

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Chudleigh, Teignbridge	National Grid Reference SX 86610 79408	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring on land to rear of 40-41 Fore Street		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 15/02483/FUL	Recipient museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum of Exeter	
OASIS ID: southwes1-263343	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: CHS16	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 13 th July 2017	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Jon Sherwood of Bowood Homes (the Client) during groundworks associated with the development of land to the rear of 40-41 Fore Street, Chudleigh, Teignbridge, Devon. The site is situated at a height of c.70m (AOD) on the north-west facing slopes of the ridge along which Fore-street runs. It is in an area of slowly permeably clayey soils over rock of the Halstow Association (SSEW 1983) overlying mudstones and sandstones of the Crackington Formation (BGS 2016). Monitoring was carried out by S. Walls and 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.</p> <p>The development area lies within the historic core of Chudleigh and is likely formed from an amalgamation of two/three historic linear burgage plots running north-west from Fore Street. The plot was formerly occupied by a very dilapidated two storey stone outbuilding (demolished prior to monitoring) which, although heavily altered in the 20th century, probably dated from the early-mid 19th century and is likely to be of similar age to the nearby Listed buildings, e.g. numbers 39, 42 and 43 Fore Street.</p> <p>The development site comprised a roughly rectangular area measuring c.31m × 6m. Within this, the groundworks consisted of the excavation of the footings over the northern part (c.16m x 6m) and the stripping of a rectangular area (c.15m × 6m) to the south-east. The excavations identified a stratigraphic sequence of: modern topsoil, concrete surfaces and bedding layers, c.0.08m thick; overlying levelling layers, between 0.1m and 0.2m thick (becoming deeper towards the north-west); this overlay a clean greyish-yellow silt-clay with occasional charcoal flecks (110), 0.2-0.3m thick; and natural clays. To the south-east the modern surfaces directly overlay the natural clay. The stratigraphy clearly demonstrated that the south-eastern part of the site had been terraced into the hill-slope and the north-western end of the site had been raised, to create a more level plot, most likely in the 19th century.</p> <p>Four features were identified during the works: two modern features, a service pipe [103] which had run along the outside of the north-west wall of the demolished outbuilding and the cut for the modern pit [105]. The two historic features encountered were the stone footings of the long south-west elevation of the demolished outbuilding {119} and the cut for a stone lined drain [114], which had formerly served No.41 Fore Street. At the south-east end of the stone drain, the modern replacement entered the site through this historic drain (see Figure 2) before diverting to the north-west (avoiding the former outbuilding). No stone structure was evident in the footing trench to the north-west, although cut feature [113] is located along the same projected course, and had a flat base and similar proportions (c.1m wide x c.0.6m depth). This may suggest that the drain had been, in part, robbed out at this northern end.</p> <p>The finds assemblage consisted of: Topsoil/unstrat – 1x sherd bone china (2g); 2x iron object fragments (191g); 1x dark green English wine bottle base (398g), 2x fragments of glazed tile (26g); 1x clay pipe stem and 1x bowl fragment (11g). Context (110) – 1x sherd of post-medieval glazed cup (1g). Context (117) – 2x sherds of post-medieval gravel-free internally glazed cup/bowl (13g); 1x Brick fragment (3g) 1x pierced roof slate (653g). All finds were subsequently discarded.</p> <p>Conclusions</p> <p>The archaeological monitoring identified that the site had been subjected to significant landscaping in the 19th century, with the south-eastern part terraced into the slope, and the north-western end raised to create a roughly level plot. The former outbuilding and many of the stone boundary walls were probably built at this time. A stone drain formerly serving No. 41 Fore Street, was the only archaeological feature of any note.</p> <p>Bibliography</p> <p>Boyd, N. 2016: <i>40-41 Fore Street, Chudleigh, Teignbridge, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH report CFSWSlv1.</p> <p>British Geological Survey 2016: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html [accessed 04.09.2017].</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: S. Walls	Date sent to HER: 06.09.17	



Figure 1: Site plan, showing the excavated areas, area of terracing and Drain [114]. Insert is the broader location, and a photo of Drain [114], viewed from north-east (1m scale).

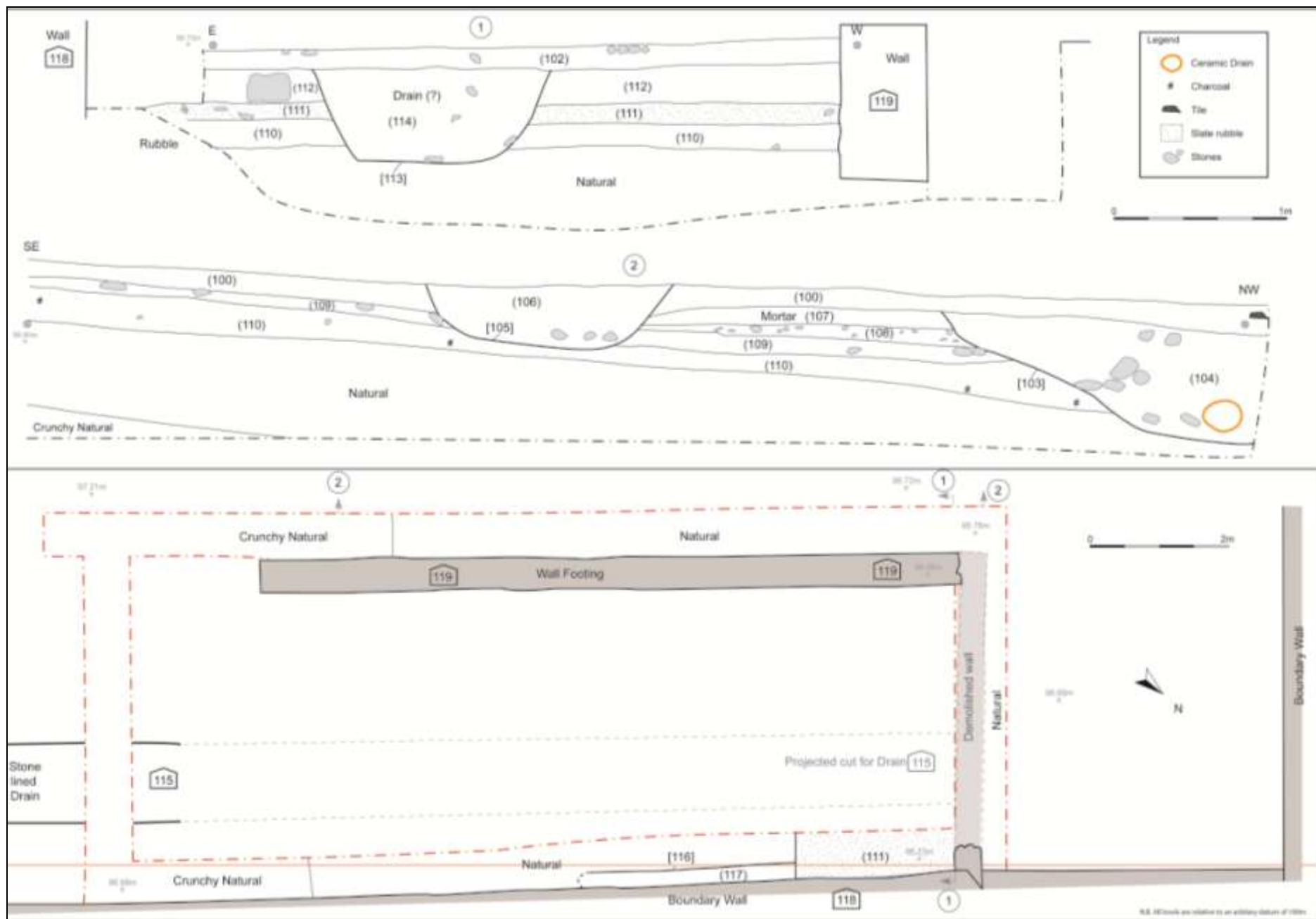


Figure 2: Section and detailed site plan.