

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Frithelstock, Torridge	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SS 46489 19431	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring at Pencleave Farm, Frithelstock, Torridge, Devon		<b>Photo attached?</b> YES
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 1/0676/2017/FUL	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon (MBND)	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> southwes1-296653	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> FPC17	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	
<p><b>Description of works.</b> Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Mr Nicholas Bond (the Client) during groundworks associated with the construction of a new barn at Pencleave Farm, Frithelstock, Torridge, Devon. The monitoring was carried out by P. Webb on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017. This work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Balmond 2017) drawn up in consultation with Stephen Reed of the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>The site lies within an area of high archaeological potential, close to the centre of the medieval Frithelstock and within 100m of Scheduled 13<sup>th</sup> century Augustinian Frithelstock Priory (List no.1009304). There are earthworks in the fields around the former priory, and fieldwork in the immediate area identified a stone culvert with possible monastic connections; grave digging within the churchyard has encountered masonry structures (Morris 2011).</p> <p>Pencleave Farm is located south of the main road through Frithelstock; the site is located immediately to the south of the farm (Figure 1). The soils of this area are the well-drained fine loamy soils of the Neath Association, bordering the well-drained fine loamy or fine silty soils of the Manod Association (SSEW 1983), which overlying the sandstones of the Bude Formation (BGS 2017).</p> <p>A rectangular area measuring c.35m×19m orientated approximately north-west to south-east was stripped under archaeological supervision by 360° tracked machine using a toothless grading bucket to a depth of up to 0.25m, this being the depth of archaeological layers or natural deposits. The natural stratigraphy on the site consisted of a soft mid greyish-brown clay-silt-loam topsoil up to 0.25m thick overlying the natural yellow clay and stone; most of the site had already been stripped to the level of the natural, which was concealed beneath a layer of wet viscous mud.</p> <p>No archaeological features were identified during the groundworks, the entire area having been terraced into the natural prior to the erection of the adjacent barn and ramped access track from the fields to the east.</p> <p>A small assemblage of finds were recovered during the excavations: 11 sherds (66g) of post-1720 white refined earthenware, 3 sherds (25g) of 19<sup>th</sup> century North Devon gravel-free pottery, a ceramic spoon handle (5g) and 2 fragments (14g) of clear vessel glass.</p> <p><b>Conclusions</b> The archaeological monitoring determined that the site had been truncated, the existing barn having been terraced into the hillside.</p> <p><b>Bibliography</b> <b>Balmond, F.</b> 2017: <i>Pencleave Farm, Frithelstock, Torrington, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH report no. FPC17WSIv1. <b>British Geological Survey</b> 2017: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. <a href="http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html">http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html</a> [accessed 22.12.2017]. <b>Morris, B.</b> 2011: <i>Archaeological Monitoring and Recording on Land Adjacent to the Clinton Arms</i>. Devon HER event EDV5375. <b>Soil Survey of England and Wales</b> 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> P. Webb	<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 22.12.17	

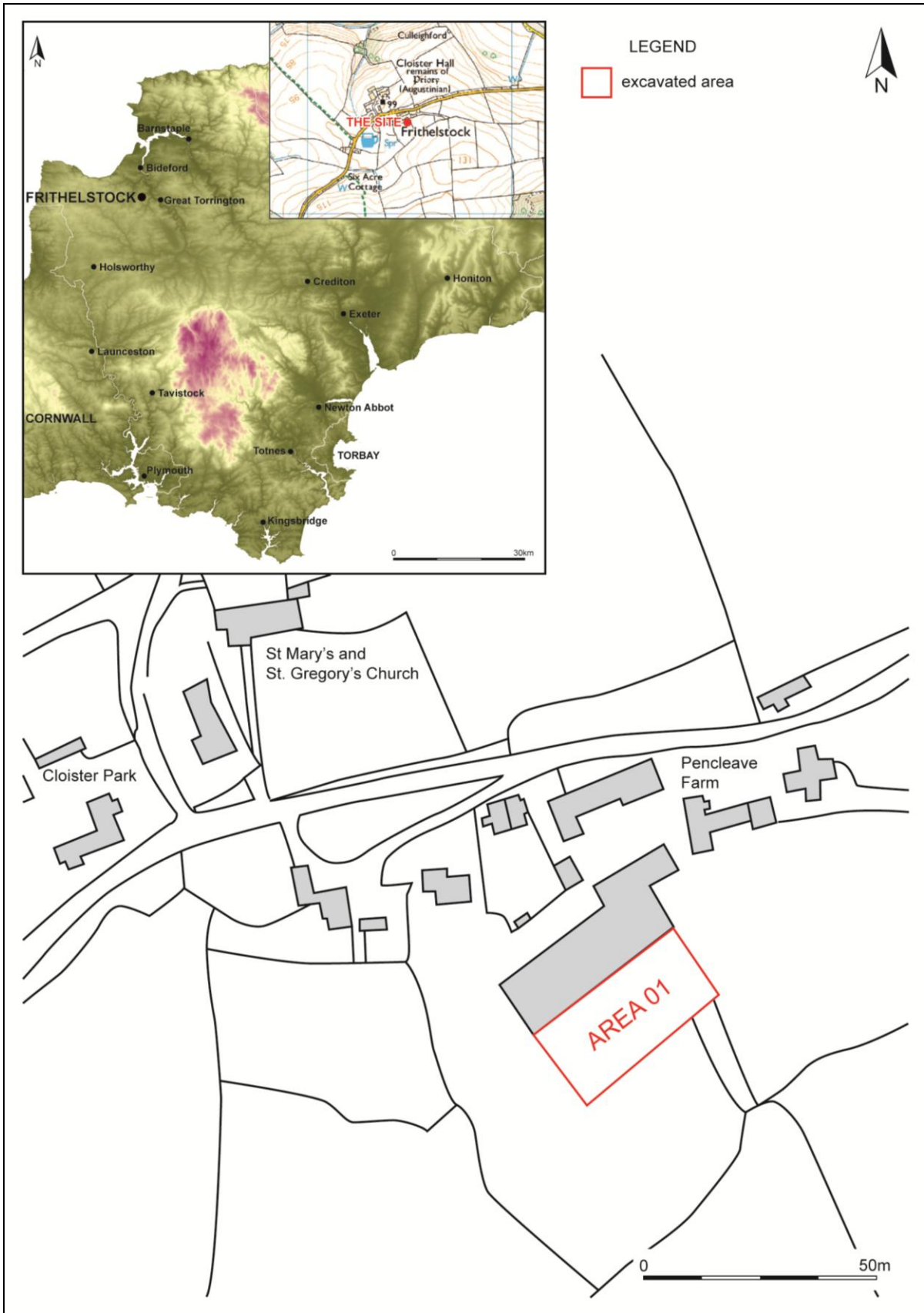


Figure 1: Site location





Figure 2: Area 01 viewed from the south-west, prior to the removal of the yard mud.



Figure 3: Area 01 viewed from the south-west (1m & 2m scale).