

KILMINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH WHITFORD ROAD SITE KILMINGTON DEVON

Results of an Archaeological Evaluation



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Kilminster Baptist Church, Whitford Road Site, Kilminster, Devon

Results of an Archaeological Evaluation

For

Phillip Bliss
of
Kilminster Baptist Church

By



SWARCH project reference: KBC12
National Grid Reference: 327326.098092
Royal Albert Memorial Museum Accession Number: 177/2010
DCHES Reference: Arch/dc/ed/15935
Planning Application No.: Pre-planning
OASIS reference: southwes1- 120226
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Finds Processing: Samuel Walls

March 2012

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Summary

Three evaluation trenches were opened on the proposed site for a new church for Kilmington Baptist Church in the field immediately north of the village hall on Whitford Road, Kilmington. The trenches were positioned in order to investigate a number of anomalies which had shown up on a geophysical survey (SWARCH Report No. 100512)

The excavation revealed two linear features dating to the post-medieval period and probably relating to former field boundaries visible on the 1842 tithe map and removed by 1888. These features comprised a bank and ditch running north-south in Trench 1, and in Trench 3 two east-west orientated ditches with a 2.2m gap between them, but no surviving trace of a bank. These features are visible as earthworks within the field and also on aerial photographs.

The only other feature of note was a deposit of primarily hand-made brick rubble located directly over the top of the natural subsoil in the western end of Trench 1. The precise nature of this deposit is difficult to ascertain and it probably relates either to the demolition of a structure in this area, or perhaps more likely hardcore for a track running along the northern edge of a former field boundary.

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Acknowledgements

Thanks for assistance are due to:

Philip Bliss, Kilmington Baptist Church
David McCann, Kilmington Baptist Church
Steve Reed, DCHES
Axminster Excavators Ltd.

1.0 Introduction

Location:	Field to the North of the Village Hall, Whitford Road
Parish:	Kilminster
District:	East Devon
County:	Devon

1.1 Background

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. in a field to the north of the village hall, Whitford Road, Kilminster, Devon in March 2012. This work was commissioned by Philip Bliss of Kilminster Baptist Church (the Client), in advance of planning being sought for the proposed construction of a new church on the site. The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Appendix 2) drawn up in relation to a brief (Appendix 1) supplied by Devon County Historic Environment Service (DCHES) and in consultation with Steve Reed of DCHES.

1.2 Historical Background

The village of Kilminster lies mostly to the south of the A35 road, roughly 3km west of Axminster in East Devon (Figures 1 and 3). To the north are the Blackdown Hills and to the east is the valley of the River Axe. Now largely characterised by later 20th century residential development, Kilminster was, at the turn of the 19th/20th century, a community of scattered farms and cottages with the church of St Giles and the settlement core to the south of the Honiton-Axminster road and with, to the north, Coryton Park, the seat of the Tuckers, Lords of the Manor.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The site is located within a short distance (c.100m) south of the route of the Roman Road from Axminster to Honiton and a similar distance north of the Parish Church of St. Giles, which was largely rebuilt in 1862, but probably dates back to at least the 13th century. No archaeological investigations have been carried out within the immediate vicinity of the site, although large quantities of worked stone recovered in nearby quarrying suggests extensive prehistoric activity in the area.

1.4 Topographical and Geological Background

The proposed development area is contained within a single large field bounded by hedgerows and currently used as pasture. The site is relatively level, sloping very slightly to the south and east.

The field is located on a drift geology of valley gravel overlying Upper (Keuper) Marls (Institute of Geological Sciences, 1974). These rocks generally comprise red, yellow and brown part pebbly sandstones with subordinate red mudstone and silts. The site has soils of the Whimple 3 association which are defined as stagnogleyic argillic brown earths (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983).

1.5 Methodology

The three evaluation trenches were excavated by a tracked machine fitted with a 0.9m wide toothless grading bucket. This work took place on the 12th March 2012 and was directed by Dr S. Walls.

For all features a photographic record, a drawn record at appropriate scales (1:200) and a written record of standard single context sheets was compiled. The evaluation was carried out with reference to IfA guidelines (2008) and according to the agreed WSI (Appendix 2).



Figure 1: Location map. The site is highlighted in red.

2.0 Results of the Archaeological Evaluation

The site was covered with a good depth (0.4-0.5m) of soft clean slightly-clayey silt topsoil, thinning slightly towards the south. The depth of topsoil is suggestive of the site having formerly been used for orchards and in fact many of the neighbouring fields (and part of the present field) are depicted as such on the tithe map (SWARCH report: 100513).

2.1 Evaluation Trench 1

This trench was excavated along the northern edge of the proposed development area in order to investigate two of the possible linear features visible on the geophysical results for the site (see SWARCH Report No. 100512). The trench was 37m long by 0.9m wide, and was orientated west-north-west by east-south-east (Figure 3). Two features, [104] and (106), and an area of demolition debris (102) were uncovered within the trench.

Feature [104] was a 1.2m wide north-south orientated linear located at the eastern end of Trench 1 (Figure 2). Linear [104] survived to a depth of 0.3m and had a curved profile with a steeper northern face and a slightly concaved base. It was filled by a single soft grey-brown clay-silt fill (105), which contained occasional sub-rounded to sub-angular chert nodules (>60mm), charcoal flecks and rare brick fragments. No finds were recovered from (105).

Along the western side of feature [104] was a 2.3m wide and 0.05-0.1m thick deposit (106) on the same north-south orientation as [104]. Deposit (106) was a grey-yellow clay-silt containing common chert nodules (>100mm) and rare charcoal flecks. No finds were recovered from (106) which probably represented the remnant of a former hedge bank.

The only other feature identified within Trench 1 was a 14m wide area of brick rubble (102) towards the western end (4m east). This deposit lay directly upon the natural subsoil and varied from 0.05m to 0.2m thick. The brick fragments were all derived from a mixture of grey-pink and of red hand-made bricks, which had very large stone inclusions and common impressions. The bricks probably date to the early 18th century and may indicate the former presence of a structure, possibly a pig-sty, within this part of the site (Figure 6).



Figure 2: Trench 1 with feature [104] in the foreground, viewed from the east (2m scale).

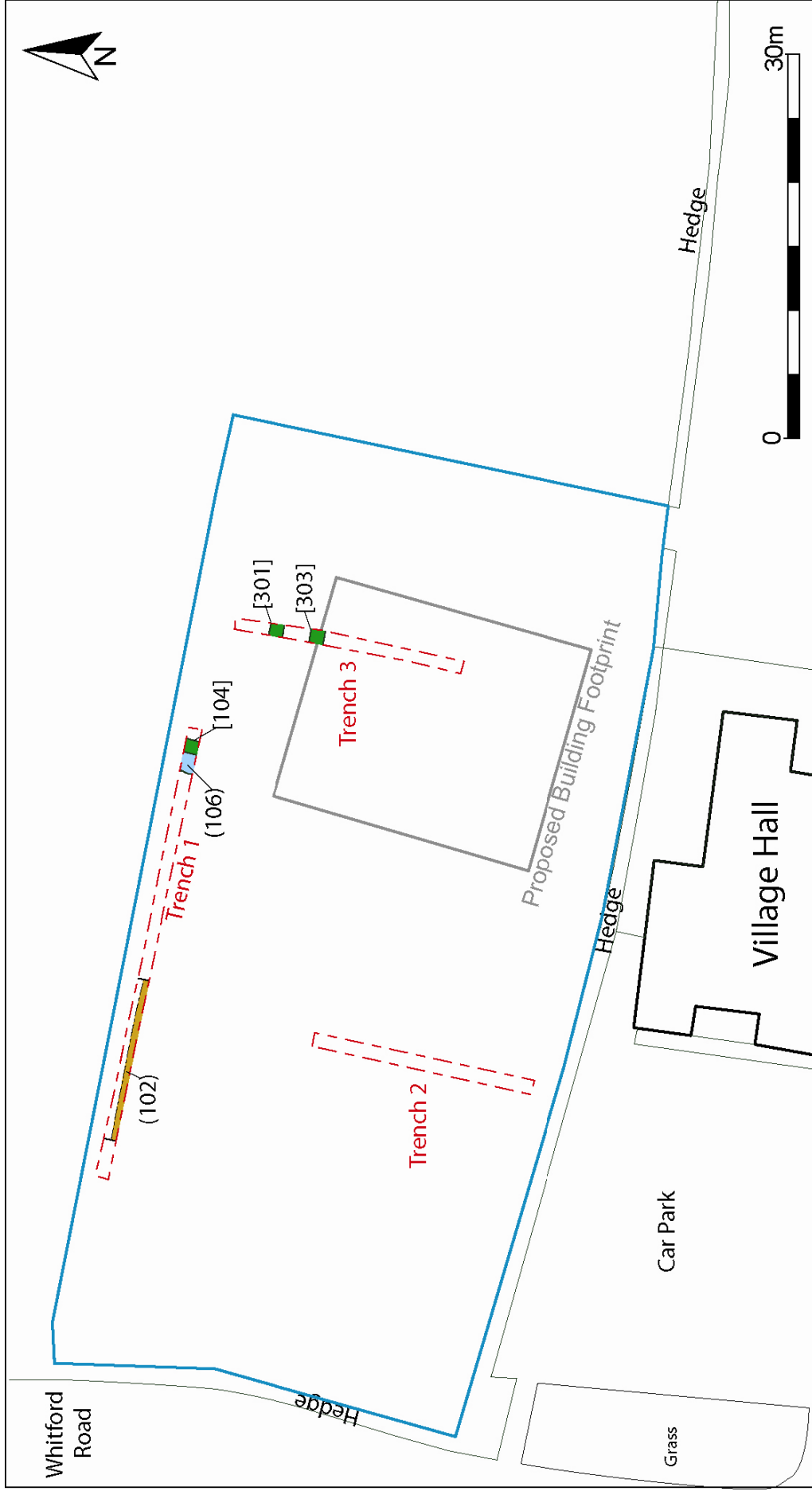


Figure 3: Location of the evaluation trenches.

2.2 Evaluation Trench 2

Trench 2 was excavated within the centre of the site in order to investigate a possible archaeological feature shown on the geophysical results for the site (see SWARCH Report No. 100512). No features were identified in this trench, although a truncated spread of burnt remains (a former bonfire?) was noted within the topsoil, which may account for the geophysical anomaly. The trench was 17m long by 0.9m wide (Figure 4), and was orientated north-north-east by south-south-west (Figure 3).



Figure 4: Trench 2, viewed from the north (2m scale).

2.3 Evaluation Trench 3

Trench 3 was excavated within the footprint of the proposed church building to sample the linear features running east-west visible on the geophysical survey results (see SWARCH Report No. 100512) and also as earthworks within the field. Two linear features, probably corresponding to ditches either side of a former hedgebank, were uncovered within the trench. The trench was 17m long by 0.9m wide and was orientated north-north-east by south-south-west (Figure 3).

Feature [301] was the most northerly of the two linear features and comprised a 1.2m wide east-west orientated feature. Linear [301] had a steep curving profile, with a slightly steeper southern side and a gentle concave base; it survived to a depth of 0.32m. Feature [301] was filled by (302) a slightly compacted grey clay-silt with occasional sub-angular to sub-rounded chert nodules (>80mm) and rare charcoal flecks. A single (unworked) chert flake was the only recovered find.

Feature [303] was a 1.15m wide east-west orientated linear (Figure 5), which had a similarly steeply curving profile (but with a slightly steeper northern side) and concave base as [301]. Linear [303] survived to a depth of 0.4m and was filled by a single fill (304), a soft grey-brown silt-clay containing occasional sub-angular to sub-rounded chert nodules (>60mm). A more extensive range of finds (see Appendix 4) were recovered from this feature which suggest a post-medieval (17th-19th century) date.



Figure 5: Linear [303] post-excavation shot, viewed from the north (1m and 0.5m scales).

3.0 Discussion and Conclusion

The excavation of the evaluation trenches revealed two groups of features, [104]/(106) and [301]/[303], which related to boundaries shown on the 1842 tithe map (removed by 1888). The field pattern (i.e. long narrow fields) extant at the time of the tithe are superficially suggestive of being derived from a medieval strip field system, although given the straightness of the divisions perhaps post-medieval enclosure is more likely.

The finds recovered from these two groups of features are predominantly post-medieval in date, which would support this suggestion. It is worth noting that linear [303] produced considerably fewer finds (a single chert flake) than any of the other features on the site, and the fill was notably lighter in colour and more compacted which may suggest an earlier origin for this feature or boundary.

The recovery of a few flint/chert flakes and three scrap sherds of possible Romano-British greywares hint at a background of earlier, but not extensive, activity.

The area of brick rubble (102) which ran along a large part of the western length of Trench 1 is difficult to interpret due to the limited area of excavation (Figure 6). It did not appear to be contained within a feature, having simply been pushed into the top of the natural subsoil. It is possible that it derives from the demolition of a building or other structure such as a pig sty (not shown on any historic maps). Alternatively it may represent part of a north-south orientated track. The eastern and western edges appeared to be defined/contain a larger number of stones than the rest of the fairly uniform deposit of brick fragments.



Figure 6: Deposit (102) pre-ex, note the large stones near the point of the scale, viewed from the east (2m scale).

4.0 Bibliography and References

Published Sources:

- Institute of Field Archaeologists.** 1994 (Revised 2001 & 2008): *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*.
- Institute of Field Archaeologists.** 1995 (Revised 2001 & 2008): *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*.
- Institute of Field Archaeologists.** 2001 (Revised 2008): *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*
- Institute of Geological Sciences,** 1974: *Sidmouth, England & Wales Sheets 326 & 340. Drift Geology.* 1:50 000. Southampton: Ordnance Survey.
- Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW)** 1983: *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales (a brief explanation of the constituent soil associations)*. Harpenden.

Unpublished Sources:

- SWARCH** 2010: *Land at Kilmington, Devon: 327000m 098264m and 327385m 098100m: Results of an Archaeological Earth Resistance Survey*. Report No.: 100512
- SWARCH** 2010: *Land at Kilmington, Devon: Results of a Desk-Based Assessment*. Report No.: 100513.
- SWARCH** 2011: *Kilmington, East Devon: Proposed site for construction of Baptist Church*. Oasis ID.: southwes1-82767

http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/catalogue/adsdata/arch-721-1/dissemination/pdf/southwes1-82767_1.pdf

Appendix 1

BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION UNDERTAKEN IN SUPPORT OF A PLANNING APPLICATION

Location:	Sites for Construction of Baptist Church, Kilminster (Site 1 - Site at Junction of Gammons Hill (A35) and George Lane/ Site 2 - Field to rear of Old Inn Pub Gammons Hill (A35)/ Site 3 - Field to side of Village Hall Whitford Road)
Parish:	Kilminster
District:	East Devon
County:	Devon
NGR:	326990.098299/ 327197.098186/ 327326.098092
Proposal:	Site for Construction of Baptist Church
HES ref:	Arch/dc/ed/15933 & Arch/dc/ed/15934 & Arch/dc/ed/15935

1. INTRODUCTION AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

1.1 This brief has been prepared by the Devon County Council Historic Environment Service (HES), at the request of C McGonagle of Liddell and Associates Ltd, with regard to the archaeological works to be undertaken in support of a planning application for the development of the above site.

This brief has been produced specifically for the above scheme and may require alteration if revised or amended in any material way. This document is not transferable to any other scheme or planning application.

1.2 This work is being undertaken in accordance with Policy HE6 of *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5)* (2010), Devon Structure Plan Policy CO8 and the Local Development Framework Policy on archaeology.

1.3 The principal objective of the programme shall be to evaluate the survival of below-ground archaeological deposits across the proposed development site. The results will allow the nature, extent, and date of any surviving archaeological deposits within the application area to be understood.

These investigations therefore may represent the *first stage* of a programme of archaeological work undertaken in mitigation for the impact of the proposed development upon the archaeological resource. The information gained will enable the requirement for any further investigations to be determined and - if required - the scope of any subsequent programme of archaeological work undertaken in mitigation for the archaeological impact of the proposed development, see section 6 below.

1.4 Site for Construction of Baptist Church: Site 1 - Site at Junction of Gammons Hill (A35) and George Lane

Assessment of the Devon Historic Environment Record shows that the proposed site is in an area of archaeological potential. It is sited immediately alongside the route of the Roman Road from Axminster to Honiton, which is recorded as being well preserved as a raised embankment at nearby Shute Hill. Quarrying at Kilminster and the surrounding area has revealed evidence of prehistoric activity, demonstrated by large quantities of worked stone. Kilminster itself is recorded as a country estate held by the king at Domesday. There is therefore the potential for significant archaeological remains of prehistoric, Roman and medieval date to survive within the proposed development area.

Site for Construction of Baptist Church: Site 2 - Field to rear of Old Inn Pub Gammons Hill (A35)

Assessment of the Devon Historic Environment Record shows that the proposed site is in an area of archaeological potential. It is sited just to the south of the route of the Roman Road from Axminster to Honiton, which is recorded as being well preserved as a raised embankment at nearby Shute Hill.

Quarrying at Kilminster and the surrounding area has revealed evidence of prehistoric activity, demonstrated by large quantities of worked stone. Kilminster itself is recorded as a country estate held by the king at Domesday. There is therefore the potential for significant archaeological remains of prehistoric, Roman and medieval date to survive within the proposed development area.

Site for Construction of Baptist Church: Site 3 - Field to side of Village Hall Whitford Road

Assessment of the Devon Historic Environment Record shows that the proposed site is in an area of archaeological potential. It is sited c100m to the south of the route of the Roman Road from Axminster to Honiton, which is recorded as being well preserved as a raised embankment at nearby Shute Hill.

Quarrying at Kilminster and the surrounding area has revealed evidence of prehistoric activity, demonstrated by large quantities of worked stone. Kilminster itself is recorded as a country estate held by the king at Domesday. There is therefore the potential for significant archaeological remains of prehistoric, Roman and medieval date to survive within the proposed development area.

1.5 This Brief covers the areas as defined on the attached plans.

2. PROJECT DESIGN

2.1 This document sets out the scope of the works required to enable the extent, character and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the application area to be understood and will form the basis of the Project Design to be prepared by the archaeological consultant. The Project Design will set out the detail and extent of the archaeological works to be undertaken. This will include pre-fieldwork elements (desk-based research), fieldwork, post-excavation specialist analysis and the production of an appropriately detailed and illustrated report.

2.2 The Project Design must be submitted by the applicant or on their behalf by their agent or archaeological consultant and approved by the HES *prior* to any archaeological works commencing.

3. PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS

The archaeological works will include the following elements. However, where it can be demonstrated that there are areas within the area under consideration will be unaffected by the development of the site or where development will have no below-ground impact, these areas may be excluded from the evaluative archaeological excavations.

3.1 Desk-based assessment

The programme of work shall include a desk-based *appraisal* of the site(s) to place the development area into its historic and archaeological context. This work will consist of map regression based on the Ordnance Survey maps and the Tithe Map(s) and Apportionments. An examination will also be made of records and aerial photographs held by the HER. The reporting requirements for the desk-based work will be confirmed in consultation with the HES.

The results of the assessment should be discussed with the HES and based on this consultation may determine the positioning of the evaluative excavations.

If a full report is prepared then this information will be presented as part of the final report along with the results of the fieldwork.

3.2 Evaluation of the site

Two trenches will be excavated across the proposed development area. The location of these excavations will be determined in consideration of the results of the desk-based assessment, the below-ground impact of the proposed development and the site topography. These excavations should adequately investigate the areas that will be affected by the proposed development.

3.2.1 The Project Design must include a plan showing areas affected by the proposed development and the location of proposed evaluative trenches.

3.2.2 Details of the strategy for positioning trenches must be agreed with the HES. Trenches should be excavated by a 360o tracked or JCB-type machine - fitted with a toothless grading bucket - to the surface of archaeological deposits or *in situ* natural ground - whichever is highest in the stratigraphic sequence. Exposed archaeological features and deposits will be cleaned and excavated by hand and fully recorded by context as per the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (1994 - revised 2008). All features shall be recorded in plan and section at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50. All scale drawing shall be drawn at a scale appropriate to the complexity of the deposit/feature and to allow accurate depiction and interpretation.

3.2.3 All archaeological features will be investigated and as a minimum:

- i) small discrete features will be fully excavated;
- ii) larger discrete features will be half-sectioned (50% excavated); and
- iii) long linear features will be sample excavated along their length - with investigative excavations distributed along the exposed length of any such feature and to investigate terminals, junctions and relationships with other features.
- iv) one long face of each trench will be cleaned by hand to allow the site stratigraphy to be understood and for the identification of archaeological features.

Should the above percentage excavation not yield sufficient information to allow the form and function of archaeological features/deposits to be determined full excavation of such features/deposits will be required. Additional excavation may also be required for the taking of palaeoenvironmental samples and recovery of artefacts

Any variation of the above will be undertaken in agreement with the HES.

3.2.4 The full depth of archaeological deposits must be assessed. This need not require excavation to natural deposits if it is clear that complex and deep stratigraphy will be encountered.

3.2.5 Should deposits be exposed that contain palaeoenvironmental or datable elements appropriate sampling and post-excavation analysis strategies will be initiated. The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve or report on finds or advise or report on other aspects of the investigation (e.g. palaeoenvironmental analysis) can be called upon and undertake assessment and analysis of such deposits - if required.

3.2.6 The photographic record should be made in B/W print supplemented by digital or colour transparency. However, if digital imagery is to be the sole photographic record then suitably archivable prints must be made of the digital images by a photographic laboratory. Laser or inkjet prints of digital images, while acceptable for inclusion in the report, are not an acceptable medium for archives. The drawn and written record will be on an appropriately archivable medium.

3.2.7 Human remains must initially be left in-situ, covered and protected. Removal can only take place under appropriate Ministry of Justice and environmental health regulations. Such removal must be in compliance with the relevant primary legislation.

3.2.8 Should any finds identified as treasure or potential treasure, including precious metals, groups of coins or prehistoric metalwork, be exposed, these will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice (2nd Revision). Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

4. MONITORING

4.1 The archaeological consultant shall agree monitoring arrangements with the County Historic Environment Service and give two weeks notice, unless a shorter period is agreed with the HES, of commencement of the fieldwork. Details will be agreed of any monitoring points where decisions on options within the programme are to be made.

4.2 Monitoring will continue until the deposition of the site archive and finds, and the satisfactory completion of an OASIS report - see 5.5 below.

5. REPORTING

5.1 Upon completion of the fieldwork and required post-excavation analysis an illustrated report will be prepared. The report will collate the written, graphic, visible and recorded information outlined in section 3 above. The report shall include plans and reports of all documentary and other research, and of the trenches, features, deposits and artefacts together with their interpretation. The report will also include an overall plan showing the boundaries of the site, the

location of the evaluative trenches and any other areas subject to archaeological investigation in relation to those boundaries and all exposed archaeological features and deposits.

5.2 The report shall demonstrate the archaeological potential of the site and the impact upon it of the proposed development and may make suggestions as to appropriate mitigation of the archaeological impact of the proposal, but these will be subject to review by the HES, who will make final recommendations to the Local Planning Authority.

5.3 The HES would normally expect to receive the report within three months of completion of fieldwork - dependant upon the provision of specialist reports, radiocarbon dating results etc the production of which may exceed this period. If a substantial delay is anticipated then an interim report will be produced. A copy of this brief shall be included in the report.

5.4 On completion of the report, in addition to copies required by the Client, hard copies of the report shall be supplied to the HES on the understanding that one of these copies will be deposited for public reference in the HER. In addition to the hard copies of the report, one copy shall be provided to the County Historic Environment Service in digital format - in a format to be agreed in advance with the HES - on the understanding that it may in future be made available to researchers via a web-based version of the Historic Environment Record.

5.5 The archaeological consultant shall complete an online OASIS (*Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological investigationS*) form in respect of the archaeological work. This will include a digital version of the report. The report or short entry to the Historic Environment Record will also include the OASIS ID number.

5.6 Publication

Should particularly significant remains, finds and/or deposits be encountered and the evaluative investigations likely to represent the only level of archaeological work undertaken on this site, then these, because of their importance, are likely to merit wider publication in line with government planning guidance. If such remains are encountered, the publication requirements – including any further analysis that may be necessary – will be confirmed with the HES. If further archaeological works are undertaken, then the results of these *pre-application* evaluative investigations will be incorporated into the publication text resulting from further works.

6. FURTHER WORK

In the light of the results of the archaeological evaluation it will be possible allow the Local Planning Authority to make an informed and reasonable planning decision, which may include the recommendation for refusal of consent if the impact of the proposed development upon the archaeological resource was unacceptable. In all other cases, the results will allow the scope and requirement of any further work needed as mitigation for the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource to be determined. This further work may take the form of additional reapplication investigations to refine the initial results or a programme of archaeological work undertaken under a PPS5 archaeological condition imposed on any consent granted. Should the site be demonstrated to be archaeologically sterile then there would be no requirement for further archaeological works.

7. PERSONNEL

7.1 The work shall be carried out by a recognised archaeological consultant, agreed with the DCHES. Staff must be suitably qualified and experienced for their project roles. All work should be carried out under the control of a specified Member of the Institute for Archaeologists (MIFA), or by a specified person of equivalent standing and expertise. The Project Design will contain details of key project staff and specialists who may contribute during the course of the works - excavation and post-excavation.

7.2 Health and Safety matters, including site security, are matters for the consultant. However, adherence to all relevant regulations will be required.

7.3 The work shall be carried out in accordance with *IfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (1994)*, as amended (2008).

8. CONFLICT WITH STATUTORY PROTECTED SITES

It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility - in consultation with the applicant or agent – to ensure that the undertaking of the required archaeological works does not conflict with any statutory protected sites and should also consider any biodiversity issues as covered by the NERC Act 2006. In particular, such conflicts may arise where archaeological investigations/excavations have the potential to have an impact upon protected species and/or natural habitats e.g. SSSI's, National Nature Reserves, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites, County Wildlife Sites etc.

9. DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE AND FINDS

9.1 The archaeological consultant shall contact the museum that will receive the site archive to obtain an accession number and agree conditions for deposition. The accession number will be quoted in the Project Design.

9.2 The artefact discard policy must be set out in the Project Design.

9.3 Archaeological finds resulting from the investigation (which are the property of the landowner), should be deposited with the appropriate museum - in a format to be agreed with the museum, and within a timetable to be agreed with the HES. The museum's guidelines for the deposition of archives for long-term storage should be adhered to. If ownership of all or any of the finds is to remain with the landowner, provision and agreement must be made for the time-limited retention of the material and its full analysis and recording, by appropriate specialists.

10. CONTACT NAME AND ADDRESS

Helen Rance, Archaeological Officer, Devon County Council, Environment, Economy and Culture Directorate, Matford Offices, County Hall, Exeter EX2 4QW

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14/04/10

Appendix 2

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT FIELD TO THE SIDE OF THE VILLAGE HALL, WHITFORD ROAD, KILMINGTON, DEVON.

Location: Site for Construction of Baptist Church, Kilminster -Site 3 - Field to side of Village Hall, Whitford Road
Parish: Kilminster
District: East Devon
County: Devon
NGR: 327326.098092
Planning Application no: Pre planning
Proposal: Proposed site for Construction of Baptist Church
DCHES ref: Arch/dc/ed/15935
Date: 29.02.2012

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document forms a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) and details the proposed scheme and methodology for archaeological evaluation to be undertaken prior to the development of a field to the side of the Village Hall, Whitford Road, Kilminster, Devon. It has been drawn up by South West Archaeology (SWARCH) at the request of Philip Bliss of Kilminster Baptist Church (the Client) with regard to the archaeological works required prior to planning consent being sought for the above works. The WSI and the schedule of work it proposes conforms to a brief as supplied by the Devon County Historic Environment Service (DCHES) (Helen Rance, 14.04.10).

This work is being undertaken in accordance with Policy HE6 of *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5) (2010), Devon Structure Plan Policy CO8 and the Local Development Framework Policy on archaeology.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Assessment of the Devon Historic Environment Record shows that the proposed site is in an area of archaeological potential. It is sited c100m to the south of the route of the Roman Road from Axminster to Honiton, which is recorded as being well preserved as a raised embankment at nearby Shute Hill. Quarrying at Kilminster and the surrounding area has revealed evidence of prehistoric activity, demonstrated by large quantities of worked stone. Kilminster itself is recorded as a country estate held by the king at Domesday. There is therefore the potential for significant archaeological remains of prehistoric, Roman and medieval date to survive within the proposed development area.

A desk-based assessment (SWARCH report no.100513) of the area concluded that the evidence of field names may indicate Roman or later iron-smelting activity, and geophysical survey of the site (SWARCH Draft Report No. 100512) found a number of anomalies likely to represent archaeological deposits.

3.0 AIMS

3.1 To evaluate the survival of below-ground archaeological deposits across the proposed development area to inform as to the requirement for any further investigations in mitigation for the impact of the proposed development upon the archaeological resource.

3.2 Analyse and report on the results of the project as appropriate.

4.0 METHOD

4.2 Evaluation excavations:

Three trenches will be excavated across the proposed development area (see attached plan Figure 1). The locations of these excavations have been determined in consideration of the below-ground impact of the proposed development, the site topography the results of the desk-based assessment and geophysical survey. (The building footprint illustrated in Figure 1 may be amended in the light of the findings of the evaluation and will not be finalised until the evaluation has been undertaken.)

Details of the strategy for positioning the trenches will be agreed with the DCHES.

4.2.1 The archaeological work will be carried out in accordance with the *Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation 1994 (revised 2001 & 2008)* and *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief 1994 (revised 2001 & 2008)*.

4.2.2 The evaluation trenches will be opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket under the direct control of the site archaeologist to the depth of formation, the surface of *in situ* subsoil/weathered natural or archaeological deposits whichever is highest in the stratigraphic sequence.

4.2.3 Spoil will be examined for the recovery of artefacts.

4.2.4 Once the level of the archaeology has been reached all archaeological material will be excavated by hand down to the depth of the archaeology, although this need not require excavation to natural deposits if it is clear that complex and deep stratigraphy will be encountered.

4.2.5 All excavation of exposed archaeological features shall be carried out by hand, stratigraphically, and fully recorded by context to IfA guidelines.

4.2.6 If archaeological features are exposed, then *as a minimum*:
 i) small discrete features will be fully excavated;

- ii) larger discrete features will be half-sectioned (50% excavated);
 - iii) long linear features will be sample excavated along their length - with investigative excavations distributed along the exposed length of any such feature and to investigate terminals, junctions and relationships with other features;
 - iv) one long face of each trench will be cleaned by hand to allow the site stratigraphy to be understood and for the identification of archaeological features.
- 4.2.7 Should the above percentage excavation not yield sufficient information to allow the form and function of archaeological features/deposits to be determined, full excavation of such features/deposits may be required. Additional excavation may also be required for the taking of palaeoenvironmental samples and recovery of artefacts.
Any variation of the above or decisions regarding expansion will be considered in consultation with the Client and DCHES.
- 4.2.8 In exceptional circumstances where materials of a particularly compact nature are encountered, these may be removed with a toothed bucket, subject to agreement with archaeological staff on site.
- 4.2.9 Should archaeological or palaeoenvironmental remains be exposed, the site archaeologist will investigate, record and sample such deposits.
- 4.2.10 Human remains must be left *in-situ*, covered and protected. Removal can only take place under appropriate Ministry of Justice and environmental health regulations. Such removal must be in compliance with the relevant primary legislation.
- 4.2.11 Any finds identified as treasure or potential treasure, including precious metals, groups of coins or prehistoric metalwork, must be dealt with according to the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice (2nd Revision) (Dept for Culture Media and Sport). Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures must be taken to protect the finds from theft.
- 4.3 The Client will provide SWARCH with details of the location of existing services and of proposed groundworks within the site area, and of the proposed construction programme.
- 4.4 Health and Safety requirements will be observed at all times by any archaeological staff working on site, particularly when working with machinery. As a minimum: high-visibility jackets, safety helmets and protective footwear will be worn.
- 4.4.1 Appropriate PPE will be employed at all times.
 - 4.4.2 The site archaeologist will undertake any site safety induction course provided by the Client.
 - 4.4.3 If the depth of trenching exceeds 1.2 metres the trench sides will need to be shored or stepped to enable the archaeologist to examine and if appropriate record the section of the trench. The provision of such measures will be the responsibility of the client.
- 4.5 SWARCH will agree monitoring arrangements with DCHES and give two weeks notice, unless a shorter period is agreed, of commencement of the fieldwork. Details will be agreed of any monitoring points where decisions on options within the programme are to be made. SWARCH will notify the HES upon completion of the fieldwork stage of these works. Monitoring will continue until the deposition of the site archive and finds, and the satisfactory completion of an OASIS report.
- 5.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING**
- 5.1 This will be based on IfA guidelines and those advised by DCHES and will consist of:
- 5.1.1 Standardised single context recording sheets, survey drawings in plan, section and profile at 1:10, 1:20, 1: 50 and 1:100 as appropriate and digital and black & white photography.
 - 5.1.2 Survey and location of features.
 - 5.1.3 Labelling and bagging of finds on site, post-1800 unstratified pottery may be discarded on site after a representative sample has been retained.
- Any variation of the above shall be agreed in consultation with the DCHES.
- 5.2 Should suitable deposits be exposed (e.g. palaeoenvironmental) then scientific assessment/ analysis/dating techniques will be applied to further understand their nature/date and to establish appropriate sampling procedures. The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve or report on other aspects of the investigations can be called upon.
- 6.0 ARCHIVE AND REPORT**
- 6.1 An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with *The Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991 2nd edition) upon completion of the entire project. This will include relevant correspondence together with context sheets, field drawings, and environmental, artefactual and photographic records. The archive and finds will be deposited with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter under accession number 177/2010. The museum's guidelines for the deposition of archives for long-term storage will be adhered to.
- 6.2 Archaeological finds resulting from the investigation (which are the property of the landowner), will also be deposited with the above museum (under the accession number above) in a format to be agreed with the museum, and within a timetable to be agreed with the DCHES. The museum's guidelines for the deposition of archives for long-term storage will be adhered to and any sampling procedures will be carried out prior to deposition and in consultation with the museum. If ownership of all or any of the finds is to remain with the landowner, provision and agreement must be made for the time-limited retention of the material and its full analysis and recording, by appropriate specialists.

- 6.3 An illustrated summary report will be produced as soon as possible following completion of fieldwork, specialist reports allowing. A draft report will be submitted to the HES for comment prior to its formal submission to the Local Planning Authority. Copies of the report will be provided to the DCHES as well as the Client.
- 6.4 The report will include the following elements:
- 6.4.1 A report number, date, version number and the OASIS record number;
 - 6.4.2 A copy of the DCHES brief and this WSI;
 - 6.4.3 A location plan and overall site plan including the boundaries of the site, the location of the evaluative trenches in relation to those boundaries and all exposed archaeological features and deposits;
 - 6.4.4 Plans and sections of significant features or deposits at a relevant scale;
 - 6.4.5 A description of any remains and deposits identified including an interpretation of their character and significance;
 - 6.4.6 An assessment of significant artefacts, historical and/or architectural features, environmental and scientific samples together with recommendations for further analysis;
 - 6.4.7 Any specialist reports commissioned;
 - 6.4.8 Discussion of the archaeological deposits encountered and their context.
- 6.5 DCHES will receive the report within three months of completion of fieldwork, dependant on the provision of specialist reports, radiocarbon dating results etc, the production of which may exceed this period. If a substantial delay is anticipated then an interim report will be produced. The report will be supplied to the DCHES on the understanding that one of these copies will be deposited for public reference in the HER. In addition to the hard copies of the report, one copy will be provided to the HES in digital format, in a format to be agreed in advance with the DCHES, on the understanding that it may in future be made available to researchers via a web-based version of the HER.
- 6.6 Should particularly significant features, below-ground remains or finds be encountered, then these, because of their importance, are likely to merit wider publication in line with government planning guidance. If such remains are encountered, the publication requirements –including any further analysis that may be necessary – will be confirmed with the DCHES.
- 6.7 A copy of the report detailing the results of these investigations will be submitted to the OASIS (*Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigationS*) database under OASIS record number southwes1- 120226.

7.0 PERSONNEL

The project will be managed by Colin Humphreys; the excavation work will be undertaken by SWARCH personnel directed by Brynmor Morris/Sam Walls. Relevant staff of the DCHES will be consulted as appropriate. Where necessary appropriate specialist advice will be sought, (see list of consultant specialists in Appendix 1 below).

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Appendix 1 – List of specialists

Building recording

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Conservation

Alison Hopper Bishop the Royal Albert Memorial Museum Conservation service

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Richard and Helena Jaeschke

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Curatorial

Thomas Cadbury

Curator of Antiquities Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Bradninch Offices, Bradninch Place, Gandy Street, Exeter EX4 3LS Tel: 01392 665356

Alison Mills

The Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon

The Square, Barnstaple, North Devon. EX32 8LN

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Bone

Human

Professor Chris Knusel

University of Exeter Tel: 01392 722491 c.j.knusel@ex.ac.uk

Animal

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Lithics

Martin Tingle

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Palaeoenvironmental/Organic

Wood identification Dana Challinor Tel: 01869 810150 dana.challinor@tiscali.co.uk

Plant macro-fossils Julie Jones juliedjones@blueyonder.co.uk

Pollen analysis Ralph Fyfe Room 211, 8 Kirkby Place, Drake Circus, Plymouth, Devon, PL4 8AA

Dendro research

Andy Moir

Pottery

Prehistoric

Henrietta Quinell

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Tel: 01392 433214

Roman Alex Croom, Keeper of Archaeology
Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums, Arbeia Roman Fort and Museum, Baring Street, South Shields,
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Tel: (0191) 454 4093 alex.croom@twmuseums.org.uk

Medieval John Allan,
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Post Medieval Graham Langman
Exeter, EX1 2UF Tel: 01392 215900 email: su1429@eclipse.co.uk

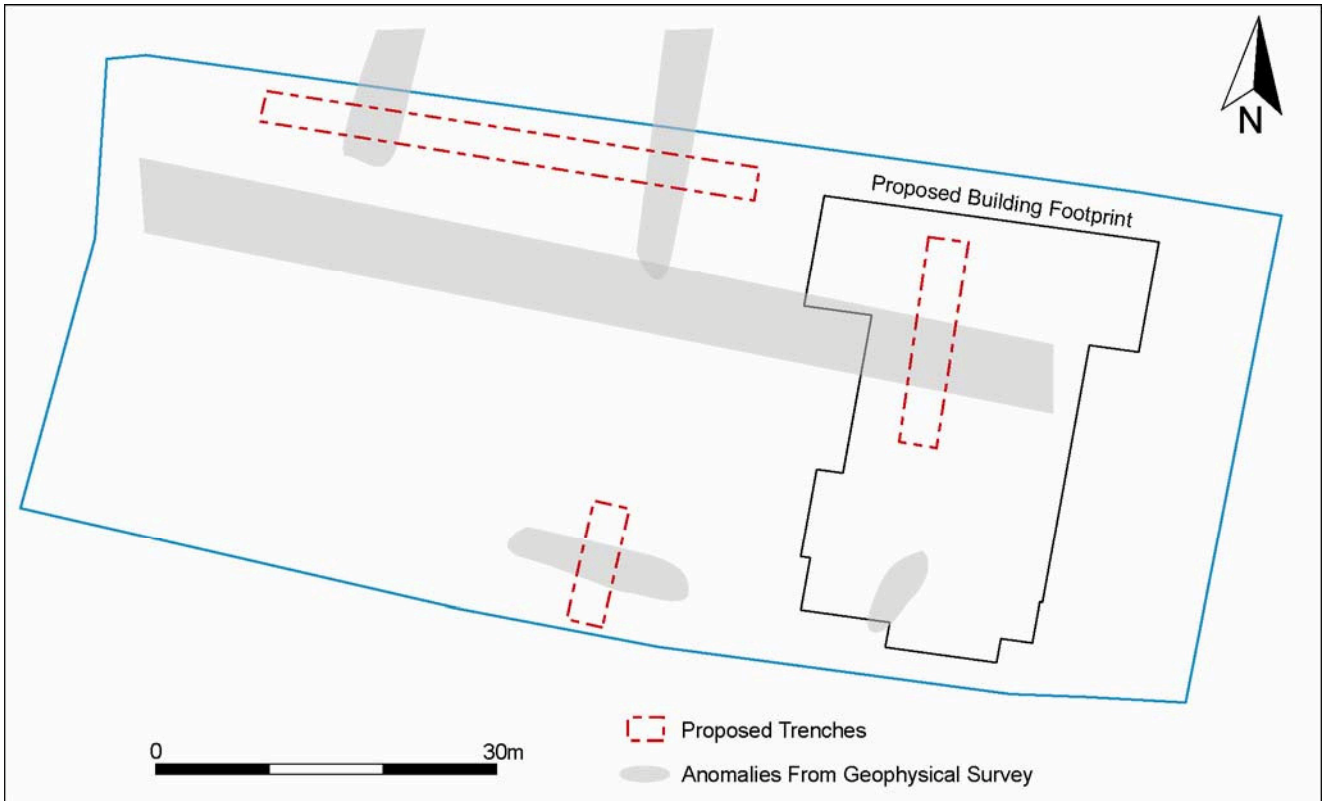


Figure 7: Trench plan.

Appendix 3

List of Contexts

Context	Description
100	Upper topsoil – A clean, soft mid-brown slightly clayey silt, 0.2-0.25m deep
101	Lower topsoil – Soft greyish-brown silt-clay, 0.2-0.25m deep
102	Deposit of pinkish-red brick rubble (track?) overlying natural (103)
103	Natural subsoil – A yellow-gingery clay-silt with occasional chert nodules, grading to a grey-tan clay-silt with more common chert nodules to the west of site
[104]	A 1.1m wide and 0.3m deep linear running N-S at east end of Trench 1
105	Grey-brown clay-silt fill of [104] contains occasional chert nodules and brick frags.
106	Remnant of hedge bank(?) A 0.05-0.1m thick stoney greyish-yellow deposit abutted by [104]
200	Same as (100)
201	Same as (101)
202	Same as (103)
300	Same as (100)
[301]	A 1.2m wide and 0.32m deep linear running east-west with steep curving profile
302	Grey clay-silt fill of [301] with occasional chert nodules and charcoal flecks
[303]	A 1.15m wide and 0.4m deep linear running east-west with steep sloping profile
304	Soft light-brown silt-clay fill of [303], with occasional chert nodules
305	Same as (101)
306	Same as (103)

Appendix 4

Concordance of Finds

Context	Pottery			Other material		
	sherds	wgt. (g)	Notes	count	wgt. (g)	Notes
100	3 1 1 1 3	6 1 11 21 6	White Refined Earthenware English Porcelain sherd S.Somerset Ware sherd (abraded) Post-med S.Somerset Ware sherd ?Romano-British Greyware scraps (very abraded)	1 1 2 2 2	93 1 2 143 48	Possible flint core Flint flake 19 th century vessel glass Brick frags. 18 th /19 th century Glazed tile
102				2	1878	Hand-made brick fragments (probably 18 th century)
200	1 1	2 9	19 th century S. Somerset Ware rim 19 th century Industrial Creamware	2	10g	Unworked flint flakes
302				1	6g	Unworked flint flake
304	1 2 1	4 62 1	White Refined Earthenware Post-med S. Somerset (abraded) ?Post-med scrap of S.Somerset			
TOTAL	15	123	-	13	2181	-

Appendix 5

List of jpegs contained on CD to the rear of this report.

<i>Photo Number</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>Scale</i>
1	General Site shot	NE	-
2	Trench 1 general shot	E	2m
3	Linear [104] and (106) pre-ex	"	2m
4	Deposit (102) pre-ex	"	2m
5	As above	"	2m
6	Trench 2 general shot	N	2m
7	Trench 3 general shot	"	2m
8	As above	"	2m
9	Linear [301] pre-ex shot	"	2m
10	Linear [303] pre-ex shot	"	2m
11	East facing section linear [303]	E	1m
12	East facing section linear [301]	"	"
13	South facing section linear [104]	S	1m
14	Linear [104] half-sectioned	E	1m
15	Linear [303] post-ex shot	N	0.5m+1m
16	As above	E	0.5m+1m
17	Linear [301] post-ex shot	W	0.5m+1m



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