

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Whitchurch, Tavistock, West Devon	National Grid Reference SX48927280	Number:
Subject: Land to the rear of 7 Churchill Road		Photo attached? Yes
Planning Application no: 13177/2009/TAV	Recipient museum: Plymouth City Museum	
OASIS ID: southwes1-147239	Museum Accession no: 2013.15	
Contractor's reference number/code: TCR13	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 24.01.2014	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. at the request of Mr Chris Pearce of C. J. Pearce Homes Ltd (the Client) during the construction of four houses on land to the rear of 7 Churchill Road, Whitchurch, Tavistock (Figure 1). The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) approved by Devon County Historic Environment Team and the work was undertaken by S. Walls.</p> <p>The site had been stripped of topsoil and the footprints of the buildings constructed prior to a site visit in January 2014 (see Figure 2). An area of c 1800m² corresponding to most of the field had been stripped by a mechanical excavator of a very thin layer of topsoil which was c.0.06m to the east and at most 0.2m to the west. The topsoil lay directly on top of the natural subsoil – a compact grey shillet, which was terraced into for up to 0.9m for the individual plots and access road. Along the northern edge of the site, and particularly the north-east corner the ground appears to have been made up (by c.0.6m) in the 20th century, presumably when the small brook along this edge of the site was canalised (see Figure 3).</p> <p>The topsoil stripped from the site was piled into a very small heap, which emphasised/confirmed the limited depth across the site. It appears likely that the site was previously stripped, most likely during surrounding housing developments in the 1960s or 70s. There were several fragments of 20th century brick, tile and other building waste to support this suggestion. According to a nearby resident the field had been used for allotments in the past, which seems unlikely given the depth of topsoil.</p> <p>A small assemblage of White Refined Earthenware (5 sherds) and a clay pipe stem were recovered from the spoil heap, and subsequently discarded.</p>		
<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.</p>		
Recorder: S. Walls		Date sent to HER: 06.02.14

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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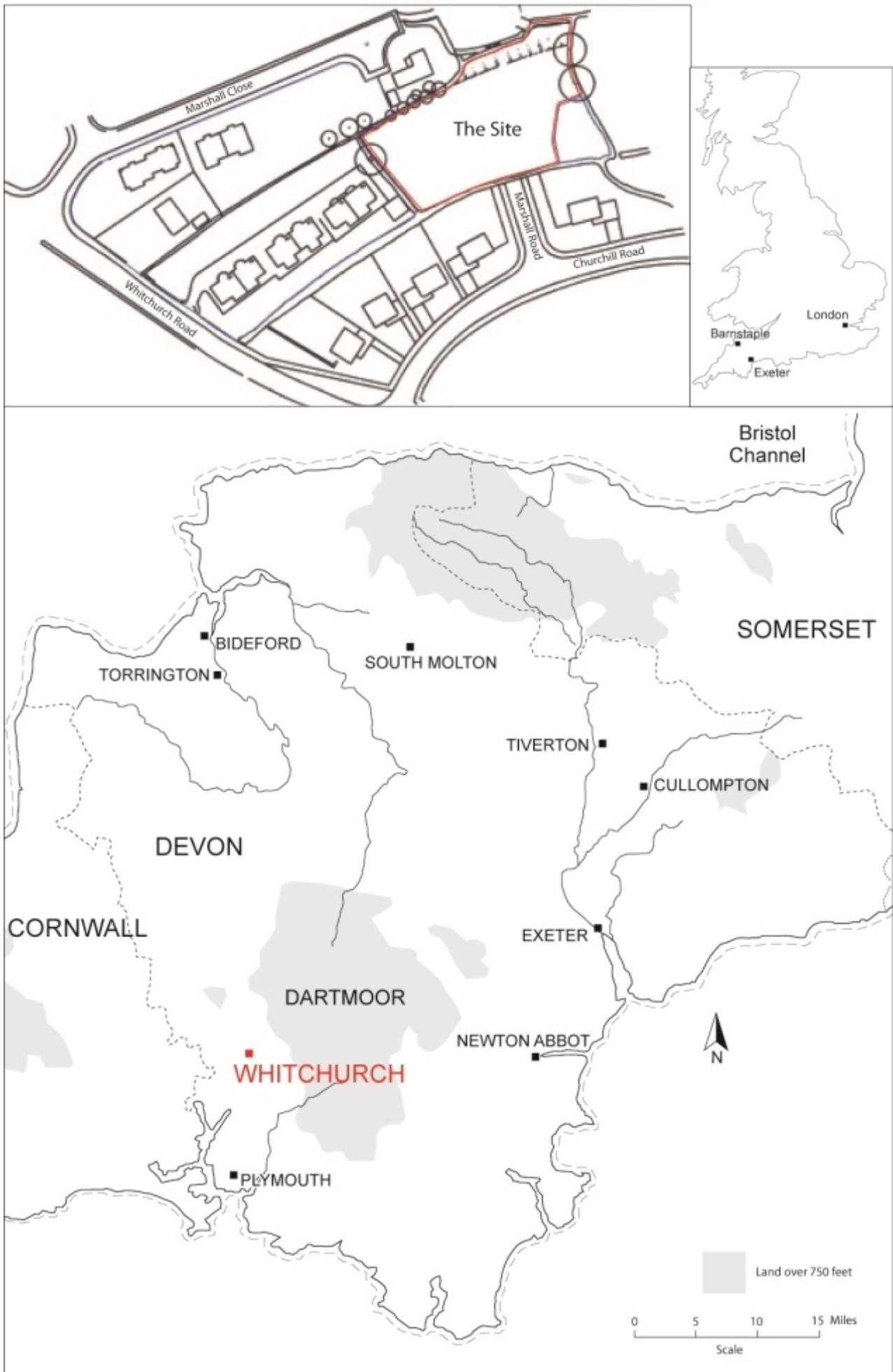


Figure 1: Location Map.



Figure 2: Shot from the centre of the site, showing extant footings and spoil heap, viewed from the northwest.



Figure 3: The small stream in the north-east corner of the site, showing the made-up ground, viewed from the west.