

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Bigbury	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SX 6533 4421	<b>Number:</b> (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
<b>Subject:</b> Historic feature exposed and eroding from beach cliff at Bigbury on Sea		<b>Photo attached:</b> No
<b>Planning Application no:</b> N/A	<b>Recipient museum:</b> National Trust	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> exeterar1-66303	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> EA 5709	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 21-10-09	
<p><b>Background</b> Archaeological inspection and recording was carried out on exposed masonry, visible in the beach back cliff flanking the access track to the beach at Sedgewell Cove, Bigbury on Sea. The feature was reported to Devon County Council's Historic Environment Service (DCC HES) by Mr. Garry Telloke and the work carried out to a brief supplied by DCC HES.</p> <p><b>Results (Fig. 1)</b> The feature was a dry stone wall (105), exposed as an oblique west facing section at approximately 2.6m from the cliff base. It was aligned approximately NE-SW, parallel to the beach access track, measured 600mm wide (across its true section) and survived to a height of 680mm. Face work had been exposed on its northwest side up to a length 600mm. It consisted of angular shale blocks of varying sizes, in a randomly coursed pattern. The masonry was positioned above a sequence of deposits exposed in the cliff face comprising natural shale bedrock below two layers of increasingly weathered and fragmented natural shale, overlain by <i>c.</i> 600mm of colluvial soil (103), sealed by up to 160mm of probable wind blown sand (104). No construction cut was visible for the wall which sat directly on sand layer 104. A further deposit of wind blown sand (106) surrounded but did not cover the wall.</p> <p><b>Discussion (Fig. 2)</b> The feature is a dry stone wall of probable post medieval date, visible on the Tithe map as a boundary wall flanking the beach access track. Its construction is consistent with other dry stone boundary walls in the near vicinity, in particular the wall extending along the northern side of Marine Drive which, although having been partially rebuilt, appears to preserve the line of a boundary shown on the Tithe map.</p>		
<b>Recorders:</b> A. Farnell		<b>Date sent to HER:</b>

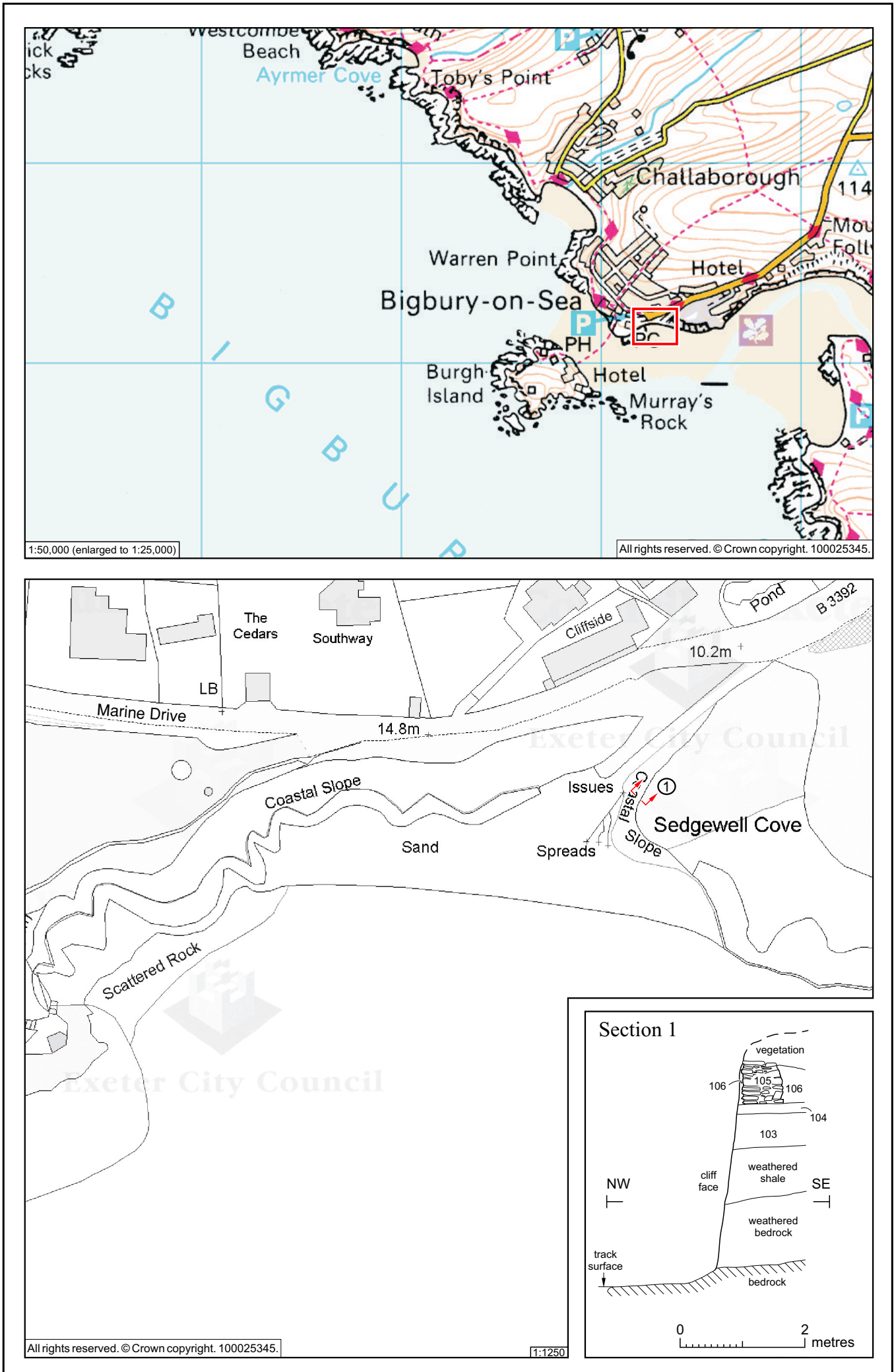


Fig. 1 Site location & section exposed by erosion of beach back cliff.





Fig. 2 Extract from the Bigbury-on-Sea tithe map of 1843. Scale 1:2500.