

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Bigbury, South Hams	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SX6635247180	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Former Old Chapel Inn, St Ann's Chapel, Bigbury, TQ7 4HQ Erection of a three terraced dwellings and a single detached dwelling removal of modern extensions to public house.		<b>Photo attached?</b> YES
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 05/0227/11/F	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> southwes1-113647	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> AR.2011.916	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> BSA11	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 23 <sup>rd</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> November 2011	
<p><b>Description of works</b></p> <p>Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Steve Bain of Kay Eliot (the Agent) on behalf of St Ann's Chapel Cottages Ltd (the Client), at the site of the former Old Chapel Inn, St Ann's Chapel, Bigbury, ahead of the construction of a terrace of three houses and detached dwelling (Figure 1). The archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by Dr S. Walls in November 2011 in accordance with a WSI drawn up in reference to a brief issued by Graham Tait of Devon County Historic Environment Service (DCHES 25.10.2011).</p> <p>The development site is within the plot of an Inn of early 19<sup>th</sup> century date. The pub building incorporates the remains of a regionally important 15<sup>th</sup> century chapel and a house of 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century date. The Ordnance Survey map of 1886 indicates that part of the service range (demolished as part of the development) was formerly a smithy. Part of the area of the proposed development underwent an archaeological evaluation by Context One Archaeological Services Ltd in March 2011 (Fairclough 2011). This showed that the area covered by the trench evaluation appeared to be largely truncated during the construction of the existing car park. However, there is a chance that archaeological deposits may have still been present in areas of proposed groundworks that had not been evaluated (particularly near the buildings to the south of the site).</p> <p><b>Area Strip</b></p> <p>An area measuring approximately 30x70m was stripped of concrete, gravel, tarmac and all outbuildings prior to the commencement of archaeological monitoring. This revealed that there was almost no topsoil on the site particularly over the southern and northern ends of the development area. The limited topsoil had been mostly removed during the initial strip and so the site was simply cleaned under archaeological supervision by a tracked mechanical excavator using a 1.4m wide toothless grading bucket (see Figure 3). The topsoil comprised of two layers; an upper dark grey-brown silt-clay (100) with occasional sub-angular (shale) stones (40-80mm) and a lower yellowish-brown clay (101) containing common shale fragments. The topsoil extended to a depth of 0.05-0.32m and overlay the natural subsoil; a compact grey-yellow clay with frequent shale fragments.</p> <p>No archaeological features were identified in the stripped area when cleaned (see Figure 1). The only features of note were recorded in the area to the south and were all of recent origin, primarily directly related to the former out-buildings and including wall trenches and post-holes.</p> <p>As part of the proposed development portions of the hedgebanks to the west, east and south of the site were removed by machine. These sections were subsequently cleaned by hand and recorded (see Figure 2).</p> <p><b>Section 1: The south-facing section of the eastern hedge</b></p> <p>The upper deposit of loose clean dark-brown silt-clay topsoil which formed the majority of this bank (0.54m thick) was of fairly recent origin, as it overlay the gravel surface of the pub car-park. This modern topsoil deposit also overlay {114}, a surviving remnant of a dressed stone face on the eastern (road) side of the hedge bank. It appears that this stone facing {114} had been partially truncated from the northern portion of the hedge prior to this development, although it is clearly extant in the same bank to the south of the former entrance. The stone dressing was constructed of mostly vertically laid slates with a grey clay-silt earthen bond. The core of the bank itself was constructed from a compact dark brown clay-silt (112) containing occasional sub-angular stones and rare sub-rounded pebbles (&gt;50mm), which overlay a gritty grey-yellow silty-clay with common sub-angular to sub-rounded shale fragments (&gt;30mm). The bank appeared to provide clear indication as to the degree of truncation over this northern part of the site, as the lowest deposit in the sequence exposed in section was natural. The natural had been cut [121] into to the east by the road (B3392) and then to the west [122], presumably when the car park was initially constructed.</p> <p><b>Section 2: The east-facing section of the southern hedge</b></p>		

The upper deposit of material comprising this bank (104) was a slightly mottled dark grey-brown clay-silt with common roots and slate fragments (>65mm). A deposit of mixed grey-yellow clay-silt with frequent shale fragments (>50mm) abutted the northern face of (104), which is likely to represent a modern deposition of natural sub-soil in the corner of the field to the west of the development site (the reservoir). Deposit (104) overlay a yellow-tan silt-clay (106) with frequent shale inclusions (>50mm) and rare charcoal fragments. Deposit (104) abutted the dressed stone northern face of a yellow-tan silt-clay (109) which had been added to raise the level of the bank. Deposit (109) had fewer shale fragments than (106) but was otherwise very similar, and it therefore appears likely that (106) was derived from the erosion of (109). This theory is supported by the presence of a gently curving profiled ditch [123]/[124], which was probably excavated to obtain the material (109) for raising the bank. Ditch [123]/[124] was not visible in plan within the development area, which may suggest that it might not have continued further east, or that its depth did not exceed much more than seen in Section 2. Ditch [123]/[124] is filled by (107) a loose grey-brown clay-silt containing common sub-angular to sub-rounded stones and frequent roots; almost certainly a natural silting-up of this shallow feature.

Ditch [123]/[124] cut through the lower topsoil deposit (101) to the north and to the south cut through a deposit of clean grey-brown silt-clay (108), which abuts the original core of the hedge bank deposits (110) and {111}. Deposit (108) was probably derived from the erosion of the earlier hedge {111}, however it also postdated the accumulation of the lower topsoil (101), which itself appears to have abutted the earlier hedge {111}. The earlier hedge was constructed from two deposits; a mottled grey-tan gritty silt-clay (110) containing common slate and charcoal fragments, and a lower soft clean yellow-tan clay-silt with occasional sub-angular shale fragments (>60mm) and with stone facing to both the north and south. The south side (facing the road) of {111} was generally of larger and perhaps roughly dressed sub-angular stones (0.3mx0.15m), while the northern face was comprised of more irregularly shaped and sized stones, although these were still neatly laid.

### **Section 3: The south-facing section of the western hedge**

The upper dark-brown silt-clay deposit of this bank (115) contained common roots and slate fragments (a few up to 200mm). During the removal of this material the digger driver noted the presence of an ironing board, and other 'modern rubbish' (B.Jones *Pers. Comm*). It is likely that (115) was deposited during the stripping of the site, ahead of the construction of the car-park. Below (115) was the core of the former bank, a clean gingery-yellow clay-silt (118) with occasional roots and sub-angular stone (>60mm) inclusions, this deposit (118) was primarily comprised of re-deposited natural. To the east of this bank was the cut of a steep curving profiled ditch [116], from which (118) was presumably excavated to obtain the material used to construct the bank. The ditch [116] had subsequently slowly silted up with a soft friable grey-brown silt-clay (117) containing common sub-angular stone (including slate and quartz) inclusions (>60mm) and occasional charcoal flecks. Ditch [116] was cut into a compact slightly banded yellow-grey clay-silt (119) with occasional small (>30mm) sub-angular to sub-rounded stone inclusions, rare lime and charcoal flecks. This thick slightly banded layer of material (119) appears to have filled a cut [120] which cut the topsoil deposits in the field to the west. This clearly indicates that the majority of the site (i.e. the area to the north of the former smithy) had been previously stripped and that the western hedge was constructed after this date (presumably in the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries). The site was then stripped again for the construction of the car park.

### **Finds**

The stratified finds from the site include from Section 1; 1x 18<sup>th</sup> century clay pipe stem (3g) from (103); 1x sherd (3g) 18<sup>th</sup> century Mocha ware from (112). The finds from Section 2 were; 1x sherd (6g) 19<sup>th</sup> century WRE, 2 fragments of burnt slate (42g), 2x fragments post-medieval roof furniture (ridge tile) [South Devon type] 89g from (109); and from (107); 5x sherds (77g) 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century pottery [x3 WRE; x2 Jackfield type ware], 1x cockle shell (5g) and a single shard of 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century vessel glass (10g). The finds from Section 3 were; 1x slag fragment (168g) and 1x abraded sherd of 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century South Devon type (7g) from (117); and 1x limpet shell (<1g), 1x clay pipe stem (<1g), and a single shard of 19<sup>th</sup> century vessel glass (116g) from (118).

The finds recovered from the topsoil (100) on the site include 3x shards vessel glass (72g) 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century; 1x slag fragment (9g) 1x small smooth flat pebble (10g); 1x ceramic public house bar furniture [Whisky, Innes & Grieve Ltd. Edinburgh & London Est.1794]; 22x sherds (437g) pottery [14x WRE; 3x 19<sup>th</sup> century English stoneware; 1x 19<sup>th</sup> century English porcelain; 1x 19<sup>th</sup> century earthenware; 1x South Devon white ware; 1x 18<sup>th</sup> century Mottled ware (tankard); 1x German (probably Frechen) stoneware]. A single large slag fragment (959g), probably a Smithing hearth bottom was recovered from the lower deposit of topsoil (101).

### **Bibliography**

**P. Fairclough**, 2011: *Former Inn, St Ann's Chapel, Bigbury, Devon: Archaeological Field Evaluation*. Oasis ID: context01-96118.

**A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.**

**Recorder:** S. Walls

**Date sent to HER:** 24.1.2012

Please email completed form to: [archaeol@devon.gov.uk](mailto:archaeol@devon.gov.uk) or post to County Archaeology Service, Environment Directorate, Matford Lane Offices, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QW. Information recorded on this form will be added to the Historic Environment Record, and made available to all researchers.

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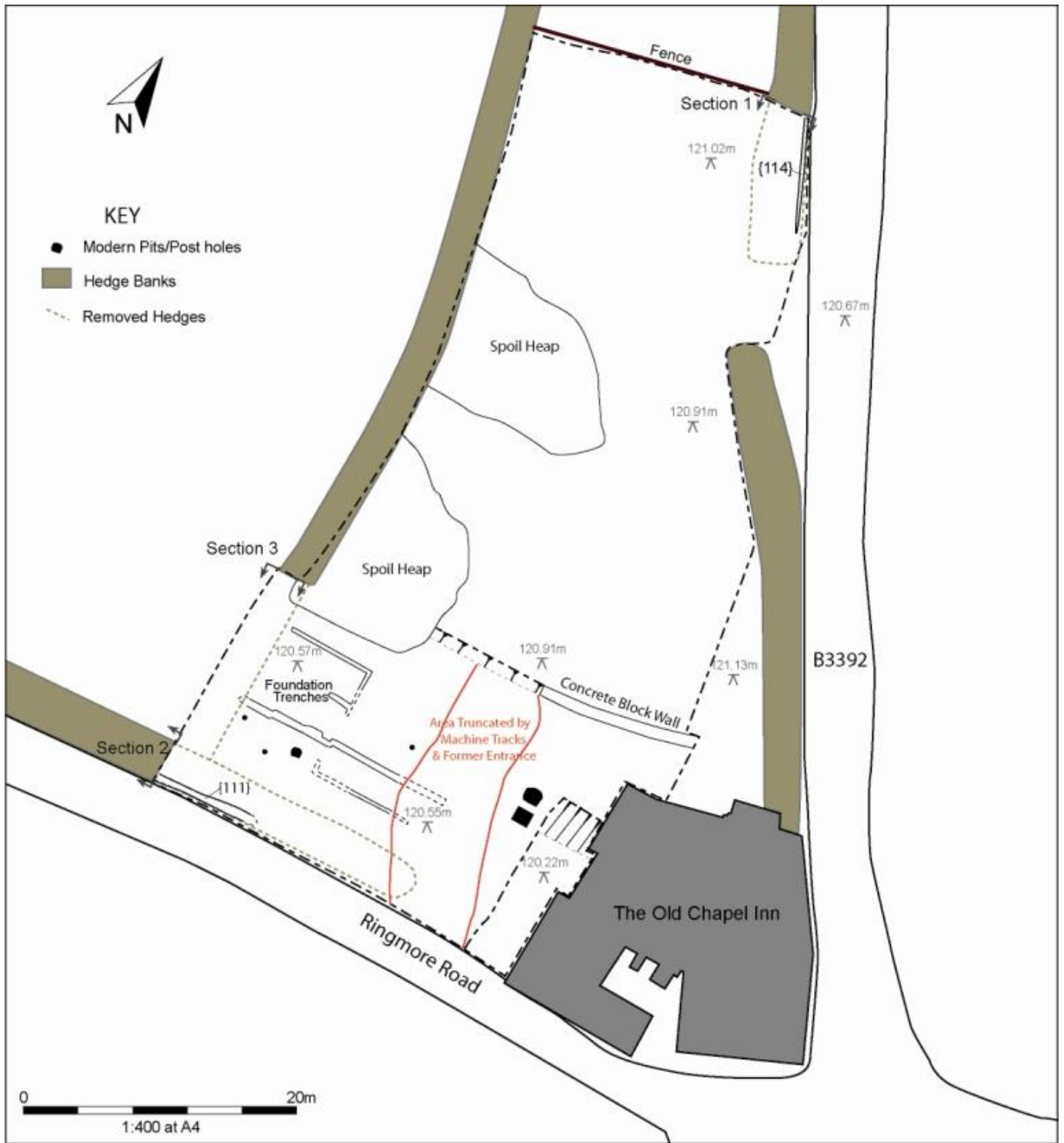
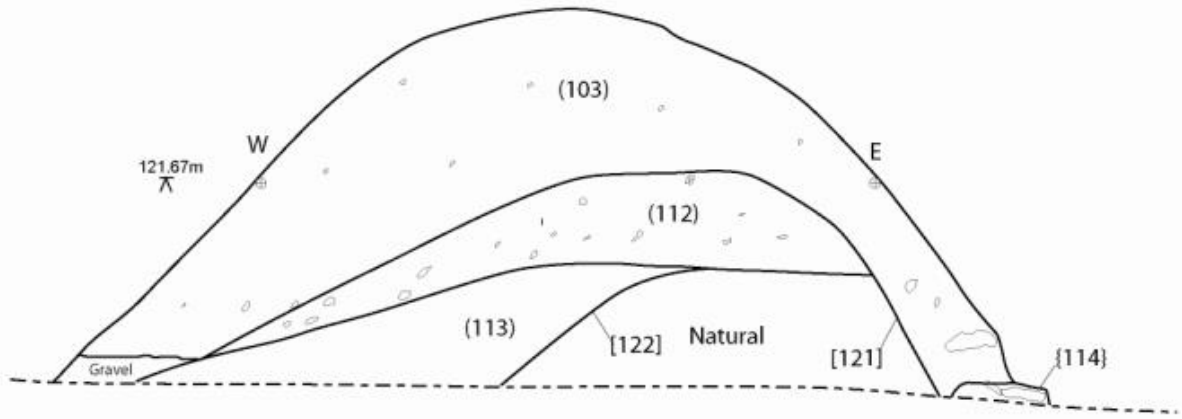
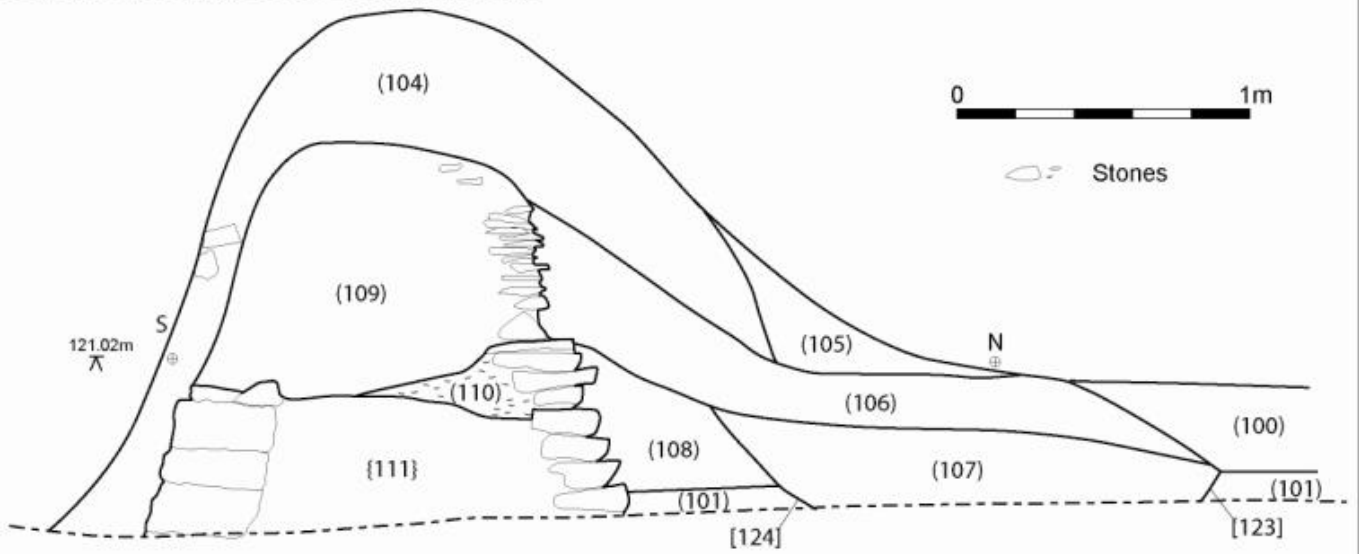


Figure 1: Plan of the excavated area.

Section 1: South Facing Section of Eastern Hedge



Section 2: East Facing Section of Southern Hedge



Section 3: South Facing Section of Western Hedge

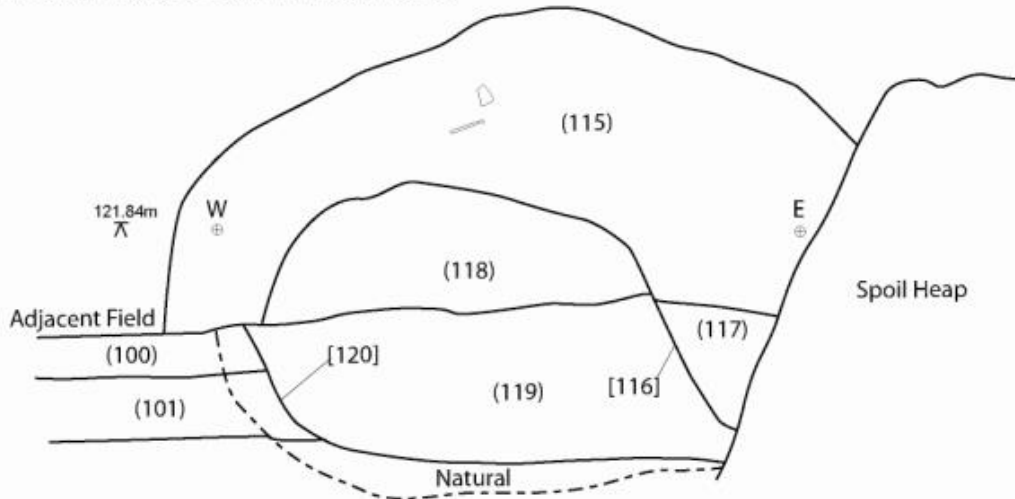


Figure 2: Sections through the field boundaries. See Figure 1 for the location of sections.



Figure 3: The southern part of the site prior to cleaning, viewed from the south (scale 2m).