

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

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| Civil Parish & District: Hockworthy, Mid Devon | National Grid Reference ST 03773 19455 | Number: |
| Subject: Change of use of agricultural land to extend garden; and restoration and refurbishment of landscape and garden, including earthworks, formation of new terraces and steps, erection of walls, formation of tennis court and erection of grotto at Court Hall, Hockworthy, Devon, TA21 0NW. | | Photo attached? YES |
| Planning Application no: 12/00664/FULL & 12/00665/LBC | Recipient museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter | |
| OASIS ID: southwes1-129635 | Museum Accession no: | |
| Contractor's reference number/code: HCH12 | Dates fieldwork undertaken: 15 th of March, 2013 | |
| <p>Description of Works: South West Archaeology Limited monitored the excavation of an area for a proposed tennis court, approximately 25x12m at Court Hall, Hockworthy, Devon, TA21 0NW (see Figures 1, 2 & 4). The excavation was conducted with a 1.60m wide toothless grading bucket to the natural subsoil under archaeological supervision.</p> <p>Archaeological Background: Court Hall Farmhouse is a Grade II* property (HER ref: 1147804) dating from the late 17th century with possible earlier origins. An adjacent barn is Grade II listed (HER ref: 1308358) and Home Farm to the east is also Grade II* Listed. The proposed development involves groundworks in the vicinity of Court Hall and the listed barn, in particular for the creation of the tennis court, kitchen garden and terraces around the house. The proposed works will have an impact on the setting of Court Hall, the associated barn and Home Farm. There is also high potential for the survival of archaeological deposits relating to the early settlement at Court Hall. The excavation by SWARCH of two test-pits within the area of the proposed tennis court have suggested that the area is largely undisturbed and that there is therefore potential for surviving archaeological features or deposits (southwes1-129635).</p> <p>Site Stratigraphy: (see Figures 1-4) 0.15-0.28m of Topsoil (100). Dark orange-brown, friable clay-silt with occasional small sub-angular stones. Finds included 17th-20th century pottery, CBM, clay pipe, glass. A shallow topsoil directly overlaid natural at the bottom of the slope along the excavations eastern edge. 0.16m of Subsoil (101). Mid orange-brown, soft silt-clay with frequent small sub-angular stones and occasional charcoal flecks. Finds included 17th-20th century pottery, CBM, clay pipe, glass. Occurring below a depth of c.0.15-0.44m, Natural (102). Light brown-orange, firm clay with compact rock shillet outcrops and bedrock.</p> <p>It is likely some terracing of the land had taken place along the eastern edge of the proposed development area for the construction and subsequent conversion of the adjacent barn. This may have truncated any potential features in this area, although this is unlikely if one extrapolates the lack of features across the rest of the excavated area. The groundworks revealed no archaeologically significant remains or features and all finds were discarded.</p> <p>The finds were: For Topsoil (100); 3 sherds of glass (57g), 1 pearlescent white, 2 green, of which 1 was a bottle top (19th-20th century); 2 fragments of brick (209g), 1 hand-made and 1 machine made (19th-20th century); 1 stem fragment of clay pipe (2g) (18th-19th century); 8 sherds of White Refined Earthenware (WRE)(68g), 5 with blue transfer print (BTP), 1 with green (20th century); 8 sherds of South Somerset Wares (398g). For Subsoil (101); 2 sherds of glass (6g), 1 clear, 1 green (20th century); 2 fragments of roof tile (218g) (20th century); 1 sampled fragment of slate (21g); 2 clay pipe stem fragments (5g) (18th-19th century); 10 sherds of WRE (61g), 1 blue piece, 2 with BTP (20th century); 1 sherd of Chinese porcelain (2g) (19th century); 5 sherds of 18th century South Somerset Wares (200g), 3 rim and 2 base fragments; 1 sherd of early 17th century South Somerset Ware (47g), a relatively fine cup base.</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. | | |
| Recorder: Joe Bampton, South West Archaeology Ltd | | Date sent to HER: 27 th March 2013 |

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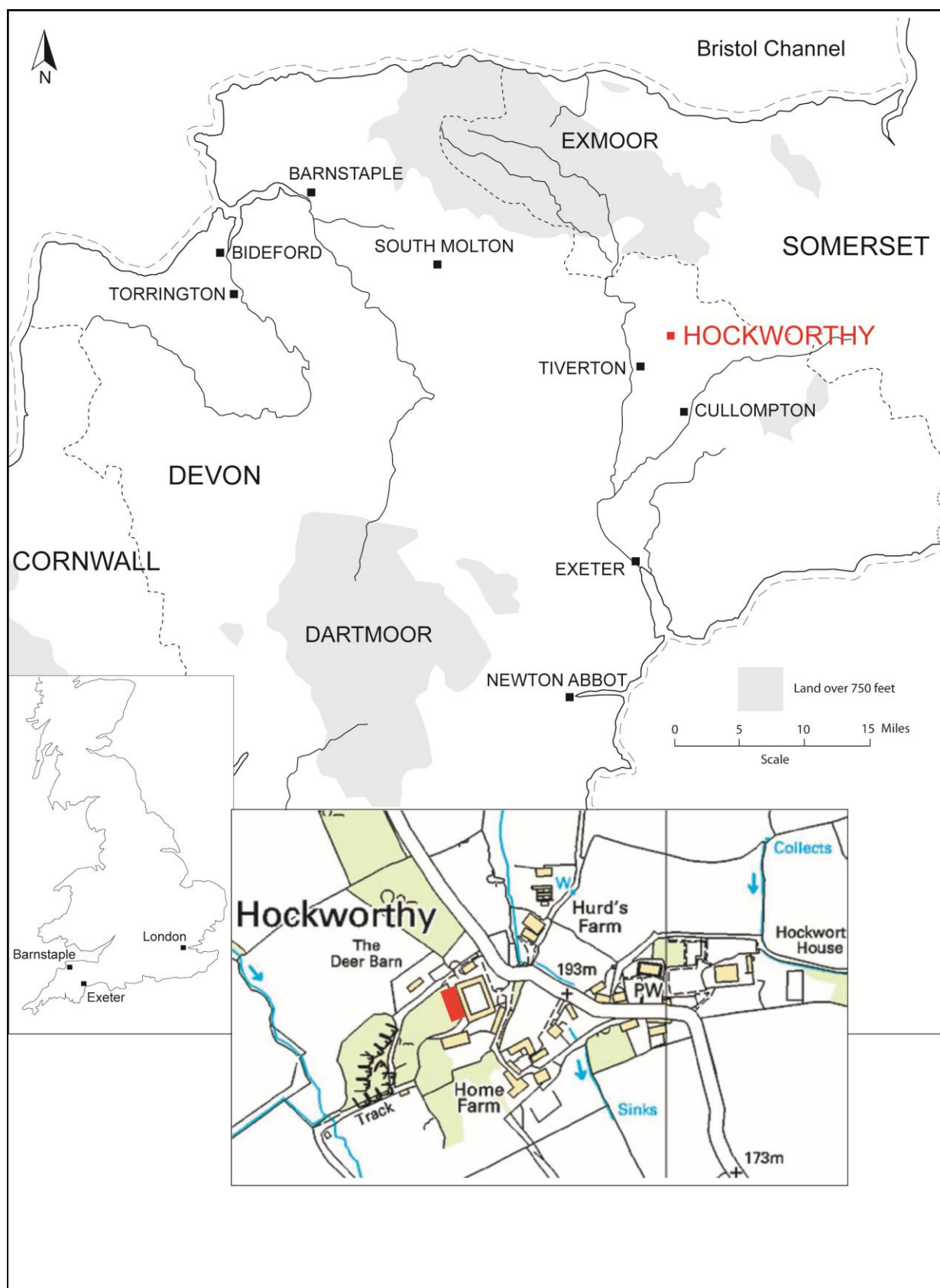


Figure 1: Site location map.

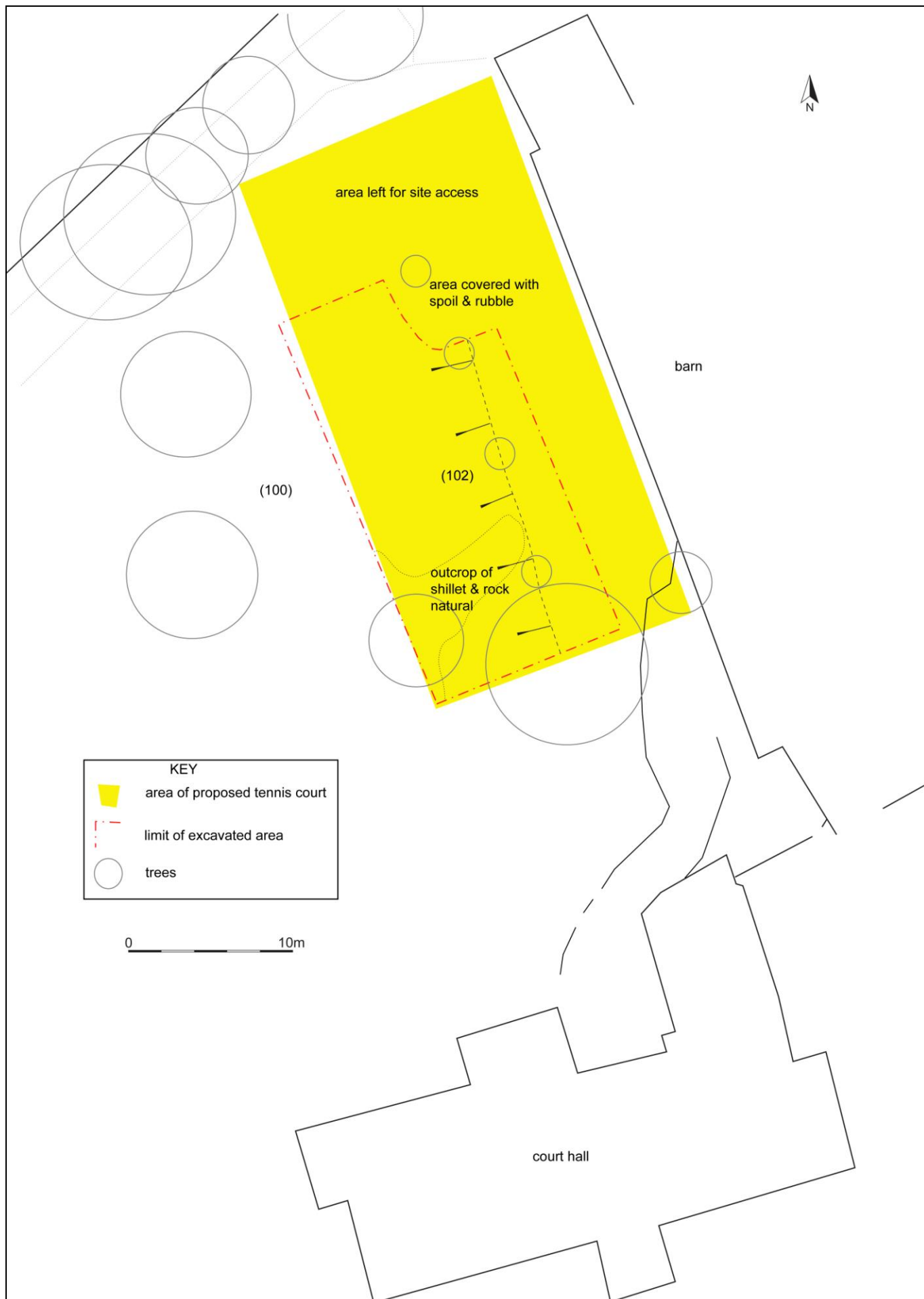


Figure 2: Site plan.



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



Figure 4: Site shot post-excavation, Looking South (1 & 2m scales).