

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

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| <b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b><br>Lympstone, East Devon                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>National Grid Reference</b><br>SS 9922 8425                                       | <b>Number:</b>             |
| <b>Subject:</b> Lympstone Primary School, School Hill – Provision of new single-storey building to provide additional classroom space, demolition of Church Hall and renewal of two temporary classrooms                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                      | <b>Photo attached?</b> YES |
| <b>Planning Application no:</b> DCC/3478/2013                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Recipient museum:</b> RAMM                                                        |                            |
| <b>OASIS ID:</b> southwes1-148872                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A – finds discarded                                    |                            |
| <b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> LPS13                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 19 <sup>th</sup> and 26 <sup>th</sup> August 2013 |                            |
| <p><b>Description of Works:</b></p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Chis Jay; Director of Design and Maintenance for NPS South West Ltd. prior to the construction of additional class room space, adjacent to Lympstone C of E Primary School, Lympstone, East Devon (see Figure 1). The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI Ref: SWARCH LPS13/5) drawn up in accordance to a brief (25.02.2013) supplied by Stephen Reed of Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET). The excavations were monitored by Emily Wapshott.</p> <p>The development lay c.25-30m to the north-west of the Parish Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Grade II* listed building, built in the 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> century. The church is set in a large walled graveyard, which runs north up the slope of the hill, alongside the small parish road, School Hill, off which the development site is accessed. The site lies within the heart of the village of Lympstone, which contains approximately 70 listed buildings, some dating back to the village's medieval origins. 15-20m to the south-west of the development site lies Alwyne Smeath's Cottages, a row of three 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century cottages, Grade II listed buildings, whose back gardens run up to the southern boundary of the site. Less than 10m to the north of the development site lies the 19<sup>th</sup> century Primary School, which is not listed. The site lies within the grounds of the school, in an area where a temporary classroom structure was positioned previously. The ground works for the proposed development were therefore likely to expose and destroy deposits as well as artefactual material associated with the history, development and habitation of the settlement and also the construction of the school building and any earlier dwellings or structure which previously occupied the plot.</p> <p>On the 1840 tithe map a school is shown to have existed in the present location, and at this date, it is surrounded by (Glebe?) lands owned by the vicar (Reverend John Bartholomew). By the time of the First Edition OS map of 1889 the school building had been extended and a long narrow enclosure to the south, stretching along School Hill lane had seemingly become incorporated as school grounds (Figure 2). In the 20<sup>th</sup> century the Church Hall and a temporary classroom had been constructed on the development area, both of which were demolished prior to monitoring taking place.</p> <p>The initial topsoil strip was undertaken by a 5 tonne tracked swing shovel fitted with a toothless grading bucket under the direction of the supervising archaeologist, the tarmac and rubble having previously been removed by toothed bucket. The site was stripped from the west corner to the eastern access, to minimise tracking over the active area. The majority of the eastern part of the site had been heavily disturbed previously and in part during the recent demolition work. The topsoil consisted of an upper (c.0.25m thick) layer of dark reddish-brown silt-clay with occasional sub-angular to sub-rounded stones (&gt;80mm dia.) and a lower (c.0.25m thick) deposit of grey-brown silt-clay with rare sub-angular to sub-rounded stones (&gt;80mm dia.). The topsoil directly overlay the natural subsoil, which was comprised of a clean dense reddish-brown clay (Figure 3).</p> <p>No archaeological features were observed; the only linear being a modern drain, containing a gravel mix in which was set a flexible plastic pipe. This pipeline was to be truncated by the development and was clearly no longer in use, having been cut off at the south-west corner, this modern feature crossed from the north-east to the south-west corner. The only other 'feature' was a small area of packed modern rubble, mixed with topsoil and sand in the centre of the site, this appeared to fill a slight hollow in the natural, being compressed by the weight of the above layers. This material had been forced into the clay and was of the same consistency and make-up as the excavated layers above, with modern plastic piping, tennis balls and other inclusions giving a definitive mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> century date. The very base of some rough brick and concrete foundations or some element of 'built' support for the temporary classroom block were constructed within this heavily disturbed area. Since a number of temporary buildings have stood on the site and the area had been built up with rubble it was difficult to assess</p> |                                                                                      |                            |

which phase this section of possible foundation may have corresponded to, however again it was clearly of 20<sup>th</sup> century date and not of archaeological interest. The development requirement was that the area must be level so this modern material was carefully removed via bucket, under supervision and found to be quite shallow, soon being cleared to the undisturbed natural beneath, removing the possibility of any earlier structure being preserved beneath.

The site was re-visited a week later, when a deep trench was dug along the north side of the site, for a retaining wall to be constructed, this was supervised and photographs were taken, nothing was observed of any archaeological interest, the natural clay continuing undisturbed. The site had been terraced in by almost 2m and to the eastern end, just under the tarmac which initially covered the area was a layer of pebbles, laid over sand and some herringbone brick, which represented the remains of former paths and possibly a school yard, associated with the 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings to the north. This had been damaged during previous construction work, possibly in the mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> century, it was too fragmented, to be fully recorded and only survived in part (see Figure 4).

The finds recovered were all from the topsoil and included; 6x transfer-printed blue and white WRE's, 1x brown and cream transfer printed WRE, 7x fragments of modern ceramic drain, 18x pieces of plastic drain pipe, 1x tennis ball and large quantities of broken Victorian bricks. All of the items were subsequently discarded.

**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:** Emily Wapshott, South West Archaeology Ltd

**Date sent to HER:** 09.09.2013

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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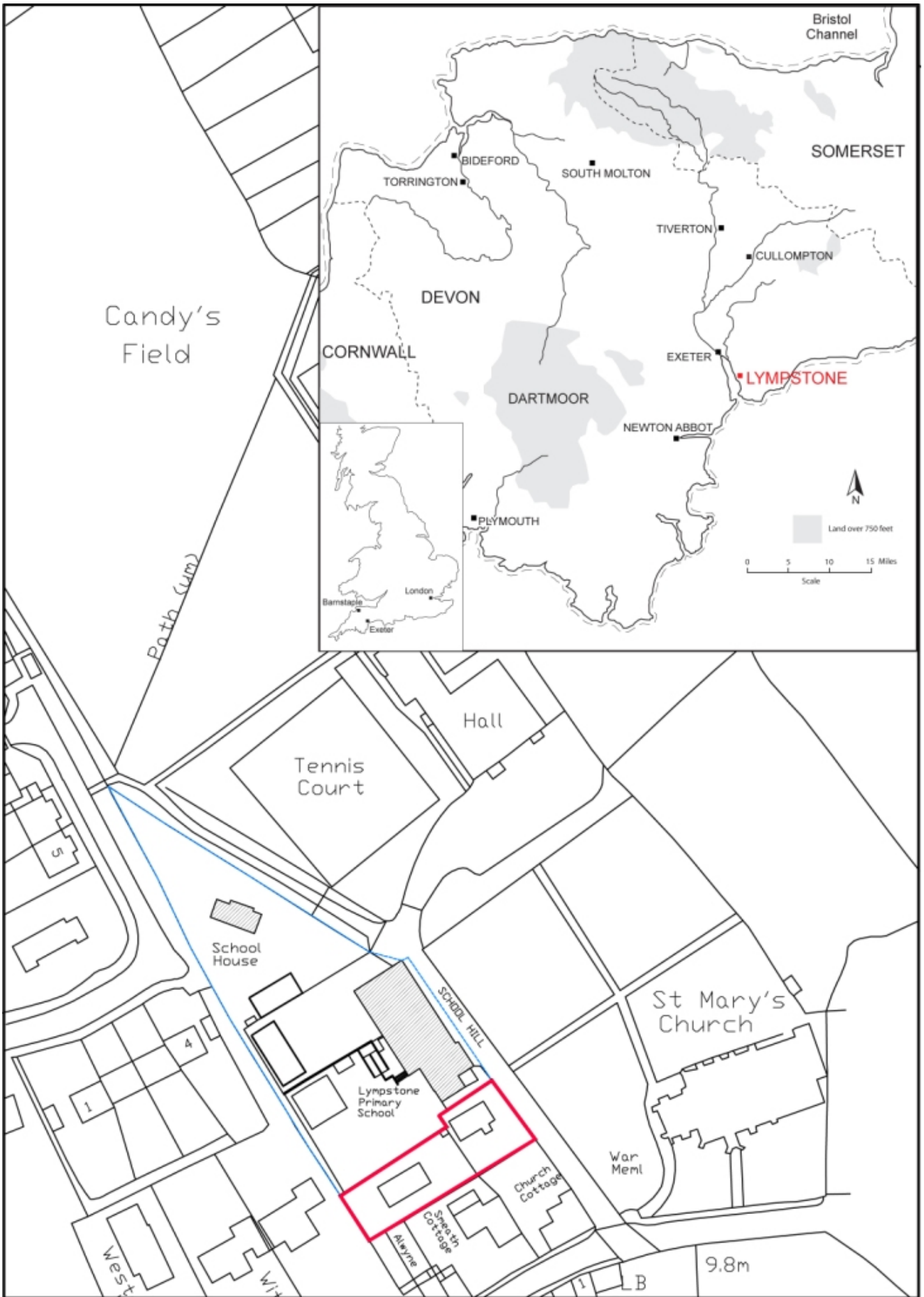


Figure 1: Site plan and location maps. The area of the site is highlighted.

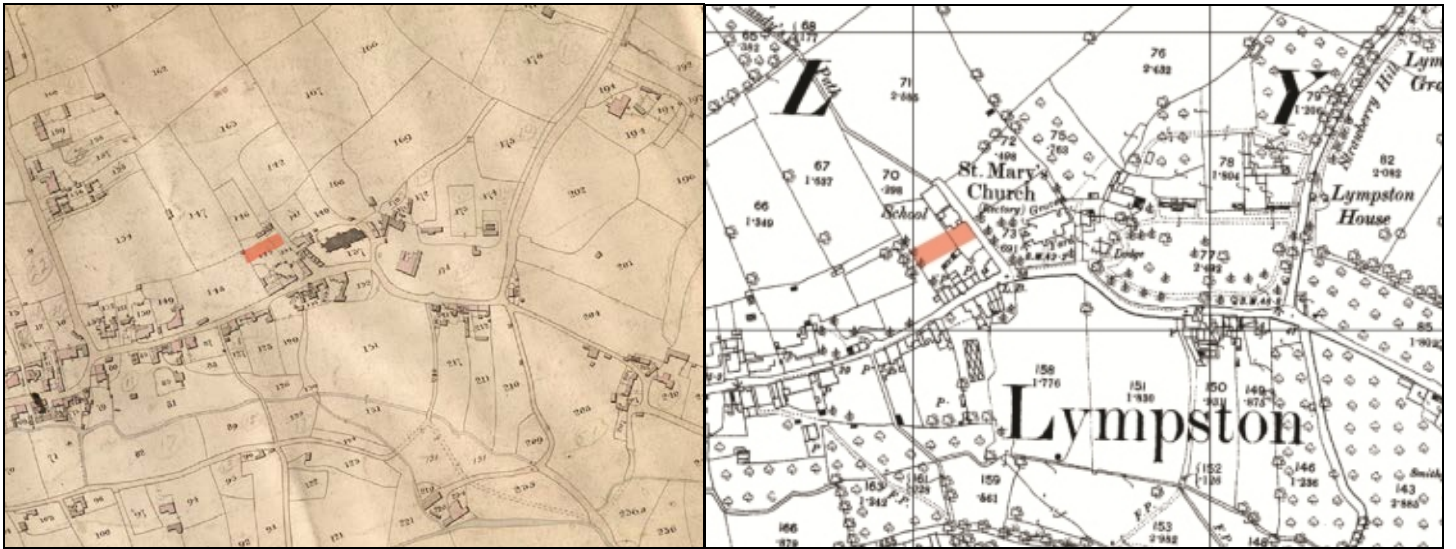


Figure 2: The Lympton Tithe Map of 1840 and 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS Map of 1889, showing the school building with an open area to the south, now the development site.



Figure 3: The stripped development area, viewed from the northeast.



Figure 4: The area of pebbles with possible herringbone brickwork above in the northern retaining wall trench, viewed from the southwest.