

Dorset County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Wareham, Purbeck	National Grid Reference: SY 9260 8765	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording at Dairy Cottage, Wareham, Dorset.		Photo attached: Y
Scheduled Monument consent: 239509	Recipient museum: n/a	
OASIS ID: oakforda1-399283	Museum Accession no: n/a	
Contractor's reference number/code: OA1688	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 08/09/2020	
<p>Description of works: A watching brief was maintained by Oakford Archaeology during groundworks associated with gas main replacement at Dairy Cottage, Wareham, Dorset (SY 9260 8765). The proposed works are located along the eastern line of the Saxon defensive circuit which surrounds the town (SM 1003574) and it was therefore considered possible that significant remains or deposits of Saxon or later date might survive within the proposed works area and may be exposed during groundworks.</p> <p>Results: Three trenches were excavated to install a new connection from the gas main (Fig. 2, pls. 1-4). All of the works exposed ground heavily disturbed by modern services to an average depth of between 0.3-1.2m below current ground level.</p> <p>Trench 1 was 5.5m long, 0.45m wide and excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m. Located above the line of the inner ditch the works exposed a succession of four modern services covering the full length of the trench. Natural subsoil, consisting of light yellow sand with frequent gravel inclusions (100), was exposed at the northern end of the trench. The nearly vertical cut visible at this point (Pl. 2) is likely the result of modern activity as the town ditch was open for three hundred years and exposure to the elements would likely have resulted in the erosion of the upper edge and a more gradual break of slope. The remainder of the trench exposed a homogeneous mid orange brown clayey sand deposit (101) truncated by modern service runs and sealed underneath a 0.07m thick mid to dark brown clayey silt topsoil (101). The former is likely to represent the final infill and levelling of the ditch, the finds recovered from this deposit consisting of 13 sherds of 19th and early 20th century industrial whitewares, 2 sherds of flowerpot, 6 sherds of late 19th and mid-20th century bottle glass including fragments from three pharmaceutical bottles and one clear glass bottle, and one sherd of brown bottle glass.</p> <p>To the northeast Trench 2 exposed a simple sequence of light yellow sand with frequent gravel inclusions natural subsoil sealed beneath a 0.3m thick mid to dark brown clayey silt topsoil, while Trench 3 exposed a dark brown clayey silt to a depth of 0.3m. This was sealed beneath a 0.02m thick mid orange concrete bedding layer and 0.05m thick concrete slabs.</p> <p>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).</p>		
Recorder: MFR Steinmetzer (Oakford Archaeology)		Date sent to HER:



Fig. 1 Location of site.

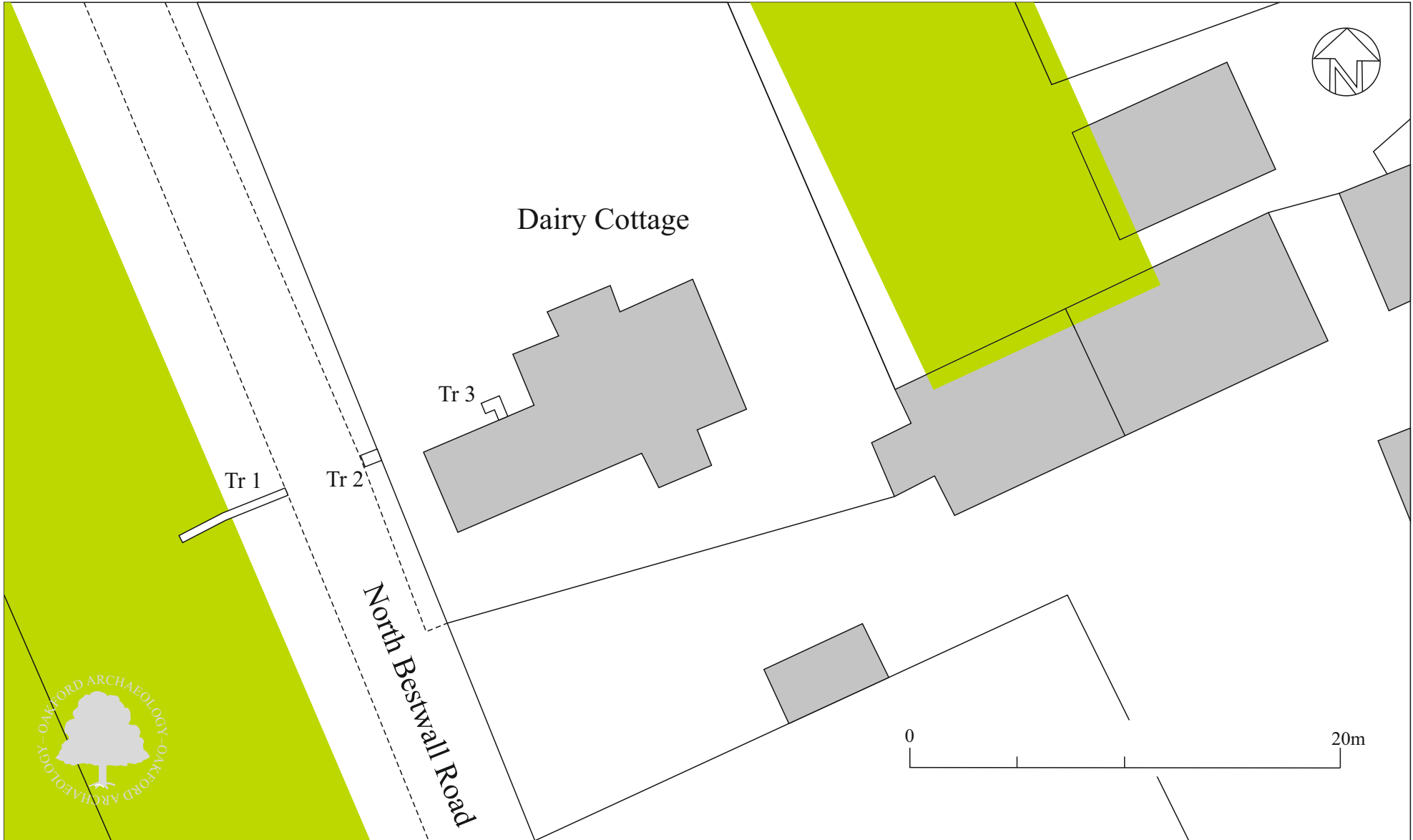


Fig. 2 Plan showing extent of scheduled area (green) and location of observations (red).



Pl.1 General view of Trenches 1-2. Looking northeast.



Pl. 2 General view of north end Trench 1 showing disturbed deposit sequence with the cut visible underneath the electric service possibly the result of a deeper service trench rather than representing the outer face of the inner town ditch. 1m scale. Looking southeast.



Pl. 3 General view of Trench 2 showing deposit sequence of topsoil above natural subsoil. 0.5m scale. Looking north.



Pl. 4 General view of Trench 3 showing modern disturbance. 0.5m scale. Looking southeast.