

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Northam, Torridge	National Grid Reference SS 44068 28204	Number:
Subject: Evaluation trenching at Lenwood Cottage, Northam, Devon in advance of the proposed development of a single detached dwelling to replace the extant derelict structure.		Photos attached? YES
Planning Application no: 1/1155/2015/FUL	Recipient museum: Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon	
OASIS ID: southwes1-243860	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: NLC 16	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 16 th March 2016	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>Archaeological evaluation trenching was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Rebecca Fearnley of Fearnley Lott Architects (the Agent), on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Martin (the Client) in advance of the proposed development of a single detached dwelling on land at Lenwood Cottage, Northam, Devon. This work was undertaken by P. Webb on 16th March 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 is located approximately 1km to the south-west of the Domesday manor of Northam, within land recorded on the Devon Historic Landscape Characterisation as post-medieval enclosed land, though surrounded by medieval enclosures based on strip fields to the north-west and south-east; and parks and gardens associated with Lenwood House to the east; elsewhere are modern enclosures adapting medieval fields. The site is located c.60m to the north of a prehistoric funerary monument that is protected as a Scheduled Monument (ref: 1016212), and the site lies within an area of archaeological potential, and as such groundworks for the proposed development had the potential to expose and destroy archaeological and artefactual deposits associated with the known prehistoric activity in the vicinity.</p> <p>The soils of this area are the well-drained fine loamy soils of the Denbigh 2 Association (SSEW 1983), overlying the sedimentary mudstone and siltstone of the Bideford Formation (BGS 2016).</p> <p>Three trenches, measuring 5m, 15m and 8.5m × 1.4m were excavated by a tracked mechanical excavator using a toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision, to the depth of archaeological deposits or the natural bedrock, whichever was higher. The topsoil (100)/(200)/(305) was c.0.10m-0.26m thick and consisted of turf over soft friable mid grey-brown slightly clayey-silt. At the eastern end of the site this overlay a subsoil layer (313); mid grey-yellow-brown firm clay between 0.26m and 0.55m thick; and the natural (103)/(203)/(314); shillet within a friable-firm yellow clay. At the eastern end of the site, within Trench 3, a large sub-rectangular pit [300], extending beyond the limits of excavation, possibly resulting from the removal of a tree, had been cut into the topsoil. It was filled by burning and leveling deposits (301); ash within dark brown friable silt; (302)/(304); mid brown friable-soft silt-clay. The western end of Trench 3 was cut by a terracing cut [305], visible as an apparent 'bank' feature running the length of the site, and filled by leveling material/made ground (311)/(312); mid grey-brown soft friable clay-silt with plaster flecks throughout and frequent 19th-20th century brick/pottery. These deposits extended west across the site as (101)/(102) and (201/202). A soak-away drain [309] had been cut against the eastern edge of this terrace. A modern service trench [204]; and stone capped drain [208], with associated drainage gully [211], servicing the extant building were encountered within trench 2, along with a linear ceramic field drain [206].</p> <p>A small number of finds were recovered within leveling layers (201), and (311), which were subsequently discarded, from (201): 4 sherds (182g) of 18th-19th century North Devon coarsewares; 1 sherd (12g) of industrial white refined ware; 1 sherd (4g) of 19th century sewer pipe; and 8 fragments (184g) of 18th-20th century brick, including fragments of engineering bricks. From (311): 1 (1357g) handmade brick without frogging.</p> <p>No significant archaeological features or remains were present; the majority of the site having been substantially disturbed by a terrace cut likely related to the construction of the existing Lenwood Cottage.</p>		
Recorder: P. Webb		Date sent to HER: 22/03/2016

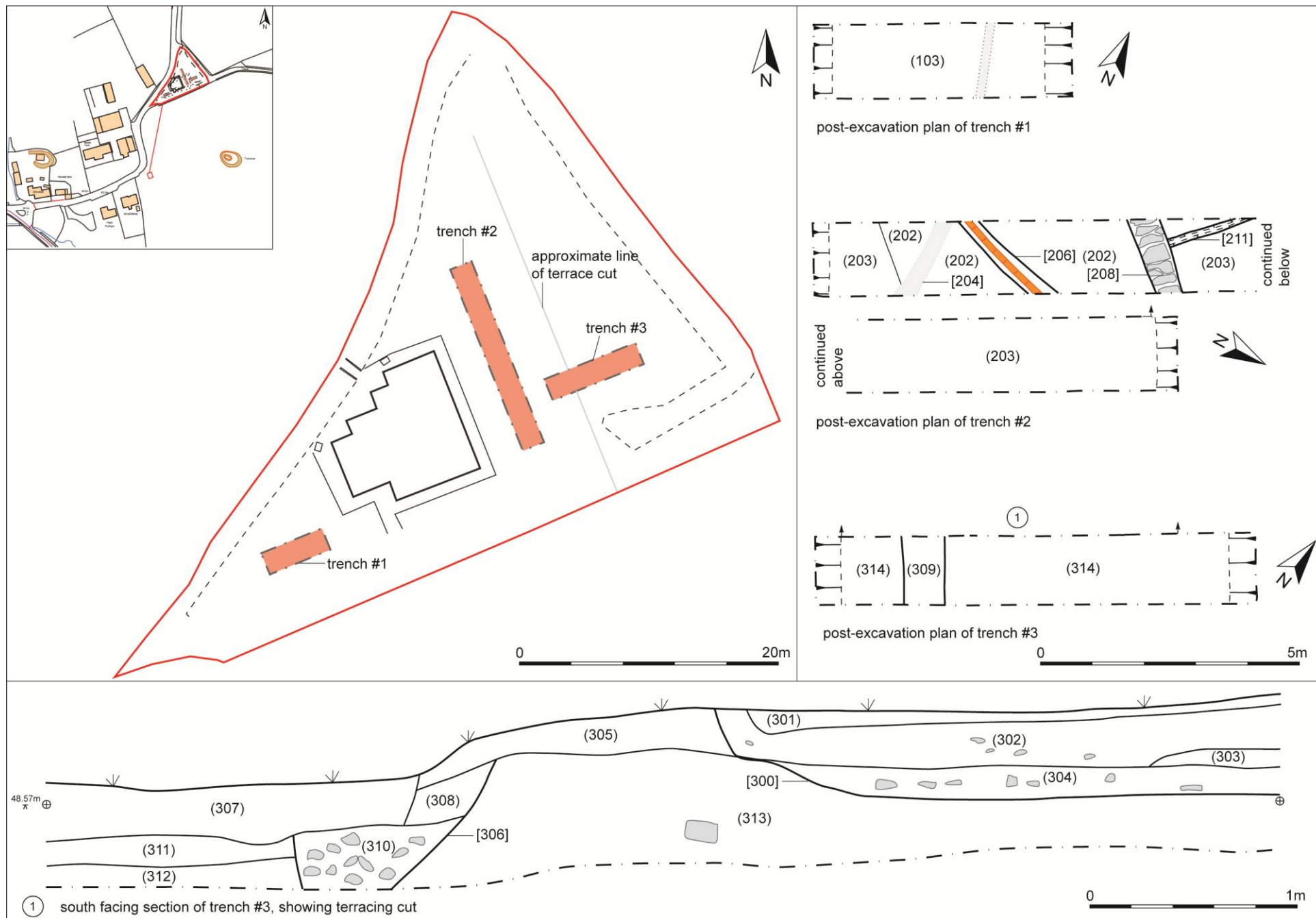


Figure 1: Site plans and sections.



Figure 2: South-east facing section of trench 3, showing the terracing cut at its western end; viewed from the south (0.3m and 2m scales).



Figure 3: View of the site, showing the 'bank' of the terrace cut for the existing Lenwood Cottage (foreground); viewed from the north (no scale).