

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Bideford	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SS 453 275	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Test pits at St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Chanters Road, Bideford, Devon		<b>Photo attached?</b> YES
<b>Planning Application no:</b> n/a	<b>Recipient museum:</b> n/a	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> southwest1-204255	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> to be obtained	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> BSM14	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 17.10.14	
<p><b>Description of works.</b></p> <p>Two test pits were opened in the grounds of St Mary's Primary School by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2014. This work took place in collaboration with St Mary's School and the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon (MBND) as an educational activity for older primary school children. The School is located on Chanters Road, close to Bideford cattle market.</p> <p>The weather was dry and fairly mild throughout the day. A supervised excavation of two test pits each measuring 1×2m was carried out by children from the school to a depth of approximately 0.3m. The topsoil consisted of mid-brown sandy loam with occasional sub-angular stones (30–50 mm). The topsoil in Trench #2 contained abundant roots, owing to its position close to the hedgerow bordering the playing field. The subsoil was reached in Trench #1 and was a moist grey-brown silty loam with occasional stones. The soil and turf was reinstated at the end of the day.</p> <p>A number of post-medieval and modern finds were recorded. Ceramics included North Devon Gravel-Tempered (133g) and Gravel-Free (85g) wares, white refined earthenware (63g), Bristol/Staffordshire Yellow Slipware (5g) and clay pipe stems (19g). Metal pieces included several rusted, amorphous iron objects (129g), a copper alloy strap (9g), a small buckle (from a wellington boot) (8g) and a 20p piece. Building materials in the form of a few cement fragments (3g) and lumps of brick (63g) were also found, alongside abundant fragments of coal and clinker (143g). Singular pieces of un-worked flint (2g), quartz (7g) and animal bone (6g) were also recovered. As well as two small glass fragments (6g), a piece of an onion bottle rim was found dating roughly to 1700-1720 (<i>sensu</i> Hume, 1969).</p> <p>All of the finds were returned to the school.</p> <p>References: Hume, I. N., 1969: <i>A Guide to the Artifacts of Colonial America</i>. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press</p>		
<p><b>A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.</b></p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> B. Morris, J. Watling		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 19.02.2015

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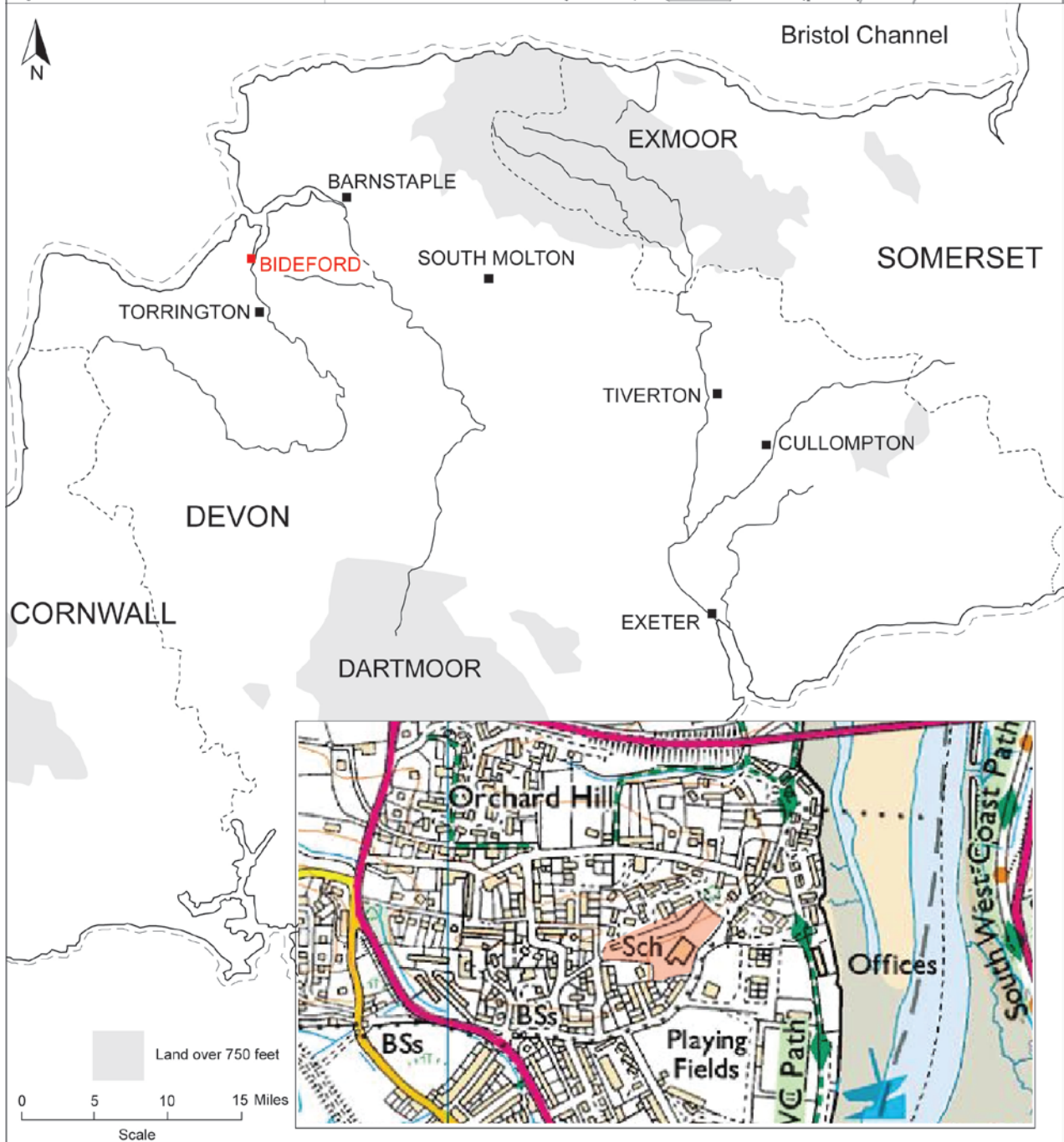
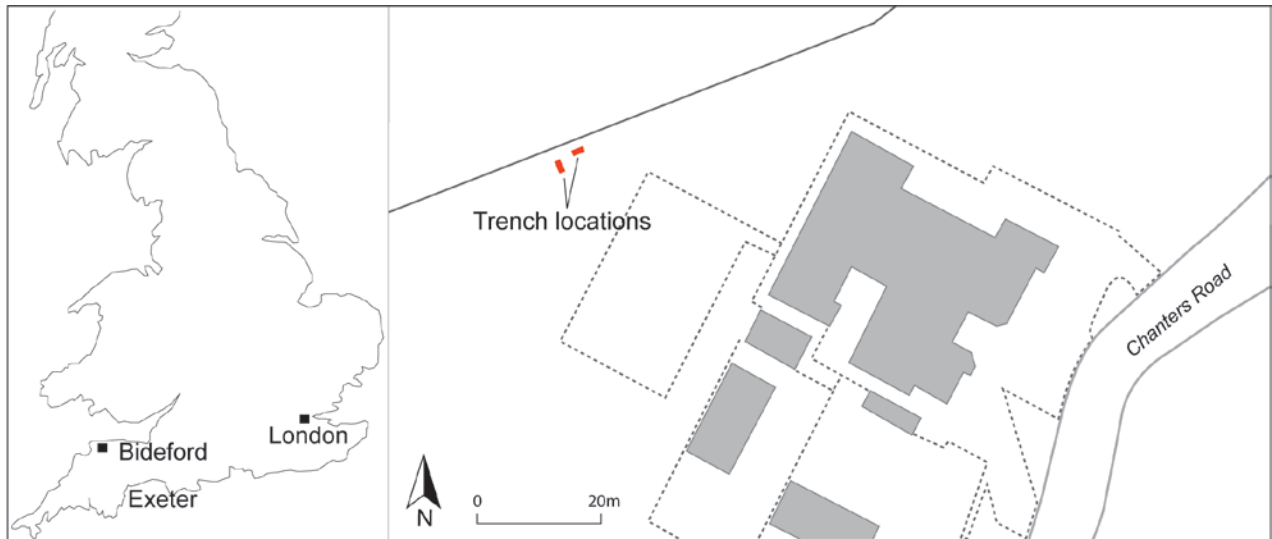


Figure 1: Location map.



Excavation begins in Trench #1, with turf stripping for Trench #2 in the background; from the west.



Some of the children involved in the excavation; from the south.