

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Broadclyst, East Devon	National Grid Reference SX 9715 9979	Number:
Subject: Erection of a new cricket pavilion		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: ARCH/DM/ED/21064	Recipient museum: National Trust Archive	
OASIS ID: southwes1-170018	Museum Accession no: <i>pending</i>	
Contractor's reference number/code: KCP14	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 4 th of February, 2014	

Introduction

South West Archaeology Ltd. monitored the topsoil strip for the footprint of the new pavilion at Broadclyst Cricket Club, whose grounds lie within the curtilage of the park adjoining Killerton House (Figure 1). The footprint of the pavilion, 17.1×8.4m in extent, was reduced to its formation level by a 5 tonne tracked mechanical excavator using a 600mm wide toothless bucket. The first set of foundation trenches were also monitored, but as these proved to be difficult to excavate and uninformative, work was curtailed at this point.

Stratigraphy (Figure 2)

The topsoil overlay two layers of anthropogenic subsoil. These deposits were up to 1.4m thick at the south-east corner. The active topsoil (100) was c.0.25m thick, and was comprised of a firm mid reddish-brown sandy-silt loam. The bulk of the deposit was free of inclusions, which had gathered at the base of the layer and comprised rounded and sub-rounded pebbles 30-40mm in diameter. Close to the north-eastern corner, this lens of stones included charcoal/coal, pottery (WRE) and clear vessel glass (not retained).

The upper layer of anthropogenic subsoil (101) was a firm reddish-brown sandy silt, trending to a soft pale greyish-brown sandy silt with depth. It was c.0.4m thick. It was very homogenous, with very rare charcoal, and rare small rounded pebbles up to 40mm diameter. This naturally broke into large but loose clasts, and would break down to a fine tilth with cultivation.

The lower layer of anthropogenic subsoil (102) was a soft pale yellowish grey-brown sandy silt up to 0.75m thick. This was very clean and homogenous. It contained occasional larger sub-rounded stones up to 100mm across. In the foundation trenches that were opened, the greatest thickness of material was located in the south-eastern corner, and it may have formed the fill of a large depression; however, this could not be confirmed. This deposit of material also broke into large loose clasts, and proved difficult to trench. In the centre of the site, the mechanical excavator churned this material into a gelatinous mass, implying the ground was waterlogged below (101), perhaps because of the adjacent soakaway pipe from the old pavilion cess pit.

The subsoil was comprised of a dense clean mottled reddish-brown slightly clayey sand. Water seeped up through this material as soon as it was reached.

Results

No features were observed during the monitoring, although layer (102) may prove to be the fill of a large, probably natural, depression. A small collection of finds were recovered from the strip and the spoil heaps, including: ×1 fragment lava stone (41g); ×1 19th century vessel glass (12g); ×3 sherds white refined earthenware post 1720 (63g); ×1 WRE tiny complete ointment pot (14g); 17th/18th century sherd Delft-type tin glaze dish (2g); ×1 sherd mid 18th century Westervalt stoneware chamber pot (41g); ×1 possible hone stone (608g); ×1 fragment burnt bone (<1g); ×3 sherds ?Bronze Age pottery (20g); ×1 sherd ?Neolithic pottery (6g).

Appraisal of the Prehistoric Pottery by Imogen Wood

?Bronze Age pottery: characterised by high levels of abrasion (form unknown), patchy oxidised/reduced appearance, poorly-sorted inclusions, tempered with quartz, but not Vein Quartz fabric.

?Neolithic pottery: not that abraded, reduced with oxidised surface due to post-production burning, tempered with Exeter New Red Sandstone fragments.

Conclusion

The presence of Prehistoric pottery, albeit small and abraded, points to the presence of Neolithic or Bronze Age

occupation in the close vicinity. There is a cropmark enclosure [MDV52108] c.200m to the west, and Dolbury Hillfort lies c.600m to the north, so evidence for occupation would not be unexpected; however, it is the first such material to be recorded in the immediate area. The presence of 18th century material is surprising, given the location of the site in relation to the landscape park, and might point to the presence of a parkland structure somewhere in the vicinity.

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: Dr Bryn Morris, South West Archaeology Ltd

Date sent to HER: 26.02.14

Please email completed form to: 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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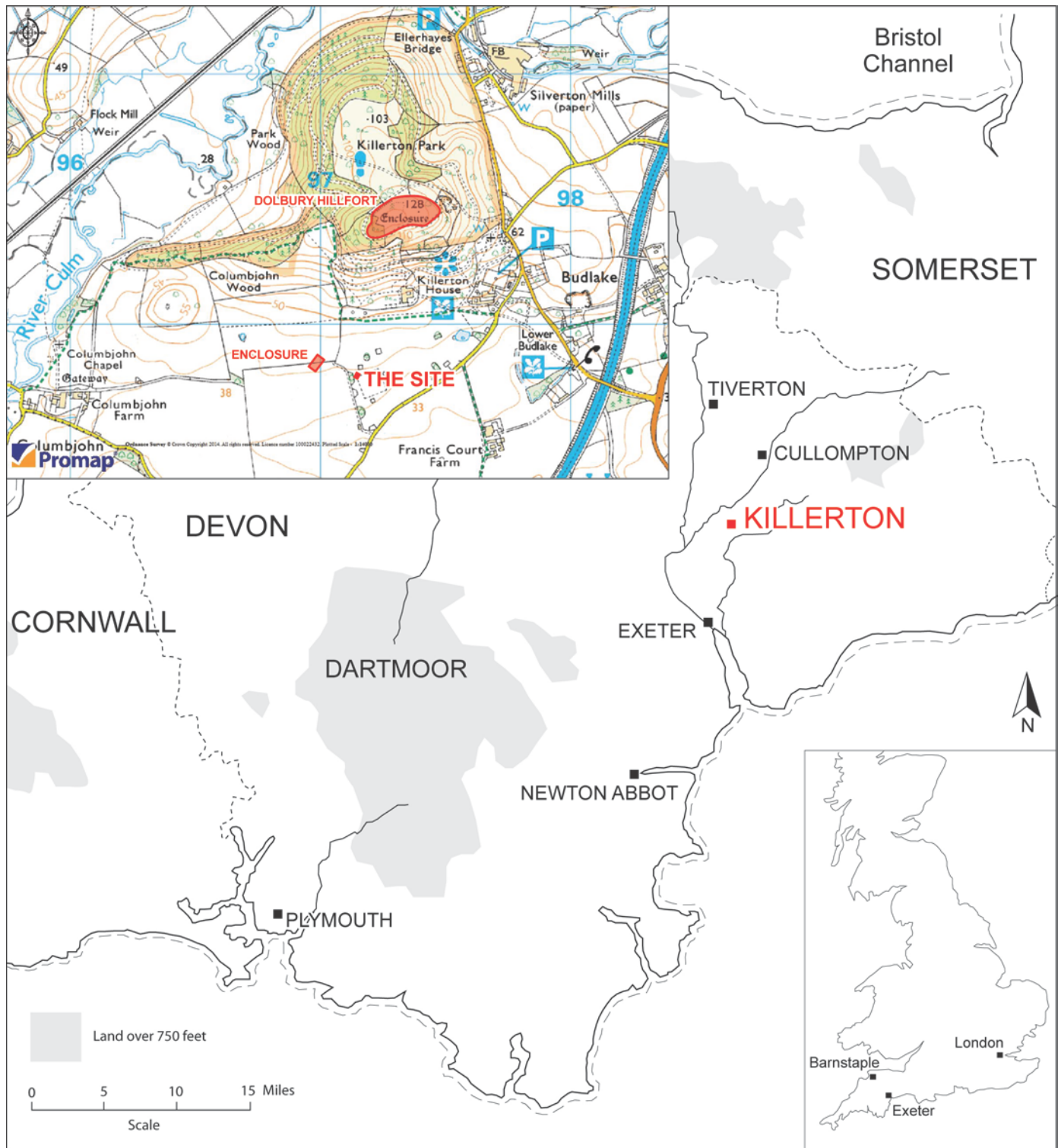


Figure 1: Location map.

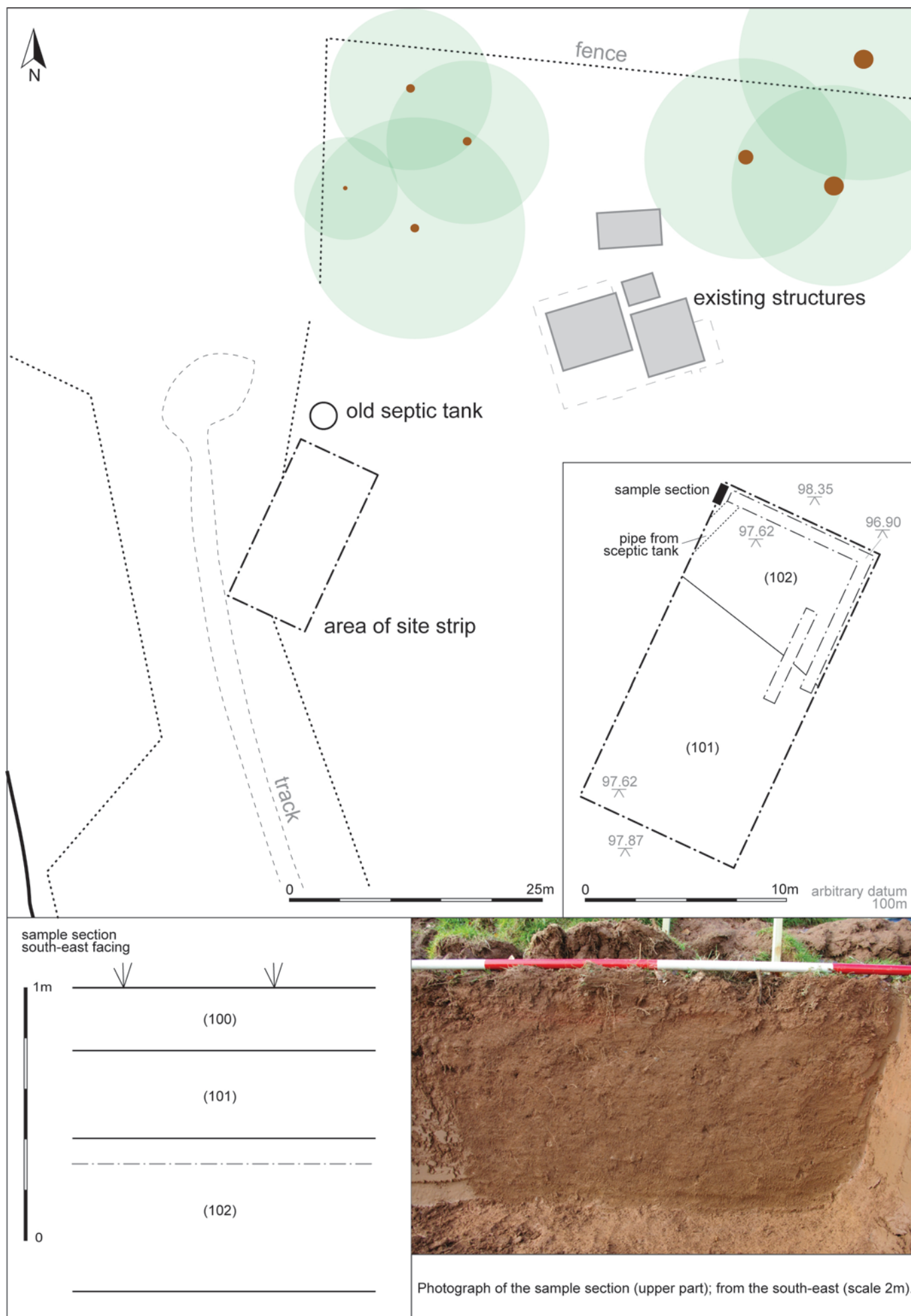


Figure 2: Site plan and sample section.



Figure 3: The completed topsoil strip, viewed from the north-east (scale 2m).



Figure 4: The first of the foundations trenches, the south-east corner, viewed from the north (scale 2m).