

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Cullompton, Mid Devon	National Grid Reference ST 0209 0742	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording of the erection of a conservatory and store room at No.17 High Street, Cullompton, Devon		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 12/01788/FULL	Recipient museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum	
OASIS ID: southwes1-149855	Museum Accession no: TBC	
Contractor's reference number/code: CHS13	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 15 th -16 th January 2013	

Description of works.

An archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Jane Campbell of Westbrook, Willand Road, Cullompton EX15 1AP (The Client), during groundworks pertaining to the erection of a conservatory and store room at No.17 High Street, Cullompton, Devon (Figure 1). This work was undertaken by J. Bampton on 15th and 16th January 2013 in accordance with a WSI drawn up in accordance with a brief supplied by Stephen Reed of the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).

The proposed development lies within the historic core of the medieval settlement of Cullompton. The mid-19th century Tithe Map suggests that there were buildings here at this time, while the late 19th and early 20th century OS maps show the site as a vacant plot with the current house built sometime in the mid-20th century. The proposed development involved some ground disturbance for the construction of a conservatory and these works had the potential to expose archaeological and artefactual material associated with the medieval settlement at Cullompton.

The groundworks included the excavation of footing trenches for the proposed conservatory following the footprint of the proposed structure. The footing trench was excavated to an appropriate depth, which was c.0.70m across the southern and eastern footing trenches and up to 1.05m in the northern footing trench due to the depth of backfill from earlier services. The footing trenches were 0.60m wide. No significant archaeological deposits were encountered during the monitoring.

Truncation to beyond the depth of weathered natural had occurred along the length of the northern footing trench (see Figure 1 & 4), which revealed a total of six 19th-20th century services. These included two 19th century ceramic sewer pipes (seemingly sitting in fill/layer (107)); two 20th century water pipes (their trench backfilled with fill (106)) that fed out from a well exposed in the north-east corner of the footing trenches; and a pair of later 20th century water pipes, including a plastic replacement, that both ran through the southern footing trenches. Reinforced concrete pads of a now removed 20th century fire escape also disturbed the ground at either end of this section of trenching.

The eastern and southern footing trenches revealed a survival of soil layers overlaying natural (see Figures 2-4). Modern ground surfaces of gravel or paving slabs (100) overlaid redeposited natural (105); a mid-red, firm-dense clay with modern brick fragments (0.21m thick), in the south-west of the site and buried topsoil (101); a dark brown-grey, friable clay-silt with frequent charcoal and coke flecks and grit (0.15m thick), in the east of the site. These in turn overlaid subsoil (102); a mid reddish grey-brown, soft clay-silt with moderate charcoal and coke flecks and grit (0.24m thick), which overlaid a second subsoil (103); a light red-brown, soft-firm silt-clay with moderate charcoal flecks and pea-grit to small sub-rounded stones (0.27m thick). Subsoil (103) overlaid Natural (104), a firm red clay with occasional compact light buff-yellow gravel that occurs below a depth of c.0.77-0.80m below ground level.

The majority of the footing trenches were not excavated to a depth that would reveal Natural (104), apart from along the northern footing trench and either side of the well and at the foundations of No.17, which slightly cut into the Natural (104). These foundations occur from a depth of 0.75-0.80m below ground level. No archaeological features were exposed during the excavation and anything in the area of the northern trench would most likely have been truncated.

A sample of finds were recovered from the site and subsequently discarded. The majority of material, including pottery across the site dated from the 19th and 20th centuries. However, a total of eleven clay pipe stem fragments (17th-19th centuries) were recovered from across all the layers on the site and Subsoil (102) produced some post-medieval material; ×1 clay pipe bowl with heel (10g) of a form dated to 1690-1720; ×2 sherds (28g) of Post-Medieval South Somerset ware, of which one piece was a rim with thumb print decoration; and ×1 sherd (2g) of Dutch imported Westerwald ware. The amount would suggest a prolonged level of occupational activity in the immediate vicinity, probably along High Street, from the Post-Medieval period onwards.

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: 21/01/2014



Figure 1: North footing trench, viewed from East (1m scale).



Figure 2: Sample section 1, east footing trench, viewed from East (1m scale).



Figure 3: South-west area of footing trenches, showing foundations of No.17, viewed from south-east (1m scale).

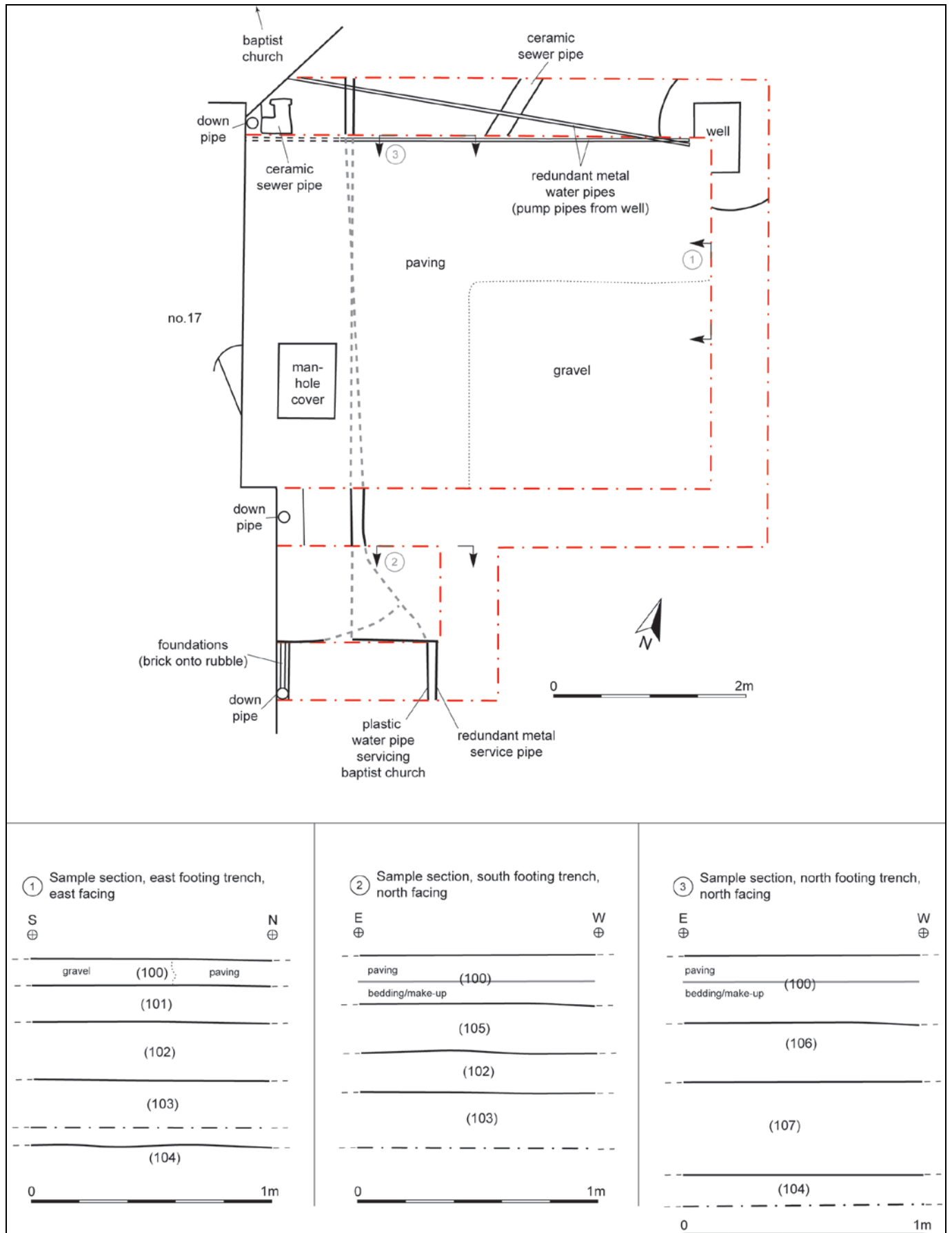


Figure 4: Plan of footing trenches and sample sections.