

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

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| Civil Parish & District: Great Torrington, Torridge | National Grid Reference SS 49411911 | Number: |
| Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording at land at Church Lane, Torrington Devon. | | Photo attached? YES |
| Planning Application no: 1/0720/2012/EXT to 1/0465/2009/FUL | Recipient museum: Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon | |
| OASIS ID: southwes1-191221 | Museum Accession no: n/a | |
| Contractor's reference number/code: TCL14 | Dates fieldwork undertaken: 20 th November 2014 | |
| <p>Description of works. Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of David Johnson (the Client) during the erection of a dwelling involving demolition of boundary wall & alterations to existing vehicular access (Figure 1). This work was undertaken by S. Walls on the 20th of November 2014 in accordance with a WSI drawn up in consultation with, and in accordance with a Brief issued by Stephen Reed of the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>The site is situated off Church Lane, near the historic town centre, to the west of the church and just south of New Street (Figure 1). Great Torrington straddles two soil types; towards the east of the town are the well drained fine loamy soils of the Neath association while to the west are the well drained fine loamy and fine silty soils of the Manod association. These soils overlie the sandstone of the Bude formation (BGS 2015).</p> <p>Development around the site can be seen in detail on the tithe map of 1843; the site appears at this time to have consisted of a garden plot to a property fronting onto South Street. In later maps the site remains an undeveloped garden plot. There is nothing noted on the Devon HER within the site boundaries but there are a number of C18th or early C19th buildings surrounding the site and the parish church is situated less than 150m to the north-east.</p> <p>The excavation of the foundations for the proposed house was undertaken under archaeological supervision. The stratigraphy consisted of a 0.2-0.3m thick layer of modern make-up material and waste (100) which became more soily towards the base of the deposit. This modern make-up layer directly overlay a 0.1-0.3m thick deposit of rubble (102) set in a loose and friable grey-brown silt loam, this contained common machine made bricks and brick fragments, slate and stone (see Figures 1 and 2). To the northern end of the site the rubble layer was generally thinner and sealed by a c.0.05m thick layer of mortar (101), possibly the remains of a floor for a building or patio. The rubble deposits overlay a 0.3-0.45m thick layer of soft clean dark brown silt-clay garden soil (103), which contained occasional roots and CBM. This overlay a 0.06m thick subsoil (104) of fine clean grayish yellow silt clay (<with occasional sub angular stones (0.04m-0.10m in diameter). The natural was a clean yellow clay varying to a stony sandy silt with occasional small sub angular stones (0.01m-0.08m in diameter).</p> <p>Two features existed underneath the topsoil, cutting deposit (104); a pit [107] and a ditch/gully [105], both are of likely post medieval (17th-18th century) date. The pit [107] was sub ovoid in plan with concaved sides to a slightly concaved, almost flat base. Pit [107] was filled with a fine, moist grey-yellow silty clay (108), which produced 2 sherds of post-medieval pottery and a clay pipe stem. The ditch/gully [105] was filled with a compact yellow-grey clay silt with occasional inclusions of small sub angular stone (106), it contained no finds. Ditch [105] ran parallel with Church Lane to the north, and it is likely to represent the remains of a post-medieval drainage ditch once flanking this roadway.</p> <p>All finds were recovered were subsequently discarded. These included from deposit (103) 2x sherds of 19th-20th century industrial slipwares (17g) and 1x clay pipe stem (3g). From deposit (104) a single rim sherd of post-medieval North Devon gravel tempered Ware (13g), 1x clay pipe stem (2g), 1x partial clay pipe bowl (7g) and 1x fragment of roof slate with a peg hole (26g). From Pit Fill (108) were 2x body sherds of post-medieval North Devon gravel free wares (11g), and 1x clay pipe stem (2g).</p> <p>No significant archaeological features or deposits were present.</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. | | |
| Recorder: S. Walls | Date sent to HER: 22.04.2016 | |

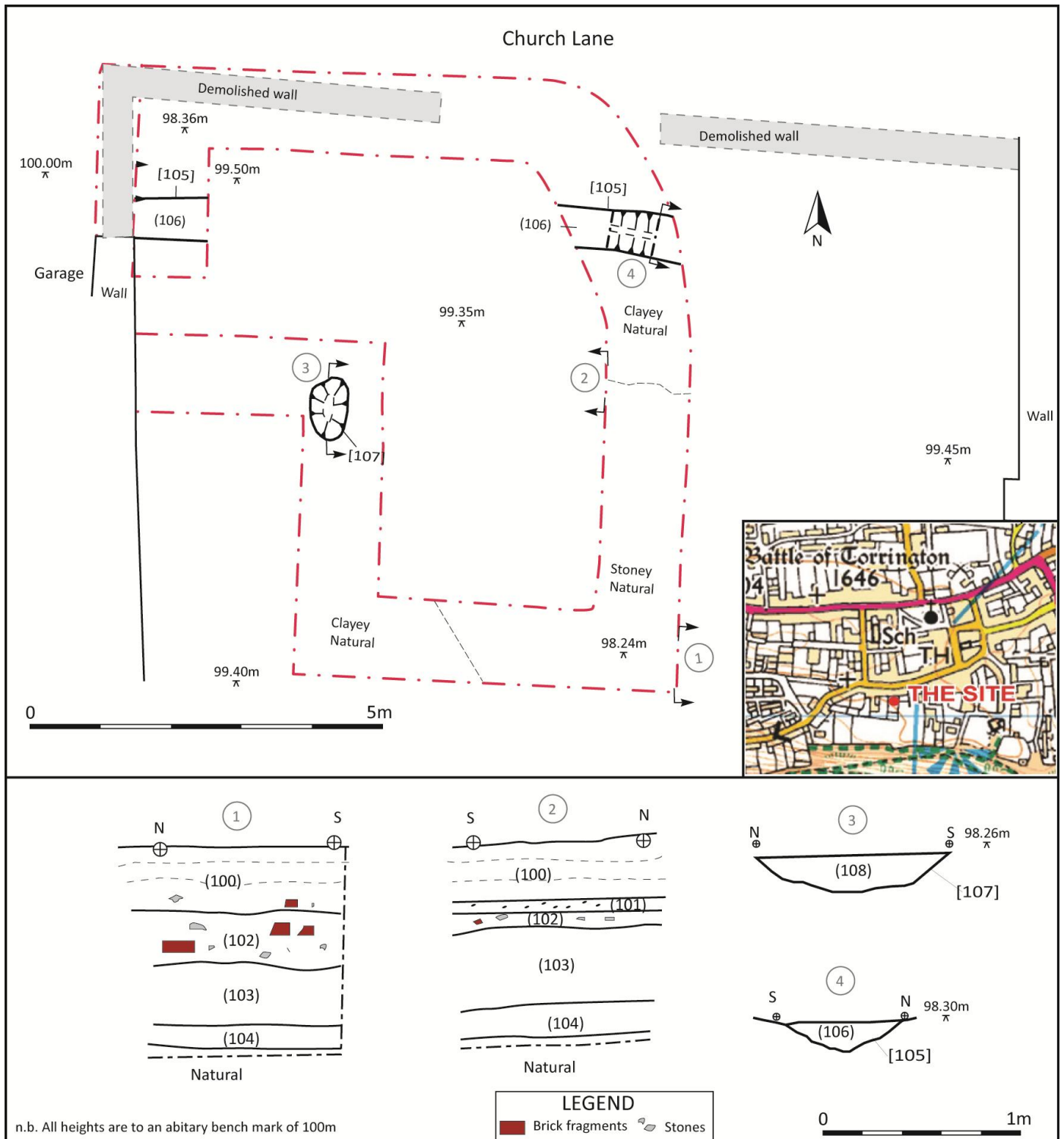


Figure 1: Site Location, and plan of the excavated area. The numbers on the plan refer to the sections shown below.



Figure 2: North facing section of the south-east corner of the footing trench, viewed from the north (2m scale).



Figure 3: Post-ex shot of Ditch [105], viewed from the east (0.5m scale).