

INTERIM REPORT OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING AT, THE OLD VICARAGE, SHEEPSTOR , DEVON.

Location: The Old Vicarage
Parish: Sheepstor
District: West Devon
County: Devon
NGR: SX 55981 67637
Proposal: Construction of kitchen extension
App No. 0521/12

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This interim report details a watching brief at, The Old Vicarage, Sheepstor , Devon (Fig 1) carried out by Dr Martin Tingle of Peninsula Archaeology at the request of Mr Trevor Rookes (the Client), in respect of groundworks associated with the construction of a kitchen extension. This forms part of work specified as a pre-condition for planning consent from the Dartmoor National Park Authority (hereafter DNP).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The current fabric of the church at Sheepstor (St Leonard's) is thought to date from the mid fifteenth century although it was restored in 1862. The Old Vicarage is identified by Pevsner (1989, 725) as the Church House "with a date of 1658 but obviously older". Its gift by John Elford is recorded as taking place in 1570, although the date stone may indicate a substantial seventeenth century re-modelling. There have also been some twentieth century additions to the structure.
- 2.2 The proposed kitchen extension will effect an area of approximately 16 square metres at the rear of the existing building. It is possible that this may reveal evidence of structural remains relating other early buildings at the site and/or wells or rubbish pits associated with the 16th century or later occupation of the site. There is even the possibility that the site could include human burials if the current boundary of the churchyard has moved, but this seems unlikely given the difference of ground level between the two areas.

3.0 THE WATCHING BRIEF

- 3.1 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for Field an Archaeological Watching Brief 1994 (revised 2001 & 2008)*. Observations of the site took place on Monday 22nd April 2013 during which time a an area of approximately 16 square metres was stripped down to the subsoil (Fig 2).

4.0 THE RESULTS

- 4.1 Machine stripping revealed a friable dark grey brown garden soil (10YR 3/3) that varied in depth between 65 and 80cms. Underlying this was the natural subsoil, a loose yellow brown silty gravel (10YR 8/4) which probably represents undifferentiated river terrace deposits <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>. No archaeological features were observed during any of the machine stripping. The only finds observed in the topsoil were post-medieval

sherds dating from the nineteenth and twentieth century. These included the lid of a toothpaste jar (Fig 3) from the chemists W Woods of Plymouth who were active between 1893 and 1930 and whose products have an extensive international distribution.

<http://collectionsonline.nmsi.ac.uk/detail.php?type=related&kv=71806&t=people>

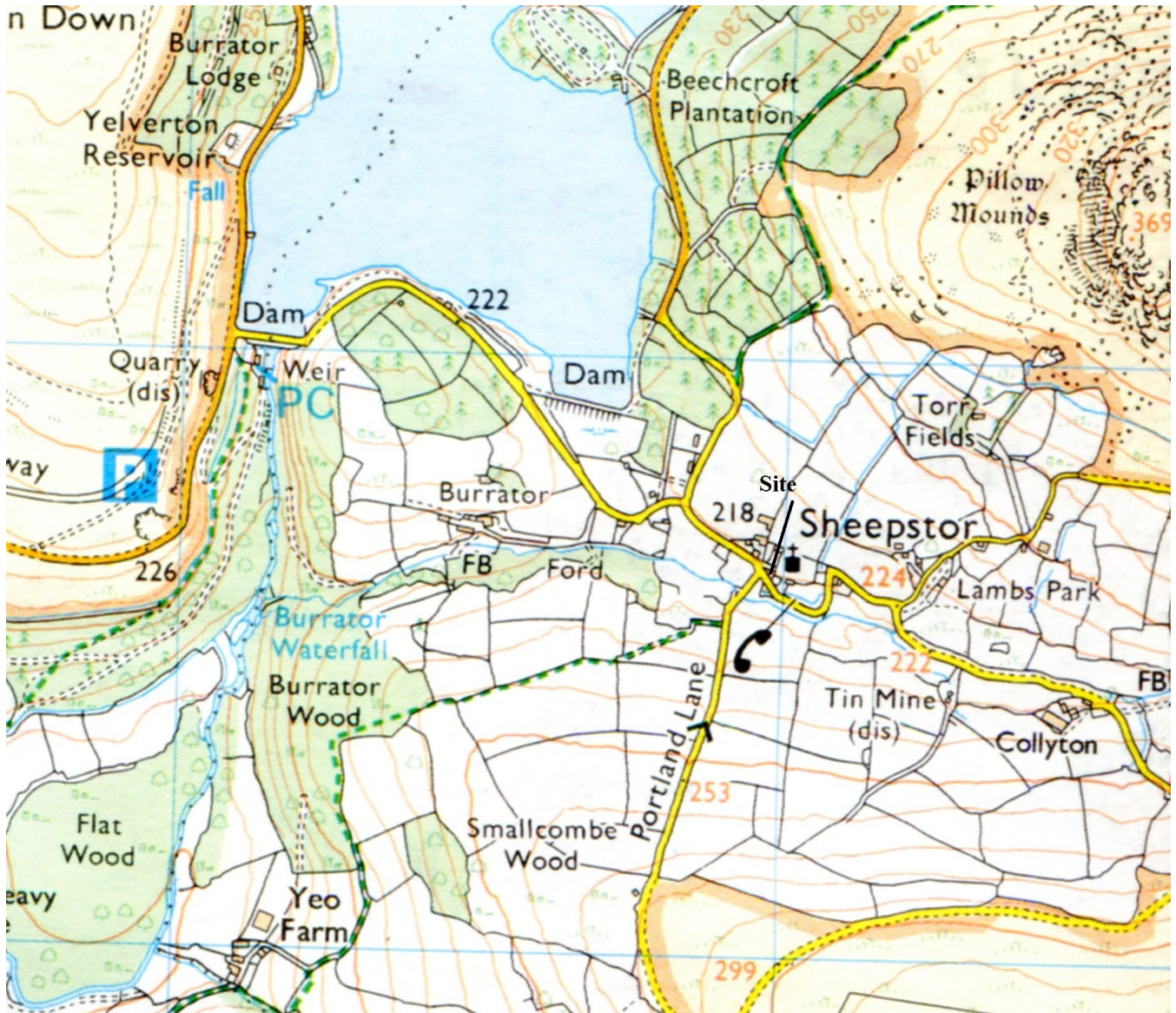
5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 On the basis of the watching brief it appears that there is no evidence for archaeological features at the site. Finds from the topsoil all appear to date from the recent past

6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

<http://collectionsonline.nmsi.ac.uk/detail.php?type=related&kv=71806&t=people>

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>.



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Fig 1 Site Location

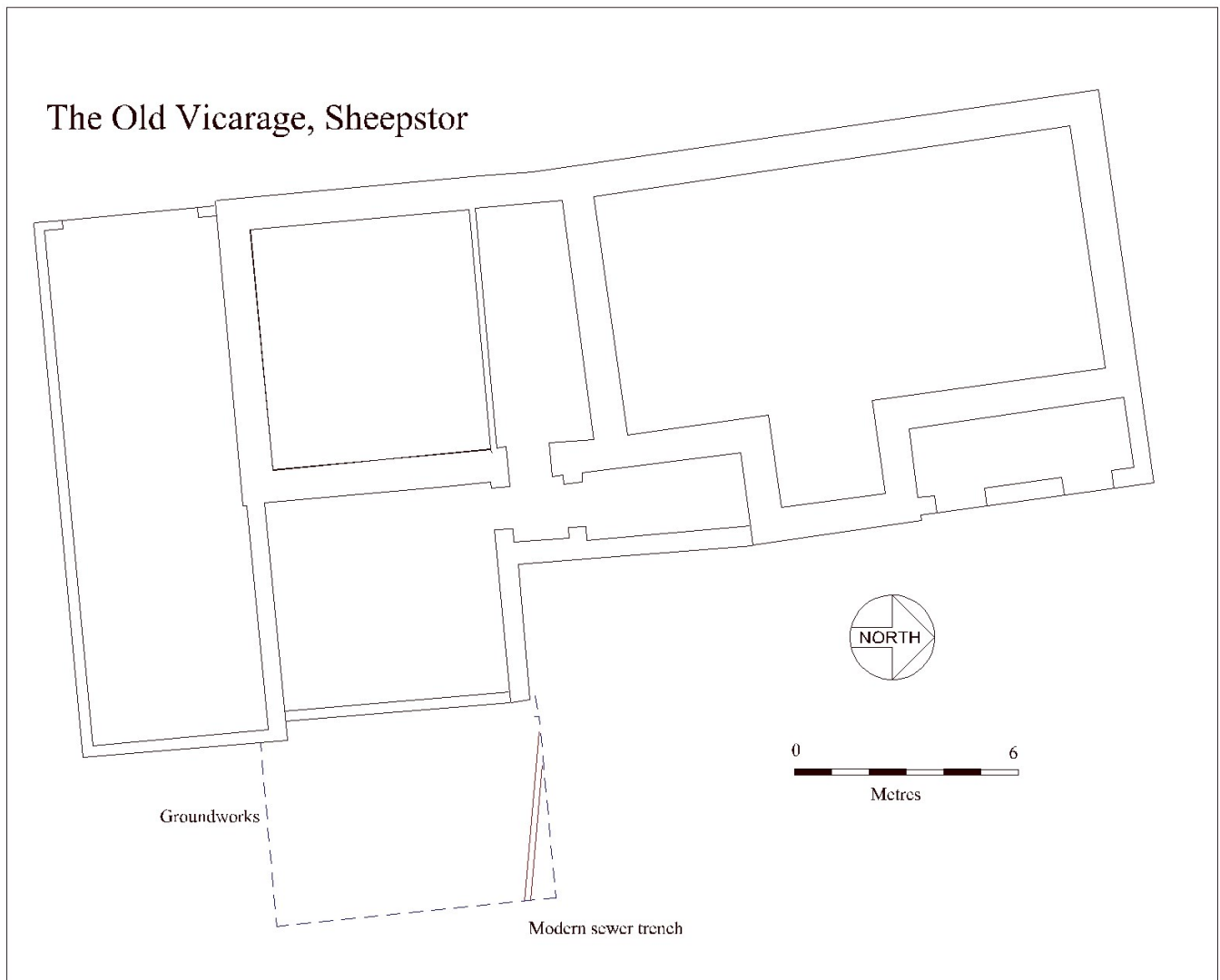


Fig 2 Location plan of groundworks



Fig 3 Toothpaste jar lid by W Woods of Plymouth