

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Totnes, South Hams	National Grid Reference SX 8002 6020	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording at 11 Leechwell Street, Totnes, Devon during the erection of a zero-carbon dwelling		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 56/0997/14/F	Recipient museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum	
OASIS ID: southwes1-236169	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: TLW15Y	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 13 th , 15-16 th and 23 rd October 2015	
<p>Description of works. Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Ben Yeger (The Client), during the erection of a zero-carbon dwelling at 11 Leechwell Street, Totnes, Devon. This work was undertaken by Dr. B. Morris and J. Bampton in October 2015 in accordance with a WSI drawn up in accordance to a brief supplied by Graham Tait of the Devon County Historic Environment Team.</p> <p>The site lies at the east end of the garden to No.11 Leechwell Street, on the south-west edge of the historic town of Totnes. Immediately west of the site in the same, former, garden of No.11 Archaeological monitoring and recording revealed part of a late medieval wall and post-medieval and modern pits (SWARCH HER report; Contractor's Code: TLW15C). SWARCH has previously produced a desk-based assessment for the site in 2008 (SWARCH Report No.: 081022).</p> <p>An area c.19m×15m was excavated that encompassed the footprint of the proposed building (Figure 3). Due to the slope on the site the excavated area was c.0.70m deep at its east end and c.2m deep at its deepest point in its south-west corner. Six additional footing pads, c.1.2m×1.2m were excavated at intervals along the eastern end of the site to better defend against subsidence and protect the substantial retaining wall that forms the east boundary of the site. These pads were excavated to a depth of c.1.90m.</p> <p>The site stratigraphy and description (Figures 2-4) were as follows: Topsoil (100), a dark grey-brown, friable clay-silt, 0.22m thick which overlaid a buried or re-deposited topsoil, (105), at the eastern end of the site. Buried Topsoil (105) was a dark grey-brown, friable clay-silt loam, 0.50m thick, which overlaid Subsoil (101) and contained a lens/bottle dump immediately north-east of Foundation Pad 1. Subsoil (101) was a mid grey-brown friable clay-silt with rounded stones, 0.33m-0.66m thick, which overlaid Fill (108). Fill (108) was a mid grey-brown, friable clay-silt with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional slate fragments, 0.35m thick, which overlaid Fill (107) of Ditch [106]. Ditch [106] cut Natural (103), a firm light red-brown clay with small-medium angular stones, 0.47-0.78m thick, which overlaid (104) a light brown-yellow, very compact stone and clay with shillet.</p> <p>Post-medieval Ditch [106] had very steep sides with a curved break of slope and a flattish base. It contained Fill (107) was a loose sub-angular stone and platey rubble (c.50×200×100mm) in a matrix of mid buff-brown, soft clay-silt. It contained occasional slate, oyster shell and cattle bone from the post-medieval animal trade that occurred to the north-west of the site. It may denote the post-medieval site boundary prior to the construction/adaptation of the retaining wall on its east side, parallel to it. The ground surface at this end of the site has been made up in the post-medieval or modern period.</p> <p>Other than those finds encountered in the Ditch [106], 39 sherds (602g) of pottery were recovered from the topsoil and 5 sherds (41g) of pottery were recovered from the subsoil, including; 15th/16th century Totnes-type wares, 17th/18th century South Somerset wares, Westerwalt stoneware, 19th century wares including White Refined Earthen wares, stonewares and refined redwares and 20th century flower pot. Other finds included coal-, glass-, clay pipe- and CBM fragments and a cockle shell.</p> <p>No significant archaeological features or deposits were present.</p>		
Recorder: J. Bampton	Date sent to HER: 07.12.2015	

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Figure 1: South end of excavation area, showing the eastern retaining wall; looking east (1m & 2m scale).

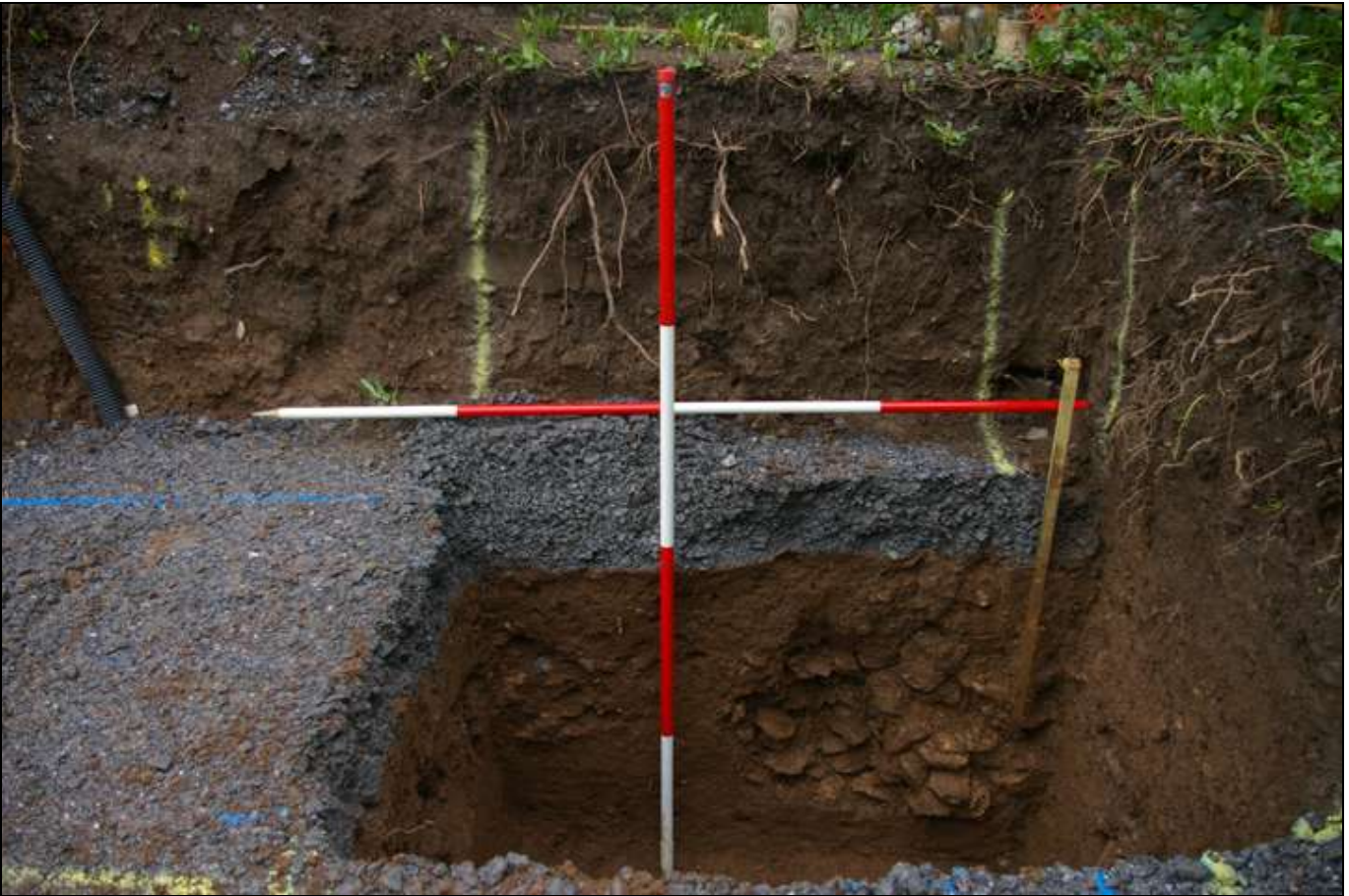


Figure 2: Foundation pad 1, showing Ditch [106]; looking north (1m & 2m scale).

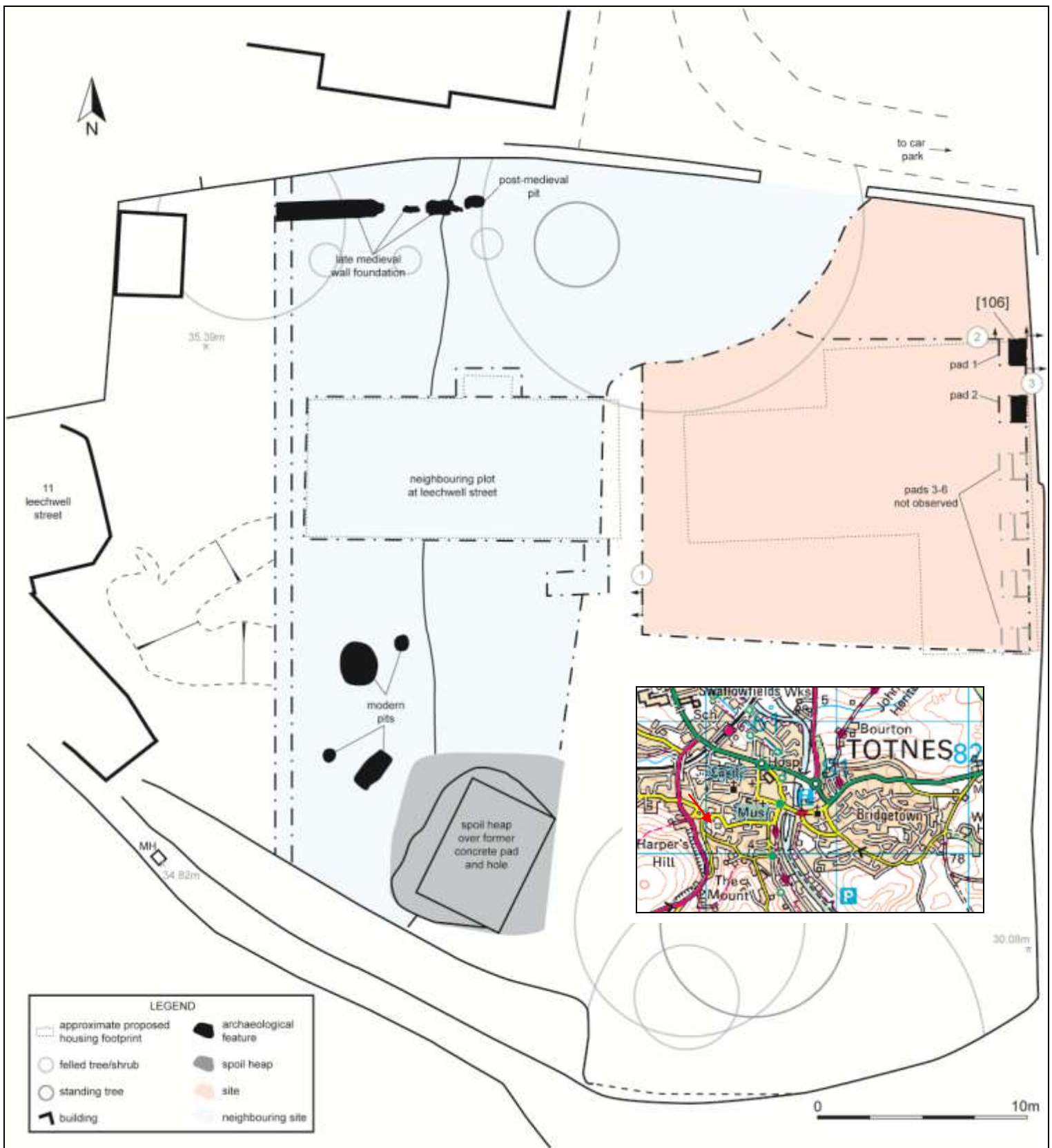


Figure 3: Site plan, including features in adjacent development (insert: Totnes, site location indicated). Representative sections shown in Figure 4.

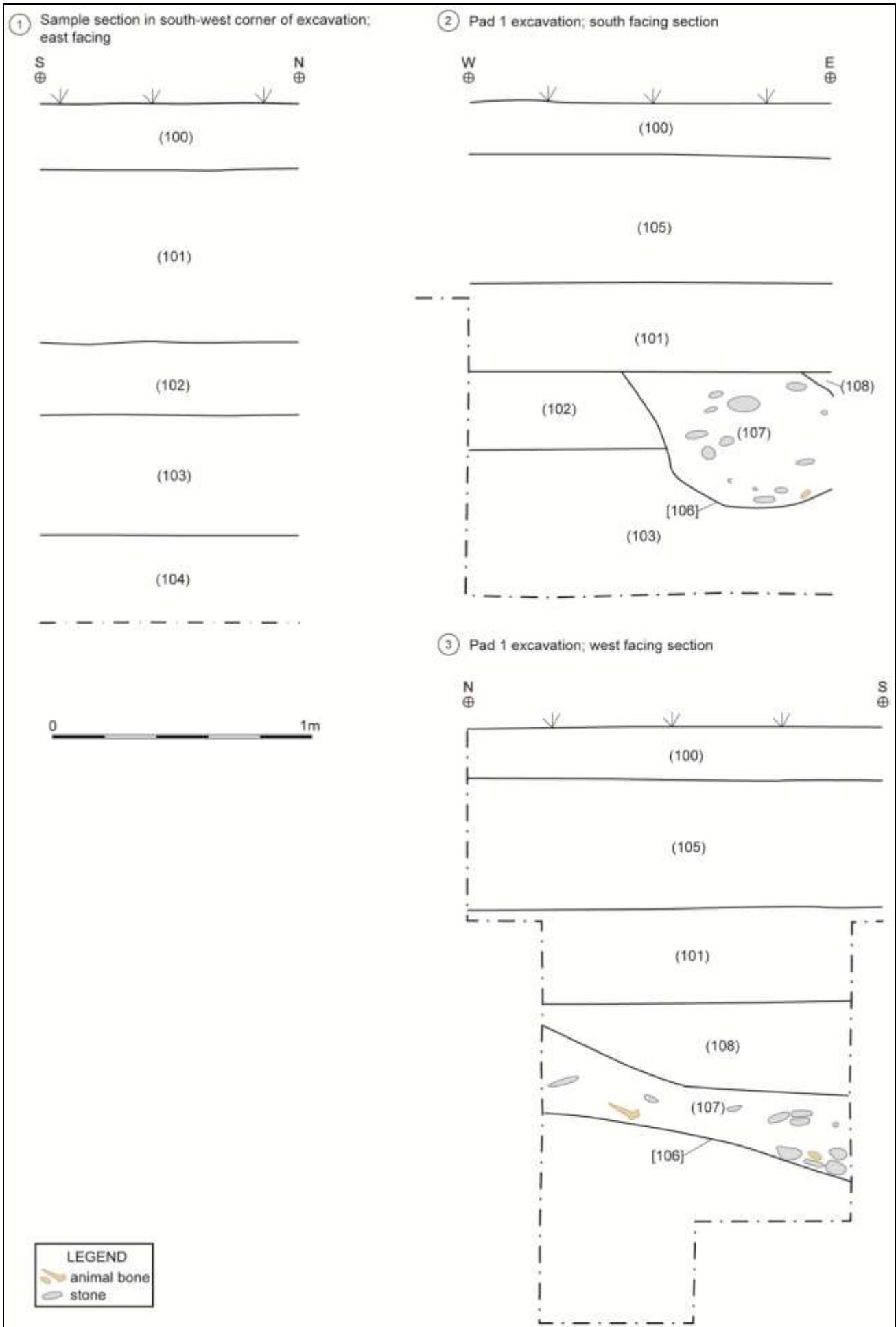


Figure 4: Section drawings, including Ditch [106].