

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Holsworthy, Torridge	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SS 34411 03774	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Winsford House, Stanhope Gardens, Fry Street, Holsworthy, Devon during groundworks for the erection of a single detached dwelling		<b>Photos attached?</b> YES
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 1/0216/2013/FUL	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> southwes1-224721	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> HSH15	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 7-8 <sup>th</sup> February 2016	
<p><b>Description of works.</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Lyndon Piper (the Agent), on behalf of Alex Piper (the Client) during groundworks associated with the erection of a single detached dwelling on land adjacent to Winsford House, Stanhope Gardens, Fry Street, Holsworthy, Devon. This work was undertaken by P. Webb between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016 in accordance with a WSI drawn up in consultation with Stephen Reed of the Devon County Historic Environment Team.</p> <p>The proposal site lies within the historic core and Conservation Area of Holsworthy, approximately 100m from the parish church. Holsworthy was a Domesday settlement which by 1309, had gained Borough status. The remains of the pattern of medieval burghal plots to the south of the church can still be seen on current mapping, and the application falls within one of these plots. It is possible, therefore, that archaeological features relating to medieval or domestic and/or industrial activity may survive as buried deposits within the footprint of the proposal site. The land was used as part of a garage during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with The Client reporting that the topsoil on the site had been imported to level and clear the ground subsequent to this use.</p> <p>The soils of this area are the well-drained fine loamy soils of the Neath Association (SSEW 1983), overlying the sedimentary sandstone of the Bude Formation (BGS 2016).</p> <p>An area 12x9.5m was stripped of topsoil by a tracked mechanical excavator using a toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision. The topsoil (100) was c.0.10m thick and consisted of turf over soft friable mid grey-brown slightly clayey-silt. This overlay a dump deposit (103); dark brown soft clay-silt with common angular to sub-angular stone and 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century brick/glass/pottery/slate inclusions. A rectangular feature, modern greenhouse foundation [105] containing concrete {104} was cut into this deposit. A further site strip, to the required floor level was carried out, and four foundation trenches measuring 6.3-8.1m x 0.7m were excavated to a depth of 1.05-1.45m. These revealed a further series of dump deposits (106), (111), (112) comprising mid to dark grey-brown friable silts with common angular to sub-angular stone inclusions, and common finds of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century glass, metal, plastic, and pottery. These sealed (107); a clean mid yellow-brown soft friable silt 0.4-0.55m thick, which overlay a natural subsoil deposit of soft to friable mid yellow-brown silt-clay 0.1-0.24m thick; and the natural, a firm to stiff variably-stony yellow silt-clay.</p> <p>Large numbers of finds were identified within dump layers (103), (106), and (111), a representative sample of which was recovered, though not retained, from (103): 13 sherds (32g) of white refined earthenware, including 1 sherd with flow blue print and 1 sherd with stamp decoration; 1 sherd (1g) bone china; 4 sherds (9g) 19<sup>th</sup> century industrial wares; 3 sherds (7g) 18<sup>th</sup> century North Devon coarsewares, 1 sherd (1g) Bristol &amp; Staffordshire yellow glazed slipware; 1 glass bottle (156g), 19-20<sup>th</sup> century J.S. Eyres &amp; Co. From (101): 1 fragment (4g) clear bottle glass. From (106): 3 fragments (84g) ridge tile; 1 fragment (23g) modern roof pan-tile; 2 fragments (85g) roof slate. From (111): 2 sherds (6g) white refined earthenware; 1 sherd (1g) bone china; 3 sherds (2g) 19<sup>th</sup> century industrial wares; 1 sherd (2g) 20<sup>th</sup> century flower pot. Two sherds (4g) of 15-16<sup>th</sup> century North Devon gravel tempered ware were recovered from sealed deposit (107).</p> <p>No significant archaeological features or remains were present; the stratigraphy representing a colluvial build-up of soils in the post-medieval period sealed by modern dump and leveling deposits.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> P. Webb	<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 10/03/2016	

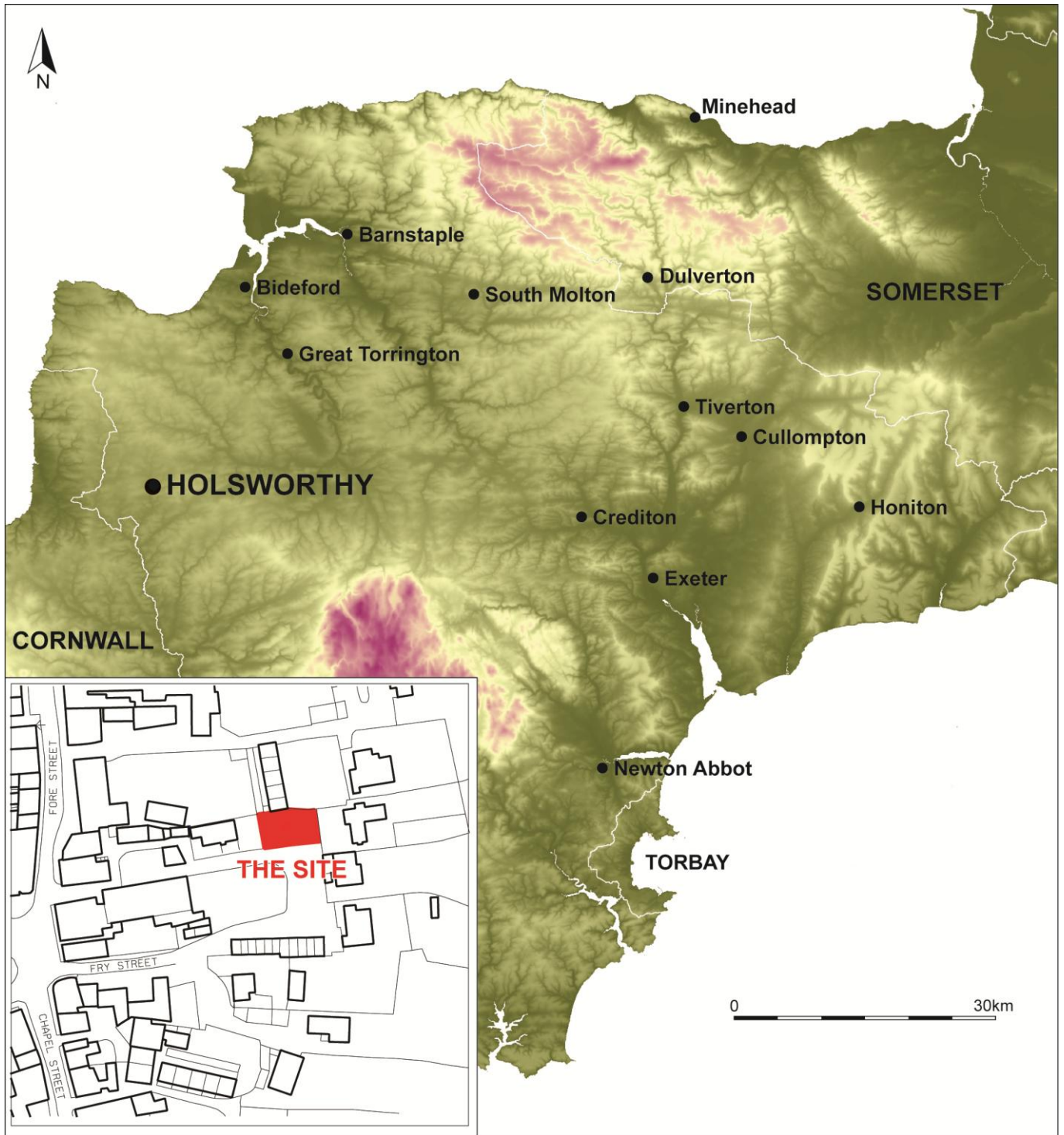


Figure 1: Site location.

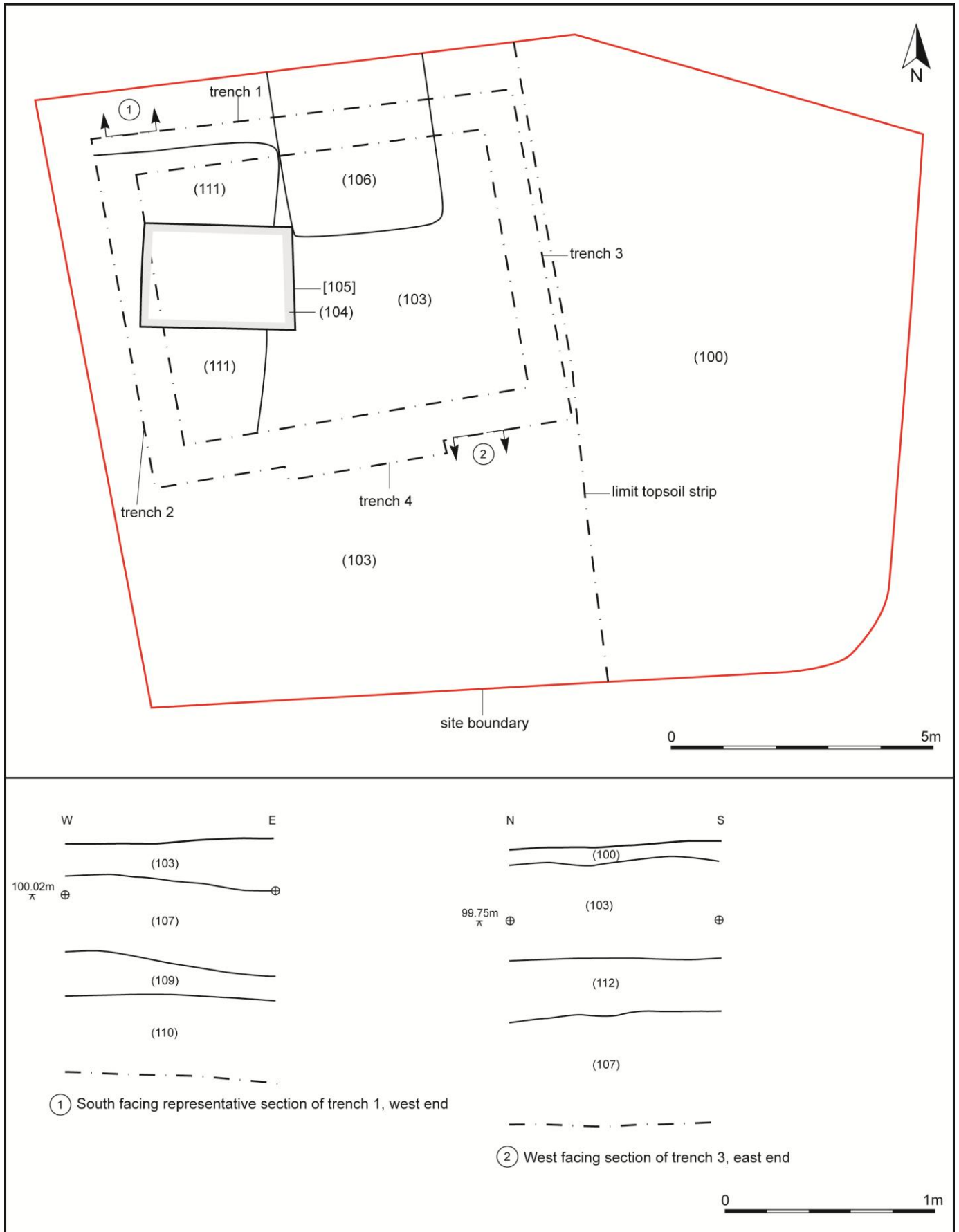


Figure 2: Site plan and representative sections (an arbitrary height of 100m AOD was used).





Figure 3: View of the site following secondary site strip; viewed from the west (1m and 2m scales).



Figure 4: North facing representative section of trench 3, west end; viewed from the north (1m scale).