late 17 th century; 2 sherds North Devon gravel tempered including 2 bowls 16 th -18 th century.
116	Eastern outbuilding		46	2 lithics including struck flake from microlith technology; 2 sherds Delft ware white late 17 th -18 th century; 2 sherds Delft ware blue decoration early 18 th century probably London; 1 sherd North Devon sgraffito dish with spiral pattern 1660-1700; 1 sherd North Devon plain slipware late 17 th -18 th century; 4 sherds North Devon gravel tempered 4 vessels 16 th -18 th century; 5 sherds North Devon gravel free 2 vessels 16 th -17 th century; 1 sherd Totnes type 1 vessel bowl 16 th -17 th century; 1 sherd cast-iron cooking pot 18 th century; 6 sherds Bristol yellow slipware with combed slip 1680-1730; 1 sherd South Somerset feathered slipware dish 1690-1760; 2 sherds Staffordshire white stoneware 1730-1770; 4 sherds South Somerset coarseware with slip and copper green glaze 1700-1800; 6 clay pipe stems, 1 bowl with broad heel pre-1700; 6 Fe nails; 1 Fe boot heel; 2 sheep jaws.
117	Western outbuilding		21	1 Greensand chert scraper mesolithic?; 2 broken flint nodules; 1 sherd North Devon plain slipware late 17 th -18 th century; 1 sherd North Devon gravel tempered 16 th -18 th century; 2 sherds North Devon gravel free 2 vessels 16 th -17 th century; 1 sherd Bristol Staffordshire yellow slipware 1680-1770; 7 sherds South Somerset plain wares 2 vessels including one with manganese brown glaze 17 th -18 th century; 3 clay pipe stems; 1 bowl with broad foot pre-1700; 1 bowl with spur 1700-1800; 1 cows tooth.
118	Entrance		8	2 lithics with thick white cortex; 1 sherd North Devon gravel tempered 16 th -18 th century; 4 sherds North Devon gravel free 16 th -17 th century; 1 carbonized hazelnut.
119	Kitchen		31	2 lithics including 1 waste flake and 1 mottled pearl grey flint; 2 sherds North Devon gravel tempered 16 th -18 th century; 2 sherds North Devon gravel free 16 th -17 th century; 1 sherd Totnes type 16 th -17 th century; 1 sherd South Somerset coarseware 17 th -18 th century; 1 sherd Staffordshire white salt glazed stoneware 1730-1760; 5 sherds Staffordshire type white earthenware after 1770; 2 sherds window glass 17 th century; 3 sherds English Green Bottle Glass after 1780; 1 sherd green glass globular vessel perhaps flask 19 th century; 6 clay pipe stems 17 th century; 4 bowl fragments 1650-1690; 1 slate fragment 19 th century welsh?
120	Access track		1	1 sherd Westerwald stoneware jug 1660-1700.

APPENDIX 3:
METHOD STATEMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document has been prepared by Oxford Archaeology (OA) for The Dartmoor National Park Authority to describe the methodology to be used during an archaeological community excavation at Vinnimore Farm, Lustleigh, Devon (SX 7786 8012). This document represents the ‘Written Scheme of Investigation’ for archaeological work required by the Dartmoor National Park Authority.

The excavation of Vinnimore Farm forms part of the parish of Lustleigh’s Parishscapes project which in turn falls within the “Moor than meets the Eye” HLF funded Landscape Partnership scheme. The site is located within the East Dartmoor Woods and Heaths National Nature Reserve and the Bovey Woodlands designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest. The excavation is therefore planned to be undertaken in a sensitive manner that ensures that the special qualities of this important landscape are not threatened or disturbed.

- 1.2 The site is located in the bottom of the Becka Brook Valley, on flat ground at approximately 85m OD and due west of the confluence of the river Bovey and the Becka Brook.

The site is recorded on the Historic Environment Record as monument MDV28070. Recorded by Dr T. A. P. Greeves in 1985 it is described as “the structure consists of two contiguous buildings, with an open-fronted enclosure attached on the eastern side. The westernmost building measures approximately 8m long and 5m wide internally and the remains of a hearth can be seen at the western end. There is an apparent entrance on its south side and in a wall opposite this are two fine slotted gateposts. The other building measures very approximately 5m squared. The eastern enclosure is around 5m long and 3m wide. The walls survive to a maximum height of 1.0 meter.”

Renewed interest in the site was sparked by the creation of the “History Hunter’s” volunteer group in 2011. The History Hunters have been undertaking a detailed archaeological survey of the East Dartmoor National Nature Reserve and environs in order to improve the understanding and management of the areas rich historic environment. Part of the group’s work on Vinnimore Farm has included both historical map research and producing archaeological survey drawings of the farm building and curtilage.

- 1.3 Vinnimore Farm is a deserted building of uncertain date located deep in the Becka Brook Valley near Lustleigh, Dartmoor. Historic map evidence indicates that the settlement was occupied during the 18th century but the date of its origin remains unknown. By the time of the 1864 Ordnance Survey map the site had been abandoned.

A medieval date has been speculated based on the buildings construction style and form. The farm consists of a rectangular building subdivided into two “rooms” with an open-ended structure added onto the south east end. The layout and location of the building are quite unusual given its location within

the floodplain of the Becka valley and this has given rise to questions concerning the age, function and development of the structure.

1.4 Surrounding the building are four fields each enclosed by substantial earth and stone banks. Some of the field banks are faced with well finished granite stonework. The four fields enclose an area of 2.2ha with Vinnimore located in the centre. Access to all the fields is achieved via various entranceways through the boundaries. A pair of fine slotted, granite gateposts survives either side of the entranceway into the southern field opposite the building. As can be seen on the estate map of 1831 at least two of the fields have been cultivated. The 1841 tithe apportionment records three of the fields as arable and one as pasture.

Although the building and the associated fields are now covered by regenerating woodland, local anecdotal evidence suggests that the site was clear of trees until the period immediately after the Second World War.

2. AIMS

2.1 The objectives of the project are to recover the ground plan and building sequence of the farmstead and to ascertain the presence or absence of a medieval phase.

2.2 The aims of the excavations are:

- To address a set of research driven objectives concerned with enhancing our knowledge of the site during the later post-medieval period and its immediate setting;
- To provide a properly managed training excavation open to the local community, archaeology students and interested amateurs, both local and international;
- To provide an opportunity for community archaeology through excavation, organised site tours, talks and educational activities for local children and primary schools.

2.3 The aims of the post-excavation work will be:

- To integrate all phases of work and re-assess the dating of the stratigraphic sequence, with specific reference to the pottery;
- The structures and features identified at Vinnimore Farm will have to be placed in their archaeological and architectural context, where possible, by comparing them to contemporary vernacular structures in plan, elevation and architectural detail;
- To examine the historical context for the construction and development of the farmstead at Vinnimore Farm and the later development of the site;
- To assess the pottery for the light it might shed on the supply of ceramics in later post-medieval Devon, with particular reference to comparison with Exeter and North Bovey;
- To examine the status and economy of the site in light of the artefactual and ecofactual evidence in comparison with other sites in the region and beyond.

3. GENERAL PROJECT METHODS

- 3.1 All archaeological deposits will be stratigraphically excavated by hand down to natural subsoil in the following manner:
- all deposits will be excavated and recorded by hand;
 - some less significant and more bulky deposits may be carefully removed by machine with a toothless grading bucket, under direct archaeological supervision and with prior agreement of the DNPA;
 - fills of cut features will be excavated by hand as follows: pits (50 and then 100%), postholes (50 and then 100%), stakeholes (100%), wells (to be determined on site depending on depth and site conditions), linear (20%, targeted on interrelationships, terminals, etc. and then 100%);
 - Spoil will also be examined for the recovery of artefacts.
- 3.2 If present, environmental deposits will be assessed on site, on site by a suitably qualified archaeologist, with advice as necessary from Allen Environmental Archaeology or the English Heritage Regional Science Advisor, to determine the possible yield (if any) of environmental or microfaunal evidence, and its potential for radiocarbon dating. If deposits potential survives, these would be processed by Geoflow using the EH Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology (EH CfA Guidelines 2002/1), and outside specialists (AEA) organised to undertake further assessment and analysis as appropriate.
- 3.3 Initial cleaning, conservation, packaging and any stabilisation or longer-term conservation measures will be undertaken in accordance with relevant professional guidance (including *Conservation Guidelines No 1* (UKIC, 2001); *First Aid for Finds* (UKIC & RESCUE, 1997) and on advice provided by A Hopper-Bishop, Specialist Services Officer, RAM Museum, Exeter.
- 3.4 Should artefacts be exposed that fall within the scope of the Treasure Act 1996, then these will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner according to the procedures relating to the Act. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.
- 3.5 Should any articulated human remains be exposed; these will initially be left *in situ*. If removal at either this or a later stage in the project is deemed necessary, these will then be fully excavated and removed from the site subject to the compliance with the relevant Ministry of Justice Licence, which will be obtained by OA on behalf of the client. Any remains will be excavated in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologist Technical Paper No. 13 (McKinley and Roberts 1993). Where appropriate bulk samples will be collected.
- 3.6 The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve artefacts or report on other aspects of the investigations can be called upon (see below). The client will be fully briefed and consulted if there is a requirement to submit material for specialist research.

3.7 Health and Safety requirements will be observed at all times by archaeological staff working on site, particularly when machinery is operating nearby. Personal protective equipment (safety boots, helmets and high visibility vests) will be worn by staff when plant is operating on site. A risk assessment will be prepared prior to work commencing.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

4.1 The standard OA recording system will be employed, consisting of:

- standardised single context record sheets; survey drawings, plans and sections at scales 1:10, 1:20, 1:50 as appropriate;
- colour digital photography;
- survey and location of finds, deposits or archaeological features, using EDM surveying equipment and software where appropriate;
- labelling and bagging of finds on site from all excavated levels, post-1800 unstratified pottery may be discarded on site with a small sample retained for dating evidence as required.

5. REPORTING AND ARCHIVING

5.1 The reporting requirements will be confirmed with the DNPA on completion of the seasons site work and a summary report will be produced within 12 months of the date of completion of the archaeological fieldwork. Any summary report will contain the following elements as appropriate:

- location plan and overall site plans showing the positions of the excavations and the distribution of archaeological features within them;
- copies of any relevant historic maps;
- a written description of the exposed features and deposits and a discussion and interpretation of their character and significance in the context of the known history of the site;
- plans and sections at appropriate scales showing the exact location and character of significant archaeological deposits and features;
- a selection of photographs illustrating the principal features and deposits found;
- specialist assessments and reports as appropriate.

5.2 One .pdf copy of the summary report will be distributed to the DNPA on completion of sitework within the timescale above. A .pdf version will also be deposited with the site archive.

5.3 An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared with reference to *The Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991 2nd edition) upon completion of the project.

The archive will consist of two elements, the artefactual and digital - the latter comprising all born-digital (data images, survey data, digital correspondence,

site data collected digitally etc.) and digital copies of the primary site records and images.

The digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) with the permission of the landowner upon completion of the project, while the artefactual element will be deposited with either the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (ref. number *pending*) or Torbay Museum. Any artefacts not taken by the RAMM or Torbay Museum will be discarded. The hardcopy of the archive will be offered to the RAMM or Torbay Museum and if not required will be disposed of by OA.

OA will notify the DNPA upon the deposition of the digital archive with the ADS, and the deposition of any material (finds) archive with the RAMM or Torbay Museum.

- 5.4 A .pdf copy of the updated summary report will be submitted, together with the site details, to the national OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological investigationS) database within 12 months of the completion of each phase of site work.
- 5.5 Should particularly significant remains, finds and/or deposits be encountered, then these, because of their importance, are likely to merit wider publication in line with government planning guidance. If such remains are encountered, the publication requirements – including any further analysis that may be necessary – will be confirmed with the DNPA. OA, on behalf of the DNPA, will then implement publication in accordance with a timescale agreed with the DNPA. This will be within 12 months of the completion of all phases of archaeological site work unless otherwise agreed.

6. CONFLICT WITH OTHER CONDITIONS AND STATUTORILY PROTECTED SPECIES

- 6.1 If topsoil stripping or groundworks are being undertaken under the direct control and supervision of the archaeological contractor then it is the archaeological contractor's responsibility - in consultation with the applicant or agent - to ensure that the required archaeological works do not conflict with any other conditions that have been imposed upon the consent granted and should also consider any biodiversity issues as covered by the NERC Act 2006. In particular, such conflicts may arise where archaeological investigations/excavations have the potential to have an impact upon protected species and/or natural habitats e.g. SSSIs, National Nature Reserves, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites, County Wildlife Sites etc.

7. COPYRIGHT

- 7.1 OA shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive

licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in this document.

8. PROJECT ORGANISATION

- 8.1 The project will be undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced archaeologists, in accordance with the Code of Conduct and relevant standards and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (*Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, 1994, revised 2008), plus *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* 1994, revised 2008). The project will be managed by Marc Steinmetzer. Oxford Archaeology is managed by a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Health & Safety

- 8.2 All monitoring works within this scheme will be carried out in accordance with current *Safe Working Practices (The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974)*.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Specialists contributors and advisors

The expertise of the following specialists can be called upon if required:

Bone artefact analysis: Ian Riddler;
Dating techniques: University of Waikato Radiocarbon Laboratory, NZ;
Building specialist: Richard Parker;
Charcoal identification: Dana Challinor;
Diatom analysis: Nigel Cameron (UCL);
Environmental data: Hayley McParland (Historic England), Geoflow;
Faunal remains: Lorraine Higbee (Wessex);
Finds conservation: Alison Hopper-Bishop (Exeter Museums);
Human remains: Charlotte Coles;
Lithic analysis: Dr. Linda Hurcombe (Exeter University);
Medieval and post-medieval finds: John Allan;
Metallurgy: Gill Juleff (Exeter University);
Numismatics: Norman Shiel (Exeter);
Petrology/geology: Roger Taylor (RAM Museum), Imogen Morris;
Plant remains: Julie Jones (Bristol);
Prehistoric pottery: Henrietta Quinnell (Exeter);
Roman finds: Paul Bidwell & associates;
Others: Wessex Archaeology Specialist Services Team

