

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Barnstaple, North Devon	National Grid Reference SS 56625 32190	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring at Church Grove, Barnstaple, North Devon		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 58917	Recipient museum: Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon	
OASIS ID: southwes1-262054	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: BNG16	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 9 th March - 15 th May 2017	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Sharon Hayne of North Devon Homes Ltd. (the Client) during groundworks associated with the development of land at Church Grove, Barnstaple, North Devon. Monitoring was carried out by L. Lichtenstein, B. Morris and P. Webb between 9th March and 15th May 2017; and undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Morris 2016) drawn up in consultation with Stephen Reed of the Devon County Historic Environment Team.</p> <p>The development area lies within the historic core of Newport in Barnstaple. Newport was established by the Bishop of Exeter and received its borough charter in 1294; and was incorporated into Barnstaple in 1836. It was established within an existing field-system, the former plough strips providing the basis for its burgage plots. A chapel was documented at Newport in the 14th century, but by 1630 it was ruinous and a deed of 1684 describes it as a dwelling house with garden. By 1712 it was used as a barn, and in 1815 it was demolished and the material reused to build a house on the same site. A new church, consecrated in 1829 was built on part of the chapel site and there are anecdotal references to the discovery of human remains. 20th century development of the site saw conversion of the land into a car park with garage buildings constructed along the south-eastern boundary.</p> <p>The site is situated in an area not surveyed by the soil survey, but bordered by the well drained fine loamy and fine silty soils over rock of the Denbigh 1 Association (SSEW 1983) overlying mudstone of the Pilton Mudstone Formation (BGS 2016).</p> <p>The development site comprised a roughly rectangular area measuring c.30m × 25m. Within this, the groundworks consisted of the excavation of four trial pits (TP1 and TP2, measuring c.3m × 1.5m; TP3 and 4, c.1m × 0.5m) and the stripping of a rectangular area (Area 5, 25m × 50m). The excavations identified a stratigraphic sequence of: modern tarmac, 0.08m thick; overlying angular stone hardcore levelling layers, between 0.3m and 0.9m thick (becoming deeper towards the north-east); this overlay a brown soft clay subsoil, 0.2-0.4m thick; and natural clays.</p> <p>Two features were identified during the works: a modern service pipe within TP3; and the cut for the modern south-east site boundary concrete block retaining wall [004]; measuring 0.8+m wide × 0.45m-1.5+m deep (becoming deeper to the north) with near vertical sides and flat base. Finds recovered from this feature included modern (20th century) pottery, glass, brick and plastic.</p> <p>Conclusions</p> <p>The archaeological monitoring identified that the 20th century construction of the existing south-east site boundary wall and former garages caused large scale disturbance of the site, with stone hardcore levelling layers building up from the natural clay.</p> <p>Bibliography</p> <p>Morris, B. 2016: <i>Church Grove, Barnstaple, North Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH report BCB16WSIv1.</p> <p>British Geological Survey 2016: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html [accessed 16.06.2017].</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: 16.06.17

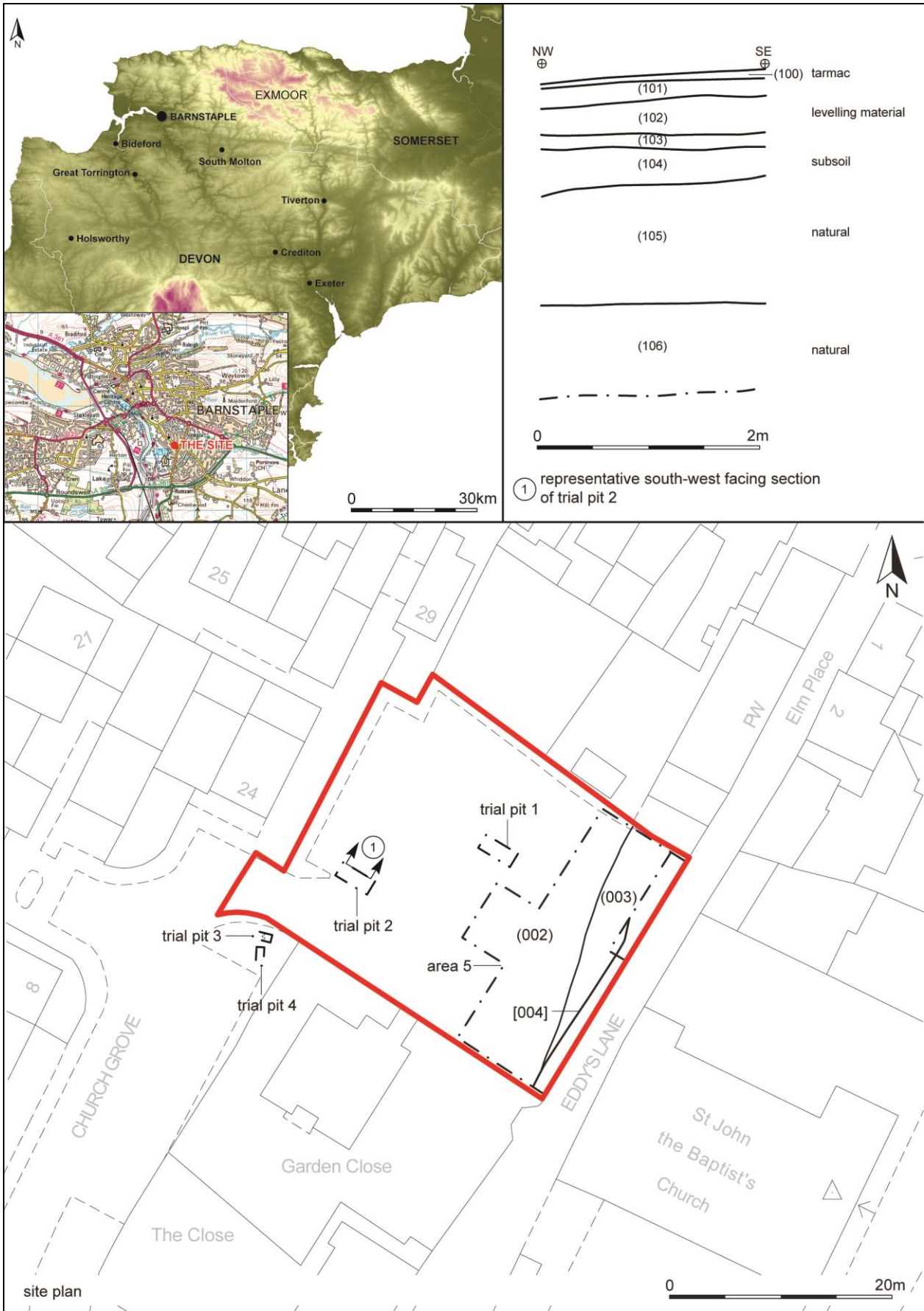


Figure 1: Site location, plans and sections.



Figure 2: TP2, south-west facing section; viewed from the south-west (scale 2m).



Figure 3: Area 5 post-excavation; viewed from the south-east (scales 1m & 2m).