

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Ideford, Teignbridge	National Grid Reference: SX 8852 7668	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording on Ideford Mill bridge, Ideford, Devon.		Photo attached: Y
Planning Application no: 20/00594/LBC	Recipient museum: n/a	
OASIS ID: oakforda1-397473	Museum Reference no: n/a	
Contractor's reference number/code: OA1693	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 22/07/2020	
<p>Background</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology for Devon County Council in July 2020 on remedial works to Ideford Mill Bridge, Ideford, Devon (SX 8852 7668). The work was required by Teignbridge District Council (TDC), as advised by the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET), due to extensive damage to the western wing wall during winter flooding (pl. 1).</p> <p>The site (Fig. 1) lies in an area of archaeological potential around the Grade II Listed bridge (1165102). Built of stone rubble with two rounded arches and rough granite capping stones to the parapets, the bridge is likely 19th century in date.</p> <p>Description of the works</p> <p>A watching brief was maintained during excavations associated with the rebuilding of the wingwall and the installation of a new concrete apron (Fig. 2, pls. 2-3). The works entailed the excavation of an area approximately 4m long, 2m wide and to a maximum depth of 3.5m.</p> <p>The works revealed shale natural subsoil (100) at a depth of 2m below current ground level. This was cut at the eastern end by a former palaeochannel [101]. Approximately 2.32m wide and 1.12m deep this contained two fills. The basal fill (102) consisted of 0.66m thick light blue grey gleyed clay with frequent shale inclusions, while the 0.48m thick upper fill (103) consisted of light to mid blue grey gleyed clay with rare shale inclusions. The former channel was sealed underneath a 1.2m thick mid reddish brown silty clay (104) colluvial subsoil. This was in turn truncated by the construction cut [105] of the current the former western splay (106). To the south of that line the subsoil was overlain by a light yellow sandy silt with frequent shale and rare small limestone fragments (107) and interpreted as the former road surface or sub-base. This was in turn overlain at the eastern end by mid red sandy silt with frequent shale fragments (111) and both were sealed underneath a dark brown sandy silt loam with frequent shale fragments (112). The former is interpreted as a localised repair while the latter is the current bridleway surface.</p> <p>To the north of the bridge wall (106) the subsoil was overlain by a 0.13m thick red silty clay deposit (108), interpreted as upcast from the excavation of the bridge wall. This was overlain by a 0.65m thick mid reddish brown silty clay with frequent shillet (109) and interpreted as landscaping of the river side. This was in turn sealed underneath a mid to dark brown clayey silt loam topsoil (110). This deposit overlies the former bridge wall, suggesting that the creation of the current hedgebank and realignment of the bridleway were undertaken in reply to the continued erosion of the riverbank. Documentary research suggests that this work was undertaken sometime between the 1839 Ideford Parish Tithe Map and the 1888 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map.</p> <p>OASIS entry</p> <p>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).</p>		

Recorder: M. Steinmetzer (Oakford Archaeology)	Date sent to HER:

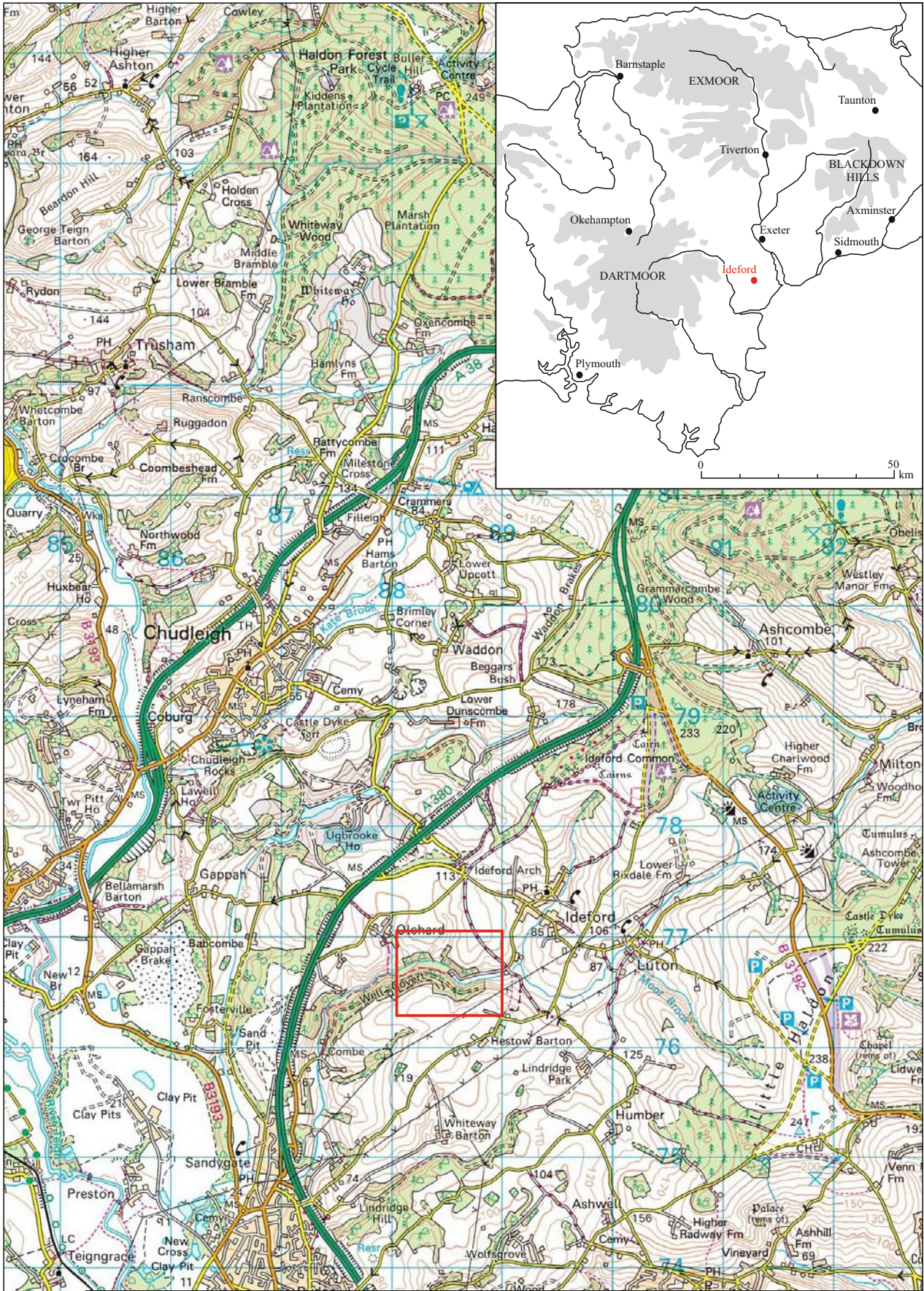


Fig. 1 Location of site.

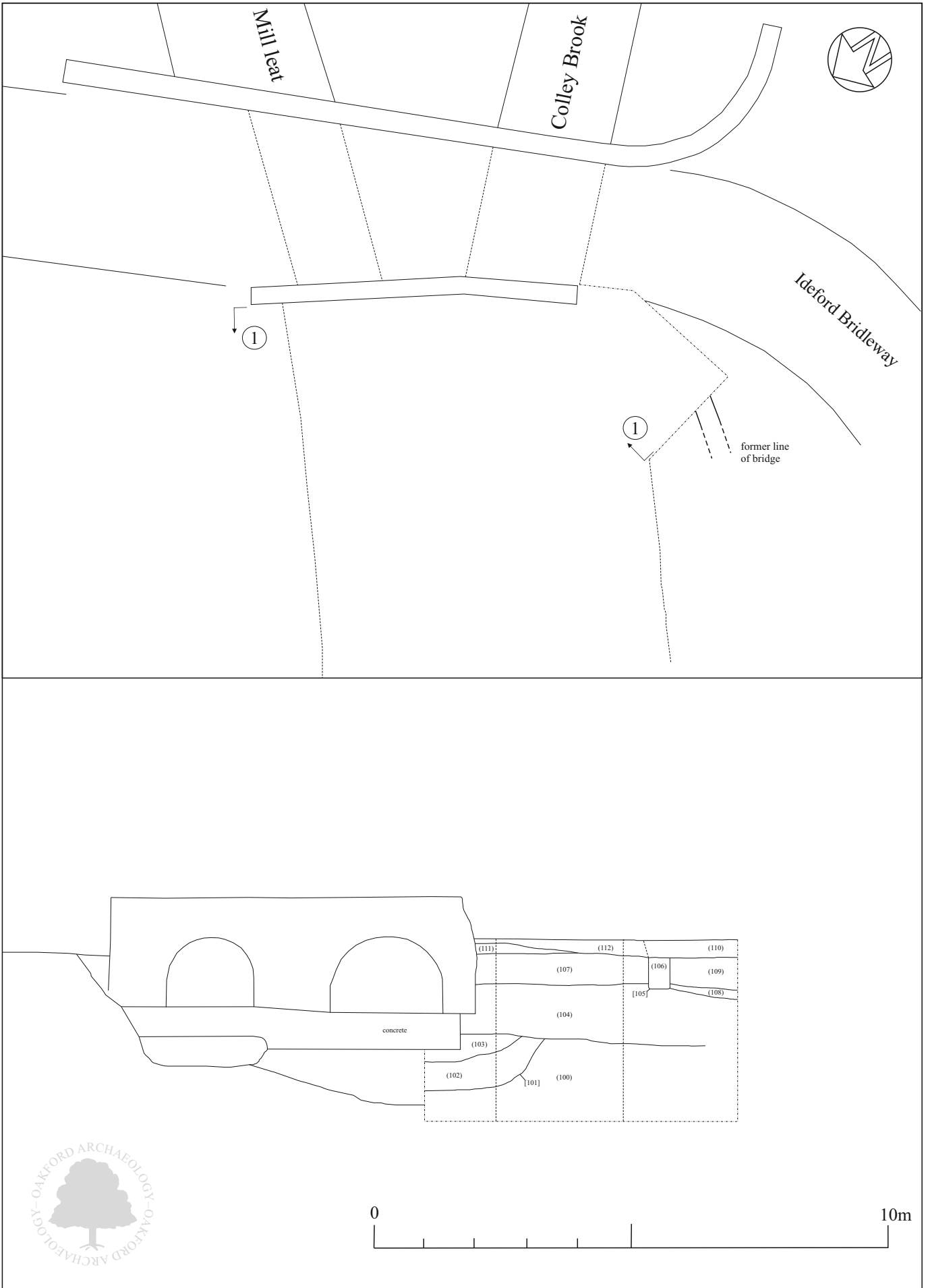


Fig. 2 Plan and section showing location of observations.



Pl. 1 General view of damaged west wing wall. Looking south.



Pl. 2 General view of excavations showing former palaeochannel [101] and road make-up (107) above colluvial subsoil (104). 2m scale. Looking south.



Pl. 3 General view showing line of former bridge abutment (106) and road surface (107). 2m scale. Looking west.