

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Bere Ferrers, West Devon	National Grid Reference SX 44776 66676	Number:
Subject: Erection of 3 detached dwellings including access, parking and garden areas on land to rear of the United Church, Fore Street, Bere Alston, Yelverton, Devon, PL20 7AB.		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 01332/2011	Recipient museum: Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery	
OASIS ID: southwes1-135003	Museum Accession no: 2012.53	
Contractor's reference number/code: BFB12	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 11 th October, 2012	
<p>Description of Works: South West Archaeology Limited monitored the excavation of 7 geo-technical pits in an area across the proposed development site on land to the rear of the United Church, Fore Street, Bere Alston, Yelverton, Devon, PL20 7AB (see Figures 1a & 6; Photos 3, 4, 6). The geo-technical pits were dug as archaeological test pits using a 1.60m wide toothless grading bucket to an appropriate depth, which varied between 0.29 and 0.46m. They were then recorded before being excavated to the appropriate geo-technical level (between c.1.5m and 2m). The lengths of each test pit were as follows; 1.60m, Test Pit 7; 1.70m, Test Pits 1, 2, 6; 1.80m, Test Pits 3, 5; 2.20m, Test Pit 4.</p> <p>Site Stratigraphy: (see Figures 1-5; Photos 1, 2, 5) 0.20-0.25m of Topsoil (100). Mid brown-grey, soft clay-silt with occasional small sub-angular shillet stones and moderate-frequent charcoal flecks. Finds included 19th-20th century pottery, plastic, CBM, glass. The finds were discarded. 0.08-0.22m of Subsoil (101). Mid grey-brown, soft clay silt with frequent small angular stones and occasional charcoal flecks. Cut by modern trench and pit. No finds. On average it occurred slightly deeper down slope on the site. Occurring below a depth of c.0.28-0.46m, Natural (102). Light yellow-orange, compact clay with shillet. The shillet became a solid band c.1.30m below ground level.</p> <p>The groundworks revealed no archaeologically significant remains or distinct evidence of earlier activity relating to the known Medieval settlement at Bere Alston. Two modern features were revealed. In Test Pit 2 a modern trench aligned E-W containing plastic, asbestos, machine-made brick and slate was encountered. In Test Pit 6 a modern pit (Photo 3) aligned N-S containing CBM, 20th century pottery and ready-mix cement was encountered. Both cut the subsoil and were sealed by the topsoil (or topsoil and gravel driveway in the case of Test Pit 6. Both were recorded in plan: neither was recorded in section. The Topsoil was dirtier (more charcoal fleck and debris inclusions) in Test Pit 1 (Photo 2), which was situated in the boundary of a house and garden, used as an orchard, on the 1840's Bere Ferrers tithe map (Figure 7). Whereas the other test pits sat in what would have been more open agricultural land, used as orchards in the western corner of the site and arable land on the eastern half of the site. The slightly increased depth of subsoil along the NW and SW boundaries of the site (Photo 5) may reflect a build up of disturbed soil from the use of the site as an orchard. However, it may be the result of the slope on the site (Photo 6) effecting the build up and shift of soils.</p> <p>No significant archaeological features were revealed and all finds were discarded.</p>		
<p>A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.</p>		
Recorder: Joe Bampton, South West Archaeology Ltd		Date sent to HER: 25.10.2012

Please email completed form to: 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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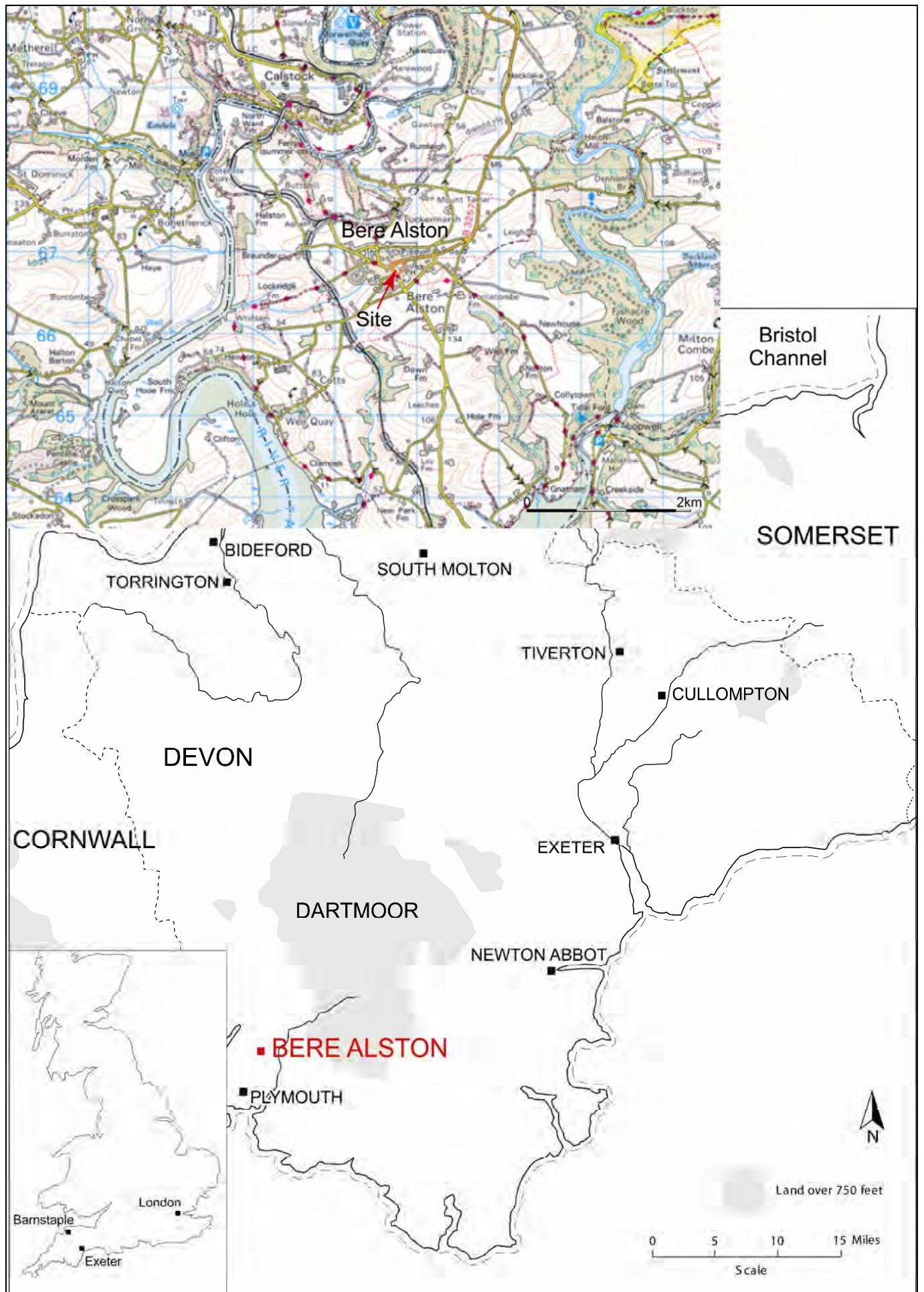
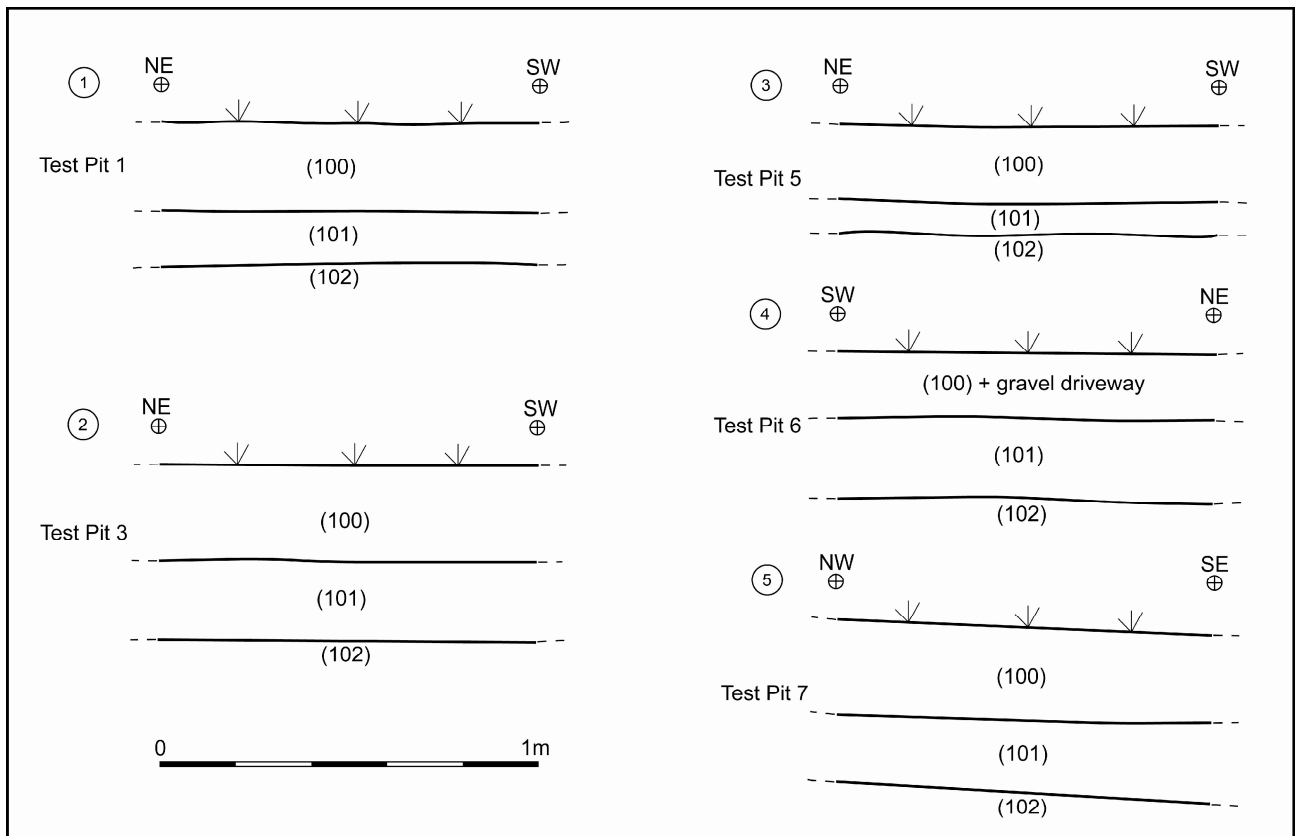


Figure 1a: Site location map.



Figures 1-5: Test pit sample sections.



Figures 7: Site plan overlaid with the tithe map, including designated land use and tithe apportionment numbers.

Figure 6: Site Plan.

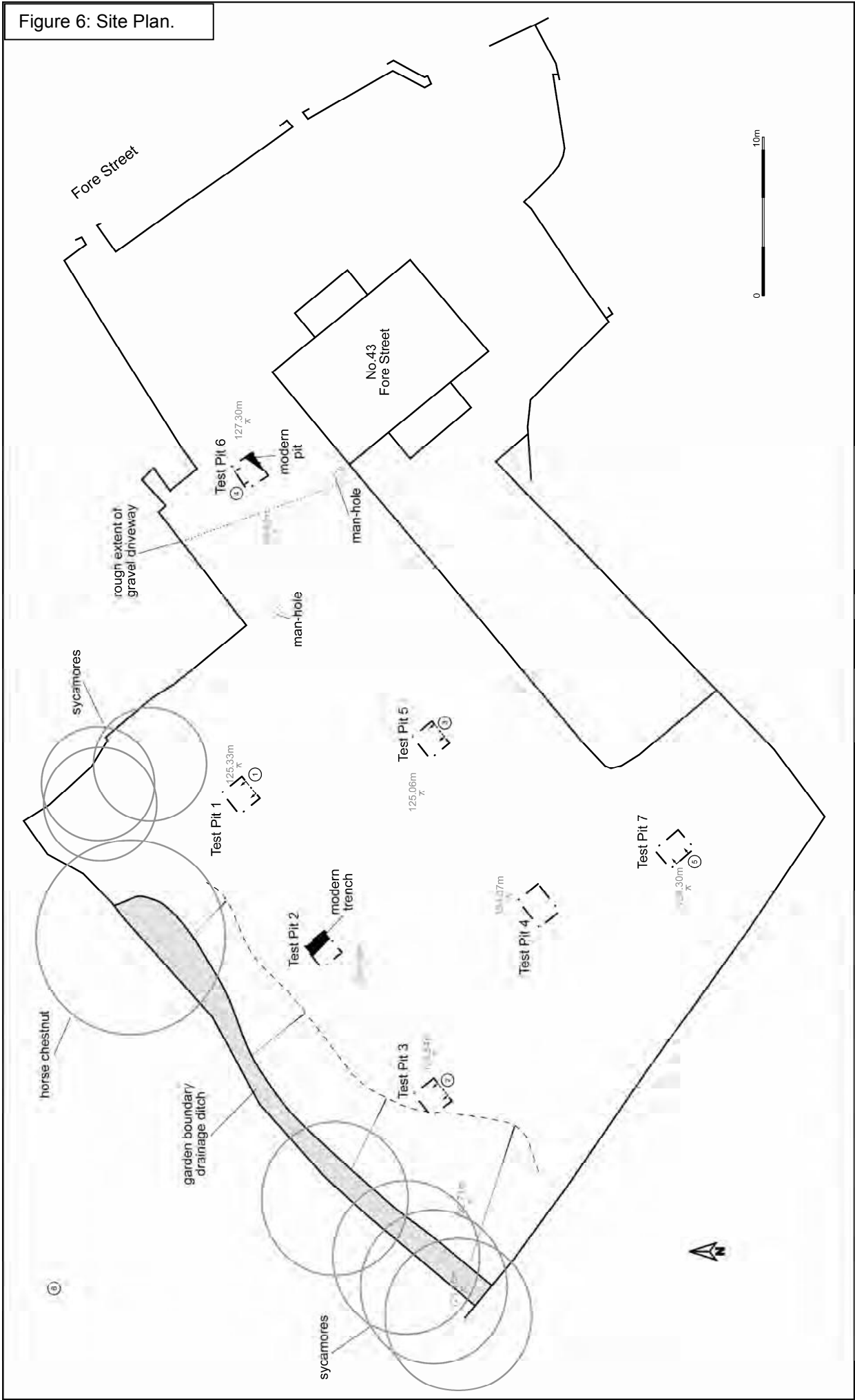




Photo1: Test Pit 6 - Section, looking North-East (scale 1m).



Photo 2: Test Pit 1 - Section, looking South-East (scale 1m).



Photo 3: Test Pit 2 - Post Excavation, looking north-east (scale 1m).



Photo 4: Test Pit 1 - Post Excavation, looking north-east (scale 1m).



Photo 5: Test Pit 3 - Section, looking south-east (scale 1m).



Photo 6: Site from the western corner. Showing the drainage ditch, modern church boundary & slope, looking north-east.