

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Crediton, Mid Devon	National Grid Reference SS 83150 00298	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Coram's Yard, 25 High Street, Crediton, Devon during groundworks for the conversion of existing storage buildings to form two dwellings.		Photos attached? YES
Planning Application no: 13/00028/FULL	Recipient museum: n/a	
OASIS ID: Southwes1-181920	Museum Accession no: n/a	
Contractor's reference number/code: CCY14	Dates fieldwork undertaken: various, between November 2015 and March 2016	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Michael Parks of Michael Parks Design (the Client) during groundworks associated with the conversion of existing storage to form two dwellings on land at Coram's Yard, 25 High Street, Crediton, Devon. This work was undertaken by J. Bampton and S. Walls between November 2015 and March 2016 in accordance with a WSI drawn up in consultation with Stephen Reed of the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>The proposal site lies within the historic core of the historic market town of Crediton, the recorded history of which goes back to AD 739 when King Æthelheard gave 'Cridie' to the Bishop of Sherborne for the establishment of a minster. 25 High Street is a Grade II Listed building, and the plot it occupies originates from a medieval tenement and burgage plot. Recent archaeological investigation of the property to the immediate west revealed brick-built water tanks and possible evidence of industrial processes; pottery recovered dates to no earlier than the 18th century. A walkover survey at Coram's Yard identified elements within the surviving structure dating to the first half of the 19th century, although these have been much altered in the later 19th and 20th centuries. The area is urban and so the soils were not surveyed (SSEW 1983). The underlying geology is the sandstone of the Creedy Park Sandstone Formation (BGS 2016).</p> <p>A 6.18m long by 0.50m wide footing trench was excavated within an extant structure to the rear of No.25. It revealed a 0.06m thick concrete floor which overlaid a brick wall foundation or plinth {108} in the middle of the trench, which was abutted by a 0.06m layer of concrete rubble scree, (101), and 0.08m thick layer of dark yellow-red, compact silt-clay, (102) that contained brick debris. Wall {108} filled construction cut [106], which contained a rubble and concrete backfill (107). Construction Cut [106] cut layer (104), a mid yellow-red, firm silt-clay redeposited natural, 0.16m thick that filled a gentle sloping levelling/terracing cut, [103] in the east half of the trench, and overlaid dark grey-brown, friable clayey-silt made-ground (105), 0.10m thick in the west half of the trench. Layer (105) overlaid a brick built service drain, {110}, and a demolished stone wall foundation, {109}, 0.30m wide and 0.16m tall. Structures {109} and {110} cut Natural (111), a mid yellow-red, compact clay with occasional sandy banding. The construction of Drain {110} and demolition of Wall {109} was preceded by the levelling and making up of the ground with layers (104) and (105). Later modern developments included the Wall {108} and the made-ground/bedding layers (101) and (102) and the extant floor (100). The following groundwork's described encountered equivalent made-ground and natural layers to those described above.</p> <p>The brick floor of the stables was removed to reveal a thin rubble scree, which contained mortar and brick fragments. Underlying this was a c.0.15m thick layer of compact red silt-clay, with charcoal flecks, that contained hand-made brick and pan-tile fragments and some medium-size sub-rounded pebbles, c.100mm diameter. This in turn overlay a clean, probably natural, deposit of red silty-clay with lenses of white clay. The pipe trench in the yard, measuring up to 0.8m deep and 0.35m wide, revealed nothing of archaeological merit. The trench cut through tarmac and rubble, over remnants of cobbles in places, and a 0.15m thick layer of slightly orange re-deposited natural. This overlay a natural layer of red silty-clay, with several service cuts.</p> <p>Finds from the make-up layers (102), (104) and (105) included: 20th century glass and an 18th-19th century bottle base fragment; roof tile, brick, flower pot and animal bone fragments, and; nine sherds of White Refined Earthenware, most of which had blue transfer print decoration. All of the finds were discarded; 27 fragments in total.</p> <p>No significant archaeological features or remains were present; the ground to the rear of the site had been leveled and made up in two modern phases and a possible garden wall, possibly denoting a burgage plot, removed.</p>		
Recorder: J. Bampton		Date sent to HER: 27/04/16

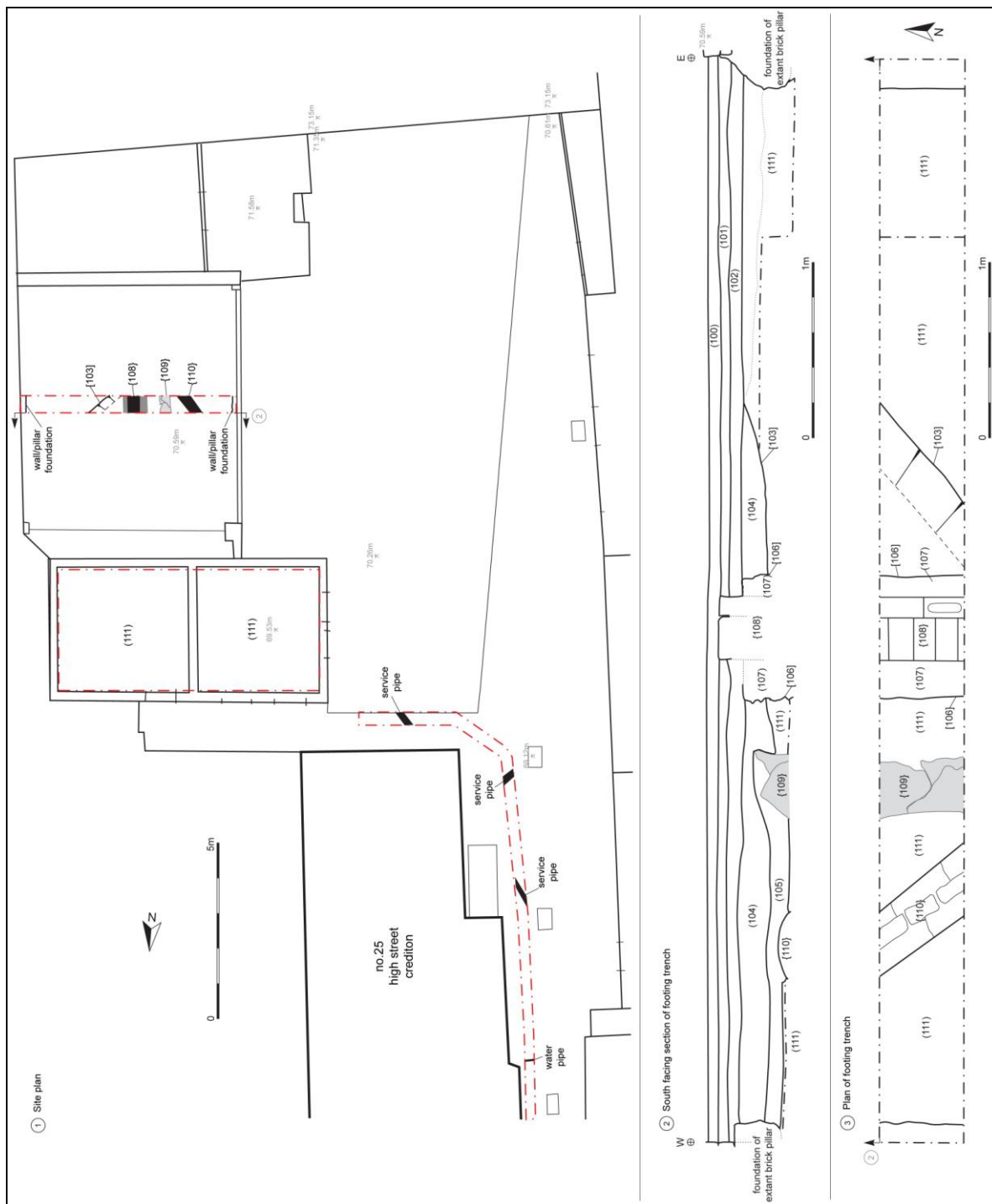


Figure 1: Site plan and; plan and section of footing trench.



Figure 2: The footing trench post excavation; viewed from the west (2m scale).