

DISTIN'S BOATYARD, OLD MILL CREEK, DARTMOUTH, DEVON

Results of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording



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Distin's Boatyard, Old Mill Creek, Dartmouth, Devon

Results of Archaeological Monitoring & Recording

For

David Distin (Client)

By



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Plymouth Museum Acc. No.: 2013.17
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HET ref: ARCH/DM/SH/18229
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Project Director: Colin Humphreys
Fieldwork Managers: Dr. Samuel Walls
Project Officer: Dr. Samuel Walls
Fieldwork: Dr. Samuel Walls
Post-Excavation Co-ordinator: Dr. Bryn Morris
Report: Dr. Samuel Walls
Report Editing: Dr. Bryn Morris
Graphics: Dr. Samuel Walls
Finds Processing: Tom Hooper; Dr. Bryn Morris

April 2013

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Summary

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring and recording carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at Distin's Boatyard, Old Mill Creek, Dartmouth, Devon. The monitoring and recording revealed the remnants of part of a lime kiln and a small assemblage of post-medieval and modern finds.

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Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to:

Dave Distin for unrestricted access to the site
Graham Tait (DCHET)
The Staff of the Devon Heritage Centre (DHC)

1.0 Introduction

Location: Distin's Boatyard
Parish: Dartmouth
District: South Hams
County: Devon
NGR: SX8630251952

1.1 Project Background

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring and recording undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) during the excavation of footings for a new buildings at Distins Boatyard, Old Mill Creek, Dartmouth. The work was carried out at the request of Mr D. Distin (the Client), and followed on from a desk-based assessment and walkover conducted by SWARCH in 2010 (Green & Walls 2010). The monitoring was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 2), and the schedule of work it proposed conformed to a Brief supplied by Graham Tait of Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET) (Appendix 1).

1.2 Topographical and Geological Background

The proposed area comprises part of the southern shore of Old Mill Creek, a tidal creek that joins the River Dart at a point to the north of Dartmouth Royal Naval College (Figure 1). To the north and south of the site the land falls steeply towards the creek, with mixed plantation woodland on the slopes. The land to the south of the site is partially developed. At the west end of the site a Grade II Listed rubble stone bridge crosses the head of the creek and bears the road leading from Dartmouth to the road leading to Dittisham. The parish boundary between Dartmouth Civil Parish (historically Townstall) and Dittisham runs along the bed of Old Mill Creek.

The underlying bedrock is comprised of the mudstones with sandstone and limestone beds of the Early Devonian Bovisand Formation.

1.3 Historical and Archaeological Background

The County Historic Environment Record (HER) indicates historic lime kilns in the area of the proposed development (see Figure 4). The area around the lime kilns and the creek are seen as historically important, as lime and coal may have been shipped to/from there.

Distin's Boatyard, Old Mill Creek, Dartmouth

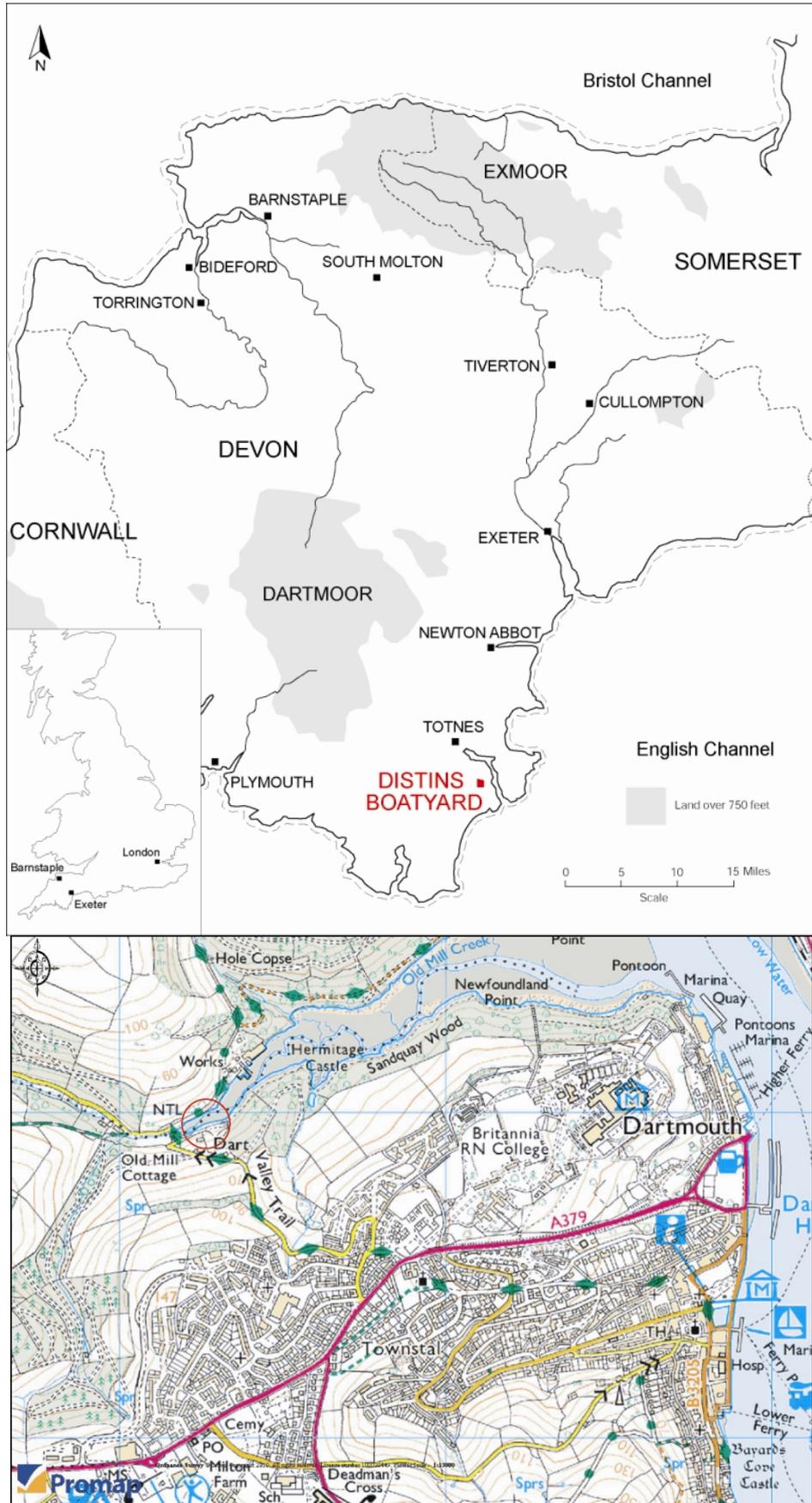


Figure 1: Location map (the site is indicated).

1.4 Methodology

The archaeological monitoring and recording took place in February 2013. All areas subject to groundworks relating to the development were exposed to the depth of formation using a toothless grading bucket, or a toothed bucket when absolutely necessary. All sensitive groundworks took place under archaeological supervision; the reduction of natural subsoil was not monitored. All exposed archaeological features were cleaned and investigated by hand and recorded in accordance with the WSI and IfA guidelines.

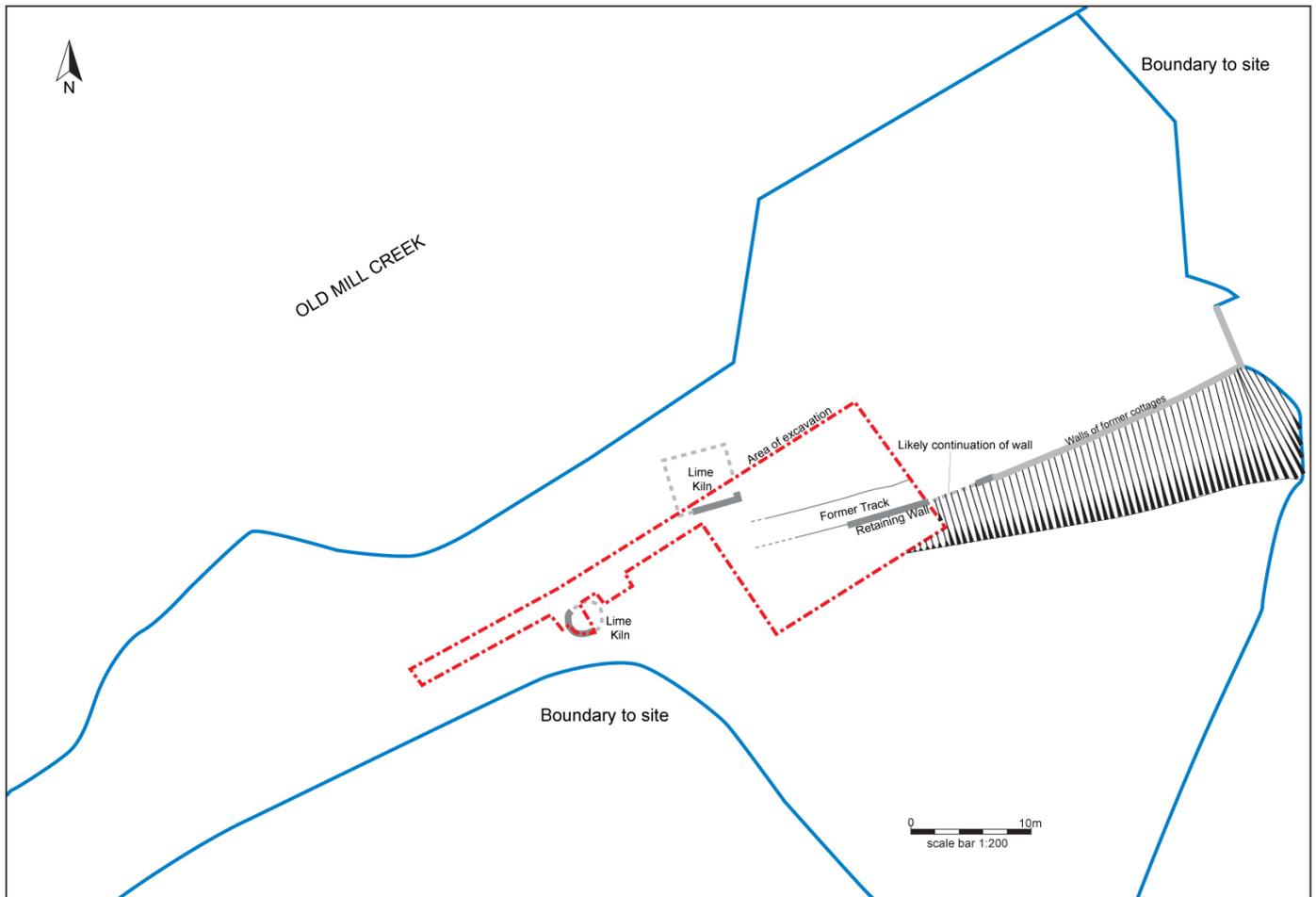


Figure 2: Site plan, showing the areas of excavation.

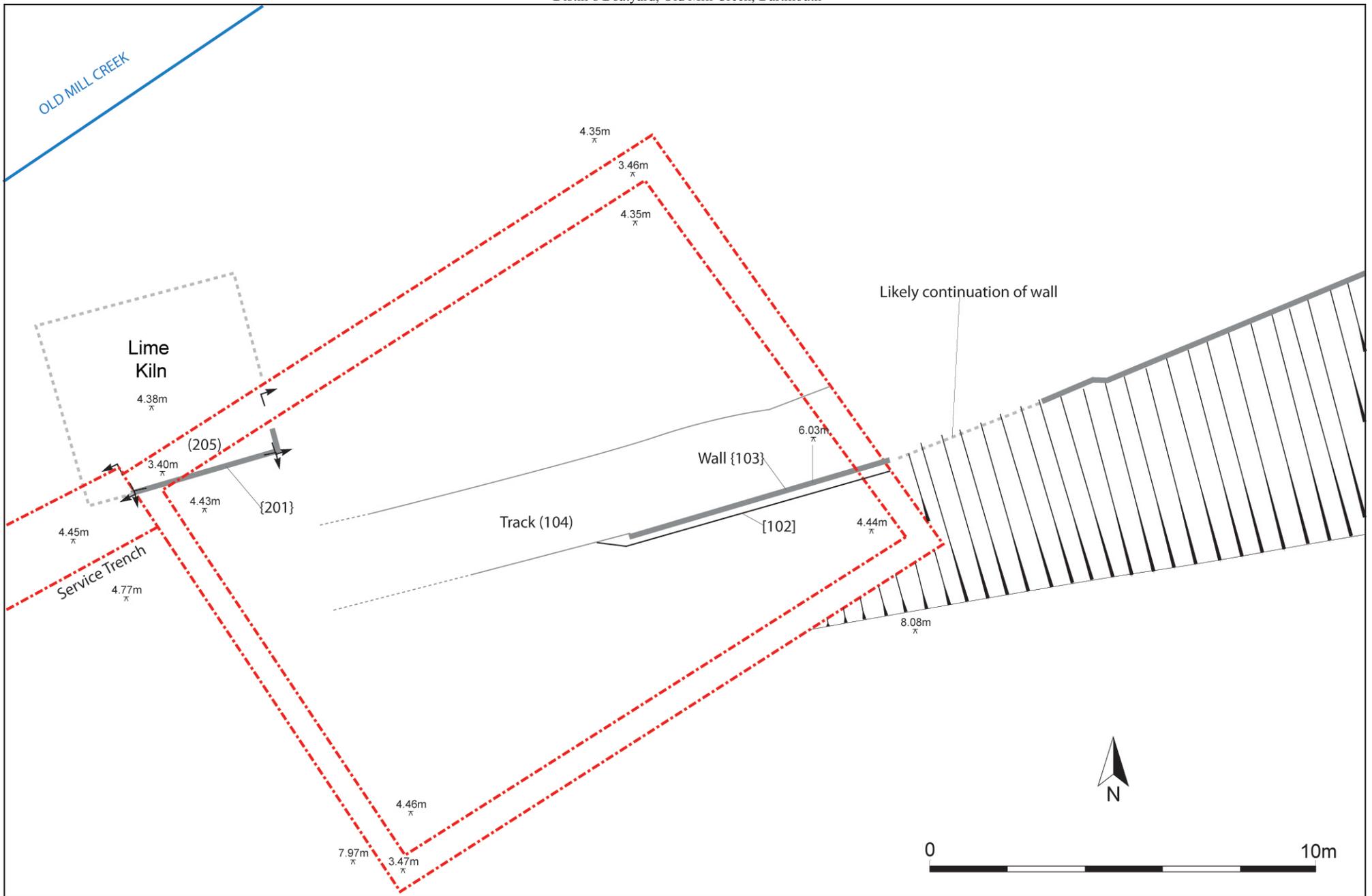


Figure 3: Detailed site plan of the excavated area.

2.0 Excavation Results

The excavated area was terraced back into a slope, requiring the removal of up to 4.5m of overburden towards the southern edge of the site and 0.8m to the north (see Figure 3). A 2m wide service trench was also terraced (c.0.1-0.6m) into the slope and extended southwest from the proposed building towards the site access. The upper part (c.0.6m) of the sequence was largely comprised of redeposited natural and a modern topsoil deposit. These deposits sealed several archaeological features, all of which were cut into the natural subsoil.



Figure 4: The south-western corner of development area, emphasising the depth for footings compared to existing ground level, viewed from the east (no scale).

Feature [102] was a cut located towards the southern end of the site; this relates to a significant landscaping event, presumably the construction of the cottages to the east or the lime kilns to the north. Located 1.3m to the north of [102] were the remains of a 1m high and 0.45m wide stone wall {103}. The wall was constructed of roughly-coursed stones up to 0.7×0.06×0.35m in size bonded with a dark grey-brown clay-silt loam with occasional lime mortar flecks. The wall extended for 7m across the development area, and presumably continued to abutt/adjoin the cottages to the west. It seems to have functioned as a retaining wall running along the line of a former access track that had led to the cottages until the late 20th century. The wall appears to be shown on the Townstall (Dartmouth) tithe map of 1841, although it is also shown to the west (see Figure 4).

The fact that the working floor lay directly upon the natural suggests the structure had been cut back into the hillside prior to the construction of {201}, although this could not be confirmed due to the limited nature of the excavation.

Structure {201} is assumed to represent part of one of two lime kilns known to have existed on the site (see Figures 3 and 5).

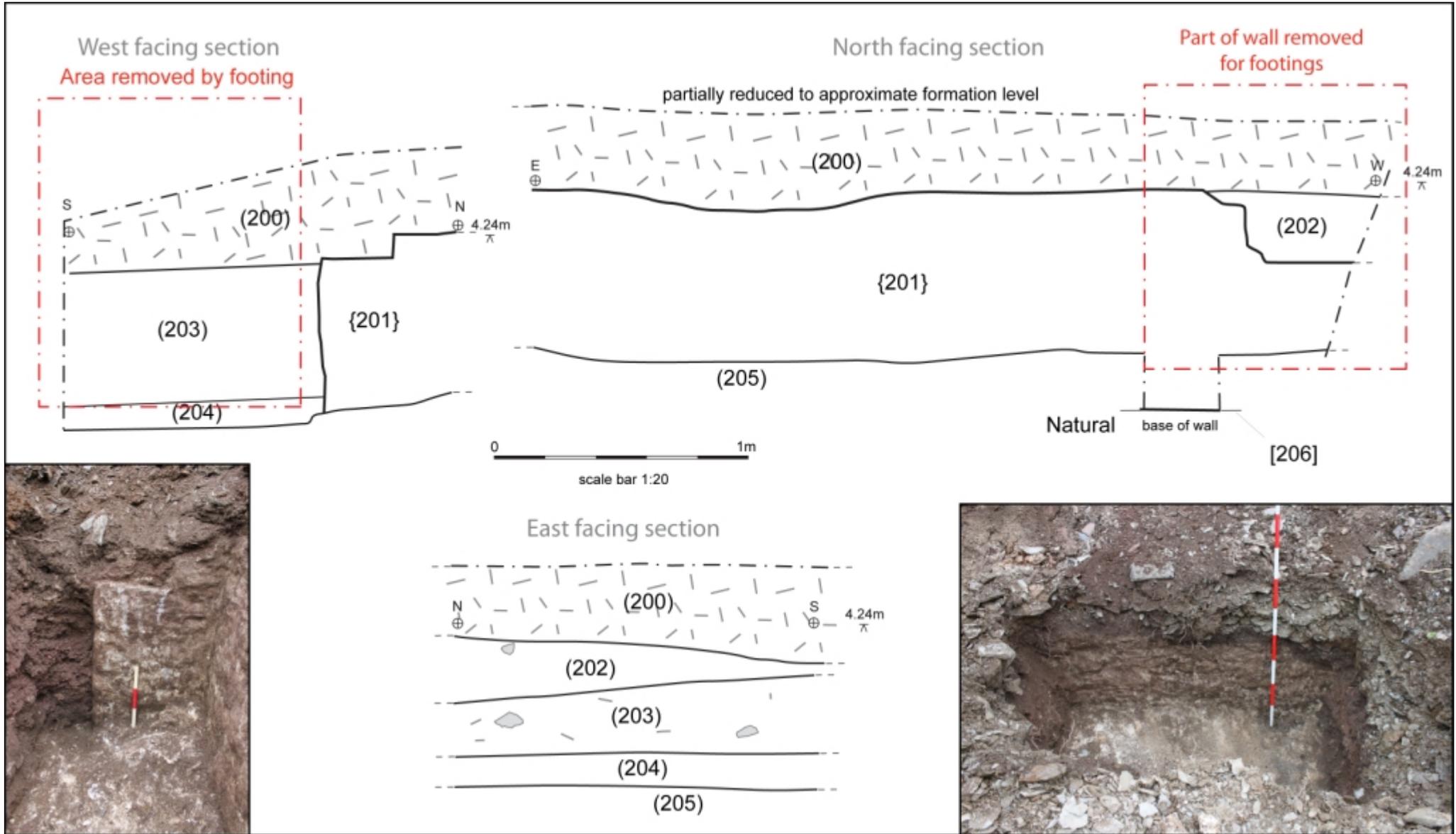


Figure 6: Sections exposed through structure {201}; to the left the west-facing section (0.3m scale), and to the right the north-facing section (2m scale).

3.0 Subsequent works

Subsequent to the completion of the required archaeological monitoring the client contacted SWARCH to undertake further archaeological recording on the site. The client had decided that in order to help resolve a boundary dispute he would excavate a small trench by machine in the location of the second lime kiln as shown on the tithe map (see Figure 5), which is depicted as being located at the end of the disputed boundary.

In excavating this small sondage the client exposed the kiln and contacted SWARCH to record the feature prior to it being filled back-in and the area around it reinstated. Sadly it was not a stable enough structure to leave exposed.

Dr. S. Walls visited the site on the 9th October 2013 and cleaned, photographed and recorded the extant lime-kiln. In addition a small sondage was excavated by hand inside the limekiln to ascertain the surviving depth of deposits and the height of the kiln.

The kiln {301} survived immediately below the present ground surface, and was sealed by the modern tarmac surface to the south and by a thin layer of topsoil over the northern most third of the structure. The northern part of the structure had been considerably reduced in height, and at the exposed depth the most northerly portion of the kiln was not visible, but may have survived *in-situ* at a lower depth.

The kiln had been infilled with an homogenous deposit of redeposited natural grey-yellow shillets and silty-clay soil (302). In the excavated sondage this infilling event (302) overlay a thin deposit (0.06m) of pink (heat-affected) shillet with occasional brick fragments (303) which presumably represents a phase of collapse from the structure. Below this deposit of stones was a layer of moist dark grey-brown silt-clay (304) which contained common charcoal and glass fragments. Deposit (304) had an excavated depth of 0.2m and presumably represents the use of the kiln as a rubbish tip for the adjacent cottages in the late 19th century.

The southern portion of the kiln had been exposed to a height of 1.6m, the upper 0.8m of which overhangs the rest slightly and was comprised of the natural bedrock smeared with a thin covering of greyish-cream lime mortar, below this was single coursed brick wall which appears to have been used to infill an area of collapse within the natural bedrock. The bricks were hand-made 2³/₄" thick frogged bricks bonded with a soft creamy white lime mortar. The outer face of these bricks (internal to the kiln) was coated with a 0.03m thick layer of conglomerated impurities from the firing of the kiln.

The northern portion of the exposed part of the kiln was constructed from roughly coursed local stone with a soft grey lime and earth bonding. The stone had clearly been heat affected.

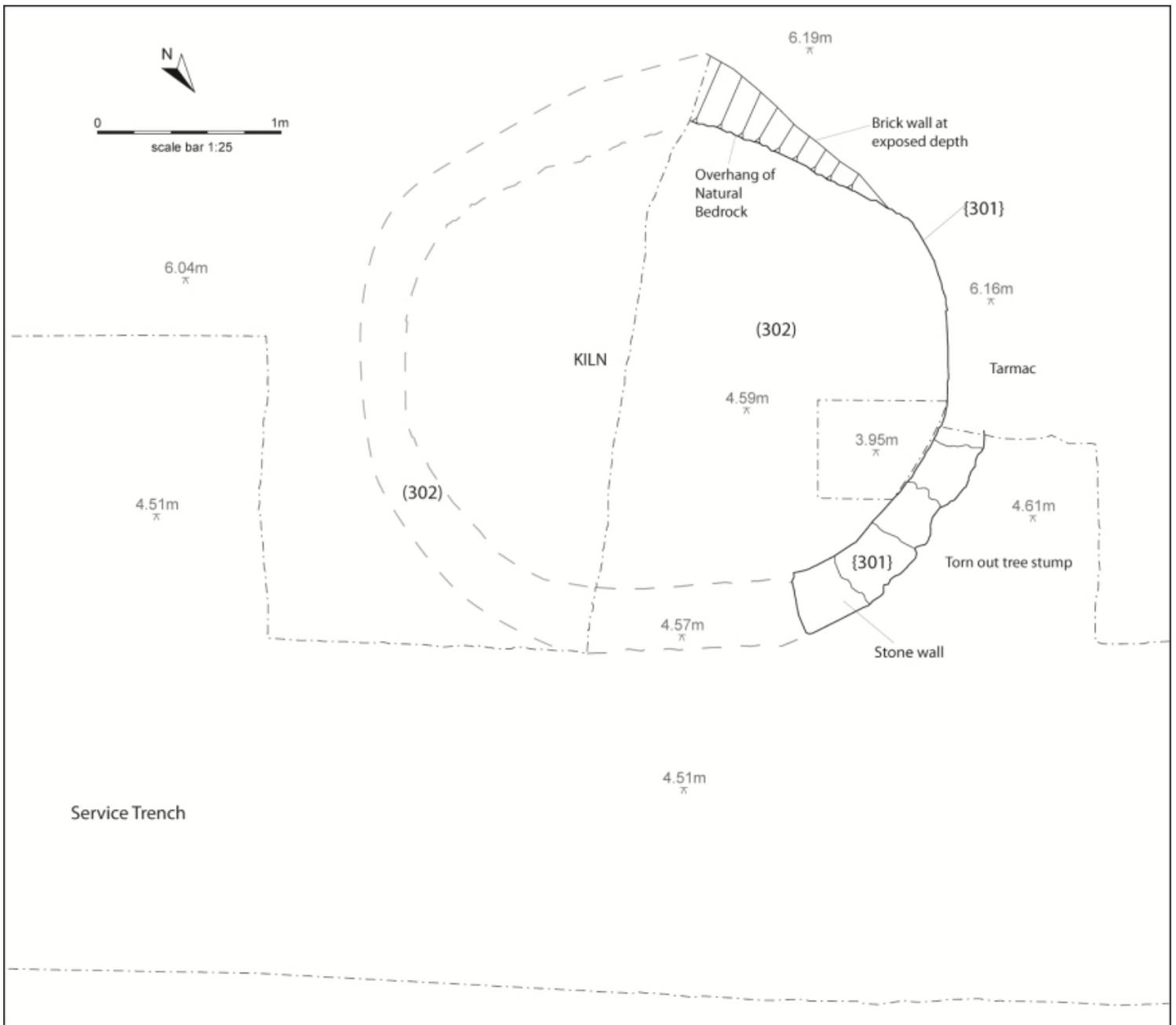


Figure 7: Plan of the extent of the second kiln {301}.

4.0 Finds synopsis

There was a small assemblage of finds recovered from the site, primarily from the topsoil and spoil heap, although a small assemblage was recovered from the initial phase of infilling within the kiln structures (204) and (304). The finds were primarily of 19th-20th century date (see Appendix 4), although there were a few sherds of 17th century material, such as single sherds of Westerwald stoneware and Bristol-Staffordshire yellow slipware with brown trails. There were also a small number of clay pipe stems and bowls recovered, including one bowl marked 'Dublin'.



Figure 8: Shot of the second exposed kiln {301}, viewed from the northeast (2m scale).

5.0 Discussion and Conclusions

The archaeological monitoring at Distin's Boatyard uncovered the remains of an 18th - early 19th century retaining wall, trackway and two lime kiln. A small assemblage of post-medieval and modern finds reflect this occupation and use. The majority of the two kilns and retaining wall survive intact outside of the area impacted by this development.

6.0 Bibliography and References

Published Sources:

British Geological Survey 2013: Geology of Britain Viewer. www.bgs.ac.uk/

Green, T. and Walls, S.H. 2010: *Distin's Boatyard, Dartmouth, Devon: Results of a Desk-Based Assessment with Walkover Survey*. SWARCH Report No: 101125

Institute of Field Archaeologists. 1995 (Revised 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*

Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales (a brief explanation of the constituent soil associations)*.

Unpublished Sources:

Devon Heritage Centre:
Townstall Tithe Map 1841
Townstall Tithe Apportionment

Appendix 1

BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

Location: Distins Boatyard, Old Mill Creek, Dartmouth TQ6 0HN
Parish: Dartmouth
District: South Hams
County: Devon
NGR: SX 86301 51960
Planning Application no: 15/1888/11/O
Proposal: Demolition and removal of prefab building & porta cabins & the erection of a new workshop & office building
Historic Environment Team ref: ARCH/DM/SH/18229

1. INTRODUCTION AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

1.1 This brief has been prepared by the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (HET) with regard to the archaeological works required as a condition of planning consent for the above works. This brief has been produced specifically for the above planning application and may require alteration if this application is revised, amended or resubmitted. This document is not transferable to any other scheme or planning application.

1.2 In accordance with paragraph 141 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (2012), and the Local Development Framework Policy on archaeology, consent has been granted, conditional upon a programme of archaeological work being undertaken. This condition (number 5) requires that: *No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out at all times in strict accordance with the approved scheme or such other details as may be subsequently agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

Reason: To ensure that an appropriate record is made of archaeological evidence that may be affected by the development.

1.3 The principal objective of the programme shall be to observe, investigate, excavate and record any surviving below-ground archaeological artefacts and deposits across the area affected by the proposed development.

1.4 The County Historic Environment Record (HER) records historic lime kilns in this area (marked "old limekilns" on 1st edition OS map). The area around the lime kilns and the creek area is historically important, as lime and coal may have been shipped to/from there. Any development in this area may have an impact on the lime kiln and related structures and archaeological deposits around the creek.

The application has been submitted with a report titled "Results of a Desk-Based Assessment with Walkover Survey" by South West Archaeology. This has determined the potential for the survival of archaeological deposits within the application site as well as provided a statement of archaeological impact of the proposed scheme and recommendations for mitigation. The recommendations for mitigation are that a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording of any groundworks be conducted. This will incorporate the recording of any archaeological deposits or structures which may survive and is likely to include any surviving remains of the lime kilns.

1.5 This Brief covers the application area as defined in the plans submitted in support of this application.

2. WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

2.1 This document sets out the scope of the works required to record the extent and character of any surviving archaeological deposits within the application area and will form the basis of the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) to be prepared by the archaeological consultant.

2.2 The Written Scheme of Investigation must be submitted by the applicant or on their behalf by their agent or archaeological consultant and approved by the HET and the Local Planning Authority *prior* to any development commencing on site.

3. PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS

3.1 Monitoring and Recording of Groundworks

Comprehensive monitoring and recording. (present during all groundworks), Topsoil stripping and all groundworks across the site should be undertaken by a 360o tracked or wheeled JCB-type mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket under the supervision and 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. Should archaeological deposits be exposed machining will cease in that area to allow the site archaeologist to investigate the exposed deposits.

3.2 Archaeological features and deposits will be cleaned and excavated by hand and will be fully recorded by context as per the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (1994 - revised 2008). All features shall be recorded in plan and section at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50. All scale drawings shall be undertaken at a scale appropriate to the complexity of the deposit/feature and to allow accurate depiction and interpretation.

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.

Should the above % 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 HET.

3.3 Spoil will be examined for the recovery of artefacts.

3.4 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. On-site sampling and post-excavation assessment and analysis will be undertaken in accordance with English Heritage's guidance in *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation 2002*.

3.5 In the event of particularly significant discoveries, the HET will be informed and a site meeting between the consultant, the HET and the client/applicant to determine the appropriate mitigation.

3.6 An adequate photographic record of the excavation will be prepared. This will include photographs illustrating the principal features and finds discovered, in detail and in context. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted. All photographs of archaeological detail will feature an appropriately-sized scale. 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.

3.7 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.

3.8 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.

3.9 The results of the desk-based work and a copy of the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation must be made available to the site director/supervisor to enable the adequate interpretation of exposed features/deposits during fieldwork and that the agreed programme of works is understood and undertaken.

4. MONITORING

4.1 The archaeological consultant shall agree monitoring arrangements with the HET 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.

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.

4.3 The archaeological contractor undertaking the fieldwork will notify the HET upon completion of the fieldwork stage of these works.

5. REPORTING

5.1 The reporting requirements will be confirmed with the HET on completion of the site work. In the event that few or no archaeological remains are exposed, only minimal reporting would be required. The results may be presented in the form of a short entry to the Historic Environment Record (HER), sent to the HET either digitally or as a hard-copy. If archaeological deposits or remains are exposed during the course of the works, then more detailed reporting would be required, in the form of an illustrated summary report submitted both in hard-copy and digitally and, if merited, wider publication.

5.2 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 will include:

- (i) a summary of the project's background;
- (ii) description and illustration of the site location;
- (iii) a methodology of the works undertaken;
- (iv) include plans and reports of all documentary and other research undertaken;
- (v) a description of the project's results;
- (vi) an interpretation of the results in the appropriate context;
- (vii) a summary of the contents of the project archive and its location (including summary catalogues of finds and samples);
- (viii) a site location plan at an appropriate scale on an Ordnance Survey, or equivalent, base-map;
- (ix) a plan showing the location of the areas subject to the archaeological work and the exposed features and deposits in relation to the site boundaries;
- (x) detailed plans of areas of the site in which archaeological features are recognised along with adequate OD spot height information. These should be at an appropriate scale to allow the nature of the features exposed to be shown and understood. Plans must show the site and features/deposits in relation to north. Archaeologically sterile areas need not be illustrated unless this can provide information on the development of the site stratigraphy or show palaeoenvironmental deposits that have influenced the site stratigraphy;

- (xi) section drawings of deposits and features, with OD heights, at scales appropriate to the stratigraphic detail to be shown and must show the orientation of the drawing in relation to north/south/east/west. Archaeologically sterile areas need not be illustrated unless they can provide information on the development of the site stratigraphy or show palaeoenvironmental deposits that have influenced the site stratigraphy;
- (xii) site matrices where appropriate;
- (xiii) photographs showing the general site layout and exposed significant features and deposits that are referred to in the text. All photographs should contain appropriate scales, the size of which will be noted in the illustration's caption;
- (xiv) a consideration of evidence within its wider context;
- (xv) a summary table and descriptive text showing the features, classes and numbers of artefacts recovered and soil profiles with interpretation;
- (xvi) specialist assessment or analysis reports where undertaken;
- (xvii) an evaluation of the methodology employed and the results obtained (i.e. a confidence rating). It is recommended that a draft report is submitted to the HET for comment prior to its formal submission to the Local Planning Authority.

5.3 The timetable for the production of the report must be set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation. The HET would normally expect to receive the report within three months of completion of fieldwork - dependent 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 the HET must be informed of this and a revised date for the production of the full report agreed between the HET and the archaeological contractor. If a substantial delay is anticipated then an interim report will be produced within three months of the completion of the fieldwork.

5.4 Should the development proceed in a staged manner, with each stage requiring archaeological fieldwork, and where a period of more than three months between each stage is anticipated or occurs, then the archaeological contractor shall prepare an interim illustrated summary report at the end of each stage. The report will set out the results of that phase of archaeological works, including the results of any specialist assessment or analysis undertaken. The report will be produced within three months of completion of each phase of fieldwork. At the completion of the final stage of the fieldwork an overarching report setting out the results of all stages of work will be prepared. HET would normally expect to receive the report within three months of completion of fieldwork - dependent 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 the HET must be informed of this, an interim report will be produced within three months of the completion of the final stage of fieldwork, and a revised date for the production of the full report agreed between the HET and the archaeological contractor.

5.5 On completion of the final report, in addition to copies required by the Client, hard copies of the report shall be supplied to the HET 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 Team in digital format - in a format to be agreed in advance with the HET - on the understanding that a digital version of the report may in future be made available to researchers via a web-based version of the Historic Environment Record.

5.6 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.

6 PUBLICATION

Where the exposure of archaeological, artefactual or palaeoenvironmental remains is limited or of little significance reporting will follow on directly from the field work - see section 5 above.

Should particularly significant archaeological or palaeoenvironmental remains, finds and/or deposits be encountered, then these, because of their importance, are likely to merit wider publication in line with government planning guidance in paragraph 141 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (2012). If such remains are encountered, the publication requirements – including any further analysis that may be necessary – will be confirmed with the HET.

6.1 *Post Excavation Assessment, Analysis and Project Designs for further work* Where excavations reveal archaeological, artefactual or palaeoenvironmental deposits that have potential for yielding important information about the site or its environs, through specialist assessment and analysis, this assessment work will be undertaken and reported on in a separate formal Post-Excavation Assessment and Project Design. This document may also fulfil the role of an interim report if a substantial publication delay is expected.

This document will be produced by the archaeological contractor within three months of completion of the fieldwork - specialist input allowing - and agreed with the HET. It will include:

- A summary of the project and its background
- A plan showing the location of the site and plans of the site showing the location of archaeological features, artefactual or palaeoenvironmental deposits exposed
- Research aims and objectives
- Method statements setting out how these aims and objectives are to be achieved
- Details of the tasks to be undertaken
- The results of any specialist assessment work undertaken as part of the production of the formal Assessment and Project Design
- Proposed project team
- Overall timetable for undertaking the tasks as well as setting out monitoring points with the HET
- Details of the journal in which the material is to be published

7. PERSONNEL

7.1 The work shall be carried out by a recognised archaeological consultant, agreed with the DCHET. 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

Written Scheme of Investigation 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 an Archaeological Watching Brief (1994)*, as amended (2008).

8. CONFLICT WITH OTHER CONDITIONS AND STATUTORILY PROTECTED SPECIES

If topsoil stripping or groundworks are being undertaken under the direct control and supervision of the archaeological contractor then it is the archaeological contractor's responsibility - in consultation with the applicant or agent - to ensure that the required archaeological works do not conflict with any other conditions that have been imposed upon the consent granted 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. SSSIs, 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 Written Scheme of Investigation*, and within the final report or the short entry to the Historic Environment Record.

9.2 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 HET. 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.

9.3 The artefact discard policy must be set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation.

9.4 The condition placed upon this development will not be regarded as discharged until the report has been produced and submitted to the HET and the LPA, the site archive deposited and the OASIS form submitted.

10. CONTACT NAME AND ADDRESS

Graham Tait, Archaeologist, Devon County Council, Lucombe House, County Hall, Exeter EX2 4QD

Tel: 01392 382214 Email: graham.tait@devon.gov.uk

3rd December 2012

Appendix 2

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING AT DISTINS BOATYARD, OLD MILL CREEK, DARTMOUTH, DEVON

Location: Distins Boatyard, Old Mill Creek, Dartmouth TQ6 0HN
Parish: Dartmouth
District: South Hams
County: Devon
NGR: SX 86301 51960
Planning Application no: 15/1888/11/O
Proposal: Demolition and removal of prefab building & porta cabins & the erection of a new workshop & office building
HET ref: ARCH/DM/SH/18229
Date: 10.12.2012

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document forms a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which has been produced by South West Archaeology (SWARCH) at the request of Mike Parkes (the Agent), on behalf of Mr J D Distin (the Client). It sets out the methodology for archaeological monitoring and recording to be undertaken during the above development and for related off site analysis and reporting. The WSI and the schedule of work it proposes were drawn up in accordance to a brief issued by Graham Tait of Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET, 03.12.2012).
In accordance with paragraph 141 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (2012), and the Local Development Framework Policy on archaeology, consent has been granted, conditional upon a programme of archaeological work being undertaken. This condition requires that:
'No development shall take place until the applicant (or their heir or successor in title) has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out at all times in strict accordance with the agreed scheme, or such other details as may be subsequently agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.'

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The County Historic Environment Record (HER) records historic lime kilns in this area (marked "old limekilns" on 1st edition OS map). The area around the lime kilns and the creek area is historically important, as lime and coal may have been shipped to/from there. Any development in this area may have an impact on the lime kiln and related structures and archaeological deposits around the creek.
The application has been submitted with SWARCH report no. (*Results of a Desk-Based Assessment with Walkover Survey*). The recommendations for mitigation are that a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording of any groundworks be conducted. This will incorporate the recording of any archaeological deposits or structures which may survive and is likely to include any surviving remains of the lime kilns.

3.0 AIMS

3.1 To observe, investigate, excavate and record any surviving below-ground archaeological artefacts and deposits across the area affected by the proposed development;
3.2 Analyse and report on the results of the project as appropriate.

4.0 METHOD

4.1 Comprehensive archaeological monitoring and recording (present during all groundworks):
All groundworks will be undertaken by a 360° tracked or wheeled JCB-type mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket where possible, **under the supervision and 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. Should archaeological deposits be exposed machining will cease in that area to allow the site archaeologist to investigate the exposed deposits. The work shall be carried out in accordance with the *IfA Standard and guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (1994), as amended (2008).
Should archaeological features and deposits be exposed, they will be excavated by the site archaeologist by hand:
4.1.1 The archaeological work will be carried out in accordance with the *Institute for 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)*.
4.1.2 Spoil will be examined for the recovery of artefacts.
4.1.3 All excavation of exposed archaeological features shall be carried out by hand, stratigraphically, and fully recorded by context to IfA guidelines.
4.1.4 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.

- 4.1.5 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 or decisions regarding expansion will be considered in consultation with the Client and DCHET.
- 4.1.6 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.
- 4.1.7 Should archaeological or palaeoenvironmental remains be exposed, the site archaeologist will investigate, record and sample such deposits.
- 4.1.8 Human remains must be left *in-situ*, covered and protected. Removal will only take place under appropriate Ministry of Justice and environmental health regulations. Such removal will be in compliance with the relevant primary legislation.
- 4.1.9 Any finds identified as treasure or potential treasure, including precious metals, groups of coins or prehistoric metalwork, will 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.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.3.1 Appropriate PPE will be employed at all times.
- 4.3.2 The site archaeologist will undertake any site safety induction course provided by the Client.
- 4.3.3 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.
- 4.4 If significant or complex archaeological remains are uncovered, SWARCH will liaise with the client and DCHET to determine the most satisfactory way to proceed.
- 4.5 Monitoring
- 4.5.1 SWARCH shall agree monitoring arrangements with the HET 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.
- 4.5.2 Monitoring will continue until the deposition of the site archive and finds, and the satisfactory completion of an OASIS report - see 6.8 below.
- 4.5.3 SWARCH will notify the HET upon completion of the fieldwork stage of these works.
- 5.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING**
- 5.1 This will be based on IfA guidelines and those advised by DCHET 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 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 DCHET.
- 5.2 A photographic record of the excavation will be prepared. This will include photographs illustrating the principal features and finds discovered, in detail and in context. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted. All photographs of archaeological detail will feature an appropriately-sized scale. The photographic record for the excavations will 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 will be made of the digital images by a photographic laboratory. The drawn and written record will be on an appropriately archivable medium in accordance with the current conditions of deposit of the Plymouth City Museum and Gallery.
- 5.3 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. Should deposits be exposed that contain palaeoenvironmental or datable elements appropriate sampling and post-excavation analysis strategies will be initiated. On-site sampling and post-excavation assessment and analysis will be undertaken in accordance with English Heritage's guidance in *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation 2002* and if necessary with reference to and with advice from the English Heritage Regional Science Advisor.
- 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 project. This will include relevant correspondence together with field notes and drawings, and environmental, artefactual and photographic records. The archive and finds will be deposited with the Plymouth City Museum and Gallery under accession

- number 2013.17. The museum's current guidelines for the deposition of archives for long-term storage will be adhered to.
- 6.2 The reporting requirements will be confirmed with the HET on completion of the site work. In the event that few or no archaeological remains are exposed, only minimal reporting would be required. The results may be presented in the form of a short entry to the Historic Environment Record (HER), sent to the HET either digitally or as a hard-copy. If archaeological deposits or remains are exposed during the course of the works, then more detailed reporting would be required, in the form of an illustrated summary report submitted both in hard-copy and digitally and, if merited, wider publication.
- 6.3 If a report is produced it will include the following elements:
- 6.3.1 A report number, date and the OASIS record number;
 - 6.3.2 A copy of the DCHET brief and this WSI;
 - 6.3.3 A summary of the project's background;
 - 6.3.4 A description and illustration of the site location;
 - 6.3.5 A methodology of the works undertaken, and an evaluation of that methodology;
 - 6.3.6 Plans and reports of all documentary and other research undertaken;
 - 6.3.7 A summary of the project's results;
 - 6.3.8 An interpretation of the results in the appropriate context;
 - 6.3.9 A summary of the contents of the project archive and its location (including summary catalogues of finds and samples);
 - 6.3.10 A location plan and overall site plan including the location of areas subject to archaeological recording;
 - 6.3.11 Detailed plans of areas of the site in which archaeological features are recognised along with adequate OD spot height information. These will be at an appropriate scale to allow the nature of the features exposed to be shown and understood. Plans will show the site and features/deposits in relation to north. Archaeologically sterile areas will not be illustrated unless this can provide information on the development of the site stratigraphy or show palaeoenvironmental deposits that have influenced the site stratigraphy;
 - 6.3.12 Section drawings of deposits and features, with OD heights, at scales appropriate to the stratigraphic detail to be shown and must show the orientation of the drawing in relation to north/south/east/west. Archaeologically sterile areas will not be illustrated unless they can provide information on the development of the site stratigraphy or show palaeoenvironmental deposits that have influenced the site stratigraphy;
 - 6.3.13 A description of any remains and deposits identified including an interpretation of their character and significance;
 - 6.3.14 Assessment and analysis, as appropriate, of significant artefacts, environmental and scientific samples;
 - 6.3.15 Discussion of the archaeological deposits encountered and their context;
 - 6.3.16 A consideration of the evidence within its wider context;
 - 6.3.17 Site matrices where appropriate;
 - 6.3.18 Photographs showing the general site layout and exposed significant features and deposits referred to in the text. All photographs will contain appropriate scales, the size of which will be noted in the illustration's caption;
 - 6.3.19 A summary table and descriptive text showing the features, classes and numbers of artefacts recovered and soil profiles with interpretation;
 - 6.3.20 Specialist assessment or analysis reports where undertaken.
- 6.4 DCHET 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 and a revised submission date for the final report agreed with the DCHET.
- 6.5 Should the development proceed in a staged manner, with each stage requiring archaeological fieldwork, and where a period of more than three months between each stage is anticipated or occurs, then SWARCH will prepare an interim illustrated summary report at the end of each stage. The report will set out the results of that phase of archaeological works, including the results of any specialist assessment or analysis undertaken. The report will be produced within three months of completion of each phase of fieldwork. At the completion of the final stage of the fieldwork an overarching report setting out the results of all stages of work will be prepared. HET would normally expect to receive the report within three months of completion of fieldwork - dependent 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 the HET will be informed of this, an interim report will be produced within three months of the completion of the final stage of fieldwork, and a revised date for the production of the full report agreed between the HET and SWARCH.
- 6.6 Where excavations reveal significant archaeological remains with the potential to yield important information about the site and its environment, then a formal Post-Excavation Report and revised Written Scheme of Investigation may be required. This document may also fulfil the requirement for an interim report if a substantial publication delay is anticipated. This document will include the following elements:
- 6.6.1 A summary of the project and its background;
 - 6.6.2 A plan showing the location of the site, and plans showing the location of archaeological features and artefactual or palaeoenvironmental deposits;

- 6.6.3 Research aims and objectives;
- 6.6.4 A method statement, outlining how these aims and objectives will be achieved;
- 6.6.5 Detail the tasks to be undertaken;
- 6.6.6 The results of specialist assessment reports;
- 6.6.7 The project team;
- 6.6.8 The overall timetable, including monitoring points with DCHET;
- 6.6.9 Detail of the journal in which the material will be published.
DCHET will receive a draft of this report within three months of the completion of the fieldwork, specialist reports allowing.
- 6.7 Where the exposure of archaeological, artefactual or palaeoenvironmental remains is limited or of little significance reporting will follow on directly from the field work - see 6.3 above. Should particularly significant archaeological or palaeoenvironmental remains, finds and/or deposits be encountered, then these, because of their importance, are likely to merit wider publication in line with government planning guidance in paragraph 141 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (2012). If such remains are encountered, the publication requirements – including any further analysis that may be necessary – will be confirmed with the HET.
- 6.8 Post Excavation Assessment, Analysis and Project Designs for further work:
Where excavations reveal archaeological, artefactual or palaeoenvironmental deposits that have potential for yielding important information about the site or its environs, through specialist assessment and analysis, this assessment work will be undertaken and reported on in a separate formal Post-Excavation Assessment and Project Design. This document may also fulfil the role of an interim report if a substantial publication delay is expected.
This document will be produced within three months of completion of the fieldwork - specialist input allowing - and agreed with the HET. It will include:
- 6.8.1 A summary of the project and its background;
- 6.8.2 A plan showing the location of the site and plans of the site showing the location of archaeological features, artefactual or palaeoenvironmental deposits exposed;
- 6.8.3 Research aims and objectives;
- 6.8.4 Method statements setting out how these aims and objectives are to be achieved;
- 6.8.5 Details of the tasks to be undertaken;
- 6.8.6 The results of any specialist assessment work undertaken as part of the production of the formal Assessment and Project Design;
- 6.8.7 The proposed project team;
- 6.8.8 The overall timetable for undertaking the tasks as well as setting out monitoring points with the HET;
- 6.8.9 Details of the journal in which the material is to be published.
- 6.9 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 reference southwes1-138584 within 3 months of completion of fieldwork.
- 7.0 CONFLICT WITH OTHER CONDITIONS AND STATUTORY PROTECTED SPECIES**
If groundworks are being undertaken under the direct control and supervision of SWARCH it is their responsibility - in consultation with the applicant or agent - to ensure that the required archaeological works do not conflict with any other conditions that have been imposed upon the consent granted 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. SSSIs, National Nature Reserves, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites, County Wildlife Sites etc.
- 8.0 PERSONNEL & MONITORING**
- 8.1 The project will be managed by Colin Humphreys; the archaeological monitoring will be undertaken by SWARCH personnel with appropriate expertise and experience. 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

Richard Parker
11 Toronto Road, St James, Exeter. EX4 6LE. Tel: 07763 248241

Conservation

Alison Hopper Bishop the Royal Albert Memorial Museum Conservation service

a.hopperbishop@exeter.gov.uk

Richard and Helena Jaeschke

2 Bydown Cottages, Swimbridge, Barnstaple EX32 0QD

mrshjaeschke@email.msn.com Tel: 01271 830891

Curatorial

Distin's Boatyard, Old Mill Creek, Dartmouth

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 Tel: 01271 346747

Bone

Human

Professor Chris Knusel

University of Exeter

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

Animal

Wendy Howard

Department of Archaeology, Laver Building, University of Exeter, North Park Road, Exeter EX4 4QE

w.j.howard@exeter.ac.uk

Tel: 01392 269330

Lithics

Martin Tingle

Higher Brownston, Brownston, Modbury, Devon, PL21 OSQ martin@mtingle.freeseerve.co.uk

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

Pottery

Prehistoric

Henrietta Quinnell

39D Polsloe Road, Exeter EX1 2DN

Tel: 01392 433214

Roman

Alex Croom, Keeper of Archaeology

Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums, Arbeia Roman Fort and Museum, Baring Street, South Shields,

Tyne and Wear NE332BB

Tel: (0191) 454 4093

alex.croom@twmuseums.org.uk

Medieval

John Allen,

22, Rivermead Road Exeter EX2 4RL Tel: 01392 256154

john.p.allan@btinternet.com

Post Medieval

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Appendix 3

List of contexts

Context	Description	Relationships	Depth/Thickness	Spot Date	
(100)	<i>Turf Topsoil</i>	A dark brownish-grey soft silt-clay with common roots and fragments of slate/shillet	Overlies (101), {103}, (104) and (200)	0.20-0.05m	C20
(101)	<i>Deposit</i>	A fine, soft-to-firm light grey-brown silt-clay with occasional fragments of slate/shillet	Overlain by (100), abutted by {103}	0.35m	C19
[102]	<i>Cut</i>	Construction cut for access track	Cuts (101), filled by {103}	c.1.3m	C18-19
{103}	<i>Structure</i>	A 0.45m wide and 1m high wall (exposed for c.7m in length) of roughly-coursed stones of mixed size bonded with a dark grey-brown clay-silt loam with occasional lime mortar flecks	Abutted by (104)	1m	C18-19
(104)	<i>Deposit</i>	A consolidated/compacted stony light greyish-yellow clay-silt	Butts {103} overlies Natural	0.1m	C18-19
(200)	<i>Deposit</i>	A very loose and mixed deposit of re-deposited natural and topsoil; dark greyish-brown to greyish-pink with frequent fragments of slate/shillet		c.1m	C20
{201}	<i>Structure</i>	A 0.8m high and 0.5m thick wall of roughly-coursed stone with a soft greyish lime mortar bond and render; two elevations partially exposed (south and east)	Fill of [206], abutted by (203), (204) and (205)	0.8m	C18-19
(202)	<i>Deposit</i>	A soft slightly moist dark grey-brown silt-clay with occasional sub-angular stones and coal fragments	Overlies {201}	c.0.18m	C20
(203)	<i>Deposit</i>	A firm and clean gritty pinkish-grey silt-clay with frequent fragments of slate/shillet	Overlies (204)	0.18-0.3m	C20
(204)	<i>Deposit</i>	A gritty mixed dark-grey silt-clay with common coal fragments and lime fragments, some large iron fragments.	Overlies (205)	c.0.1m	C19
(205)	<i>Deposit</i>	Working floor – a compact greyish-white lime deposit with occasional coal and shillet fragments	Overlies natural, abuts {201}	c.0.25m	C18-19
[206]	<i>Cut</i>	Construction cut for kiln {201}	Cuts natural	c.1m?	C18-19
{301}	<i>Structure</i>	Remains of a lime-kiln partially constructed of hand-made bricks, partially stone, lime and earth bonded	Infilled by (302), (303) and (304)	c. 2m high	C18-19
(302)	<i>Deposit</i>	A landscaping/ infilling event backfilling the kiln with re-deposited natural	Infills {301} overlies (303)	c.1.4m	C20
(303)	<i>Deposit</i>	Layer of collapse from {301}	Infills {301} overlies (304)	c.0.1m	C20
(304)	<i>Deposit</i>	Layer of rubbish and earth within {301} only partially excavated	Below (303)	c.0.2m	Late C19th

Appendix 4

Finds Concordance

Context	Material	Sherds/ Frag.	Weight (kg)
(100)	Animal Bone fragments	5	0.022
	Clay pipe stems, one decorative	2	0.005
	Clay pipe, partial bowl	1	0.009
	Clay pipe, complete bowl, marked 'Dublin'	1	0.018
	Coal	2	0.023
	Flint pebble	1	0.144
	English porcelain; ×1 saucer	2	0.016
	Slate	1	0.023
	Lusterware C19	1	0.028
	Post medieval S. Somerset ware	4	0.024
	Redware C19	2	0.021
	Westerwald Ware	1	0.006
	35x White refined earthenware [×1 sherd Ind. slipware retained]	35	0.262
	White stoneware	1	0.001
	Modern ceramic white tile	2	0.013
	Flowerpot	1	0.017
	?Pan tile fragment	1	0.005
	shell, cockle, fragment	1	0.001
	Brick fragment	1	0.074
	Bristol-Staffordshire yellow slipware with brown trails	1	0.001
(204)	Coal	1	1.85
	Animal Bone	3	0.3
	White refined earthenware	2	0.48
	Roof Tile - Totnes type	1	0.3
(304)	Glass, including Whiskey bottle	7	0.653
	Clear bottle - Woodward's Chemist Nottingham c.1900 Gripe Water	1	0.208
	Industrial Stoneware – Ginger Beer bottle c.1900	1	0.013
	Motto ware teapot c.1910	2	0.033
	English porcelain	1	0.005
	White stoneware	2	0.039
{301}	Bricks	2	3.727
	Totals	89	8.113

Appendix 5

Concordance of Jpegs (those not contained in the report)



Left: East-facing section to south of {103}, from the south-east (2m scale).
Right: West facing of same, from the west (2m scale).



Left: West-facing section through wall {103} (2m scale).
Centre: Site after topsoil strip, from the west (2m scale).
Right: Sample section through floor (205), from the north (0.3m scale).



Left: Exposed northern elevation of Wall {103}, from the north (2m scale).
Right: Structure {201}, from north-west (2m and 0.3m scales).



Left: Brick repair(?) in kiln {301}, from the north (2m scale).
Right: Shot of section through deposit (302), (303) and (304), from the north (2m scale).



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