

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Gulworthy, West Devon	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SX 44491 69732	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Morwellham Quay, Gulworthy, Devon during the erection of two agricultural buildings		<b>Photo attached?</b> YES
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 01129/2013 & 01130/2013	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Plymouth City Museum	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> southwes1-184003	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> GMQ14	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2014	
<p><b>Description of works.</b></p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Simon Lister (The Client), during the erection of two agricultural buildings on land at Morwellham Quay, Gulworthy, Devon. This work was undertaken by P. Webb on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2014 in accordance with a WSI drawn up in consultation with Bill Horner of the Devon County Historic Environment Team.</p> <p>Morwellham Quay is situated on the east bank of the River Tamar. During the 13<sup>th</sup> century Morwellham was established as the port for Tavistock Abbey, and a quay is first documented in 1235-40. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century the port's transport connections were improved in conjunction with the mineral industry; first with the construction of the Tavistock Canal (Monument HOB UID 867279) then the mineral railway (Monument HOB UID 438052) from Devon Great Consuls copper mine (Monument HOB UID 438053) to Morwellham Quay. From the 1860s Morwellham rapidly declined as a commercial port due to improved infrastructure around Tavistock and the decline of river based trade. The first dock at Morwellham was documented in 1765. The earliest known extant structure dates to 1768 and was enlarged during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The other docks were constructed c.1820 and later. Excavations have also recorded a mid 18<sup>th</sup> century dock on Limekiln Quay. From the 1970s Morwellham Quay was restored and opened as a working museum. The 19<sup>th</sup> century mapping shows the area as being undeveloped (Figure 1). However, more recent track-ways and field boundaries do border the east and southern boundaries of the site.</p> <p>An area 42m×35m was excavated to a depth of between 0.20m and 0.39m to the depth of in situ weathered natural and in places to within the subsoil. The area was excavated by a tracked mechanical excavator using a toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision. The area excavated encompassed the proposed development area of two agricultural barns. Topsoil (100), 0.16-0.28m thick, consisted of turf and a mid brown, friable clay-silt with 10% small angular stones (10-30mm dia.). It overlaid Subsoil (101), 0.05-0.14m thick, a mid reddish-brown, friable clay-silt with 30% sub-angular to sub-rounded stone (30-100mm dia.). This overlaid Natural (106) a light yellow-grey silt-sand with 30% sub-rounded to sub-angular stone (40-120mm dia.) (Figures 2, 3, 6-8).</p> <p>Two modern service trenches, [102] and [104] (Figures 2-5), containing plastic water pipes were encountered in the excavation. Each was aligned approximately north-west by south-east. Service Trench [102], 0.48×0.69×42.5+m, was a linear cut with near vertical sides, sharp breaks of slope and a flat base. It cut Subsoil (101) and it contained Fill (103); a mixture of soils (100) and (101) and 40% mid yellowish-brown, soft-friable silt-clay with 20% sub-angular to sub-rounded stone (10-50mm dia.). Service Trench [104], 0.66×c.0.68×25+m, was a linear cut with near vertical sides, sharp breaks of slope and a flat base. It evidently cut Topsoil (100) with the turf relaid. The service trench contained Fill (105), a mid brown friable silt mixed with 40% orange friable silt with 15% sub-angular stone (10-100mm dia.). Fill (105) was overlaid by Fill (107), a disturbed or redeposited topsoil; the same as Topsoil (100).</p> <p>No significant archaeological features or remains were encountered.</p> <p>All finds were recovered and subsequently discarded. The topsoil finds included: ×2 sherds (7g) of White Refined Earthen ware, one with a blue transfer print decoration; ×1 sherd (12g) of a 19<sup>th</sup> century stoneware vessel base; ×1 sherd (24g) of an 18<sup>th</sup> century North Devon Gravel tempered rim from a Type 14 jar. Fill (103) produced ×1 fragment (51g) of green bottle glass; and ×2 sherds (1g) of White Refined Earthen ware, one with blue transfer print decoration.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> J. Bampton		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 15/10/2014

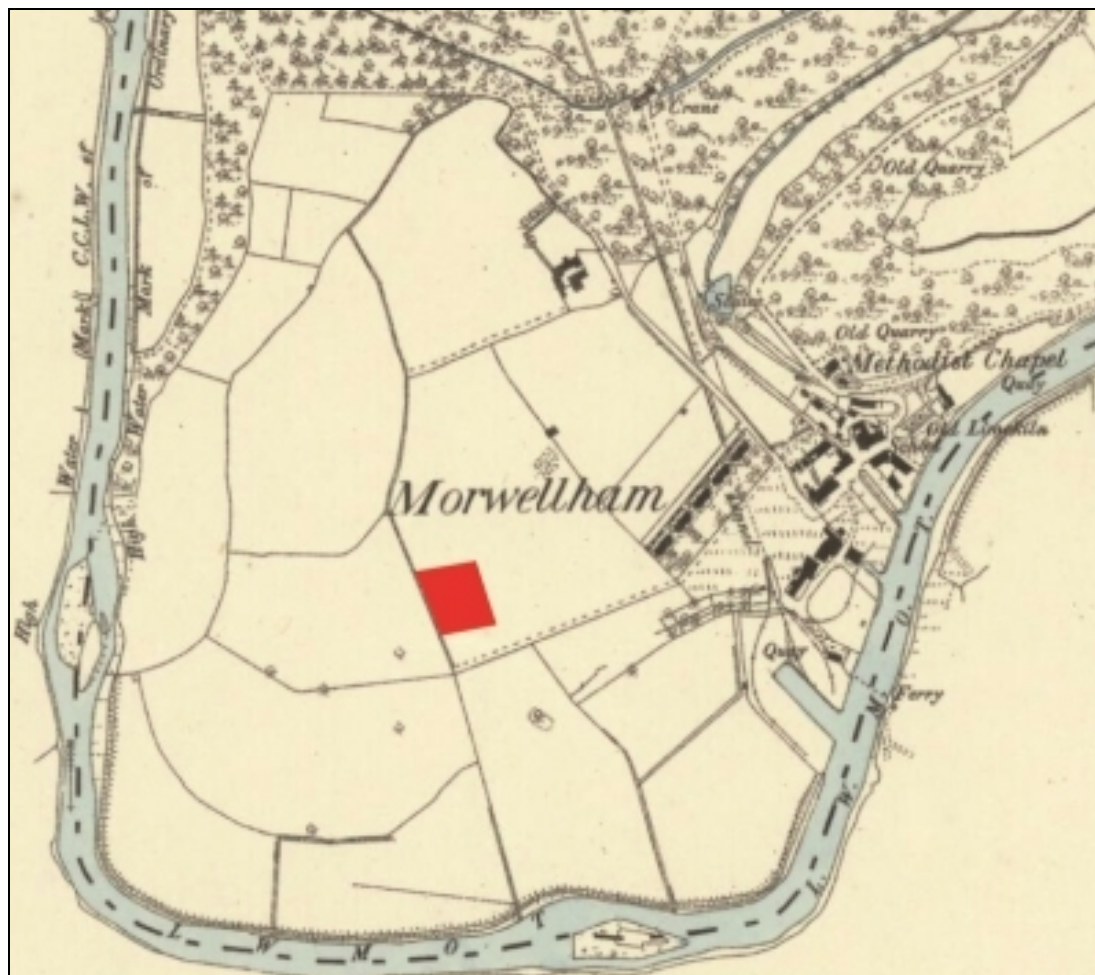


Figure 1: Ordnance Survey six inch map, published 1883; the site is indicated in red.

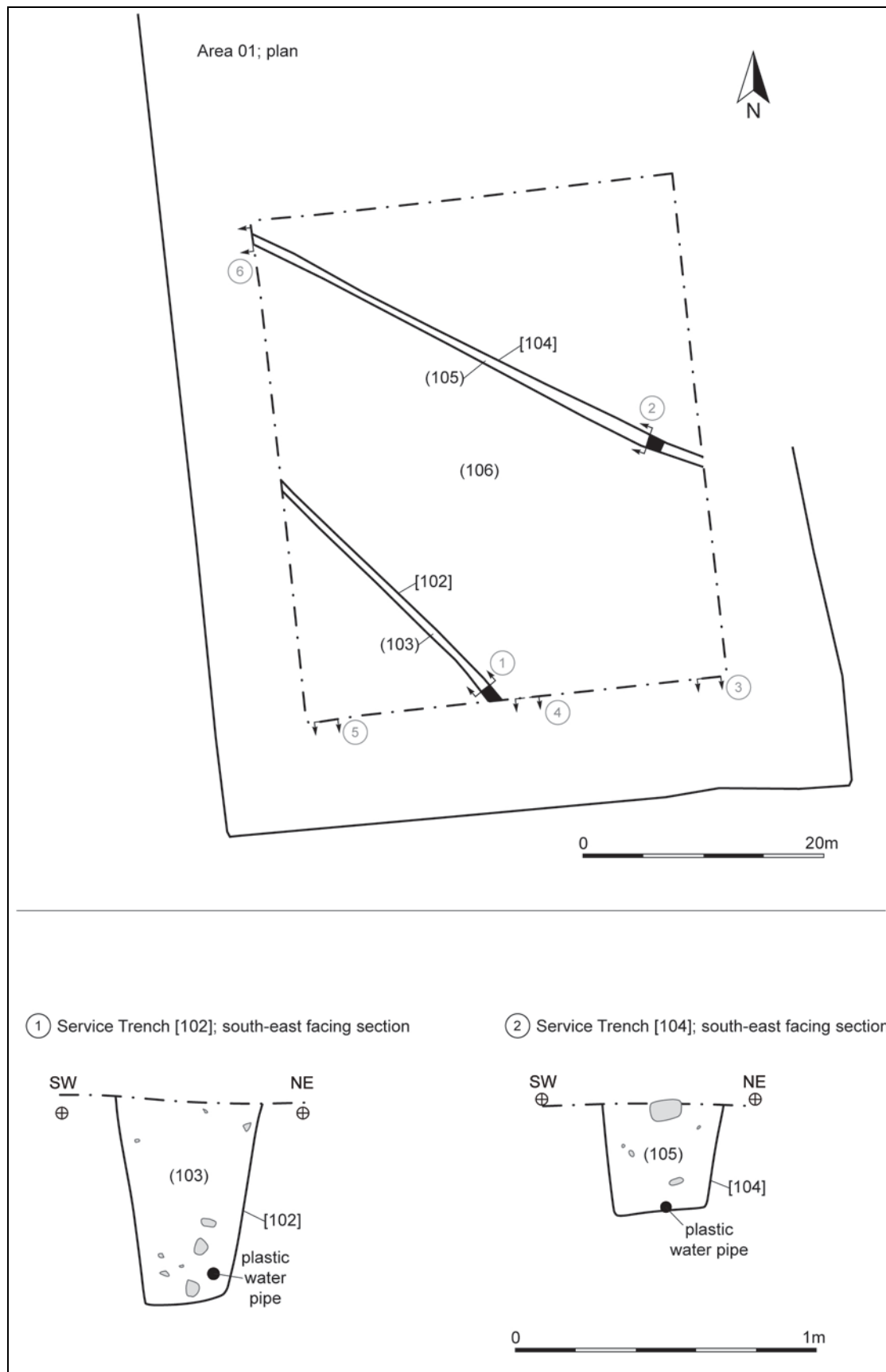


Figure 2: Site plan and section drawings of Service Trenches.

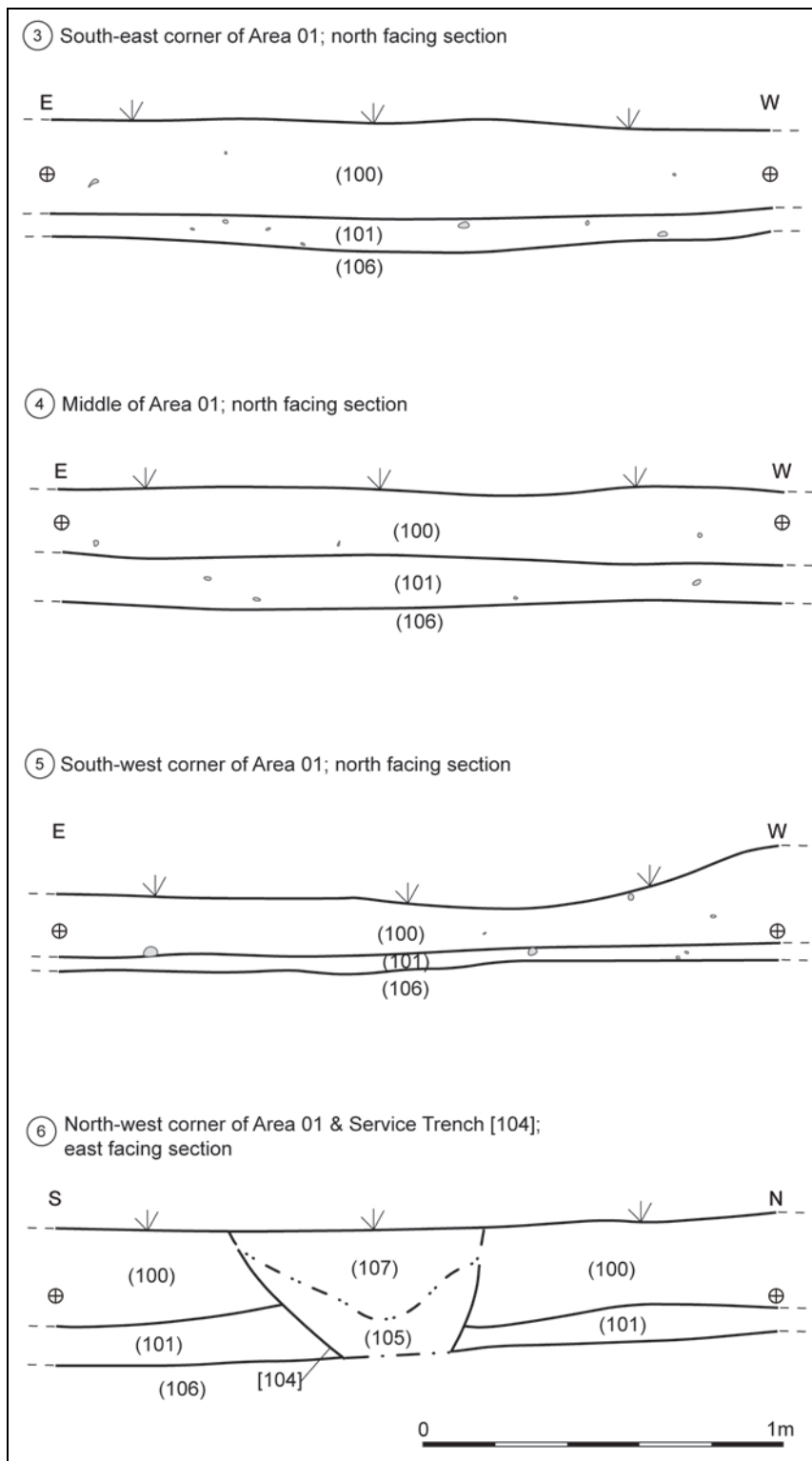


Figure 3: Site sample sections (drawing numbers equate to site plan in Figure 2).





Figure 4: Service Trench [102]; viewed from the south-east.



Figure 5: Service Trench [104]; viewed from the south-east.





Figure 6: Sample section 5, south-west corner of the site; viewed from the north.



Figure 7: Sample section 6, north-west corner of the site, showing Service Trench [104] in section; viewed from the east.



Figure 8: Site shot post excavation; viewed from the south-east.