

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Bishops Nympton, North Devon	National Grid Reference SS 75833 23893	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording on land at West Street, Bishops Nympton, Devon		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 59375	Recipient museum: Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon	
OASIS ID: southwes1-184003	Museum Accession no:	
Contractor's reference number/code: BNW15	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 24 th -27 th August 2015	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Iain Williamson (the Client) during groundworks associated with the construction of a single dwelling on land adjacent to Homelea at West Street, Bishops Nympton, Devon (Figure 1). The monitoring was carried out by B. Morris and P. Webb between 24th and 27th August 2015. This work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation drawn up in consultation with Stephen Reed of the Devon County Historic Environment Team.</p> <p>The site is located to the south of the Grade I Listed Church of St Mary within the historic core of the medieval village of Bishops Nympton, just inside the southern boundary of the Bishops Nympton Conservation Area. It is in close proximity to the Grade II Listed walls of the churchyard and Grade II Listed Crosse Cottage. The site is situated on the boundary of well drained fine loamy and fine silty soils of Denbigh 1 Association and slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clays of Hallsworth 2 Association (SSEW 1983) overlying mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Bude Formation (BGS 2015) at a height of approximately 150m AOD (Figure 1).</p> <p>The groundworks comprised the excavation of two areas: Area #1 and Area #2. Area #1, forming the footprint of the building, was rectangular in plan and orientated north-south, measuring approximately 16.5m x 13.5m. Area #2, forming a soak-away pit in the south-east corner of the site, was rectangular in plan and orientated east-west, measuring 4m x 3m (see Figure 2). These were excavated under archaeological supervision by a machine using a toothless grading bucket to a depth of approximately 0.35-0.40m, this being the depth of formation. A series of four linear foundation trenches, measuring c.10-12m x 0.8m were subsequently excavated to a further depth of 0.7m within Area #1. The stratigraphy of the site comprised a grey-brown clay-silt-loam topsoil (100); overlying brown clay-silt subsoil (101); which overlay buff-brown shillet natural (102).</p> <p>A total of four features were identified during the excavation (see Figure 3): ditches [103] and [106], gully [114], and stone lined drain [111]. Ditch [103], located within Area #2, was orientated east-west, measuring 1.3+m wide x 0.36m deep with stepped sides, clear break of slope and flat base. It contained two fills: (104) and (105); brown silts. Running parallel, along the northern edge of the ditch was linear gully [114], measuring 0.2m wide x 0.1m deep with steep sides, gradual break of slope and concave base. It contained a single brown clay-silt fill (115).</p> <p>Ditch [106], was located towards the northern end of the site, and was orientated east-west, running across the width of the site, measuring 1.2m wide with a gradually sloping southern side, clear break of slope and flat base. It contained a single grey clay-silt fill (107). A re-cut, [108], had been made along the northern edge of the ditch, measuring 1.4m wide x 0.72m deep, and containing two grey-brown clay silts fills: (109) and (110). A number of post-medieval artefacts were recovered from the fills of these features (see Table 1).</p> <p>Stone lined drain [111] was located towards the north-eastern corner of the site and appeared to discharge into ditch [106] on a north-west to south-east alignment, measuring 0.42m wide x 0.26m deep with a 'U'-shaped profile. It was lined and capped by {112}; sub-angular stones, and had been partially filled by (115); brown clay-silt.</p> <p>Conclusions</p> <p>The features identified date to the post-medieval period, ditches [103] and [106] forming the northern and southern boundaries of a garden plot identified on the historic mapping, for which the southern boundary remains in the extant stone-faced hedgebank. Drain [111] is likely to have been contemporary with a phase of use of the later re-cut of ditch [106], discharging into it, whilst gully [114] may have been contemporary, though the absence of dating evidence or stratigraphic relationship with the other features leaves this open to question.</p>		

Finds

Context	POTTERY			OTHER		
	Sherds	Wgt. (g)	Notes	Frgs.	Wgt. (g)	Notes
100	11	370	North Devon, gravel tempered, post-medieval	1	637	Smithing hearth bottom, partial
	7	93	Industrial wares, including blue transfer print and sponge decorated	1	73	CBM. Thin terracotta tile
	1	15	North Devon, gravel free, yellow slip bowl			
	2	43	Bristol/Staffordshire yellow slip bowl, 18 th century, 1 vessel			
	1	6	North Devon, gravel free, post-medieval			
107				1	236	18 th century onion bottle bottom (18 th century push-up sand pontile mark)
109	3	29	White refined earthenware			
	8	606	North Devon, gravel tempered, post-medieval, 17 th -18 th century type 3 bowl			
110	1	2	White refined earthenware, plain			
	1	20	North Devon, gravel tempered, post-medieval			

Table 1: Finds concordance. All finds were subsequently discarded.

Bibliography

British Geological Survey 2015: *Geology of Britain Viewer*.

http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html [accessed 01.09.2015].

Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales*.

Recorder: P. Webb

Date sent to HER: 08.09.2015

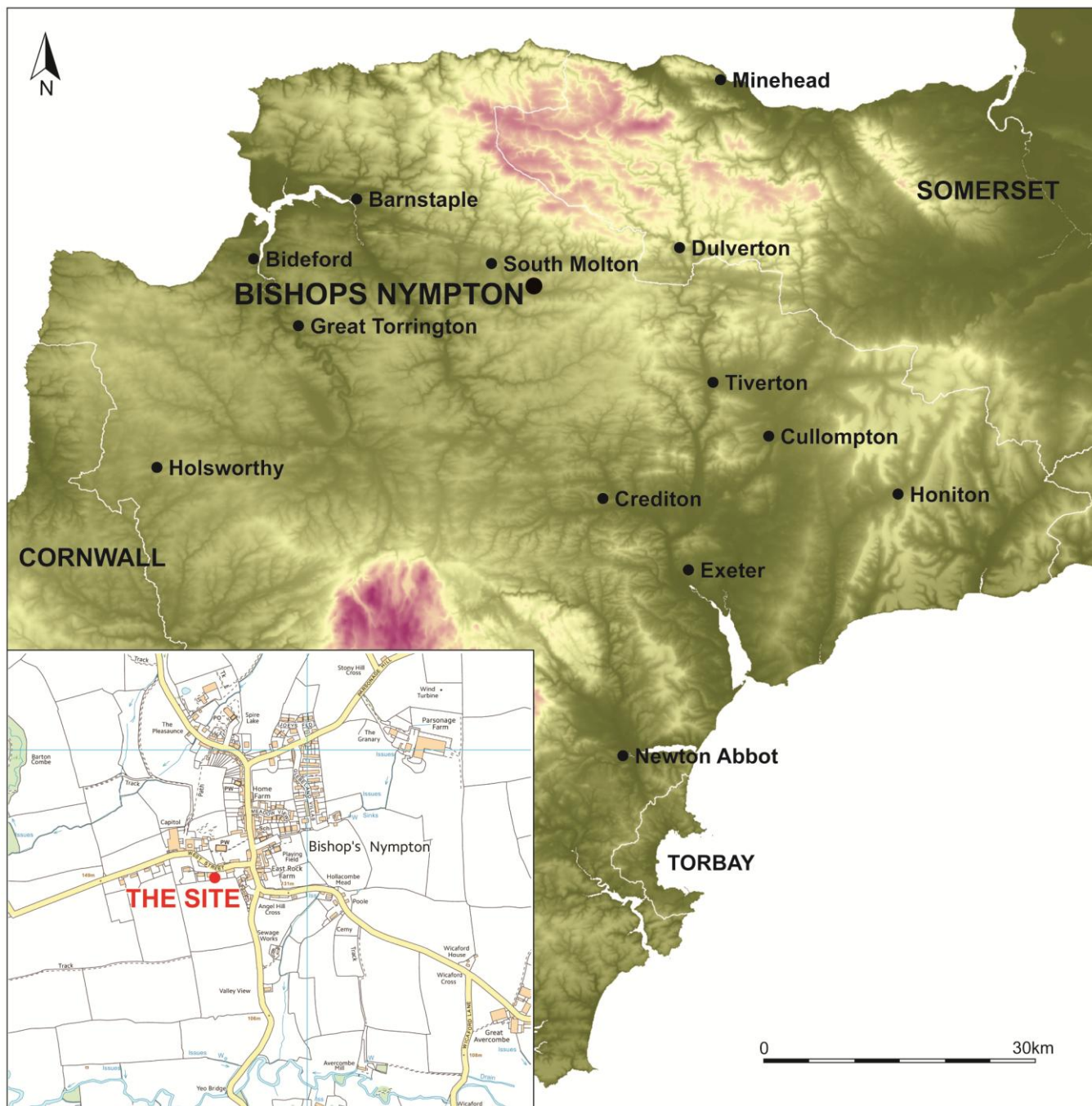


Figure 1: Site location

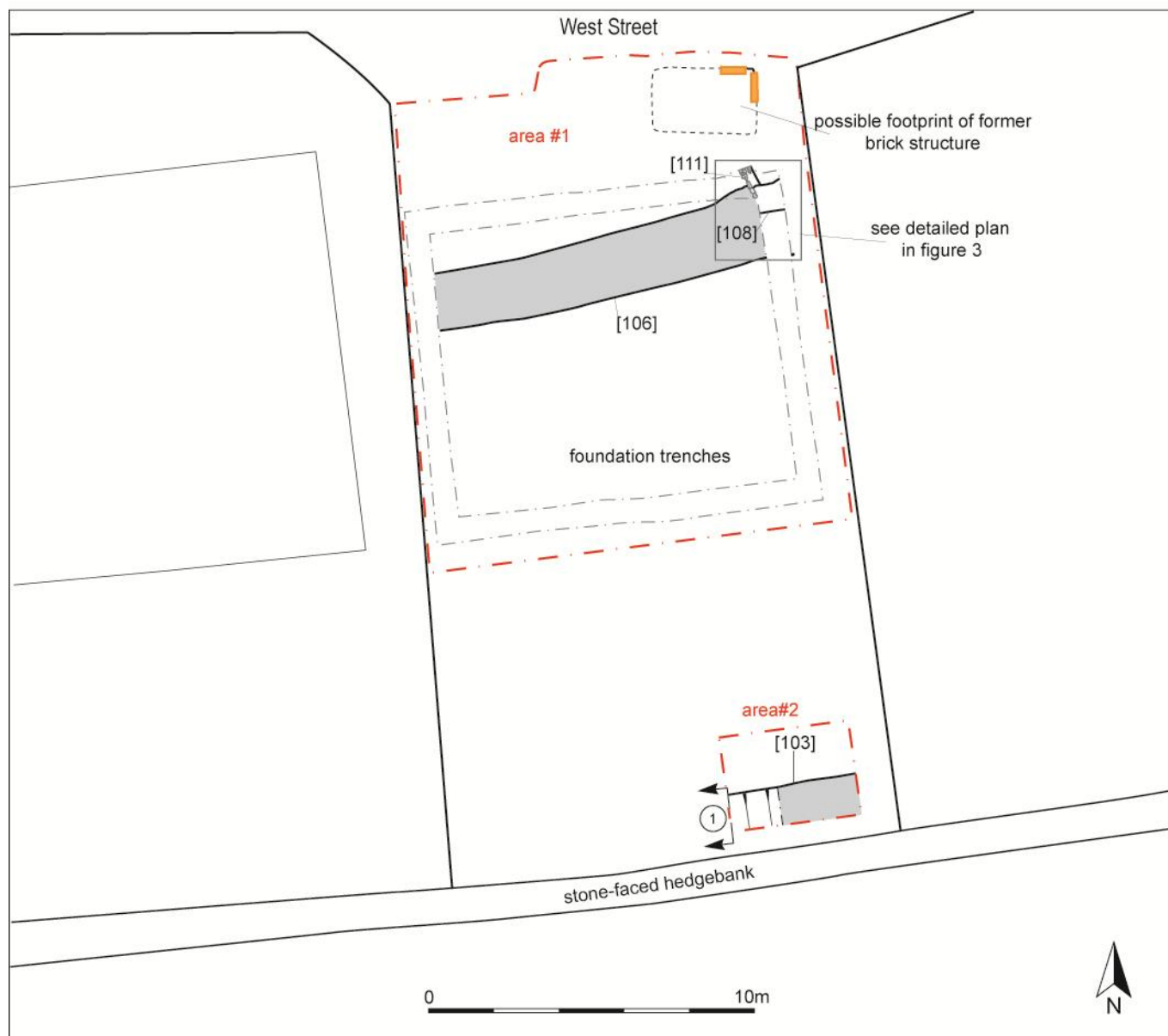


Figure 2: Site plan showing location of excavated areas and archaeological features.

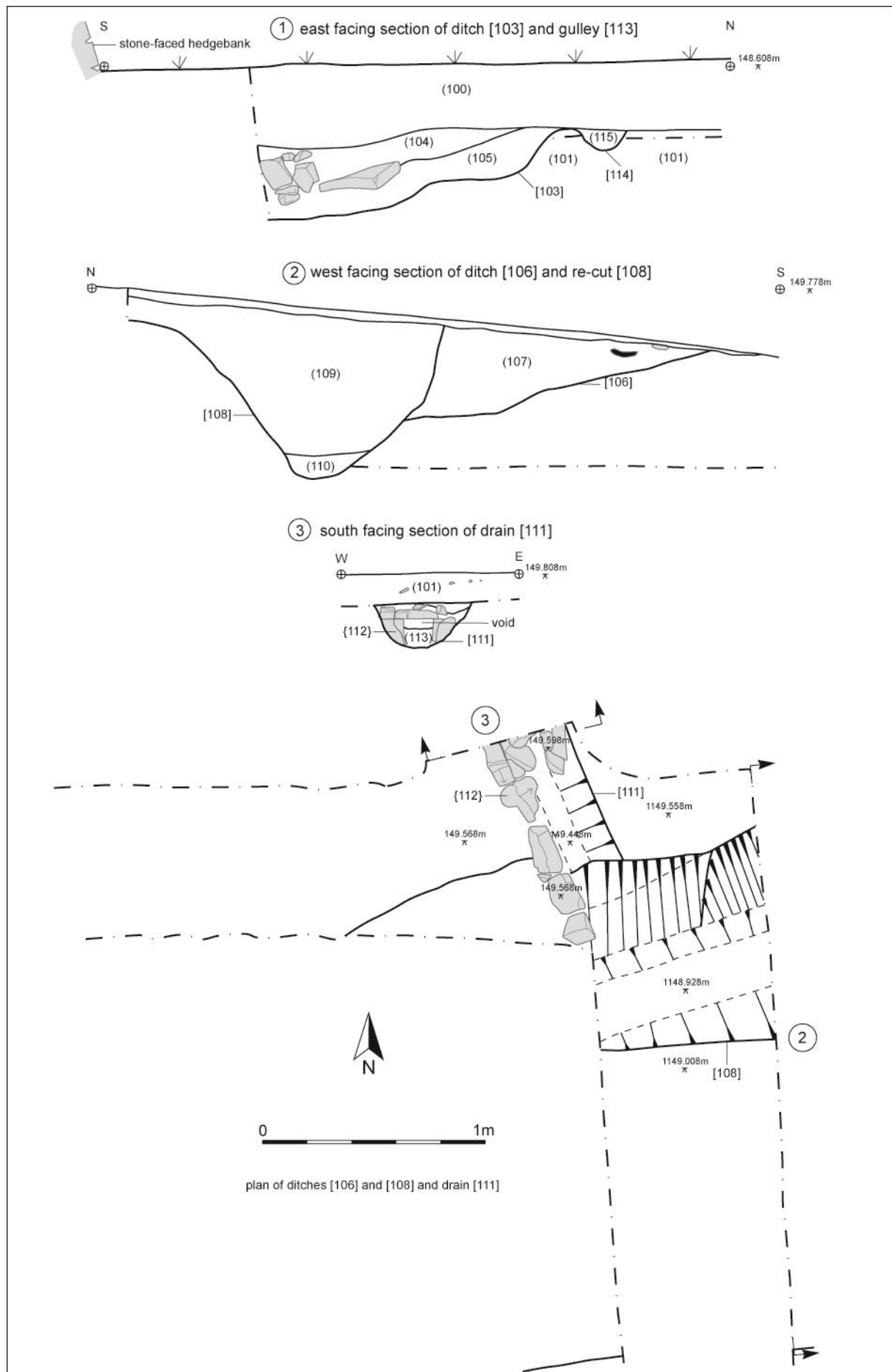


Figure 3: Plans and sections of archaeological features.



Figure 4: West facing section of ditch [103] within area #2; viewed from the east (scales 0.5m and 1m).



Figure 5: West facing section of ditch [106] and re-cut [108] within the eastern foundation trench, area #1; viewed from the south-west (scales 0.4m and 2m).



Figure 6: South facing section of drain [111] within area #1; viewed from the south (scale 0.4m).



Figure 7: West facing section of ditch [106] and re-cut [108] within the western foundation trench, area #1; viewed from the south-west (scale 2m).