

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Crediton, Mid Devon	National Grid Reference SS 8308 0037	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording at land adjacent to 12 Searle Street, Crediton, Devon during the erection of 2 houses and 1 flat		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 13/00345/Full	Recipient museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum	
OASIS ID: southwes1-148872	Museum Accession no: in lieu of an accession number	
Contractor's reference number/code: CSS13	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 21 st Sept - 2 nd Oct. 2013	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Steven Dennis (The Client), during a residential development on land adjacent to 12 Searle Street, Crediton, Devon (Figure 1). This work was undertaken by Dr B. Morris, Dr S. Walls and J. Bampton between 21st September and 2nd October 2013 in accordance with a WSI drawn up in accordance with a brief issued by Stephen Reed of the Devon County Historic Environment Team.</p> <p>The proposed development encompasses the site of an old pub including a small parking area and beer garden (Figure 1). The eastern half of the site (the beer garden) and the south-west corner was at a lower level than the north-west corner of the site (the parking area), which was raised with concrete to the level of Searle Street. The site was subject to a degree of demolition before footings and services could be excavated. The proposed development was within the historic core of the town of Crediton and within an area that was probably enclosed and settled in the medieval period. The bedrock is predominantly Crediton Breccia with Creedy Sandstone formations with overlaying soils of the Crediton association (well drained gritty loams).</p> <p>Footings (0.60m wide) and service trenches were excavated for three plots on the site (see Figures 1 and 4) by a tracked excavator using a toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision.</p> <p>The site deposit model shows layers of made- and disturbed ground over natural and sealed by a 19th-20th century cobbled floor surface, which itself was sealed by a modern concrete floor surface in the western half of the site, and soil in parts of the eastern half. This cobbled floor surface (100)/(120) was overlaid with the current demolition layer (119), which also covered other layers where truncation occurred during demolition. Below the Cobbled floor (120) was a bedding layer (101)/(121), a dark mottled grey, soft silt and fine gravel. This overlaid a make-up layer (102)/(122) of mid pink-grey soft silt-clay of redeposited natural. This overlaid a second make-up layer akin to a buried soil (103)/(123), a mid grey-brown, soft clay-silt with moderate CBM, lime and shell rubble that produced C18th-C19th pottery. This overlaid a disturbed horizon with the natural (105)/(124), a mid buff-red, firm clay band with occasional fine root disturbance and mineralization and some finds pressed into it, including 4 sherds of Medieval pottery. This in turn overlaid clean natural (106)/(125), a mid pinkish-orange red, compact gritty clay. The make-up layers all contained occasional lenses of gravel or other material including cobbles.</p> <p>The only archaeological features encountered were those of extant walls (construction cut [128]), walls demolished for the current development (wall {109} and construction cut [126]); all of which cut down from layer (103) or higher in the stratigraphic sequence. A single redundant late 19th-20th century service pipe was also encountered.</p> <p>No significant archaeological remains or deposits seem to have survived on site. A degree of terracing and making-up of ground has occurred in the post-medieval period with structures maintained into the modern period.</p> <p>There were 68 sherds (1.749kg) of pottery recovered from the site, dominated by 19th century- and post-Medieval North Devon coarse wares. Some Medieval coarse sandy wares were taken from the deepest stratigraphic layers, (124) and earlier 14th – 15th century residual fragments from higher 19th century layers. This may indicate the truncation of some earlier deposits. Some finds of note include; a sherd of Frechen Stoneware (0.018kg) from by the road; a sherd of 17th century North Devon Scraffito bowl from layer (121); and a 17th century tin-glazed, blue decorated ware from construction cut backfill (127). The majority of pottery was retained, while the majority of CBM, glass fragments, clay pipe stems and animal bones were discarded.</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: J. Bampton		Date sent to HER: 11/10/2013

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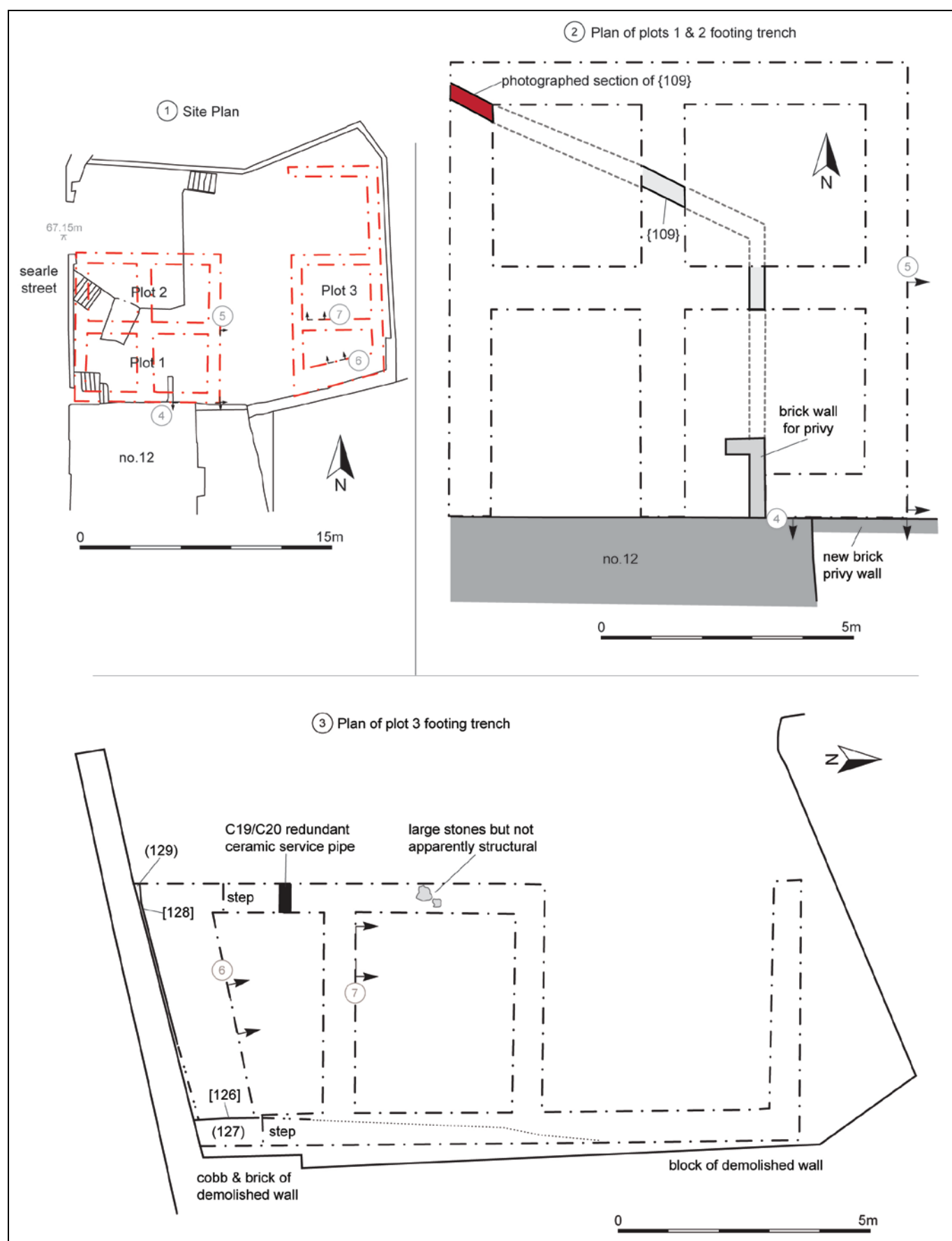


Figure 1: Site plans; drawings 1-3, sections indicated by corresponding numbers in grey.

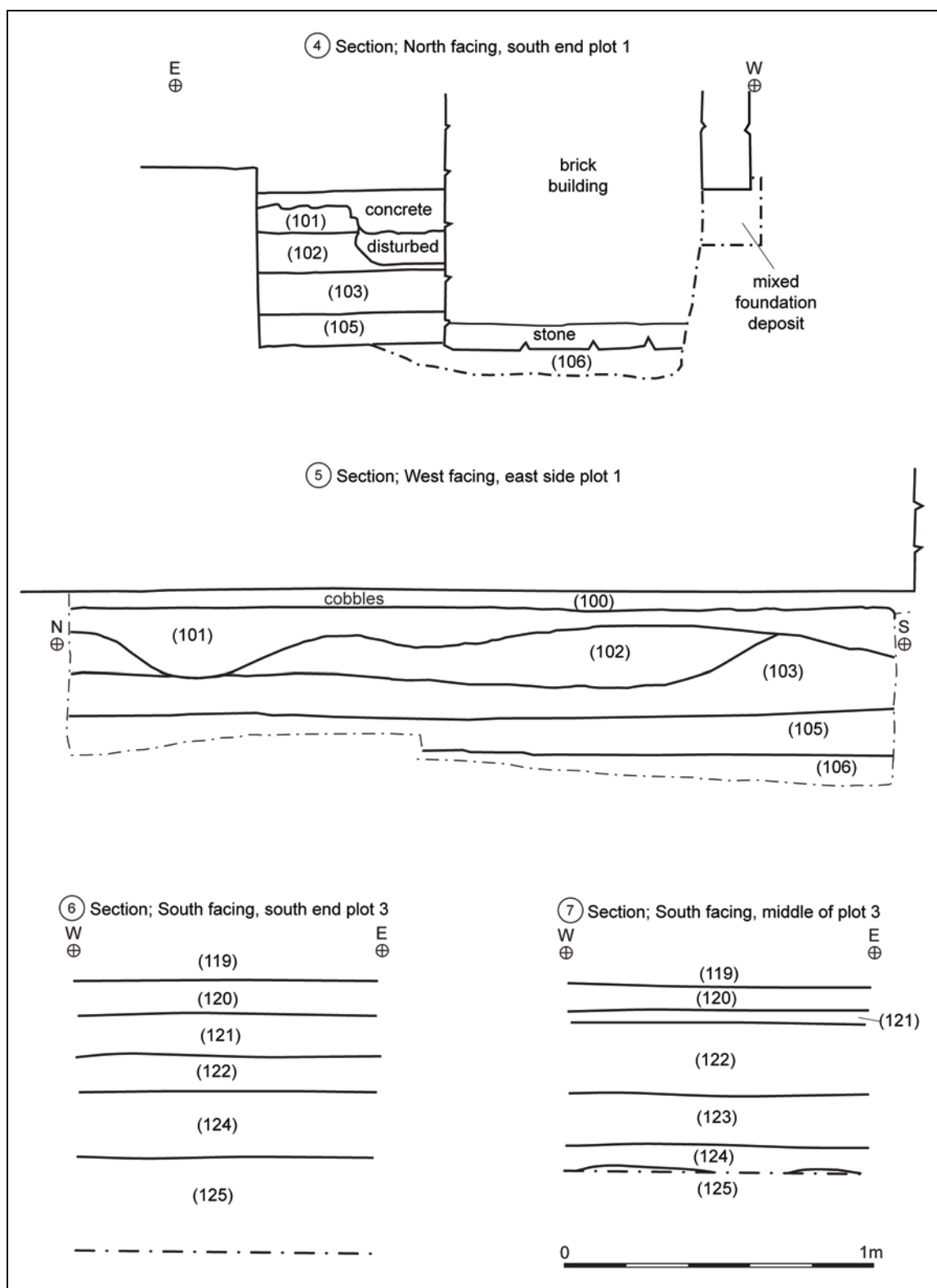


Figure 2: Site section drawings; drawing numbers correspond to numbers in grey on plans in Figure 1.



Photo 1: Site, viewed from the south-west (2m scale).



Photo 2: Plot 3 footings, viewed from north-west (no scale).



Photo 3: Plot 1 footings, viewed from north-east (no scale).



Photo 4: Plot 2 footings, viewed from east (no scale).



Photo 5: Section in plot 1, viewed from east (2m scale)



Photo 6: South section, plot 3, viewed from south (1m scale)



Photo 7: Mid section, plot 3, viewed from south (1m scale)



Photo 8: Wall footing {109}, viewed from north-east (2m scale)