

Exmoor National Park Authority Historic Environment Record

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| Civil Parish & District: Dunster, Exmoor National Park | National Grid Reference SS 9905 4363 | Number: |
| Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording at 18 Church Street, Dunster, Somerset during conservation repairs, services upgrade and replacement of defective modern extensions. | | Photo attached? YES |
| Planning Application no: 6/10/14/111 & 6/10/14/112LB | Recipient museum: N/A | |
| OASIS ID: southwes1-224832 | Museum Accession no: N/A | |
| Contractor's reference number/code: DCS15 | Dates fieldwork undertaken: 29 th June 2015 | |
| <p>Description of works.</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Martin Sturley of Johnathan Rhind Architects (The Agent), during the above development at 18 Church Street, Dunster, Somerset (Figure 1). This work was undertaken by J. Bampton on 29th June 2015 in accordance with a WSI drawn up in consultation with Shirley Blaylock of Exmoor National Park Authority.</p> <p>The redevelopment and groundworks associated with the extension were located to the rear of 18 Church Street, 100m north of Dunster Castle and 15m south of the parish and priory Church of St. George; in the south-east corner of the church yard in the centre of Dunster, at a height of approximately 30m AOD. 18 Church Street is a Grade II Listed house within the Dunster Conservation Area. Cartographic sources from 1746 (Miss Margret Luttrell Estate Map), 1840 (tithe map) and 1887 (Ordnance Survey 1st Edition map) show that the plot was occupied by one or two structures and that the plot halved in size between 1840 and 1887. The tithe map may imply that the original structure extended further east than the structure as shown in 1887 and the present structure. A small coal store had also been added in the rear garden in the 20th century. G.E. Street completed a programme of renovation at 18 Church Street in 1877 that seems to have reused or retained late medieval elements of the structure. SWARCH have previously conducted a full desk-based assessment and historic building recording at 18 Church Street (SWARCH Report No.150213).</p> <p>The super structure and modern concrete floor surfaces of the 20th century extension to the property were removed. The foundations and floors of this structure were then to be re-laid and extant services utilized in the intended new build. A coal store and concrete that had been laid across most of the garden was also removed. The coal store sat on a raised part of the garden made up of Topsoil (100), a dirty mid brown-grey, friable clay-silt up to 0.32m thick. This overlaid Natural (102), a compact brown-orange clay with compact blue clay and angular mineralized rock veins and bands. Natural (102) had been cut by the groundworks associated with the removed modern extension. The horizon between the Natural and Topsoil and sides of Foundation [105] had been heavily root disturbed by a number of large trees located just beyond the site boundary. In the north half of the modern extension c.0.05-0.08m of a silty demolition or made-ground layer with frequent mortar flecks, associated with the removed concrete floor of the modern extension was left in situ. It contained modern debris, but also four medium-large stone slabs pressed into the natural. The southern half of the extension was reduced to a modern made-ground layer of firm-friable orange sand.</p> <p>A single 0.65m length of wall footing foundation trench [105], 0.44m wide and 0.10m deep aligned roughly east-west, between the footing trench of the removed 20th century extension and the remaining garden soil was revealed. Below the garden soil the wall survives up to c.0.10m in depth, however it had been completely truncated within the footprint of the modern extension and only survived to a depth of c.0.02m beneath the concrete walkway/surround between the extension and raised part of the garden. Foundation trench [105] contained two outer fills, (107) and (108), each c.0.13m wide were of a lime-based mortar/render with an off-brown layer containing small charcoal fragments and an off-white lime-mortar/plaster repair containing small coal fragments. Fill (106), was a dark brown-grey, friable clay-silt. Either stone had been robbed out from the wall or it was a less substantial structure than the existing house. Foundation trench [105] perfectly aligned with the main north wall of the existing house and may represent the structural footprint denoted on the 1840's tithe map that appeared to be a wider structure than the existing house. 18 Church Street was renovated in 1877. The extent or possible return of this feature will survive beneath the gardens and any future groundworks in the garden ought to be observed and undertaken with caution.</p> | | |

Finds

A small number of finds were recovered from the site. Topsoil finds included: ×1 fragment (28g) of modern bottle glass, ×1 sherd (6g) of 18th century pottery, ×2 sherds (3g) of White Refined earthen ware. Demolition/Made-ground layer (103) contained ×3 fragments (1g) of coke and modern debris. Fill (106) from the Foundation Trench contained ×2 slate fragments (1g), ×1 Fe nail (7g) and ×1 fragments (<1g) of abraded coarse CBM/daub. All finds were subsequently discarded.

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: J. Bampton

Date sent to HER: 02.07.2015

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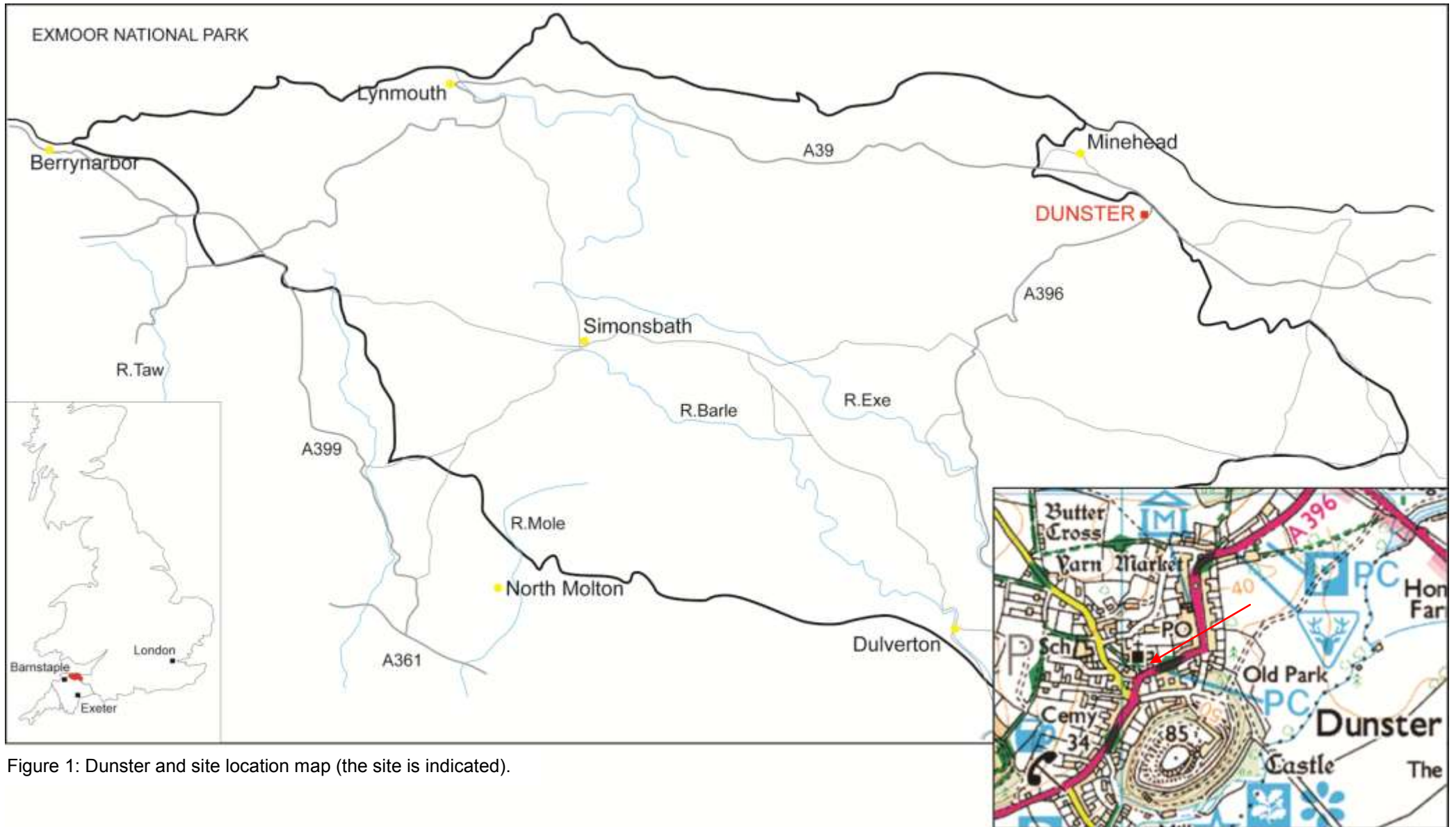


Figure 1: Dunster and site location map (the site is indicated).

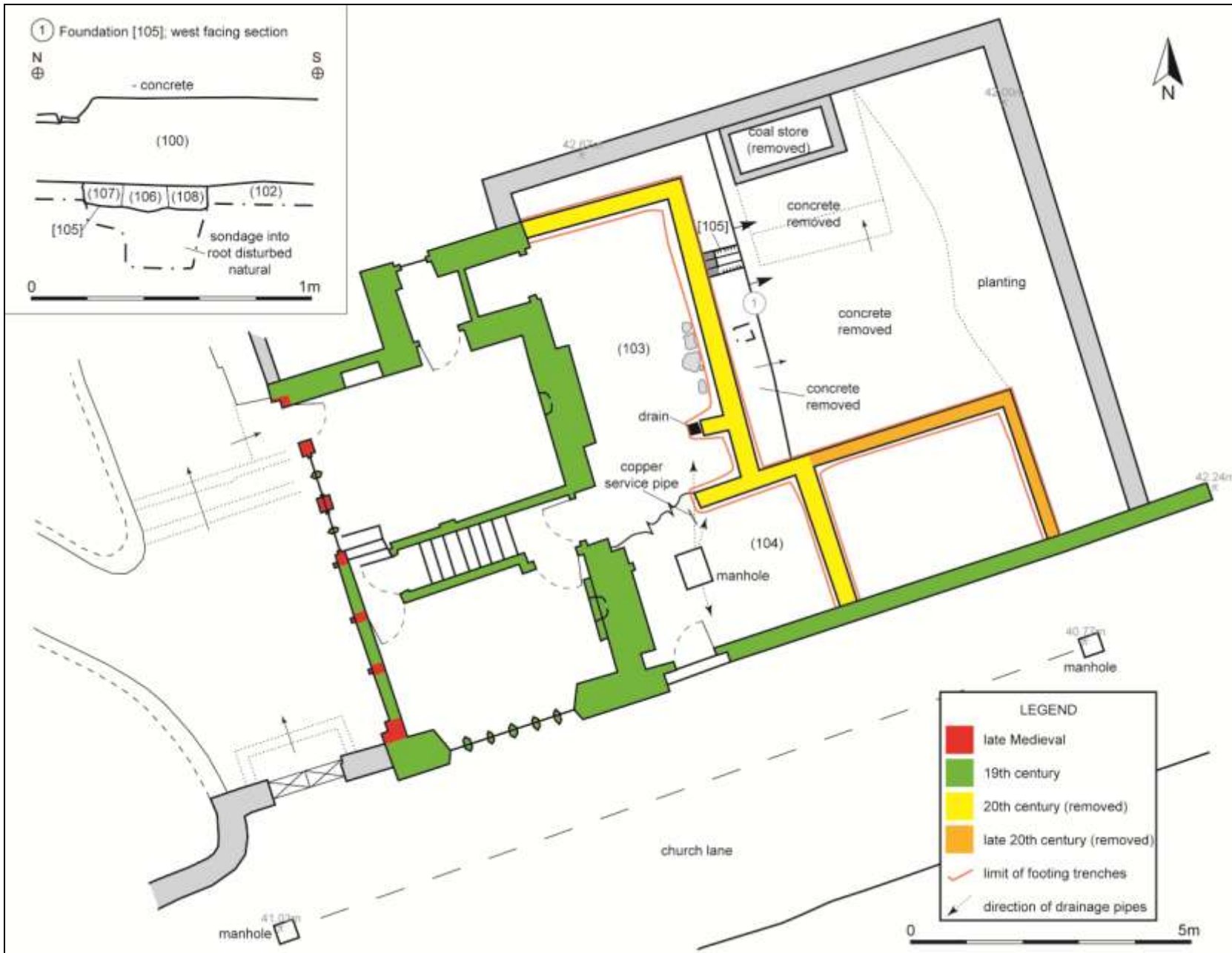


Figure 2: Phased plan of 18 Church Street, Dunster (from SWARCH Report No.150213) with post-excavation details and plan and section of Foundation [105].



Figure 3: Site shot; viewed from the south-west (no scale).



Figure 4: Site shot; viewed from the south-east (no scale).



Figure 5: Site shot; viewed from the north-west (no scale).



Figure 6: Site shot; viewed from the south (1 & 2m scale).



Figure 7: Exposed section of wall behind removed coal store (1m scale).



Figure 8: Foundation Trench [105] pre-excitation; viewed from the west (1m scale).



Figure 9: Foundation Trench [105], with sondage; viewed from the west (1m scale).



Figure 10: Stone slabs within spread of demolition/made-ground, showing modern footing of demolished extension; viewed from the west (1m scale).



Figure 11: Working shot of stone slabs and Foundation Trench [105], viewed from the west (1m scale).