Dartmoor National Park Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District:	**National Grid Reference:**	**Number:**
Horrabridge, West Devon	SX 5148 6962	

Subject:	**Photo attached:**
Archaeological monitoring and recording at Tinners Mill, Horrabridge, Devon.	Y

Planning Application no:	**Recipient museum:**
0593/19	n/a
OASIS ID:	**Museum Accession no:**
oakforda1-384513	n/a
Contractor's reference number/code:	**Dates fieldwork undertaken:**
OA1663	10-11/08/2020

Description of works:
An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology for Corey Ridgers in August 2020 on works associated with the construction of a new extension at Tinners Mill, Horrabridge, Devon (SX 5148 6962). The work was required by the Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA).

The site (Fig. 1) lies on or near the site of one or more tin processing mills dating to the 16th century, including a 'knocking mill, a facility for crushing ore. Although the current building dates to the late 20th century, two buildings are shown on the c.1840 Walkhampton Tithe map. These structures are recorded as incorporating four mortar stones, associated with knocking mills, in their walls. Their demolition yielded a further 35 whole and partial mortar stones, an axel mount, an inscribed stone, several broken mill stones including a 'crazing' stone, associated with an alternative method of crushing ore and a fragment from a mouldstone. The latter perhaps indicating the presence of a 'blowing house', a facility housing a furnace for smelting tin, on the or near the site.

Results:
A watching brief was maintained during the excavation of the foundations for the extension, measuring approximately 53.6m long, 0.75m wide and up to 1.5m deep.

The groundworks (Fig. 2, Pl. 1) exposed shillet (100) at a depth of 1.2m. The bedrock was overlain by two layers of natural subsoil consisting of a 0.2-0.8m thick layer of mid orange brown sandy silt (101) with rare to frequent shillet fragments, which was in turn overlain by a 0.2m thick mid orange brown sandy silt (102) with frequent shillet and small granite rubble inclusions. Above this deposit the natural soil sequence, consisting of sub- and topsoil, had been stripped and a 0.55m thick layer of mid brown silty loam (103) with frequent inclusions of small to medium size sub-rounded to sub-angular granite rubble deposited across the site. No finds were recovered from this deposit and it has been interpreted as waste stone associated with historic mining activity in the area. This was in turn overlain by a 0.05-0.15m thick layer mid reddish-brown silty clay (104) with rare shillet inclusions. No finds were recovered from this deposit and it has been interpreted as a historic made ground deposit associated with post-mining landscaping of the area. Finally, this deposit was extensively truncated and then sealed by successive areas of level hardstanding and a patio (105) associated with the current house.

Project archive and 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: M Steinmetzer (Oakford Archaeology)	**Date sent to HER:**

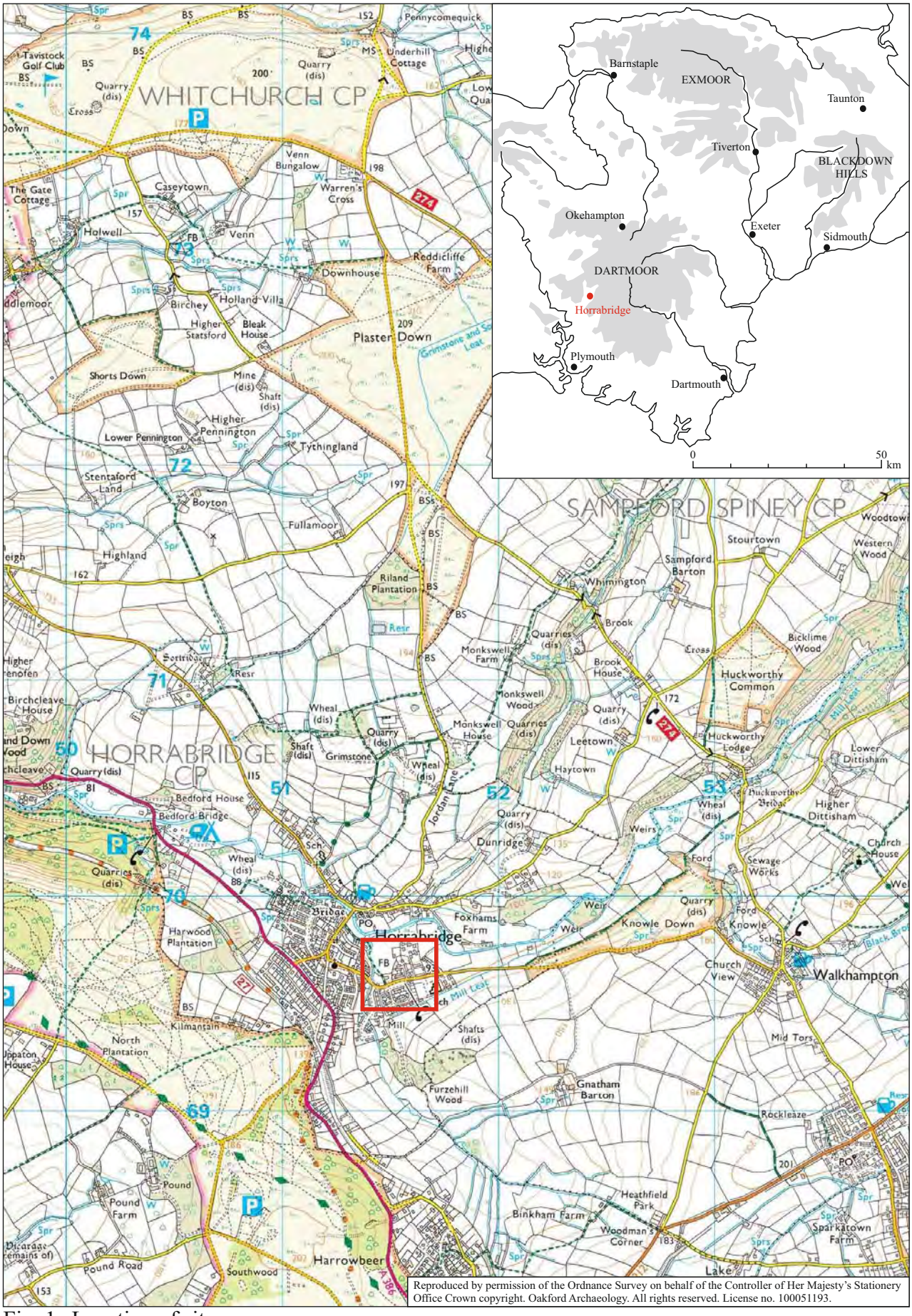
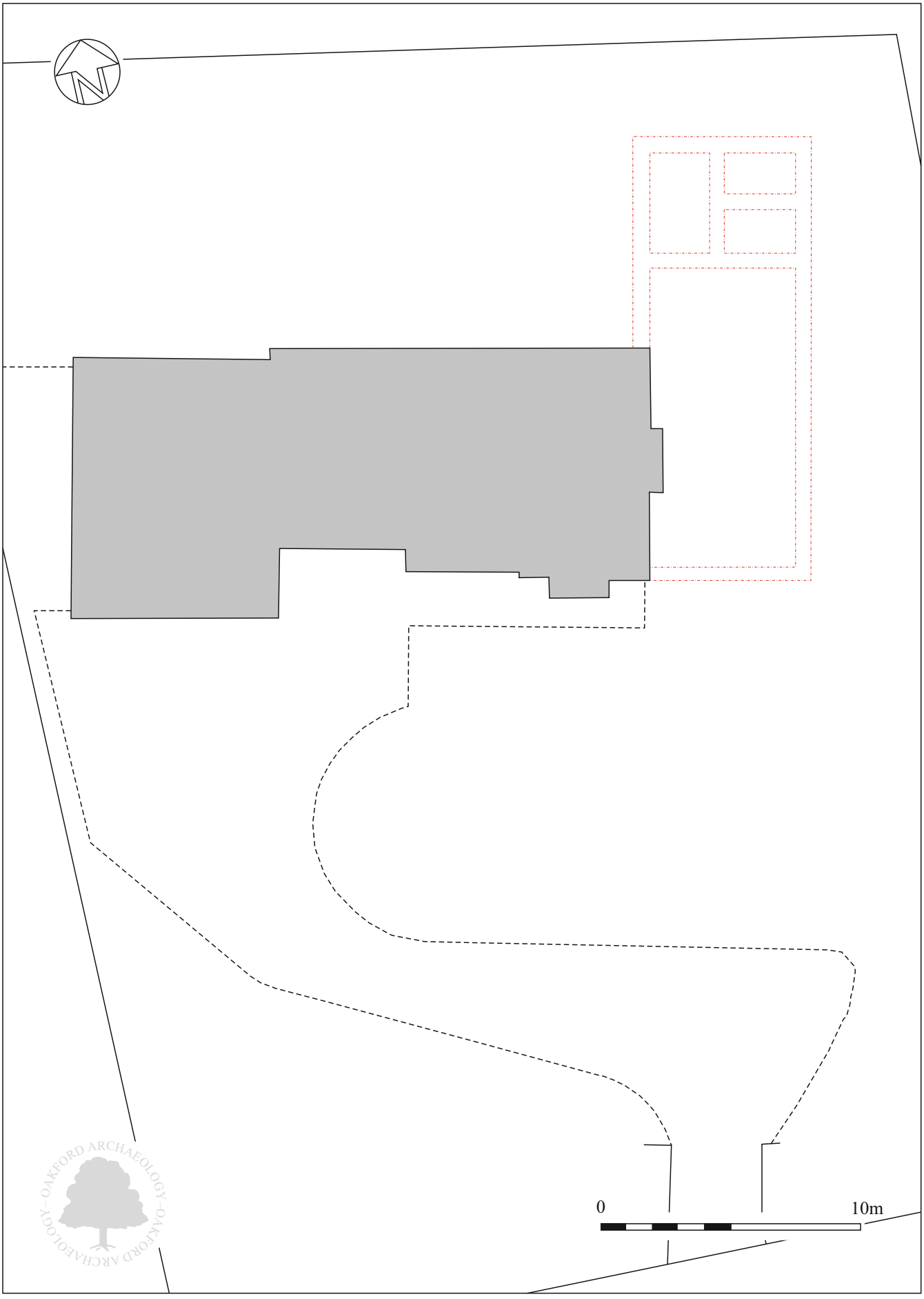


Fig. 1 Location of site.


0
10m

Pl. 1 General view of the foundations showing the possible mining waste stone. Looking north.

Pl. 2 General view of the foundations showing the possible mining waste stone. Looking south.

Pl. 3 Close-up of the deposit sequence. Looking east.