

Dartmoor National Park Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Widecombe-in-the-Moor, Dartmoor	National Grid Reference: SX 7226 7968	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording at Middle Natsworthy, Widecombe-in-the-Moor, Devon.		Photo attached: Y
Planning Application no: 0023/18	Recipient museum: n/a	
OASIS ID: oakforda1-327426	Museum Reference no: n/a	
Contractor's reference number/code: OA1495	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 14/05, 24/05 and 07/06/2018	
<p>Background</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology between May and June 2018 at Middle Natsworthy, Widecombe-in-the-Moor, Devon (SX 7226 7968). Middle Natsworthy (Fig. 1) is a Grade II Listed longhouse. It is likely to be a "late" example of its type as the current building appears to have been re-built in the late 17th or early 18th century. In addition, it has been suggested that the shippon maybe of 16th century origins, possibly on the site on an earlier building. The building has been subject to alterations and additions in the 19th and 20th century. It was therefore considered possible that significant remains or deposits might survive within the footprint of the proposed groundworks.</p> <p>A watching brief (Fig. 2) was maintained during works associated with the removal of existing concrete floor surfaces and external drainage works.</p> <p>Description of the works</p> <p>The removal of concrete floors and excavations extending to an average depth of c.0.3m exposed elements of an earlier surface (Fig. 2) in the hall. A further area of heavily disturbed earlier flooring survived in the cross-passage.</p> <p>Following the removal of the concrete floor in the hall 15 small granite slabs (Fig. 2), sat directly on top of the natural subsoil, were exposed immediately to the west of the fireplace at a lower level than the three surviving slabs in front of the fireplace. The latter were also sat directly on top of the natural subsoil suggesting some form of step-up into the hall prior to the modern period.</p> <p>The surface in the cross-passage consisted of small to large size worn granite rubble overlying the natural subsoil. These were no longer <i>in situ</i> but had been lifted and re-used as hardcore for the modern concrete floor. The rough nature of the surviving cobbles would suggest an agricultural use, that is probably part of an earlier arrangement when the building still functioned as a farmhouse.</p> <p>No evidence of earlier flooring survived in the outbuildings and inner room due to modern truncation associated with the insertion of concrete floors. No other features, deposits or dating evidence were uncovered following the removal of the modern concrete floors.</p> <p>Externally, the excavation of trenches for drainage and a new foul drain were monitored. These revealed a simple deposit sequence of a 0.35m thick mid to dark brown clayey silt topsoil (100) above a growan natural subsoil (101).</p> <p>Finds: by John Allan</p> <p>A small collection of archaeological material was recovered from the external works. In total 113 sherds, weighing 748g, and post-medieval in character were recovered from the topsoil (100). They</p>		

consist of 7 sherds of North Devon gravel tempered coarseware, with a date range of late 16th-early 18th century, including three bowls, 1 jar and one open dish with slip; a single sherd of North Devon gravel free ware dating to the late 18th- early 19th century; a single sherd of North Devon plain slipware, probably a paint pot with internal slip dating to the 18th-early 19th century; 4 sherds of 18th-19th century redware coarsewares; a single sherd of 19th century coarseware with iron staining, possibly a deep bowl from Sussex; 72 sherds of industrial whitewares including cream ware, Staffordshire transfer printed ware and shell edge ware; 27 sherds of 19th-early 20th century English stoneware and a single sherd of 19th century flowerpot.

In addition, 8 fragments of English green bottle glass (17th-18th century); 8 fragments of 19th century window glass and a single fragment of 19th century brick were also recovered.

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:

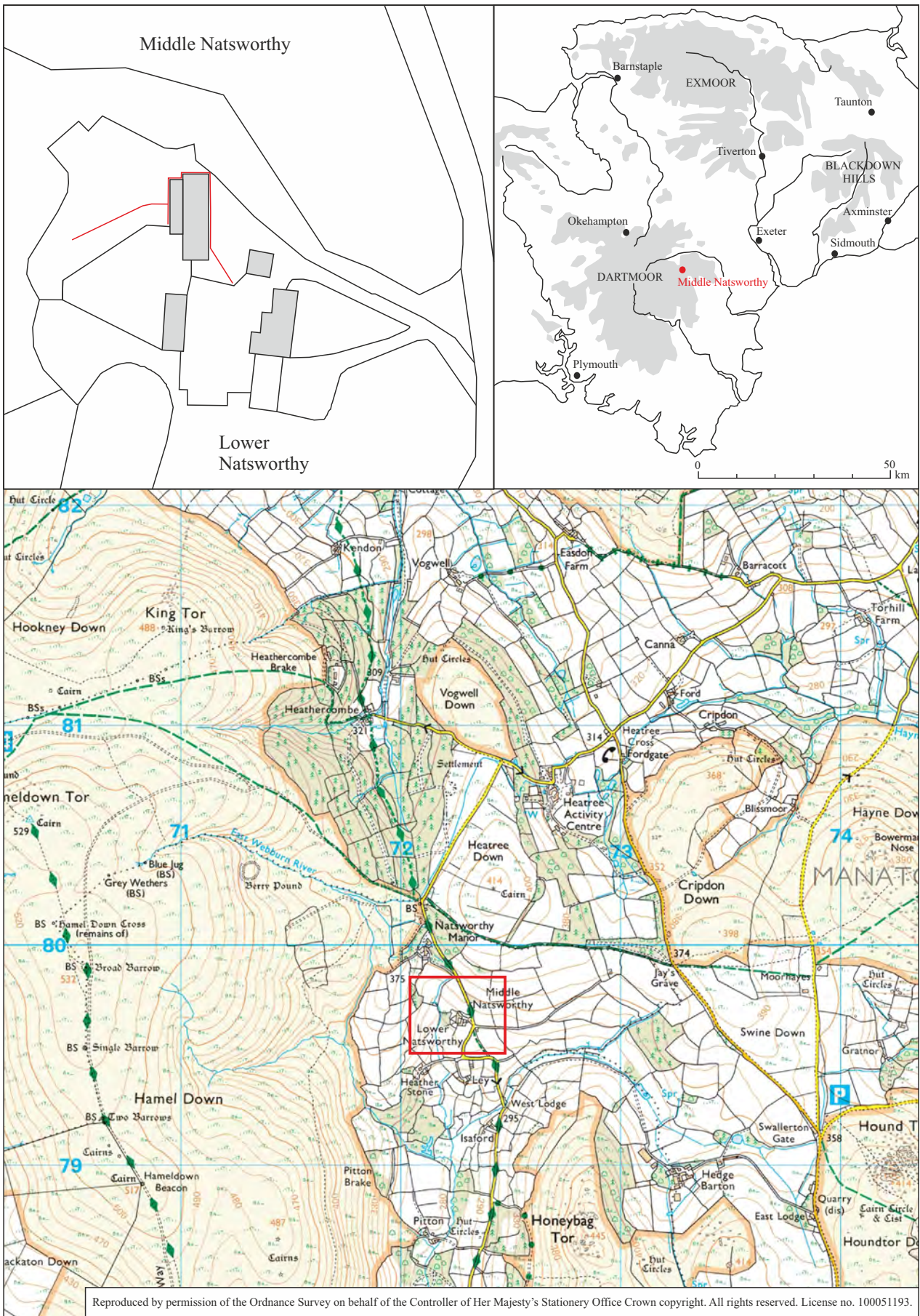


Fig. 1 Location of site.

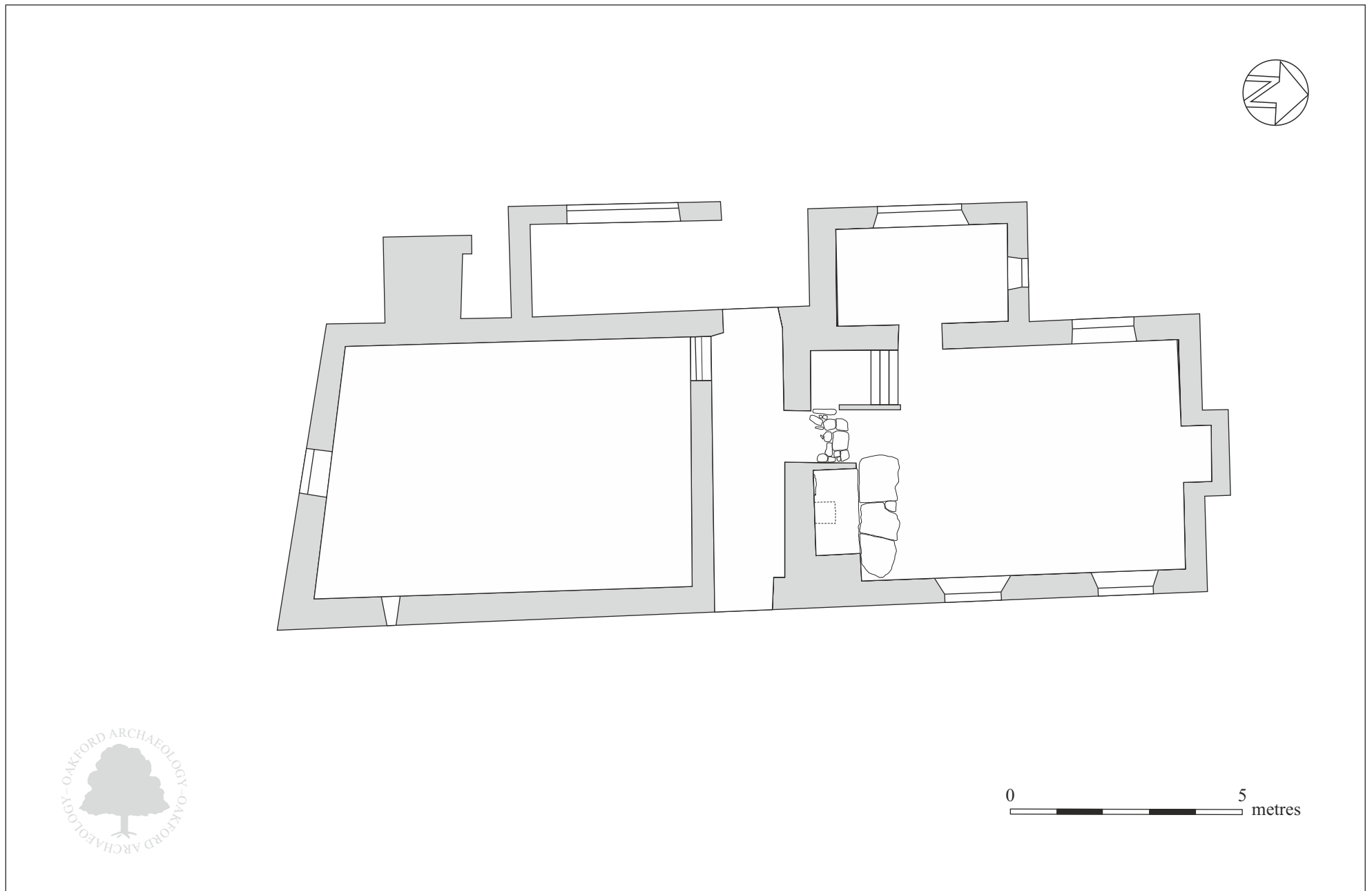


Fig. 2 Plan showing location of observations.



Pl. 1 General view of cross-passage showing disturbed granite cobbles underneath later floor surface. 1m scale. Looking east.



Pl. 2 General view of hall showing granite slabs in front of fireplace and lower surface (right) exposed during the works. 1m scale. Looking south.