

Negative Watching Brief: Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Chard, South Somerset	National Grid Reference ST 32377 08382	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording of groundworks associated with the erection of five dwellings		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 14/00819/FUL	Recipient museum: Museum of Somerset	
OASIS ID: southwes1-177361	Museum Accession no: To be obtained	
Contractor's reference number/code: COTG14	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 22 nd April 2014	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>An archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of James Higson of Court House Management Services Ltd. (The Client), during the erection of five dwellings at Old Town Garage, Old Town, Chard, Somerset, TA20 2BD (Figure 1). This work was undertaken by J. Bampton on 22nd April 2014 in accordance with a WSI drawn up in consultation with Stephen Membury, Senior Historic Environment Officer of the Somerset Council Historic Environment Service (SCHES).</p> <p>The development lies in heart of Chard, the highest and southernmost town in Somerset, on the A30 c.22.5km west of Yeovil and 16.5km north of Lyme Regis. The site was within an area of high archaeological potential as defined by the Local Plan; within the known area of the medieval town thus had the potential to impact upon remains relating to the medieval occupation. However, no archaeological deposits or features were revealed during the monitoring and recording.</p> <p>The western half of the site and part of the northern edge of the site was reduced to the depth of natural, leaving only an area in the south-east of the site where some soil was removed but footings would be dug below the depth of natural (a mid brown-yellow, stoney-clay). Four manholes were located on the site with services running across the site, roughly north-south. A modern test pit c.1.5m×3.5m was excavated near the middle of the western half of the site and modern disturbance had clearly taken place across the whole site, but particularly the north-west corner (see Figures 1-3).</p> <p>A gradient running down from north to south was evident from the depths of topsoil and made ground revealed across the site (see Figures 2-4). Patches of concrete (0.07-0.10m thick) overlaid topsoil (a dark blackish grey, friable-soft clay-silt, 0.23m thick) in the south west corner of the site. This topsoil overlaid a stoney made-ground of redeposited natural and brought-in stone (up to 0.52m thick) about 10m east of the western boundary, which made up the ground on the west side of the site and overlaid a second topsoil (same as the first, up to 0.62m thick) that covered the eastern half of the site. This second topsoil overlaid a mid grey, soft silt-clay subsoil in the south-east corner of the excavated area. Both topsoils had been mixed up and redeposited across the excavated area of the site. The total depths of these soils and made-grounds varied from 0.30-0.80m, with the general average depth varying from 0.40-0.60m.</p> <p>No archaeological deposits or features were revealed during the monitoring and recording and it was not deemed necessary to observe the remaining footings to be dug.</p> <p>The site layers produced frequent amounts of post-medieval and modern finds including plastics. A sample of finds from the second topsoil and unstratified overburden were recovered and subsequently discarded. These included; ×3 fragments (279g) of CBM including one fragment of machine made brick; ×1 fragment (41g) of salt glazed sewer pipe; ×4 sherds (50g) of 19th century industrial stone wares; ×1 sherd (21g) of 20th century flowerpot; ×1 fragment (1g) of 18th or pre-18th century clay pipe stem; ×7 sherds (54g) of White Refined Earthen wares, two fragments with blue transfer print; ×3 sherd (51g) of 17th century South Somerset wares, one sherd with green glaze. All finds were discarded.</p> <p>No archaeological deposits or features were revealed during the monitoring and recording.</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: J. Bampton	Date sent to HER: 25/04/2014	

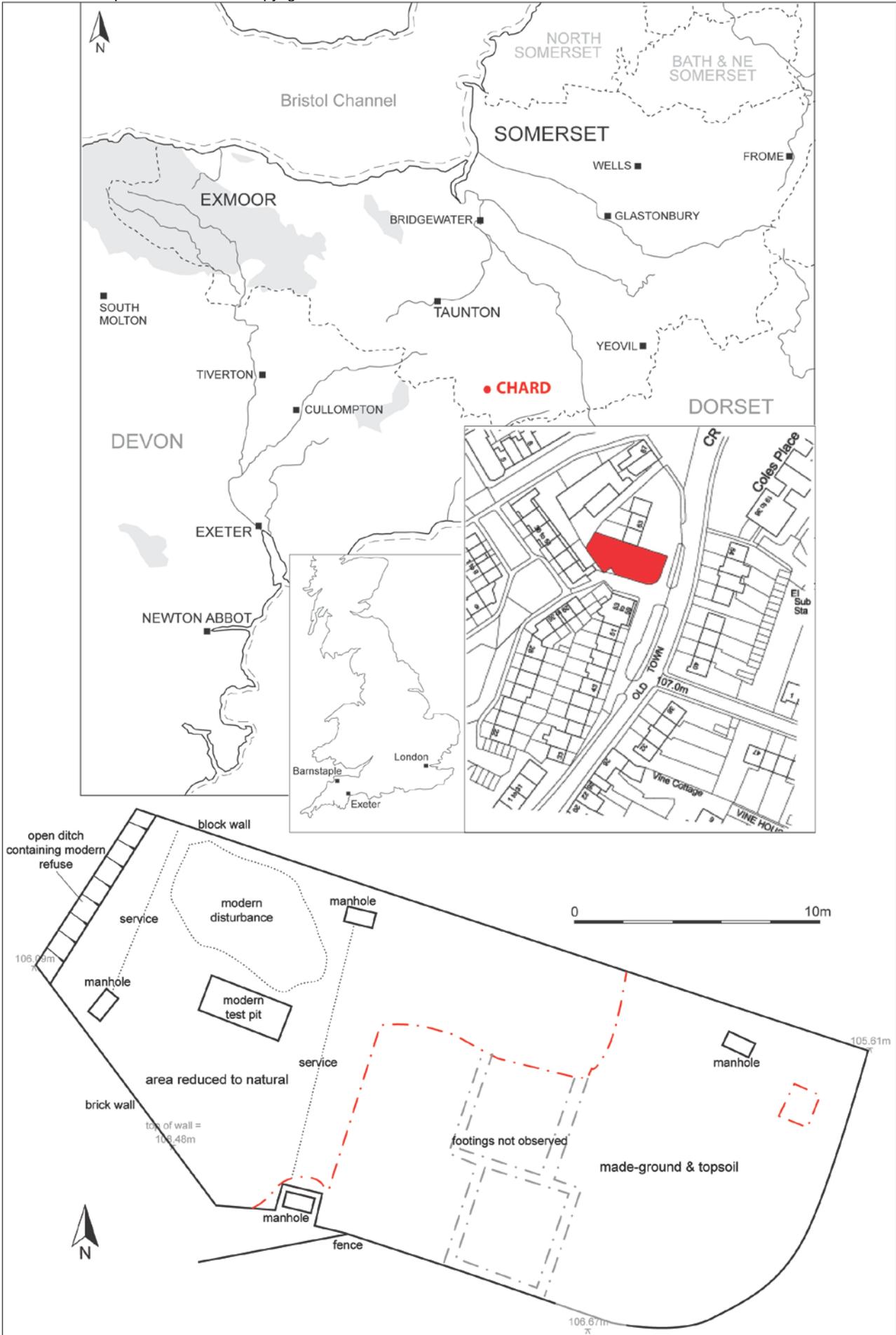


Figure 1: Site Location (shaded in red) and plan.



Figure 2: Excavated western half of site, viewed from the east (2m scale).



Figure 3: Excavated western half of site, viewed from the north-east (no scale).



Figure 4: Section of south corner of excavated area, viewed from the north-west (2m scale).