

Negative Watching Brief: Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: West Huntspill, Sedgemoor	National Grid Reference ST 31146 46770	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording of the excavation of footings and groundworks associated with extensions at 26 Alstone Lane, Highbridge, Somerset		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 52/15/00019	Recipient museum: Museum of Somerset	
OASIS ID: southwes1-238552	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: HAL16	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 25 th –26 th May 2016	
<p>Description of works. Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) during the excavation of footings and groundworks associated with an extension at Alstone Lane, Highbridge, Somerset (Figure 1). This work took place at the request of Chris Gowing (the Client), and was carried out by P. Webb on 25th and 26th May 2016 in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Boyd 2016) and in consultation with Stephen Membery, Senior Historic Environment Officer of the South West Heritage Trust (supported by Somerset County Council).</p> <p>Highbridge is located approximately 9.5km north of Bridgewater and 1km east of Bridgewater Bay in the Bristol Channel. Alstone Lane is to the south of Highbridge, in an area known to contain heritage assets associated with the Iron Age lake village at Alstone. This Scheduled site is located c.100m to the east, but the earthworks of a rectilinear enclosure formerly extended as far as this property. The site lies at a height of c.6m AOD on the deep, stoneless, mainly calcareous clayey soils of the Newchurch 2 Association (SSEW 1983), over Quaternary deposits of sand and gravel of the Burtle Formation. These overlie mudstones of the Langport Member, Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation at depth (BGS 2016).</p> <p>Three sets of foundation trenches were excavated to the front and sides of the property, 0.6m wide, up to 0.65m deep, and totalling c.15m in length. These trenches were mainly excavated by hand, but a tracked excavator with a toothless ditching bucket was also employed.</p> <p>Two of the three areas (Areas 01 and 02) were subject to archaeological monitoring. The stratigraphy included: tarmac surfaces c.0.01m thick (001) and (004); concrete base layers c.0.10m thick (002) and (005). These overlay levelling/bedding layers (003) and (006), of brick and stone rubble up to 0.15m thick. These modern surface layers overlay subsoil (008) a firm mid grey-brown clay 0.40+m deep. This had been cut at various locations, particularly to the east of the property, by a series of ceramic drains and foundation trenches.</p> <p>No archaeological deposits were identified, no finds were recovered, and formation levels remained firmly within the subsoil. As a result, the excavation of the third area (Area 03) (at the front of the property and situated within the footprint of a modern timber framed conservatory) was not subject to monitoring.</p> <p>Bibliography. Boyd, N. 2016: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at 26 Alstone Lane, Highbridge, Somerset. British Geological Survey 2016: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html [accessed 27.05.2016]. Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>.</p>		
Recorder: P. Webb		Date sent to HER: 27/05/2016

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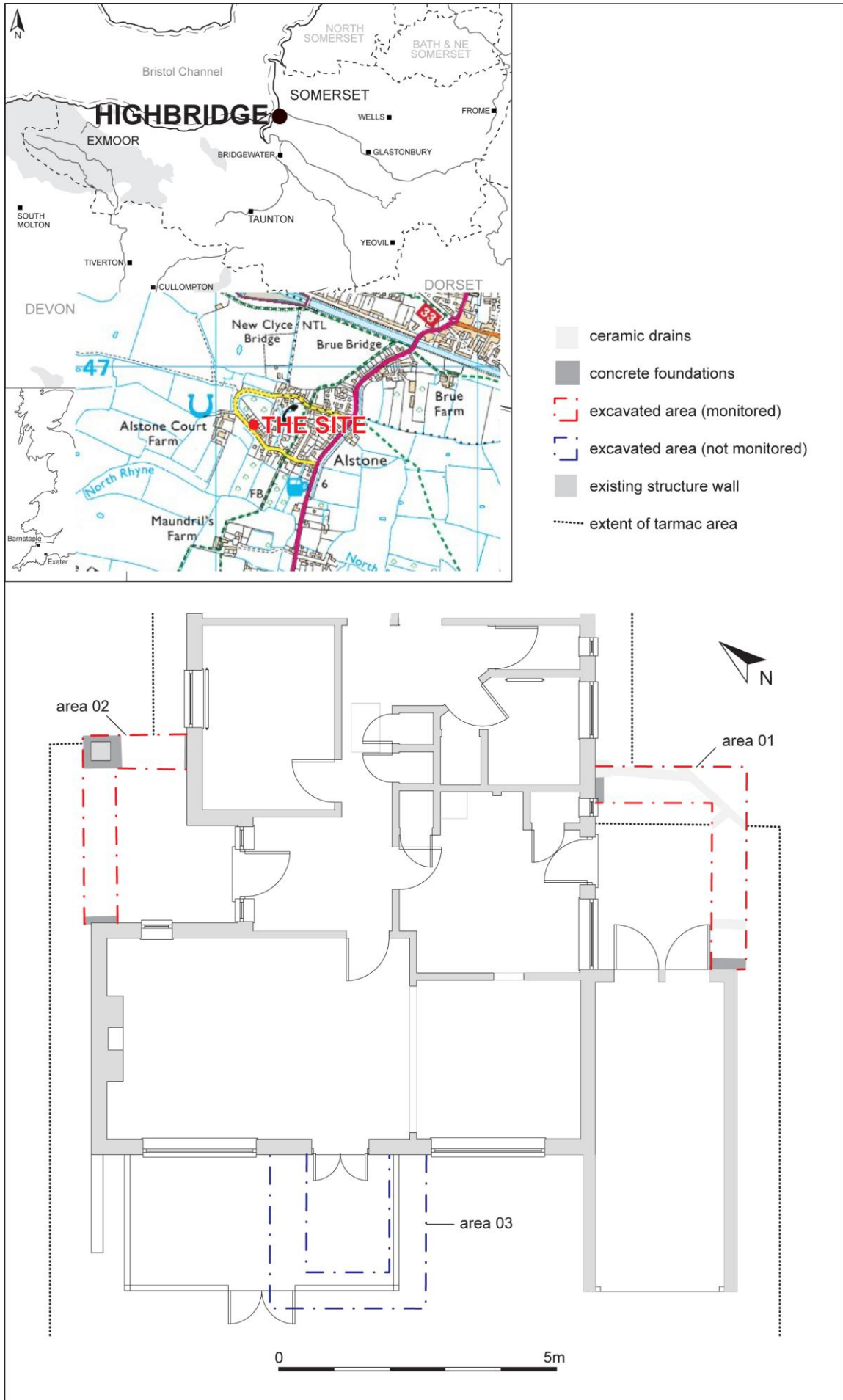


Figure 1: Site location, and site plan.



Figure 2: South-west facing section of Area 01; viewed from the south-west (1m scale).



Figure 3: North-east facing section of Area 02; viewed from the north-east (1m scale).