

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Bideford, Devon	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SS 45611 25638	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Jamestan Engineering, Nuttaberry, Bideford, Devon, during the construction of an archive store and office		<b>Photo attached?</b> YES
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 1/0043/2014/FUL	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> southwes1-184003	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> BNB14	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 21 <sup>st</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> October 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 Dave Young of Lj Developments (the Client), during the groundworks associated with the construction of a new archive store and office at Jamestan Engineering, Kynochs Industrial Estate, Nuttaberry, Bideford, Devon. This work was undertaken by P. Webb and B. Morris on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2014 in accordance with a WSI drawn up in consultation with Ann Marie Dick of the Devon County Historic Environment Team.</p> <p>The town of Bideford lies on a hillside rising steeply from the bank of the River Torridge; Jamestan Engineering is located south of East-the-Water on the opposite side of the river, at an altitude of c.10m AOD (Figure 1). The soils of the area are the well-drained fine loamy soils over slate of the Denbigh 2 Association (SSEW 1983), overlying the mudstones, sandstones and siltstones of the Holsworthy Group (BGS 2014). The Devon HLC describes the fields immediately surrounding the site as <i>post-medieval enclosures</i> laid out in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries; the estuary of the River Torridge lies immediately to the west.</p> <p>The site is located some distance to the south of East-the-Water. Small quantities of 18<sup>th</sup> century sgraffito pottery have been recovered from the site, suggesting the presence of a kiln. An area c.10×10m was stripped, and the deep foundation trenches associated with the 'L'-shaped office/archive building were opened, by a 4 tonne mechanical excavator using a toothless grading bucket. The site strip entailed the removal of c.0.3m of material, and the narrow (0.5m) foundation trenches were excavated to a depth of c.1.2-1.7m below ground level. The spoil was examined for artefacts.</p> <p>The stratigraphy of the site was fairly simple. The undisturbed natural comprised a clean greenish-yellow to pale grey firm silty clay with occasional stones (108), overlain by a mixed moist soft-to-firm yellowish-brown clay silt subsoil with common small sub-angular stones (107) up to c.0.16-0.26m thick, overlain in the south-western corner by a soft homogenous dark grey silt with shell fragments (106) up to c.0.45m thick. The fact that layer (106) was confined to the west and south-west (downslope) side of the site might suggest the area had been terraced in the past. On the eastern edge of the site, and crossing it roughly north-south, was a linear feature containing a ceramic land drain. A North Devon gravel-tempered U-shaped pottery land drain was set at the base of a cut, c.0.5m wide and c.0.35m deep [109]. The fill of the cut (110) consisted of redeposited material from (107) with fairly large sub-angular and occasionally sub-rounded stones set around the drain itself.</p> <p>Sealing these layers were a series of dumped deposits and surfaces related to industrial activity. The 'natural' soil layers were overlain by a loose deposit of fine black clinker-like gravel (104) c.0.2m thick containing large lumps of unabraded iron slag (possibly to be associated with the adjacent railway line), with a discrete lens of redeposited natural (105) c.0.14m thick on the western side. This was sealed by a deposit of sub-angular stones in a loose brown soil matrix (100) c.0.25-0.35m thick, presumably loosely-consolidated metallurgy, which also contained brick and 19<sup>th</sup> century floor tile. This was in turn sealed by several concrete and tarmac surfaces (102) and (103). The stratigraphy would suggest the original ground surface was subject to terracing, and successive yard surfaces were laid down on top. Almost all of the pottery and all of the wasters/kiln furniture were recovered from these deposits, suggesting the pottery had been brought to the site from elsewhere.</p> <p><b>The Finds</b></p> <p>A small assemblage of finds were recovered, most of which were unstratified. The stratified finds were: ×2 fragments (0.803kg) of iron slag from layer (104); ×1 complete land drain (2.497kg) from [109], U-shaped, 320mm long by 145mm high and 130mm wide, 15mm thick; ×1 sherd (14g) of ?Bristol/Staffordshire yellow slipware, base sherd from a closed form, from layer (107). The unstratified assemblage included: 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century red and pale yellow ceramic floor tiles and brick fragments (noted and discarded on site); fragments of concrete render (noted</p>		

and discarded on site); ×1 sherd (59g) of flowerpot; ×21 sherds (774g) North Devon gravel-tempered post-medieval pottery, mainly Type 3 bowls, including ×2 sherds with glaze on broken edges; ×5 sherds (121g) North Devon sgraffito or white-slipped plates; ×1 sherd (17g) North Devon gravel-free unslipped cup rim; ×5 sagger fragments or refired ceramic (397g) in a North Devon gravel-tempered fabric, including ×1 fragment of a straight-sided cylindrical sagger (as noted at the Litchdon Street material in Barnstaple). The presence of saggars and wasters indicates this material came from a kiln dump; however, almost all of this material appears to have come from the uppermost soil layer (100) on the site, and it seems highly likely this material was imported to the site. The presence of sgraffito plates would suggest a date from the 17<sup>th</sup> century for this material.

**Recorder:** P. Webb and B. Morris

**Date sent to HER:** 11/11/2014

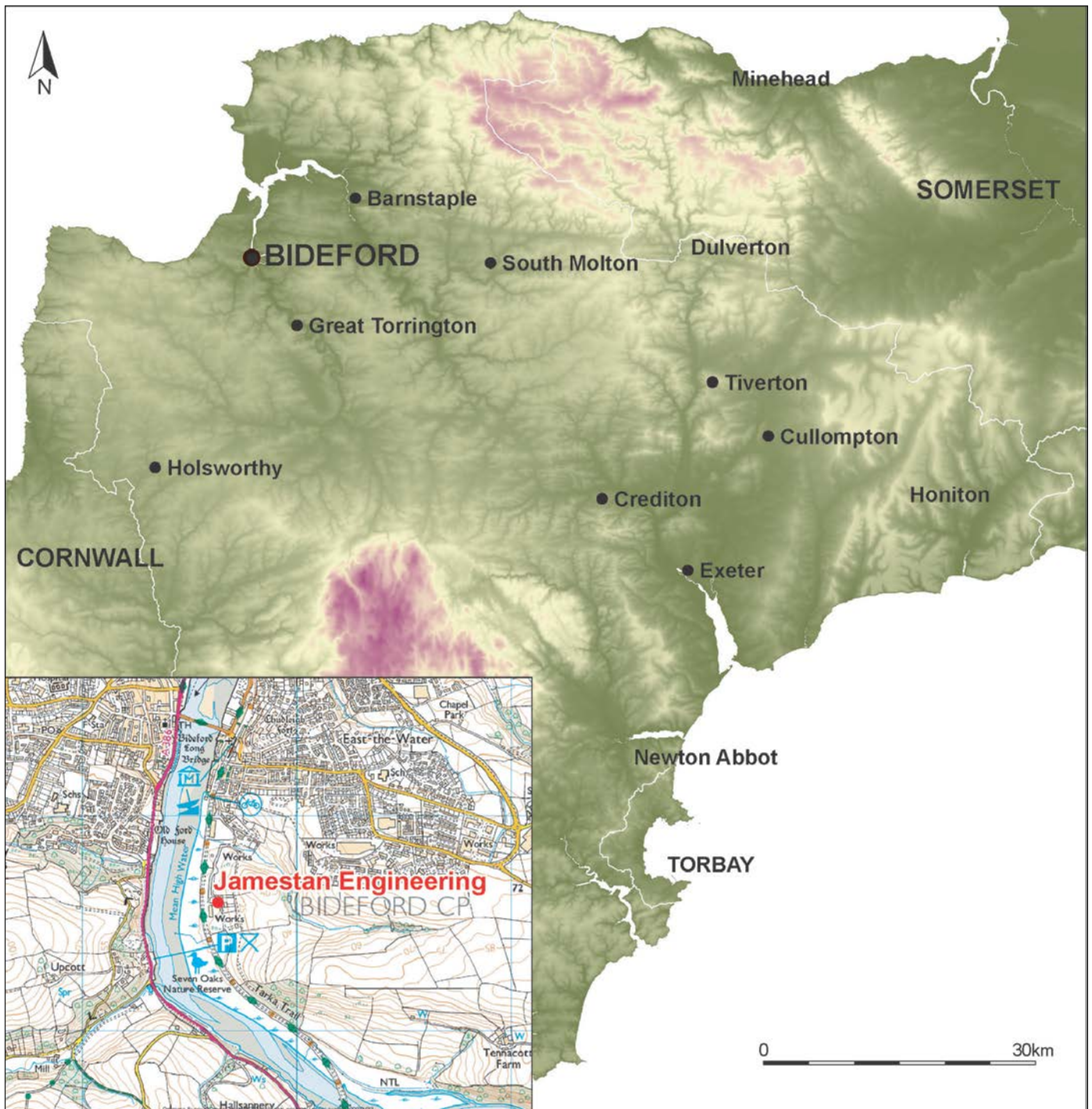


Figure 1: Site location.



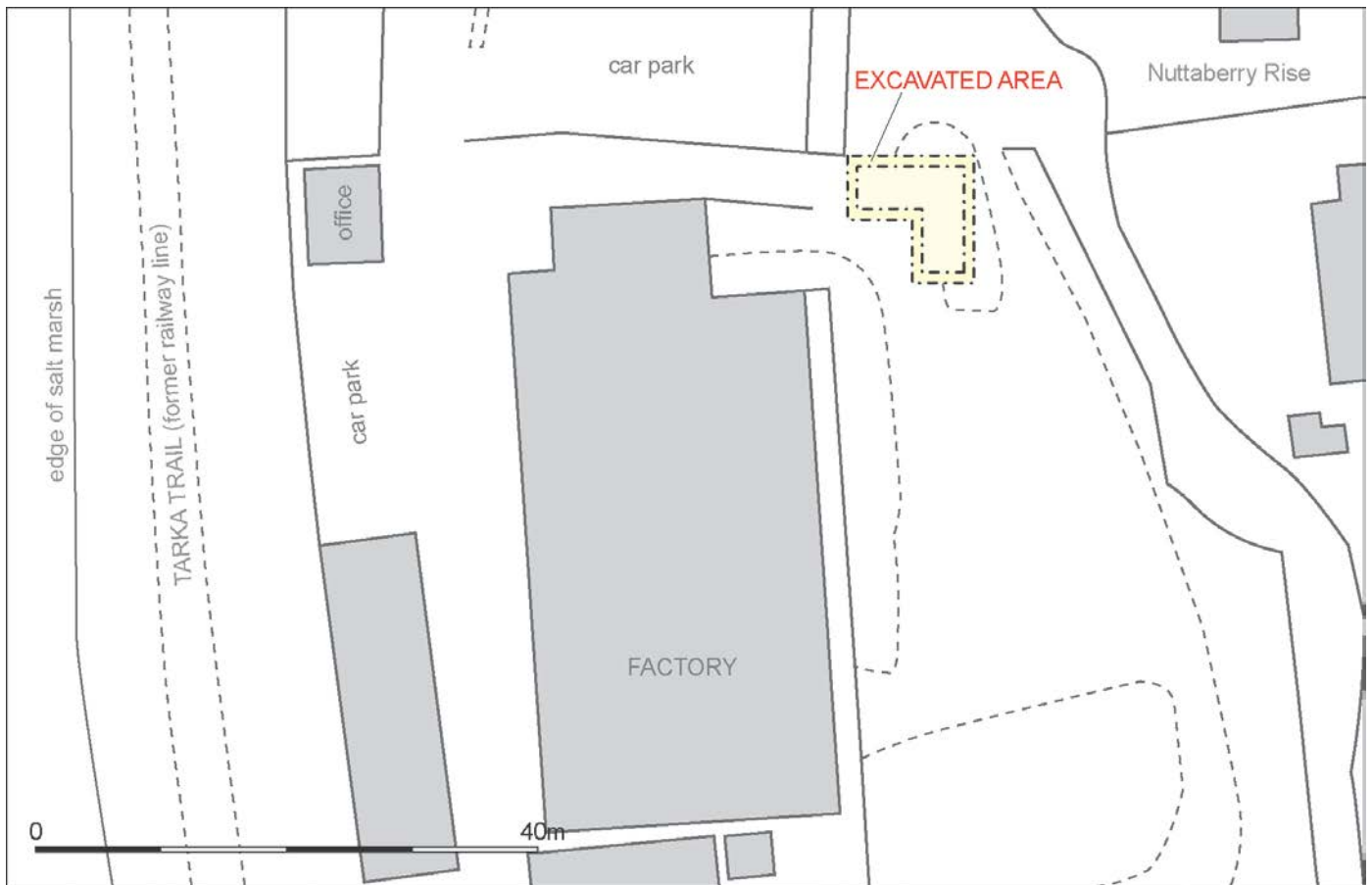


Figure 2: Site plan.



Figure 3: The excavated area, following the site strip and trenching; viewed from the west-north-west (scale 2m).





Figure 4: Detail of the east- and north-facing sections in the south-west part of the site; viewed from the north-east (scale 2m).



Figure 5: Detail of east-facing section showing natural clay and alluvial clays overlain by dumped levelling deposits; viewed from the south-east (scale 2m).