

LAND OFF CLARKES LANE MERTON DEVON

Results of a Desk-Based Assessment
&
Archaeological Monitoring and Recording



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Land off Clarkes Lane, Merton, Devon

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For

Ann-Marie Dick
(Devon County Historic Environment Team)

By



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Summary

South West Archaeology Ltd. undertook a desk-based assessment, archaeological monitoring and recording; on land off Clarkes Lane, Merton, Devon in January-March 2004.

The documentary and cartographic research indicates that Merton was an important manor before 1066 and was the centre of Merton Hundred. During the 12th-14th centuries, Merton was the base of the de Merton Family, from whom it passed ultimately by descent to the Lords Clinton. The area around the church is clearly the medieval core of the settlement with strong suggestions of high status, given the place-name evidence. Aerial photographic evidence points to a moated medieval high status residence immediately west of the church. The area west and south of the church represents the demesne land of the medieval manor to which were connected in the late medieval or early post-medieval period at least two, and probably three farms. During the 19th century numerous changes to buildings, roads and boundaries took place in this area, including in the development area. These changes included the demolition of a building, which may have been a former farmhouse attached to the demesne land of the medieval manor. The lost building seemingly lay within both of the two plots proposed for development.

The archaeological monitoring and recording within the first area of monitoring (Plot A) encountered the western end of this building. The surviving footing measured c.5m north-south and extended c.2.5m from the eastern boundary of the site. The walls were c. 1m wide and constructed of roughly dressed stone construction with a gritty grey-brown clay-silt bond. There was a centrally located drain visible in the stonework of the western footing, but there was no evidence of this drain continuing either inside or outside the structure. The 1842 tithe map suggests that this end of the building was not residential, and it is perhaps therefore not surprising that no datable stratified finds were recovered from within the vicinity of the building. It can be tentatively suggested that the building may represent the remains of a late medieval long-house.

The subsequent development in Plot B was re-located further to the north, so that it would not destroy the remaining portion of this structure. With the exception of a 19th century rubbish pit within Area B no other archaeological features or finds were recovered from either of the plots.

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1.0 Introduction

Location: Clarks Lane
Parish: Merton
District: Torridge
County: Devon
NGR: SS 5257 1197

1.1 Project Background

This report presents the results of a desk-based assessment and archaeological monitoring and recording carried out by Colin Humphreys and associates (South-West Archaeology) on land off Clarks Lane, Merton, Devon. South-West Archaeology were originally commissioned by John Simmons, Architectural Consultant, Torrington, on behalf of Mr B. Nanceskivell of Pinkhill Farm, Merton to undertake this work in a staged process. The fieldwork was never paid for by the client and therefore the results remained uncollated until now. Following a subsequent archaeological monitoring exercise by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) within part of the same plot of land, and evaluation trenching in the adjacent site it became clear that the results were never submitted to the Devon HER. SWARCH suggested to Ann-Marie Dick of DCHET that we would collate the results of the previous work and submit them to inform the evidence recovered from the adjacent plots.

1.2 Topographical and Geological Background

The proposal site was located in two small rectangular fields to the immediate south of All Saints' Parish Church, to the north of Clarks Lane (see Figure 1). The site occupies two level plots of ground, with the eastern plot set slightly higher at about 82m (AOD).

The bedrock in this area is composed of the sandstones of the Bude Formation (BGS 2013), overlain by well drained fine loamy soils of the Neath Association (SSEW 1983).

1.3 Historical Background

The proposal site lies adjacent to the churchyard of All Saints' Parish Church, which was in existence by the 15th century, and is likely of an earlier foundation. It is possible that there was a medieval settlement around the church, and that associated deposits or structures may survive within the footprint of the proposed development.

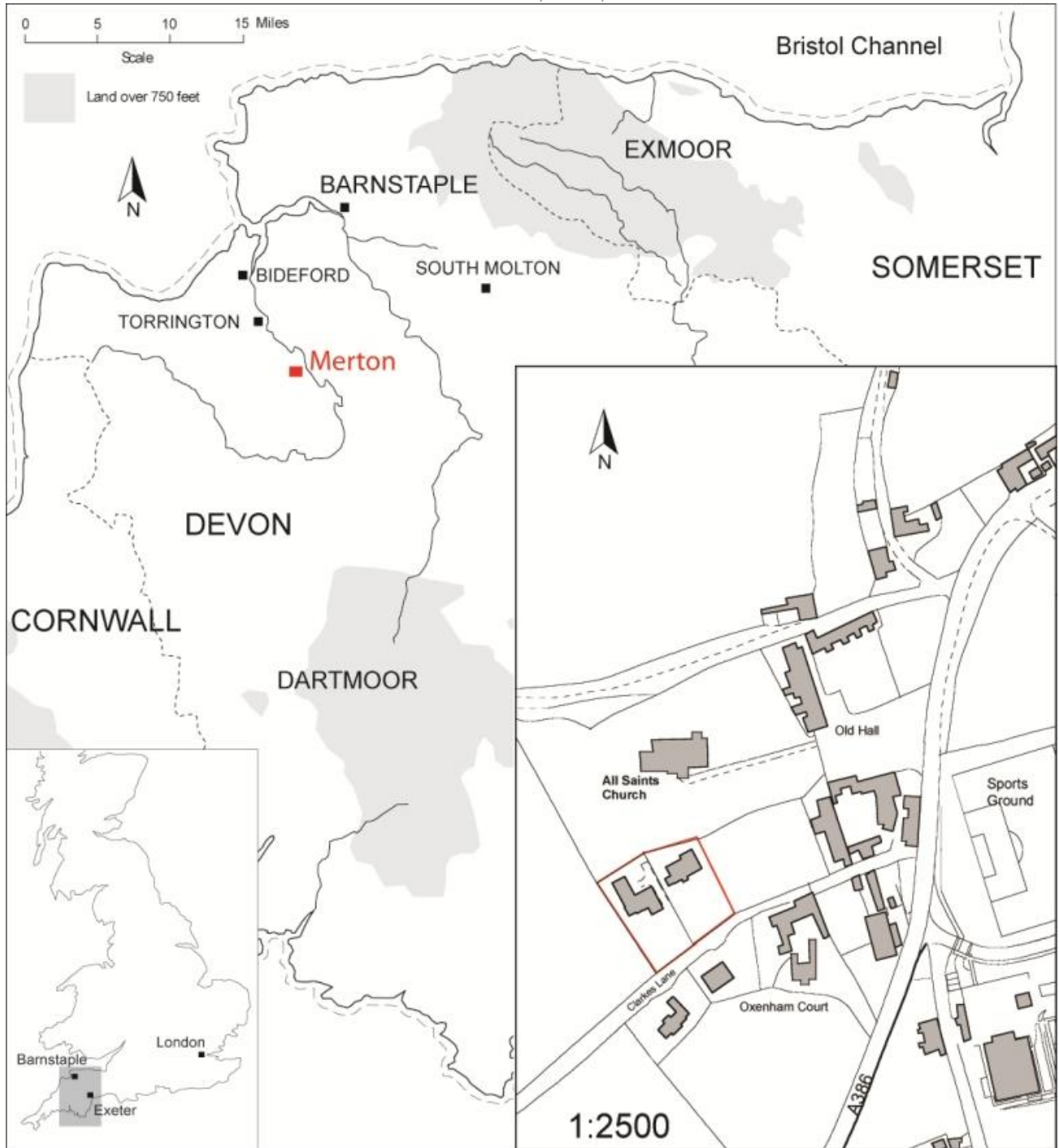


Figure 1: Site Location (the site boundary is indicated with the 2 houses that were constructed shown).

1.4 Methodology

The schedule of work regarding the desk-based assessment and archaeological monitoring and recording was conducted in consultation with the Conservation Officer for Torridge District Council and English Heritage.

The desk-based assessment was undertaken in order to place the proposed site in its historical and archaeological context. The assessment was based on the cartographic material held at the Devon County HER, the County Records Office and the West Country Studies Library. This work was carried out in 2004 by Terry Green.

The archaeological monitoring and recording took place in two phases. The first phase consisted of the western plot (now Pink Hill House), with the area of the driveway and house

footings stripped of topsoil under strict archaeological monitoring by Colin Humphreys and Deb Laing-Trengove in January 2004. The partial remains (the western end) of a stone structure (possible medieval longhouse) were encountered within the driveway and fully recorded in accordance with IfA guidelines. The location of the house on the eastern house plot (now Ashgrove House) was adjusted so that the foundations would not destroy the remaining portion of this longhouse. The monitoring for this second phase of work consisted of monitoring the excavation of the footings, and was undertaken by Chris Preece on 11th-12th March 2004.

2.0 Results of the Desk-Based Assessment

2.1 Development south of the parish church at Merton, Torridge District

The village of Merton lies on the A386 in open country about 10km north of Hatherleigh and at roughly the same distance south-east of Great Torrington. The River Torridge lies some 2km to the east. Merton village is the centre of the parish which also includes the Domesday manors of Potheridge, Speccot and Dunsbeare. In the mid-nineteenth century Lord Clinton held much of the parish, and Clinton Estates have continued in possession of large parts of it until recent times. Numerous features of the village carry the name of Clinton including the village school which was built in 1846. He also held the patronage of the parish church. The development site is immediately to the south of the church and comprises two former gardens or allotments.

2.2 Early History

The name of Merton was in existence in 1086 and is of pre-Conquest, Anglo-Saxon origin. It has been suggested that the name of Merton, together with that of Peters Marland, contains a reference to the rivulet called Mere which runs through the two parishes. This river name however, is probably a back-formation (ie. named from the settlement rather than the other way round). It is quite possible however, that the reference in the name(s) is to a mere or marshy area (Gover, Mawer and Stenton 1931, 99) such as is represented to the west of the settlement on the Ordnance Survey maps of the late 19th century (Figure 5). A topographical reference of this sort combined with the element *ton is typical of some of the earliest major settlements in the Anglo-Saxon landscape.

During the Saxon occupation of North Devon in the mid-eighth century the Saxon leader Cynewulf was murdered at a place called Merton. It is claimed (Carter 1932, 521) that this was Merton near Shebbear, ie. the present settlement. This is the only documentary record of Merton before Domesday (1086). Here it is recorded that in 1066 the manor was held by Thorkell under Earl Harold. At the Conquest it was alienated from Earl Harold and given to the Bishop of Coutances who, in 1086 held it, together with several other estates in the county, as his own demesne. Domesday records list Merton as having 10 ploughs and being worth £8 (Thorn and Thorn 1985). In terms of size and value, this places it far and away beyond the adjacent sub-manors of Potheridge, Dunsbeare and Speccott which were worth 40s, 20s and 7s 6d respectively. Merton was clearly the central manor.

It is likely that there was a church here from at least the 12th century, though the only existing Norman work is the font (Pevsner and Cherry 1989 ed., 568). The list of rectors begins with John de Merton in 1214, and in 1269 we are told that the advowson (the right to appoint and pay clergy) was in the hands of a William Page “in right of his wife’s dower” (Bronescombe 182); and in 1309 Margery, widow of Richard de Merton “presented to the living”, i.e. claimed the advowson (Reichel 1928-38, 575). The 1878 edition of White’s Directory of Devonshire claims that the church was built in 1400, but this is most likely to be the date of a re-build of the earlier Norman church.

2.3 Descent of the Manor of Merton

In the Hundred Rolls of 1275 Merton was counted within Shebbear Hundred, but at the time of Domesday in 1086, it was itself the centre of a Hundred called Mertona. At an early date, therefore, the settlement had importance as the demesne manor of the Hundred (either of a separate Hundred or of that which became Shebbear Hundred) and in the pre-Conquest period had been a (sub) royal manor.

After the Conquest the estate became part of the Honour of Barnstaple from which it was gifted during the reign of Henry II to a family who subsequently took their name (*de Merton*) from the place (Reichel 1928-38, 575-6).

The earliest record of the de Merton family occurs in 1166 when we learn that Philip de Merton held the manors of Merton and Sutcombe under Oliver de Tracey of the Honour of Barnstaple. In 1196 the same manors were held by William de Merton and in 1241 by Henry de Merton. In 1261 we hear of Walter de Merton (founder of Merton College Oxford), and in 1285 Thomas de Merton whose eldest son Richard built Torrington Castle (Spiegelhalter 1939, 295). Richard was lord of the manor in 1303, but was dead by 1309 when Margery, his widow is recorded as confirming her tenure of the advowson of the church. Richard and Margery had a son likewise called Richard, who was granted right of free warren by Edward II in 1311, but who had apparently lost possession of the manor of Sutcombe, because in 1326 he is recorded as holding just one fee (ie. a single estate). His successor was also a Richard who was lord in 1346. He died some time before 1370, leaving three daughters as co-heiresses. His widow remarried, but it was through Richard's eldest daughter Elinor, married to Sir Matthew Stawell, that the manor passed out of the de Merton's to that of Stawell some time around 1370 to 1380. (Much of the above based on Reichel 1928-38, 575-6.)

In 1428 Thomas Stawell, presumably son of Elinor, was in possession, and because Elinor's two sisters had failed to produce any surviving children, the manor passed entirely to the Stawell Family in 1499. At a later date the manor passed to the Rolles, and then subsequently to the Lords Clinton whose seat was in Lincolnshire (Lysons 1822, 338). The Clintons remained in possession down to the 20th century.



Figure 2: Extract from the Donn map of 1865 (courtesy DRO).



Figure 3 : Extract of the Ordnance Survey Old Series map of 1809

2.4 The Landscape Context

The earliest detailed map of Merton is the tithe map of 1842 (Figure 4). This shows a small settlement labelled Merton Village lying mainly to the east of the church with numerous paths, lanes and trackways all lying to the north and west of the road from Torrington to Hatherleigh and Okehampton. To the east of the church are two substantial groups of buildings numbered 975 and 923. Number 975 is described in the Tithe Award (see Appendix 1) as Houses and Courtlage, while number 923 is House, Malthouse etc.; both groups are arranged in a square around a central courtyard, looking as if they had originally been farm houses with adjacent service buildings. To the southwest of the church is a domestic structure (conventionally colour coded in pink) with a barn or something similar at its eastern end. This is number 920, described as Houses and Courtlage. Running west from building group 923, with an open area in front of 920, is a broad track leading westwards to Merton Town Mead (916), where it broadens out into a “funnel” (ie. a stock-funnel or crush, made for the purpose

of driving animals in a desired direction). Running westwards from 973, skirting the churchyard, turning sharply north and then west again is another broad track which similarly debouches onto pasture land in a “funnel” (partly obscured in 1842 by field number 883 which will have been created when the stock-funnel had gone out of use). On the Old Series Ordnance Survey One inch map of 1809 (Figure 3), the area towards which both tracks lead is named Merton Moors. This strongly suggests that the two tracks with their stock-funnels were originally droves by which animals would be led out to graze on the moor from a farm or farms beside the church. Such an arrangement is typical of Devonshire farm-hamlets. Contained between the arms formed by the two tracks described above is a block of fields enclosed within long boundaries. Together with a smaller block of fields to the north and east of the northern track, this probably represents the early cultivated land of the settlement.



Figure 4 :Extract from the Merton tithe map of 1842 (Courtesy DRO).

To the south and east of the road running through Merton in 1842 is a group of fields, numbers 957 to 962, five of which are called Park. While caution is required with the term “park” in field names usually it refers to a simple enclosure, but may also reflect the earlier existence of a formal park), the fact that two of these are called Pleasant Park, strongly suggests the former existence of a “pleasaunce”, which might have been successor to an earlier, more utilitarian deerpark. The name of field number 961, Pale Gates, suggests that here was the gate through the park pale. This group of fields has very regular geometric boundaries, suggesting the late division and enclosure of former open (park) land for agricultural purposes. The name of field number 960, Homer Park, ties this development in with the hypothetical former farmhouse numbered 975, because the term “homer” among Devonshire fieldnames tends to indicate the field closest to the farm house.

Further clues to former status are found in field number 928, Culver Close, and field number 925, Pound House Orchard. The former refers to the keeping of pigeons or doves (for the aristocratic table in winter), and the latter refers to the storing of apples for cider making, when cider, like beer, was a “clean” drink as opposed to possibly contaminated water.

Together with the location of the church, all of the above points to this area being the medieval core of the settlement in which the de Merton family resided.

In the Tithe Award, field number 911 is called Pond Close. This wedge – shaped field to the west of the church is bounded on the north by a watercourse and on the south by a branch of the same watercourse which mysteriously ends half way along the boundary. The watercourse originates at a spring in field number 863 (Avery's Meadow). Despite 19th century boundary changes, the outline of the wedge-shaped field can be still be discerned on an aerial photograph of Merton taken by the RAF in 1946 (Figure 9). Clearly visible within it is a rectangular enclosure, measuring 50m by 30m internally and surrounded by substantial banks and ditches. Presumably this feature gave the field its name, though it is not at all pond-like. Now a scheduled ancient monument (No. 30317), but buried beneath a dump of top-soil, the feature has been interpreted as a moated site on which probably stood a prestigious seigneurial residence (Appendix B). Together with the other clues to former land-use in this part of Merton, this would seem to be a prime candidate site for the residence of the *de Merton* Family from the 12th to 15th centuries.

2.5 Nineteenth Century Developments

2.5.1 Field Boundaries

Comparison of the tithe map with the First Edition Ordnance Survey 6" and 25" maps of 1886 (Figure 5) and 1887 (Figure 6) and the Second Edition Ordnance Survey 6" and 25" maps of 1906 (Figure 7 and Figure 8) shows that during the nineteenth century the field boundaries in and around the village underwent numerous alterations. The fragmented pattern of small fields to the west of the church was considerably simplified, as was the area to the southwest of the village. The "Parks" area, on the other hand, was further subdivided.

2.5.2 Roads

In March 1824 notice was given of a plan to divert the road from Great Torrington through the fields called Pleasant Park etc (DRO 113A/99/1). The plan was, however, never implemented. Instead, some time between 1842 and 1886 (when the First Edition Ordnance Survey Six Inch map appeared), the main road which had formerly run southwards from the village by way of Rosehill, was diverted to the west (see Figure 5).

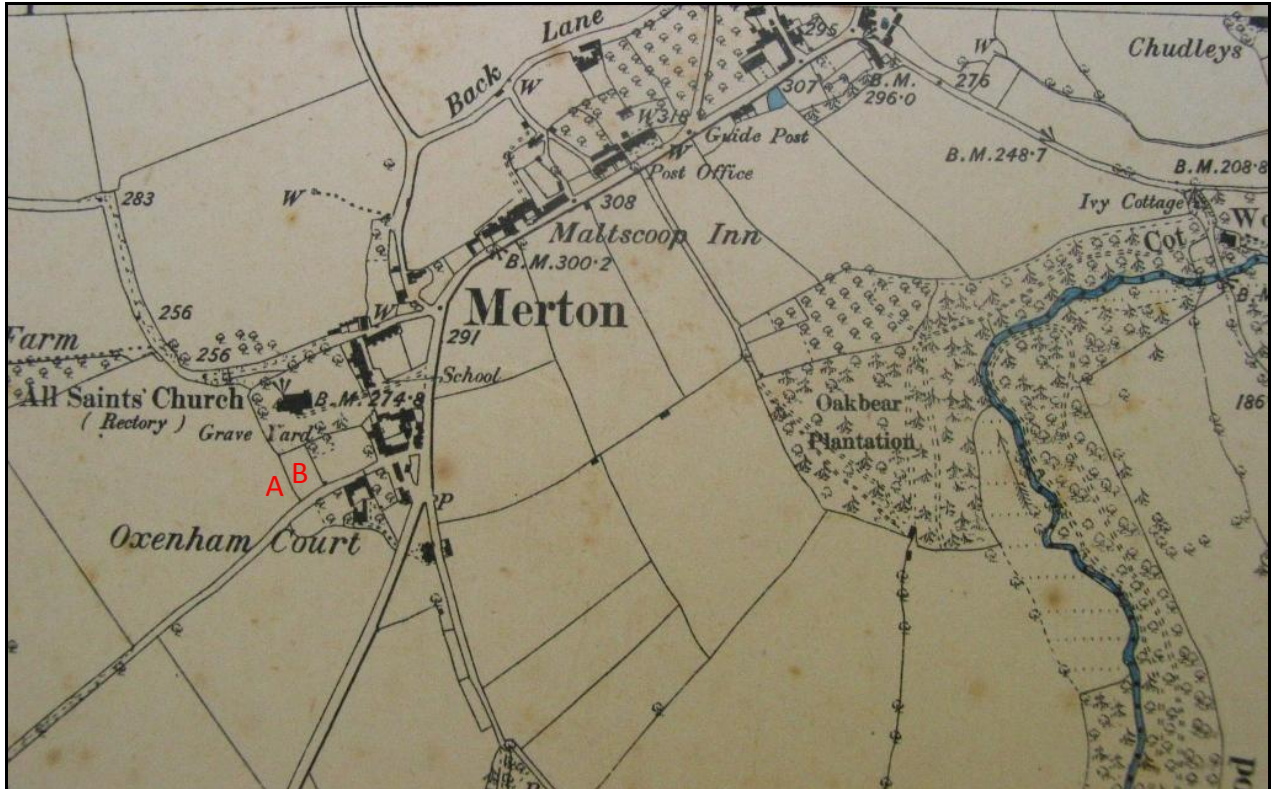


Figure 5 :Extract from the First Edition OSmap at 6 inches to the mile, published 1886.(Courtesy DRO)

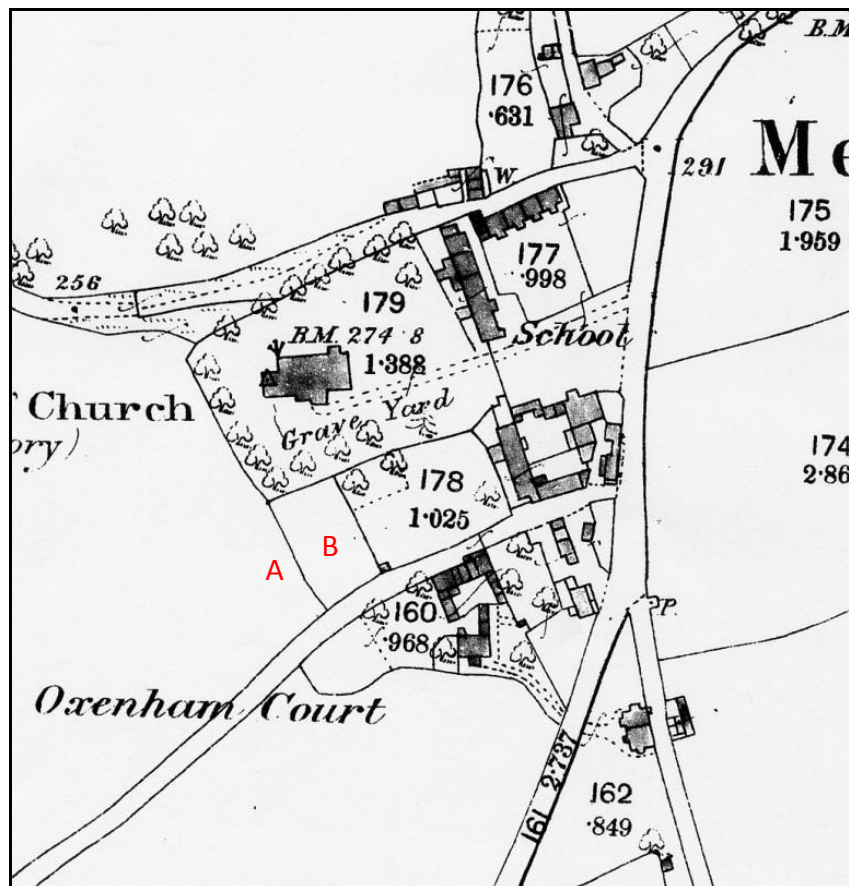


Figure 6 :Extract from the First Edition OS map at 25 inches to the mile, published 1887.

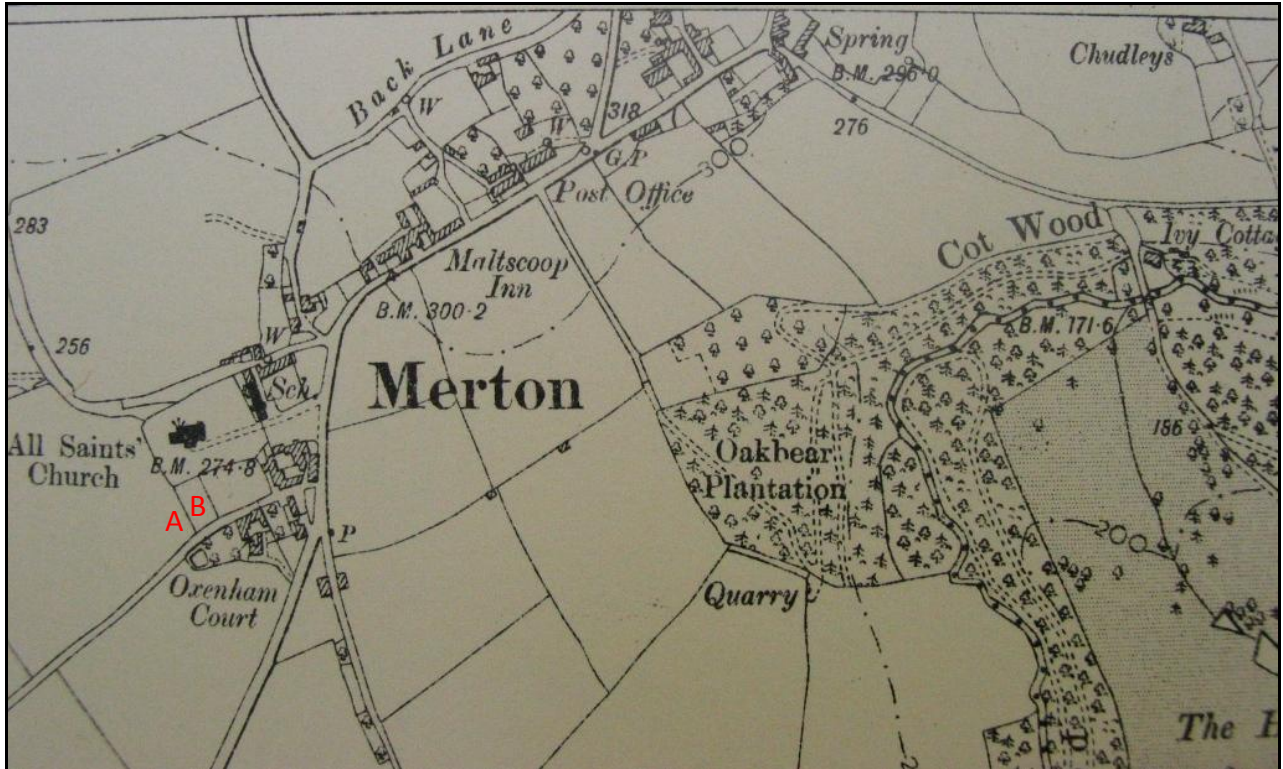


Figure 7: Extract from the Second Edition OS map at 6 inches to the mile, published 1906 (Courtesy DRO).

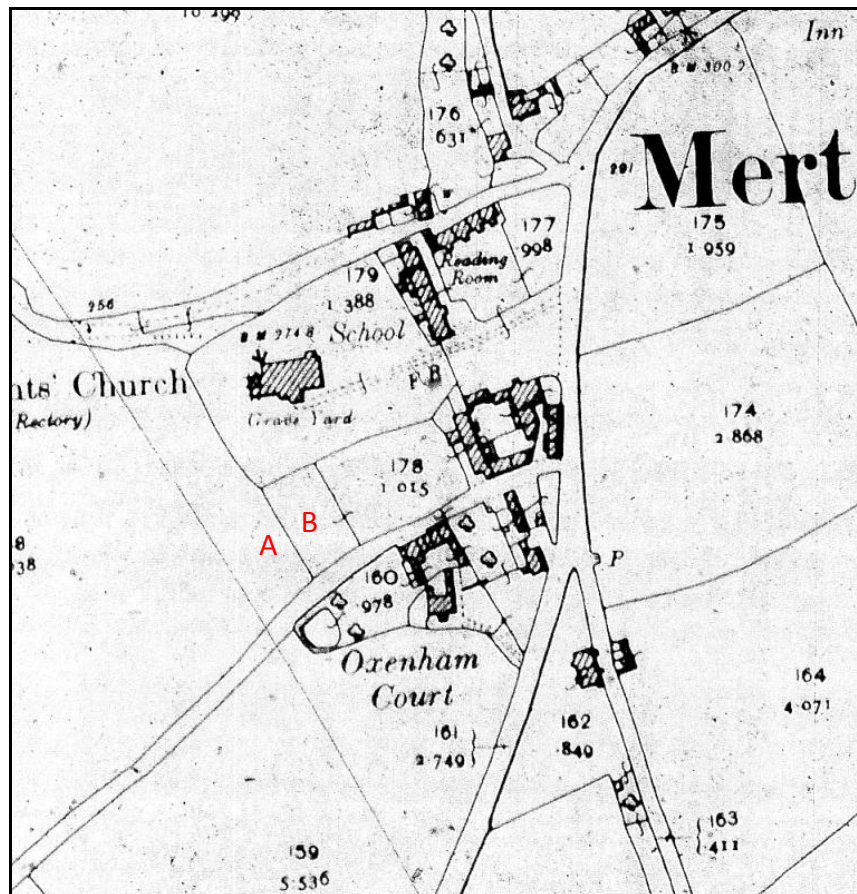


Figure 8: Extract from the Second Edition OS map at 25 inches to the mile, Published 1906.

2.5.3 The Church and its Environs:

White's Directory of Devon published in 1850 tells us that the church was "restored and beautified about 4 years ago", therefore in or about 1846. The edition of 1878 informs us that

in 1875 the church was thoroughly restored at a cost of £1700. This second far-reaching restoration in the Victorian manner led Hoskins to comment that the church was “grossly over-restored” with only the tower and the north arcade remaining from earlier times (Hoskins 1992 ed., 434).

A Glebe Terrier of 1727 (DRO 2044 A/add PB1) describes the churchyard as “fenced on three sides with a hedge and on the east side by the Poor House and a wall”. The Poor House is numbered 924 on the tithe map of 1842, but in 1846 it was either pulled down or converted into a School. Opposite the Poor House, now School, the outbuildings of number 975 were removed; to the south west of the Malthouse (number 923) Oxenham Court was built on the former Pound House Orchard ; and some way west of the church Grange Farm was erected .

2.6 The Proposed Development Site

The development site is represented by two derelict garden plots to the south of the church of All Saints. Like other elements in the vicinity, this area was radically changed in the mid-nineteenth century. This may in part be accounted for by changes in the Ward Family who were occupiers of this area and its buildings (numbers 921 and 923) in 1842.

In the Tithe Award the large group of buildings to the south-east of the church was designated House, Malthouse, etc (number 923), and was occupied by Susannah Ward. The smaller building to the west (number 921) was also occupied by her. The Census of 1841 records “Susannah Ward (aged 68) Maltster” and in the same household, two sons, John (33) and Bartholomew (24) who were also maltsters. The landtax returns from 1804 to 1829 also record a Bartholomew Ward, Maltster, who was presumably the husband of Susannah Ward and who must have died before 1842. Earlier still, the record from 1786 to the end of the 18th century has a John Ward occupying the Malthouse, but six years before in 1780 he simply occupied a “cottage”. Moving forward in time again, Billings Directory and Gazetteer of Devonshire of 1857 lists Bartholomew Ward, Maltster (presumably the younger son of Susannah), but by 1878 White’s Directory of Devonshire lists him as simply holding a “beerhouse”. By 1906 (Kelly’s Directory) the Wards have disappeared from the record of the parish.

Comparison of the tithe map with the First Edition of the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1886 shows that the area immediately to the west of the Malthouse was restructured some time in the intervening years. Where there had been a dwelling or dwellings with service buildings (Houses and Courtlage, number 920) and an orchard (number 921), there was, by 1886, no longer a building, while the orchard had been newly divided north-south into two unequal plots (but the northern boundary, which was that of the churchyard, remained untouched). Meanwhile the former Pound House Orchard (number 925) had been built over by Oxenham Court. It is suggested that these changes possibly occurred between 1857 and 1878 when Bartholomew Ward’s status changed from maltster to publican. No doubt any decision would have lain principally with the Lord of the Manor, Lord Clinton, and may have had economic reasons perhaps connected with the rise of commercial breweries.



Figure 9: Extract from an aerial photograph of April 1946 showing the rectangular earthwork to the west of the church, the former churchyard boundary, and the garden plots to the south of the church. (RAF 3G/TUD/UK/159.PART 1/19 APR 1946/5021) (Courtesy DCC). The development plots are marked A & B.

The Second Edition 6" map of 1906 (Figure 8) shows no further change, but an aerial photograph of 1946 (Figure 9) shows that a further plot had been added to the west, a development which probably coincided with an extension to the churchyard which evidently occurred in the same period. It can be seen from the aerial photograph that the boundary between the two development plots (the 19th century plot and the one added in the 20th century) is continuous with the old churchyard boundary, and since the tithe map shows the building (number 920) as touching and slightly overlapping this boundary, it must be concluded that it lay mostly within what is now the eastern plot (Plot B) of the pair. It has to be pointed out however, that the "swing" of the western boundary of the orchard (number 921) is different from that of the later narrow plot formed after the removal of the building. It may be that the 19th century amalgamation of the fields immediately to the west (numbers 913, 918, 919, etc.) saw the boundary of the churchyard and that of the former orchard slightly realigned, and in fact the 1887 OS 25" map shows the former orchard boundary kicking slightly to the north-east about two thirds of the way along its length (see Figure 6). Remains of the former building may lie in both development plots.

There is nothing in the records to clearly indicate the nature of the lost building. In the Tithe Award it is Houses and Courtlage, therefore presumably at that date two dwellings, though the occupier is given only as Susannah Ward. (The 1841 census indicates, however, that she had an unmarried daughter Mary who could have lived there.) The landtax returns from 1780 to 1829 mention a cottage, but since the Malthouse complex shows two separate domestic buildings on the tithe map, this cottage (called in 1788 Malthouse Cottage), was probably within that group. In proportion and in layout the building on the tithe map (number 920) could very well have been a three-celled cross-passage house or even a longhouse with accommodation for stock at the end. With an open area in front of it into which a drove led from the west, it could have been a former farmhouse with stockyard. It has been suggested

above that the malthouse group and the group numbered TM 975 were formerly farms. Three-farm clusters are found all over Devon, and hence it is quite possible to suggest that the lost building represents a third farm at Merton. In fact the Donn map of 1765 (Figure 2) shows three principal buildings at Merton in roughly the location of our three putative farms. Furthermore, it is evident from the Tithe Award that Susannah Ward occupied a holding called Beers which included, together with the malthouse and the building TM920, almost all of the land to the immediate west of the church. Additionally the landtax returns tell us that she paid £1..7s..8d in tax for "Beare" and that this holding only came into the occupancy of the Ward Family in 1822, when they had held the malthouse for 36 years. In other words Beare or Beers was originally a separate holding to which the malthouse was added when the Wards took it over. As the building TM920 is the only building visibly attached to the Beare/Beers holding (apart from the Malthouse), it is suggested that it represents the original farmhouse of the holding. Interestingly, the holding called Beare/Beers all lies contiguous to the earthwork which has been interpreted as a moated manor house site. This would have been the demesne land of the medieval manor and building TM920 would, by this reckoning, descend from the agricultural arrangements of the lost manorial centre.



Figure 10: Copy of the development site (in red) overlaid on an extract of the tithe map of 1842 (Development sites marked A & B).

3.0 Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

The archaeological monitoring was undertaken in two phases with the area of Plot A (see Figure 10) the first to be stripped in January 2004. It was clear on a site visit prior to the stripping of the topsoil that there was an earthwork running north-south approximately parallel with the eastern boundary to the site (see Figure 11). There were also some less distinct undulations towards the centre of this same boundary within Plot B (see Figure 12).



Figure 11: Plot A from the north-west corner, showing a clear earthwork running roughly parallel with the eastern boundary to the plot.



Figure 12: Plot B from the entrance in the south-west corner, slight undulations can be seen to the left of the picture.

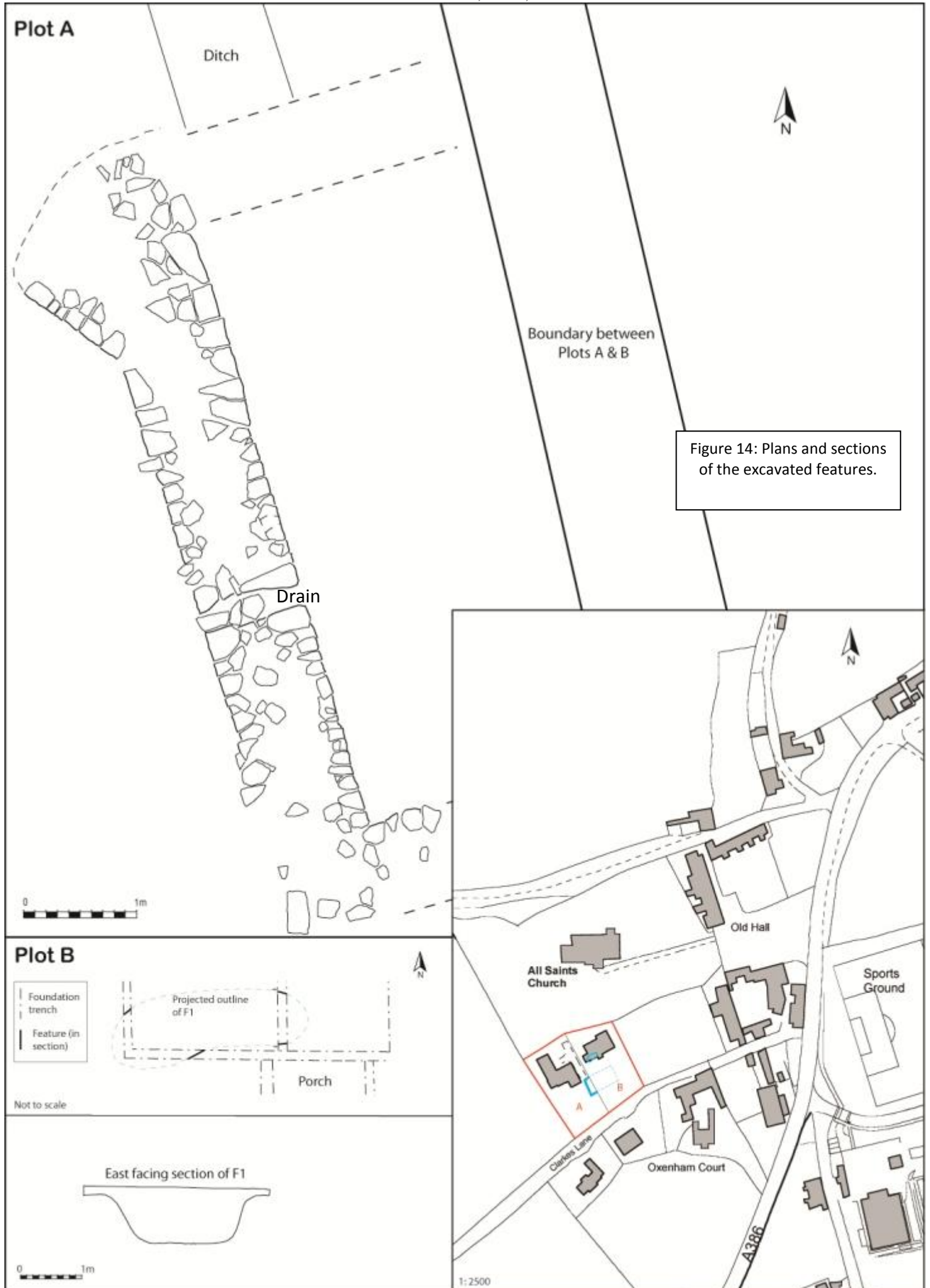
3.1 Plot A

The footprint of the proposed house and drive were stripped to the natural subsoil, this exposed two archaeological features; the remnants of a stone wall footing and a ditch. The ditch was c.1.2m wide and orientated north-south on the same alignment as the boundary hedge between the two plots (see Figure 13). The ditch terminated (and therefore respected) the northern end of the stone wall, although there was more substantial truncation of the wall at this northern end (see Figure 14).

The wall was c. 1m wide and constructed of roughly dressed stone construction with a gritty grey-brown clay-silt bond. It survived as a single course of stones. The northern end of the wall projected out eastwards from the structure perhaps indicating a further structure, be it a buttress, garden wall, hedge or building. No other traces of this structure were noted within the stripped area. There was a centrally located drain visible in the stonework of the western footing, but there was no evidence of this drain continuing either inside or outside the structure.



Figure 13: Shot of the wall footings during excavation, viewed from the south (2m scale).



3.2 Plot B

Digging commenced in Plot B with the stripping of the turf (c.0.08m) over the area of the proposed house and drive. The remainder of the plot was not stripped. The foundation trenches were then monitored as they went through the remainder of the topsoil (c.0.2-0.3m thick) and into the natural subsoil. The natural subsoil was a compact yellow clay, with little evidence of disturbance in terms of either industry or agriculture. In places there was a slight change in the geology to a sandier beige loam or to a looser, rusty-orange clay loam matrix.

At the west end of the southern foundation trench (the southern external wall of the new building), a cut feature (F1) was visible in section (see Figure 14). This was detected also in the southern end of the external west wall foundation (see Figure 14). Darker soil, lime plaster fragments, grey roof slates and charcoal fragments typified the fill of this feature and probably represented a phase of reconstruction of the aforementioned building in the building plot to the west. Possibly, however the detritus could relate to the church and dumping just outside the churchyard boundary. Sherds of largely 19th century pottery were found in F1, with a single (residual) sherd of medieval gravel tempered North Devon Ware. Probably the same feature was visible in the section of the foundation trench for the internal north/south wall (see Figure 14). Excavation of foundation trenches for the remaining external and internal walls for the new building revealed no further features.

Finds from the topsoil comprised sherds of coarse, gritty earthenwares (some with signs of cooking usage), finer earthenware (some sherds internally glazed), transfer printed wares in various colours and a clay pipe stem. The majority of finds were attributable to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, although there was a small assemblage of medieval wares including a rim of a 13th-14th century decorated jug.



Figure 15: Post-ex shot of the footings in Plot B, from the north-east.

4.0 Conclusions

The documentary and cartographic research indicates that Merton was an important manor before 1066 and was the centre of Merton Hundred. During the 12th-14th centuries, Merton was the base of the *de Merton* Family, from whom it passed ultimately by descent to the Lords Clinton. The area around the church is clearly the medieval core of the settlement with strong suggestions of high status, given the place-name evidence. Aerial photographic evidence points to a moated medieval high status residence immediately west of the church. The area west and south of the church represents the demesne land of the medieval manor to which were connected in the late medieval or early post-medieval period at least two, and probably three farms. During the 19th century numerous changes to buildings, roads and boundaries took place in this area, including the development area. These changes included the demolition of a building which may have been a former farmhouse attached to the demesne land of the medieval manor. The lost building seemingly lay within both of the two plots proposed for development.

The archaeological monitoring and recording within the first area of monitoring (Plot A) encountered the western end of this building. The surviving footing measured c.5m north-south and extended c.2.5m from the eastern boundary of the site. The walls were c. 1m wide and constructed of roughly dressed stone construction with a gritty grey-brown clay-silt bond. There was a centrally located drain visible in the stonework of the western footing, but there was no evidence of this drain continuing either inside or outside the structure. The 1842 tithe map suggests that this end of the building was not residential, and it is perhaps therefore not surprising that no datable finds were recovered. It can be tentatively suggested that the building may represent the remains of a late medieval long-house.

The subsequent development in Plot B was re-located further to the north, so that it would not destroy the remaining portion of this structure. With the exception of a 19th century rubbish pit within Area B no other archaeological features or finds were recovered from either of the plots.

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The Merton Tithe Map and Tithe Award, 1842

Appendix 1

Details from the Merton Tithe Award 1842

Name of Holding	Owner	Occupier	Number	Name	Land Use
Avery's	Lord Clinton	Andrew Rawtcliffe Sr	863	Avery's Meadow	arable
			864	Bastard's meadow	arable
			865	Orchard	orchard
			866	Long Close	arable
			867	Orchard	orchard
Beers		Susannah Ward	909	Lower Solwill Meadow	meadow
			910	Higher Solwill Meadow	meadow
Part of Hatches			911	Pond Meadow	meadow
Beers			912	Lower Beer	arable
			913	New Meadow	arable
			914	Great Close	arable
			915	Pond Meadow	arable
Newberry		Thomas Balkwill	916	Merton Town Mead	pasture
Beers			917	Strap	orchard & mowhay
			918	Garden	garden
			919	Green	pasture
		Susannah Ward	920	Houses and Courtlage	court etc
			921	Church Yard Orchard	orchard
-	-	-	922	Church and Church Yard	
Beers	Lord Clinton	Susannah Ward	923	House, Malthouse etc	
		James Smaldon and Others	924	Poor Houses and Waste	
			925	Pound House Orchard	orchard
New Inn		William Ching	926	New Inn and Garden	
		Robert Stapledon	927	Cottage and Garden	
Beers			928	Culver Close	arable
Part of Hatches			929	Hurdle Close	arable

Appendix 2

Finds concordance

	POTTERY			OTHER			DATE
Context	Sherds	Wgt. (g)	Notes	Frgs.	Wgt. (g)	Notes	
Topsoil	1	3	Tin Glaze	2	7	Clay pipe stem	C12-C20
	9	52	White Refined Earthen ware (WRE)	1	31	Glass fragment	
	2	23	18 th Century Stoneware	2	79	Brick fragments	
	4	82	Post-med N. Devon wares				
	2	27	19 th Century Industrial Slip				
	2	12	19 th Century N. Devon wares				
	9	83	Medieval N. Devon Coarsewares, including a sherd of a 13 th -14 th Century decorated Jug, and 2x 13 th -14 th Century rims				
	1	7	Burnt Medieval pot fragment				
F1	5	24	White refined earthen wares (WRE)	2	119	Slate fragments	C19
	2	17	Post-med N. Devon wares	1	3	Clay pipe stem	
	1	6	Medieval N. Devon type ware (residual)	1	98	Lime Plaster fragment	
				1	2	Brick Fragment	
Totals	38	336		10	339		

Appendix 3

Supporting Jpegs



Wall footing in Plot A, viewed from the north (2m scale).



Wall footing in Plot A, viewed from the south (2m scale).



Shot of the drain within the wall footing, viewed from the east (2m scale).



Plot B during excavation, viewed from the south (no scale).



Shot of Feature 1 in Plot B, viewed from the west (2m scale).



Shot of Plot B post-ex, viewed from the north-west (no scale).



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