



DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

HER Recording Form

National Grid Reference	Estimated (GPS not used) SX 264046 094079	HER ID number	
Name/address of site	Former Methodist Chapel, Sticklepath, Dartmoor, Devon		
Summary of site	Archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with building extensions and conversion of the Former Methodist Chapel, Sticklepath		
Detailed Description:			
<p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Julie Boulton of Apse Architecture and Planning (the Agent) on behalf of Mr. J. Kulasek (the Client) during groundworks associated with the extension and conversion of the former Methodist Chapel, Sticklepath, Dartmoor National Park, Devon. The monitoring was carried out by B. Morris, S. Walls and P. Webb between on 16th February and 15th March 2017. This work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Boyd 2016) drawn up in consultation with Andy Crabb of Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA).</p>			
<p>The site is located towards the centre of the village of Sticklepath, approximately 28km west of Exeter, to the south of the A30, and to the north of the River Taw on the northern boundary of the Dartmoor National Park (Figure 1). The site lies on the well drained fine loamy and fine silty soils of the Denbigh 1 Association (SSEW 1983) overlying metamudstone of the Meldon Shale and Quartzite Formation (BGS 2017).</p>			
<p>The former Methodist Chapel is a Grade II Listed building built in 1816 and enlarged in 1838. The building is made up of two main spaces on the ground floor: the nave and a school room. To the rear of the property runs the mill leat for Finch Foundry. Sticklepath itself has 12th century origins; the Chapel of St. Mary dating to this time, with many of the surviving historic buildings within the village dating to between the 16th and 19th centuries.</p>			
<p>A total length of c.27m of trenching, split between two areas (Area 01 and Area 02), was excavated under archaeological supervision by hand or using a machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket (where possible). The trenches measured between 2m and 13.50m in length x between 0.50m and 1.70m wide and were excavated up to a depth of 1.20m, this being the maximum depth of ground to be disturbed. The stratigraphy of the site comprised dark brown soft sand-silt-loam topsoil c.0.26m thick; which to the south of the building overlaid mid-dark brown soft silt up to 0.10m thick; layers of orange and grey brown gravels with silt and sand, each up to 0.10m thick; and grey sands and gravels 0.50+m thick. Within the building, the concrete floor surface, 0.10m thick; overlay a rubble bedding layer 0.25m thick; and a dark brown silt-loam buried soil layer 0.10+m thick.</p>			
<p>Other than a modern drain, only two features were identified during the groundworks: leat wall {003}; and wall foundation {016}. Leat wall {003} formed the north side of the existing leat structure (3m north of the existing south leat wall), located to the south of the chapel building. It was visible for 2.50m on an approximate east to west alignment and measured 0.55m wide and 0.40+m high. It was constructed of large angular stone blocks with a dark grey clay bond. To the east the feature continued as {007}, though in a more collapsed state; and to the west as {015}.</p>			
<p>Within the chapel building, a single feature, wall footing {016}, was identified on an east to west alignment, measuring 0.60m wide and 0.38+m high. It was constructed from large sub-angular stone and granite blocks with concrete mortar.</p>			
<p>A total of 23 finds were recovered during the excavations, including 1 sherd (19g) of white refined earthenware from topsoil (001); 3 sherds (51g) of industrial wares, and 2 sherds (98g) of flower pot from the overburden of {007}; 7 sherds (245g) of industrial wares, and 5 sherds (536g) of flower pot, 1 fragment (6g) of drain fragment, and 1 fragment (2g) of glass from leat fill (008); 1 sherd (123g) of 19th century stoneware from leat fill (009); 1 sherd (15g) post medieval pottery from leat fill (013); and 1 fragment (473g) of unstratified</p>			

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Cultural Heritage Service, Dartmoor National Park Authority, Parke, Bovey Tracey Devon. TQ13 9JQ
Email : culturalheritage@dartmoor-npa.gov.uk

brick.

Conclusions

The archaeological monitoring identified that the northern wall of the existing leat structure had largely been covered by overburden, probably from a previous phase of levelling the ground behind the chapel. Within the chapel, the footings of a 20th century partition wall were identified.

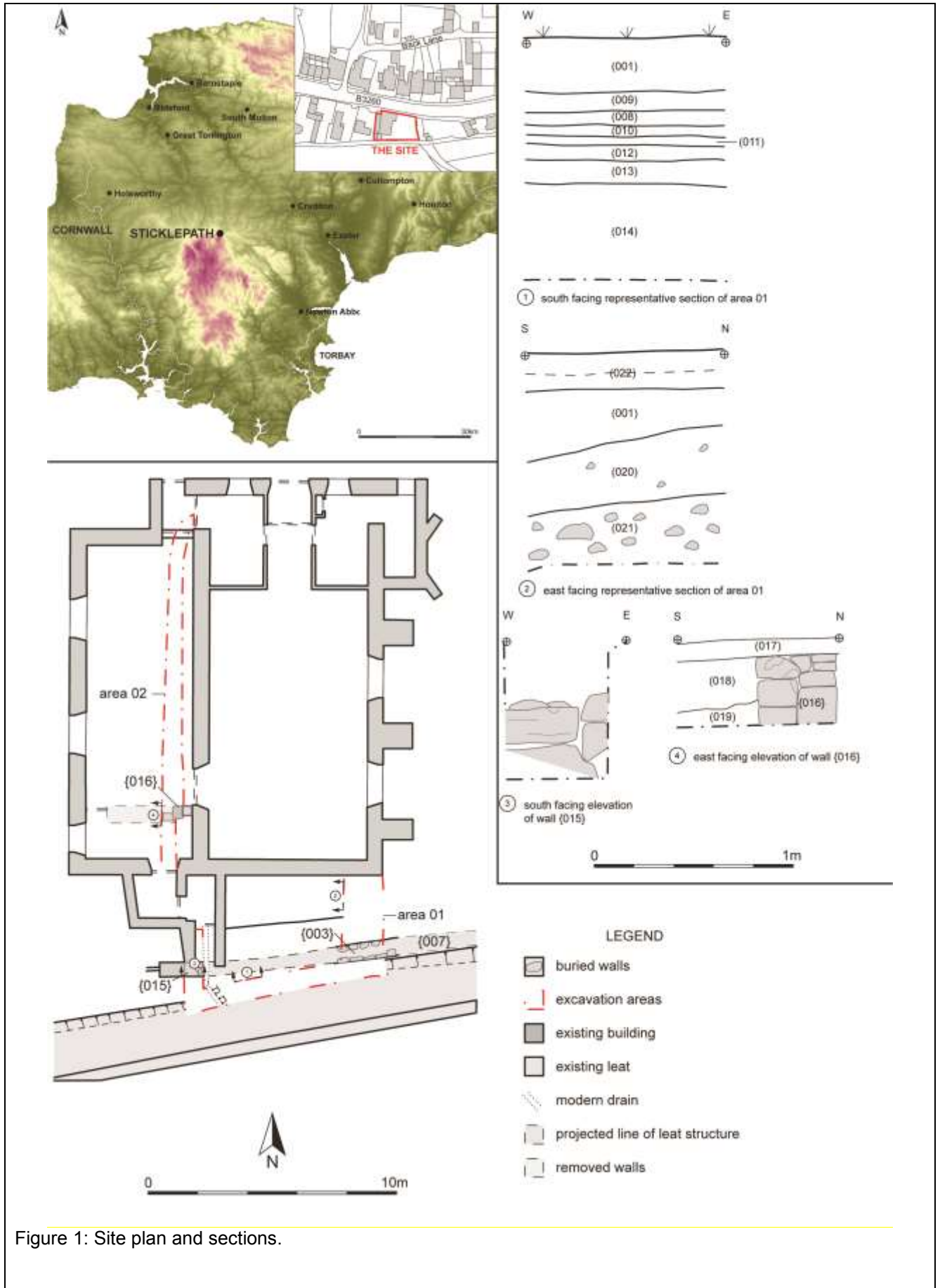


Figure 1: Site plan and sections.



Figure 2: View of leat wall {003}, Area 01, viewed from the south-east (0.30m & 1m scales).



Figure 3: South facing elevation of leat wall {015}, Area 01; viewed from the west (0.30m scale).



Figure 4: East facing elevation of wall footing {016}, Area 02; viewed from the east (1m scale).

Evidence for site		Archaeological monitoring	
Reference for each piece of information (if used) e.g. 'J. Butler, 1991 'Dartmoor Atlas of Antiquities Vol 1' (Devon Books, Exeter)		Boyd, N. 2017: <i>Former Methodist Chapel, Sticklepath, Dartmoor, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation</i> . SWARCH Report No. SMC16WSlv1. British Geological Survey 2017. <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i> . http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html [accessed 19.06.2017]. Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i> .	
Period/ Date (if known. E.g. 'Post Medieval')	Post-medieval / Modern	Site Type (if known. E.g. 'Boundary Stone')	Methodist chapel Mill leat
Recorder Contact Details	P. Webb, South West Archaeology Ltd., Hacche Lane Business Park, Pathfields Business Park, South Molton, Devon, EX36 3LH		
Date Recorded	19.6.2017		
Photos (Reference nos. or file name(s) of any photographs supplied)	SMC16_03 SMC16_14 SMC16_58		