

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Swimbridge, North Devon	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SS 6255 2656	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Formation of a swimming pool at West Stowford, Swimbridge, Devon, EX37 9RX.		<b>Photo attached?</b> YES
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 54902	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Museum of Barnstaple & North Devon	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> southwes1-141195	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> NDDMS 2013.4	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> SWS12	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 21 <sup>st</sup> of March, 2013	
<p><b>Description of Works:</b> South West Archaeology Limited monitored the excavation of an area for a proposed swimming pool, approximately 6.2x3.3m (the actual excavated area was 7.2x4m) at West Stowford, Swimbridge, Devon, EX37 9RX (see Figures 1, 2.3 &amp; 5). The excavation was conducted with a 1.60m wide toothless grading bucket to the natural subsoil (which occurred between 0.26 and 0.60m below ground level) under archaeological supervision.</p> <p><b>Archaeological Background:</b> The proposed development lay in an area of archaeological potential; West Stowford Farmhouse to the west as well as Polly's Cottage and West Stowford Cottage to the south date to the early 16<sup>th</sup> century and are protected as Listed Buildings (refs: 1325324 &amp; 1317209). Groundworks for the construction of the swimming pool therefore had the potential expose and destroy archaeological or artefactual deposits associated with the medieval settlement at West Stowford.</p> <p><b>Site Stratigraphy:</b> (see Figures 2, 3 &amp; 5) 0.05-0.11m of Topsoil/Turf (100). Mid brown-grey, friable clay-silt with moderate fine gritty stones. 0.21-0.28m of an upper made-ground (101). Light orange-brown, compact shillet rock. Made up of redeposited natural shillet with occasional rubble inclusions. Finds included pottery, CBM, glass and plastic. 0.21m of a lower made-ground (102). Dark brown-grey, soft silt-clay with frequent rubble debris and sub-angular stone inclusions. Finds included pottery, and CBM. Occurring below a depth of c.0.26m, Natural subsoil (103). Light yellow-orange and light yellow-blue, compact clay, which only survives in the north-east corner of the excavated area. Occurring below a depth of c.0.60m, Natural bedrock (104). Mottled light yellow-orange and light blue-grey, compact shillet; too which most of the area is terraced down onto.</p> <p><b>Results of Archaeological Monitoring &amp; Recording:</b> (see Figures 2 - 5) No archaeological features or deposits were encountered within the excavation area. A modern service trench (0.40m wide) was recorded running NNE-SSW across the excavation area, between visible man-hole covers. Two layers of made-ground (101) and (102), had been used to build-up and level the site; which had previously been the location of two greenhouses; and a thin layer of turf (100) covered these. The made-ground layers were laid directly onto natural soil and/or bedrock suggesting that any topsoil and subsoil had been terraced away previously. Perhaps this occurred during the construction of a large barn (see Figure 5) on the north side of the site and at which time the greenhouses were also constructed. The greenhouses had been recently demolished and were located directly on the site of the proposed swimming pool.</p> <p>A single sherd of post-medieval North Devon ware (a type 3 bowl) was recovered from each of the made ground layers. The rest of the assemblage was comprised of 19<sup>th</sup> century white refined earthenware's, non descript tile and hand-made brick fragments, 20<sup>th</sup> century machine made brick fragments, a piece of plastic and other modern ceramic material (primarily 20<sup>th</sup> sewage pipe fragments).</p>		
<b>A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.</b>		
<b>Recorder:</b> Joe Bampton, South West Archaeology Ltd		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 21/03/2013

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

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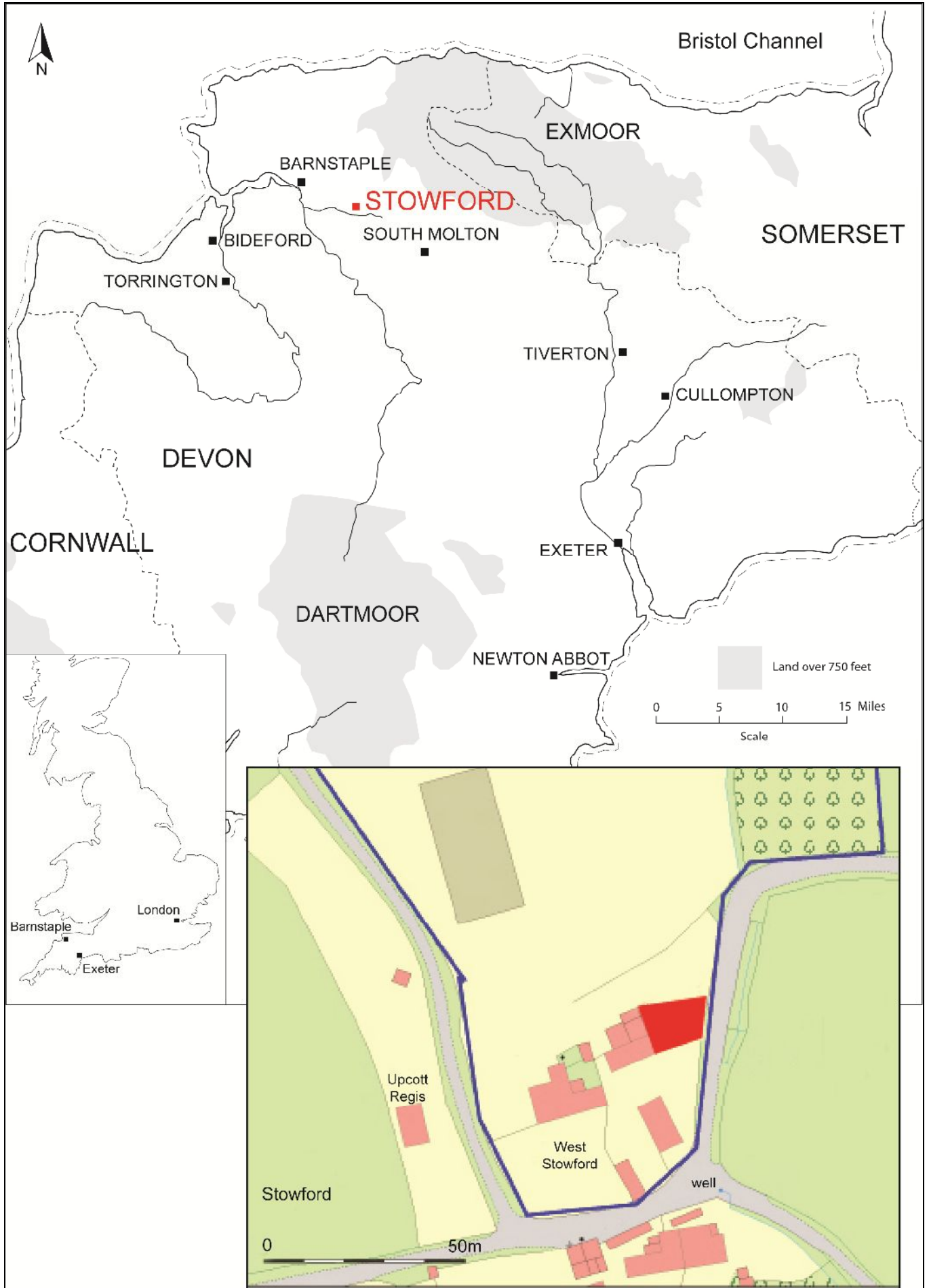


Figure 1: Site location map. The development site is shaded in red.

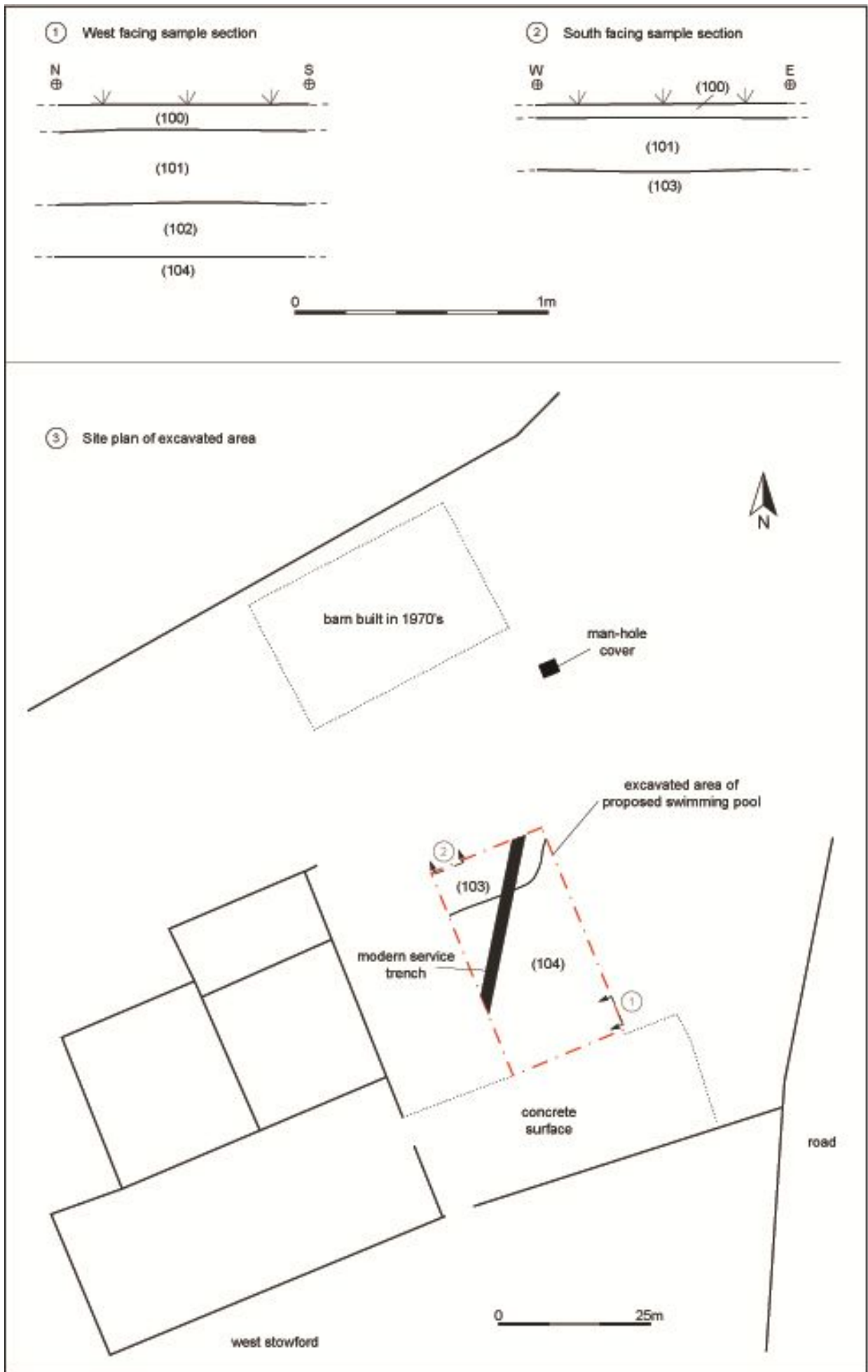


Figure 2: Site drawings: sections and plan.



Figure 3: Sample section, Looking West (1m scale).



Figure 4: Swimming pool area post-excavation, Looking South (1 & 2m scales).



Figure 5: Site shot post-excavation, Looking North-West (no scale).