

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Winkleigh, Torridge	National Grid Reference: SS 63128 08012	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring at the former primary school, Winkleigh, Devon		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 1/0218/2017/FUL	Recipient museum: Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon (MBND)	
OASIS ID: southwes1-274817	Museum Accession no: NDDMS2.2017a	
Contractor's reference number/code: WPS17	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 22 nd May 2019	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of a private client during groundworks associated with the construction of a residential development at the former primary school, Winkleigh, Torridge, Devon. The monitoring was carried out by P. Webb on 22nd May 2019. This work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Boyd 2016) drawn up in consultation the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>The site is situated towards the summit of a steep sided hillside in the centre of Winkleigh at a height of approximately 165m AOD (Figure 1); on the well drained fine loamy soils of the Denbigh 2 Association bordering the slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey soils of the Hallsworth 1 Association (SSEW 1983); overlying mudstone, sandstone and siltstone of the Bude Formation (BGS 2019). The site lies in an area of archaeological potential, in the historic core of the Medieval settlement of Winkleigh, approximately 20m from the Scheduled area of Croft Castle (SAM1018011), a relatively well preserved 12th century motte and bailey castle. Archaeological work in the area includes archaeological watching briefs during largely small-scale development within the settlement, with features identified including Bronze Age pits and Medieval ditches.</p> <p>Prior to the commencement of groundworks four rectangular areas measuring 6.5m×6.5m (Area 01), 6.5m×1.3m (Area 02), 4.25m×1.3m (Area 03) and 1.5m×1.3m (Area 04) were excavated across the site under archaeological supervision by machine using a toothless grading bucket to a depth of up to 1.30m, this being the greatest depth of natural bedrock. The site stratigraphy varied between the north and the south. To the north, where the site was relatively level, a mid grey-brown loose-friable silt topsoil (100/400), 0.05-0.30m thick overlay dark brown-grey soft-friable loamy-silt buried topsoil (101/401), c.0.40m thick. This in turn overlay a mid yellow-brown soft-friable clay-silt subsoil (102), 0.14m-0.28m thick, and the natural (103/402), sub-angular stone within soft red silt-clay. On the southern sloping half of the site the same topsoil (200/300), c.0.15m thick, and buried topsoil (201/301), 0.30m-0.50m thick, directly overlay solid shillet bedrock (202/302).</p> <p>Features identified during the monitoring largely related to the late 20th century structure which had previously stood on the site, including concrete wall footings [106]/(107), pathways, and service features. An additional soakaway drain [108/203/303] associated with an earlier phase of activity on the site; measuring 0.40m wide was identified running approximately north-west to south-east across the site, containing fragments of CBM. A probable tree-throw [104], sub-oval in plan and measuring c.1.5m in diameter and 0.35m deep with irregular moderate sloping sides was identified against the eastern edge of Area 01; filled by (105)grey-brown soft silt-clay.</p> <p>Finds recovered during the excavations included: ×2 sherds (63g) late medieval North Devon coarsewares from subsoil (102), including ×1 handle/neck jug fragment. The granitic temper of these pieces is indicative of a production centre towards Dartmoor rather than the more common Barnstaple or Bideford production centres of the period. Other finds included: ×3 sherds (78g) post-medieval North Devon calcareous glazed pottery from a jug or cistern; ×1 fragment (114g) iron object from subsoil (102); ×1 clay pipe stem (3g); ×5 fragments (15g) animal bone from topsoil (200).</p> <p>Conclusions</p> <p>No features of archaeological interest were identified during the works, those that were identified reflecting the late 20th century structure which formerly stood on the site. The pottery recovered, however, indicates (as expected) a background of medieval and post-medieval activity in the vicinity of the site.</p> <p>Bibliography</p> <p>Boyd, N. 2016: <i>Former Primary School, Winkleigh Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH report no WPS17WSiv1. British Geological Survey 2019: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html 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: 28.05.19	

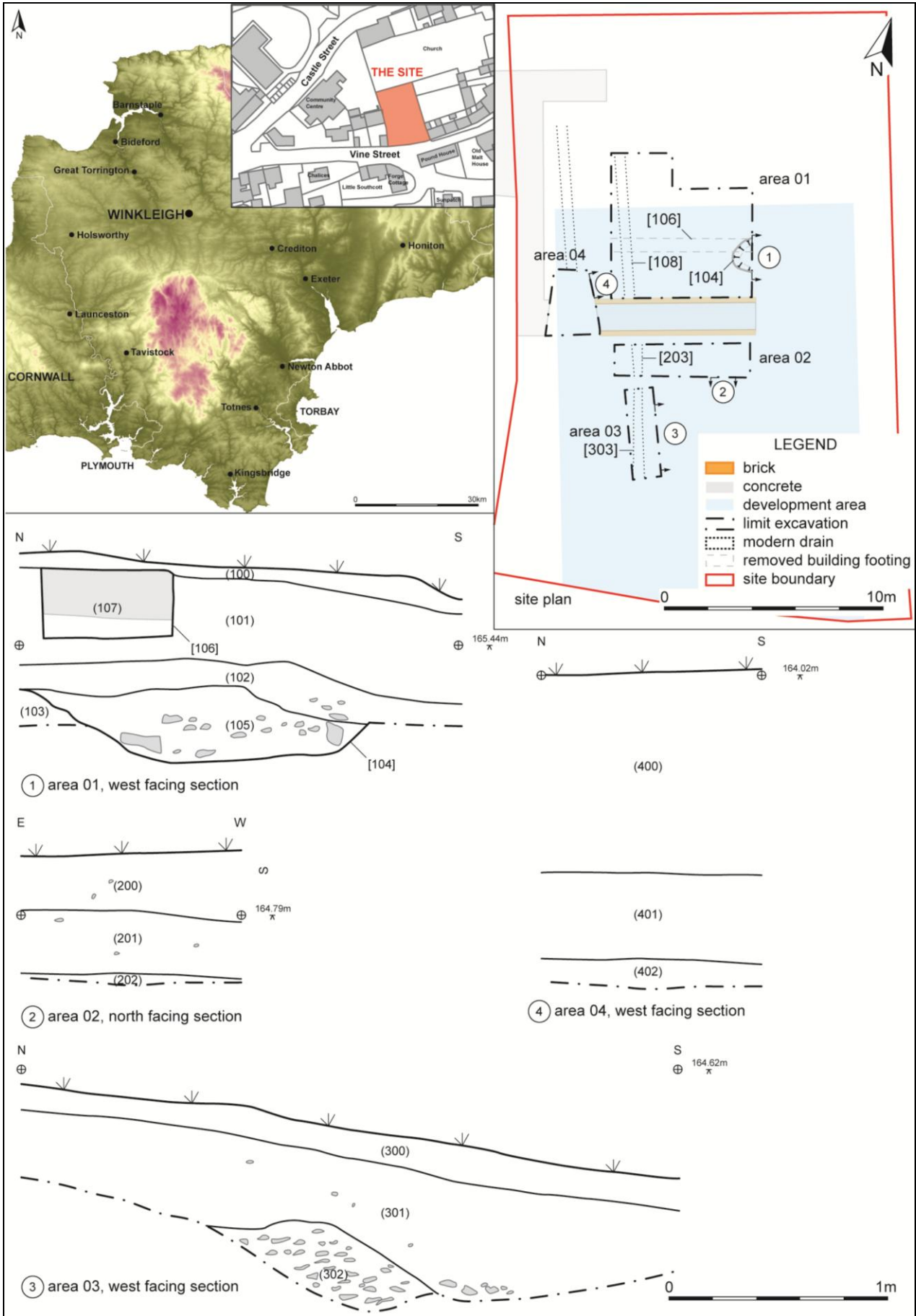


FIGURE 1: SITE PLAN AND SECTIONS, SHOWING LOCATION OF EXCAVATED AREAS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES.



FIGURE 2: AREA 01 POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (1M & 2M SCALES).



FIGURE 3: AREA 03 POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M & 2M SCALES).