

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: South Molton, North Devon	National Grid Reference SS 71325 25798	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording on land adjacent to 80 South Street, South Molton, Devon		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 29346; APP/X1118/W/15/3134542	Recipient museum: Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon (MBND)	
OASIS ID: southwes1-249963	Museum Accession no: Pending	
Contractor's reference number/code: SSS16	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 4 th -11 th August 2016	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Graham White (the Client) during groundworks related to the construction of a new dwelling on land adjacent to 80 South Street, South Molton, Devon. The monitoring was carried out by Dr. B. Morris and P. Webb between 4th and 11th August 2016. This work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Boyd 2016) drawn up in consultation with Stephen Reed of the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>The site lies within the historic core of the Medieval settlement of South Molton, to the rear of existing properties, the layout of which suggests Medieval burgrave plots. The Devon Historic Environment Record (HER) also records the presence of further burgrave plots to the south. South Molton is situated approximately 38km north-west of Exeter and 16km south-east of Barnstaple. The site itself is located towards the centre of South Molton, approximately 150m south-west of the parish church (Figure 1). The site lies on the well drained fine loamy soils of the Denbigh 2 Association, bordering the well drained fine loamy soils of the Neath Association (SSEW 1983) overlying the mudstone and siltstone of the Bude Formation (BGS 2015).</p> <p>An approximately rectangular area measuring 11m × 5.7m was excavated under archaeological supervision by machine using a toothless grading bucket to a depth of 0.4m, this being the depth of formation. A 1m×0.5m trial pit was excavated to a depth of 0.9m below ground surface in the south-west corner of the site. The stratigraphy of the site comprised a dark grey-brown soft-friable clay-silt topsoil c.0.16m thick; overlying layers of made-ground 0.74+m thick.</p> <p>Several modern features were identified during the excavations, including: traces of the footings for the recently demolished breeze block outbuilding, [020]; and three drains: [022], [024], and [032]. A further drain, [007] orientated north to south and measuring 0.18m wide ran along the outside of wall {015}. Two cobble surfaces, (013) and (016) were also identified. Cobble surface (013), orientated approximately north to south and measuring 2m × 1.5m, was located in the north-east corner of the site and comprised an area of irregularly laid sub-rounded to sub-angular stone cobbles within a matrix of mid-dark grey-brown soft-friable slightly clay silt (figures 2 and 3). It sat on a bedding layer (014) of friable-soft mid green-brown soft silt-clay. Cobble surface (016), orientated east to west and measuring 2.2m × 0.7m, located towards the north-west corner of the site comprised north to south laid mixed rough cobbles. The vast majority of the site comprised a series of made-ground layers.</p> <p>A relatively substantial quantity of finds were recovered during the excavations, predominantly from the topsoil and upper made-ground layers. These comprise mostly 18th-19th century domestic wares, and include local North Devon gravel free and gravel tempered coarsewares, white refined earthenware, tin glazed delftware, English porcelain, Staffordshire slipware, stonewares, scraffito, and imported Westerwald stoneware. Other finds include clay pipe stems and bowls, ceramic building material, bottle glass and a copper alloy pin.</p> <p>Conclusions</p> <p>The majority of the features identified are modern in date, reflecting the construction and drainage of the former shed structure in the north-west corner of the site, and drainage associated with the existing buildings. Two cobble surfaces were also identified, (016) possibly forming a former pathway to the shed structure, and (013) forming either a pathway around the existing building {015} or remains of a larger yard surface relating to the former occupation of the site. Finds suggest that they date to the 18th-19th centuries.</p> <p>Bibliography</p> <p>Boyd, N. 2016: 80 South Street, South Molton, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation.</p> <p>British Geological Survey 2015: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html [accessed 11.08.2016].</p> <p>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: 28.09.16	

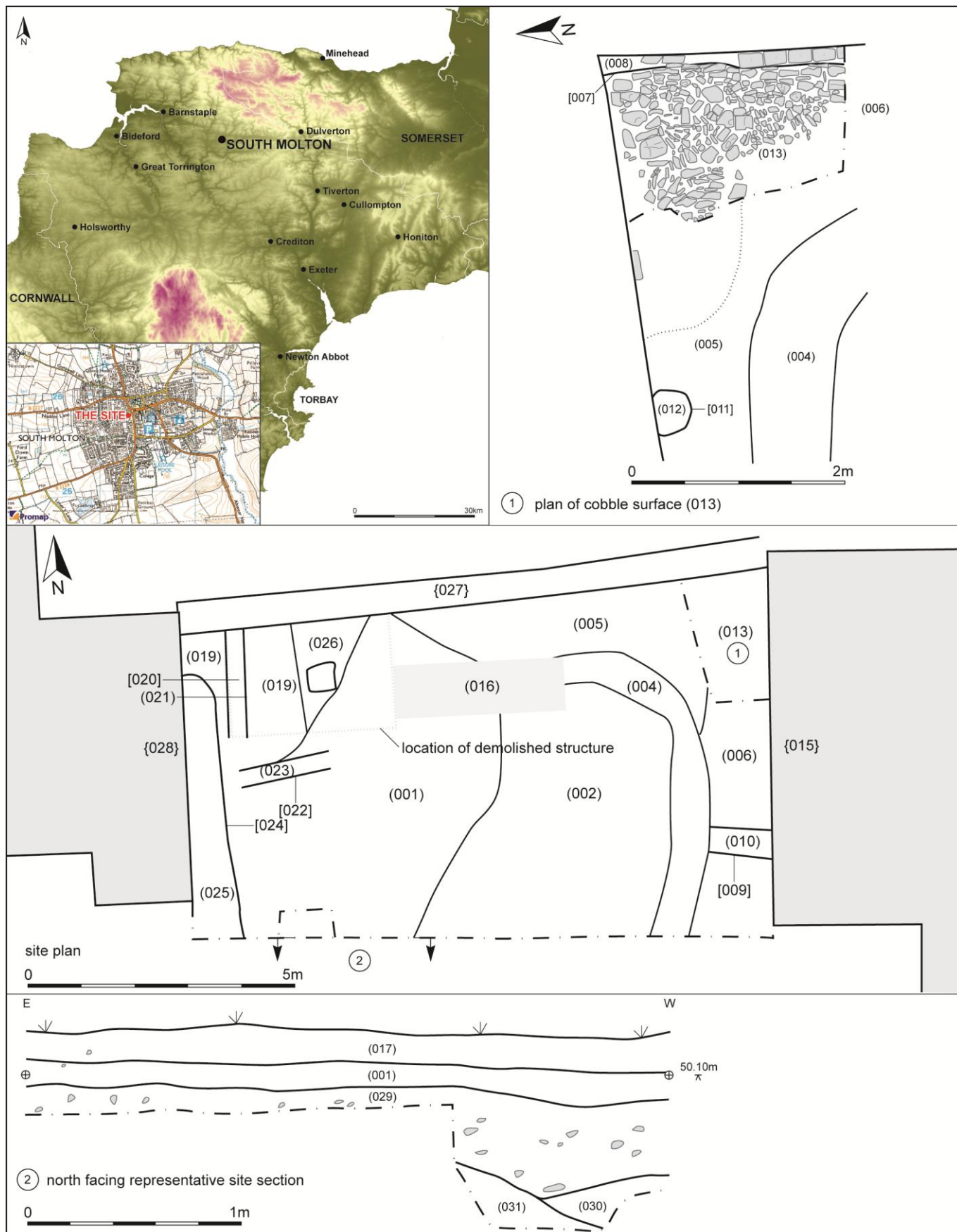


Figure 1: Site location, plan and representative section. Heights based on an arbitrary TBM of 50AOD.



Figure 2: Cobble surface (013); viewed from the west (scale 1m).



Figure 3: Cobble surface (016); viewed from the west (scale 2m).