

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Ogwell, Teignbridge	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SX 81886 70118	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Gaia House, West Ogwell, Devon during groundwork associated with the installation of a septic tank		<b>Photo attached?</b> YES
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 17/02689/FUL	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Royal Albert Memorial Museum	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> southwes1-304957	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> RAMM: 18/01	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> WOG17	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	
<p><b>Description of works.</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Iain Fraser (the Client), during groundwork associated with the installation of a septic tank at Gaia House, West Ogwell, Devon (Figure 1). This work was undertaken on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of January 2018 in accordance with a WSI drawn up in consultation with Stephen Reed of the Devon County Historic Environment Team.</p> <p>Gaia House is a 16<sup>th</sup> century building, which may have had earlier origins and was redesigned in the Georgian period and 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is at a height of c.60m AOD, overlooking Barham's Brook. It is adjacent to the 12<sup>th</sup> century parish church. In 2010 SWARCH conducted a desk-based assessment and monitoring and recording (SWARCH Report No.101125) for an area immediately south of the site. This revealed an undated ditch of a possible medieval manorial or church enclosure that may predate the existing house. It also revealed walls and a cobbled surface associated with a barn, which although undated is depicted on the OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition map of 1888, and was demolished following damage during the hurricane of 1987.</p> <p>A rectangular area approximately 11m×4.50m north-west of the house was excavated by a tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket to the depth of <i>in situ</i>/weathered natural. The southern extent of the site met with a wall exposed during monitoring and recording in 2010 (SWARCH Report No.101125). The southern end of the area had been disturbed. A mostly demolished yard surface was present at the south end of the excavated area, presumably associated with the exterior and later phases of the structure identified in 2010; and part of a Victorian septic chamber was present at the north end of the site (see Figures 1-5). The south-west corner of the tank was demolished during the works and the rest in-filled with rock.</p> <p>Topsoil (100) consisted of a shallow turf and a dark brown-grey, friable clay-silt (&lt;0.20m thick), which contained the remnants of a rough stone yard surface, (114); and in the south-west corner overlaid buried topsoil (101), and made-ground (104) across the rest of the site area. (101) was a mid brown-grey, friable clay-silt (0.20m thick) with some of (114) seemingly set into it, although this had been largely truncated. Made-ground (104) was a light brown-grey, soft-firm shillet fragments and clay mixed with topsoil and debris (0.18m thick). (101) overlaid subsoil (102), a light yellow-brown, soft-friable silt-clay with moderate shillet fragments (&lt;0.26m thick). (102) was cut by Wall foundation {113}. {113} was two courses of rough stone with lime mortar bond, overlaid by a made-ground/backfill of the 2010 excavations. Made-ground group &lt;110&gt;, which included from the top down; (105), a dark grey-brown, friable clay-silt (0.10m thick); (106), a mid grey grit with clay that was compact to loose (&lt;0.13m thick); (107), which was the same as (105); and (108), which was the same as (106). These overlaid the Fill (109), a light grey-yellow, compact shillet and clay and gravels mottled with soil (mainly redeposited natural) (0.32m thick), which overlaid the heavily modified Victorian septic tank, {112}. Septic Tank {112} had stone walls with lime mortar and an internal cement render with a frogged Victorian brick vaulted roof; it had a 0.65m square central manhole and 9 inch Victorian ceramic inlet and outlet pipes and internal dimensions of c.3.90m in length, 2.8m wide and 3m deep from the top of the manhole/2.5m deep from the bottom of the arched roof. Tank {112} filled construction cut [111], which had gentle sides to the top of the vertical walls then vertical sides to a flat base. It cut Natural (103). Natural (103) was a light yellow-grey, compact clay and shillet, which had been variably weathered due to its composition and bioturbation from two large trees that had until recently been in this area.</p> <p>All finds recovered from the site were subsequently discarded. Topsoil finds included large amounts of white refined earthenware (WRE) and modern debris that was discarded on site. Subsoil (102) contained ×1 oyster shell (33g), ×1 sherd (8g) 19<sup>th</sup> century red industrial tin glazed ware and ×1 sherd (5g) of post-medieval gravel free ware with a dark green glaze (North Devon ware). Fill (109), sealing the Victorian septic/drainage tank, contained ×1 machine made brick fragment (550g), approximately half a hand-made brick (1357g), ×1 modern CBM fragment (7g), ×1 sherd (3g) of White Refined Earthenware, ×1 oyster shell (12g), ×2 fragments (327g) of lime mortar and ×3 fragments (21g) of sawn animal bone (probably cow).</p> <p>The excavated area contained no significant archaeological features or deposits.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> J. Bampton		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 16/01/2018

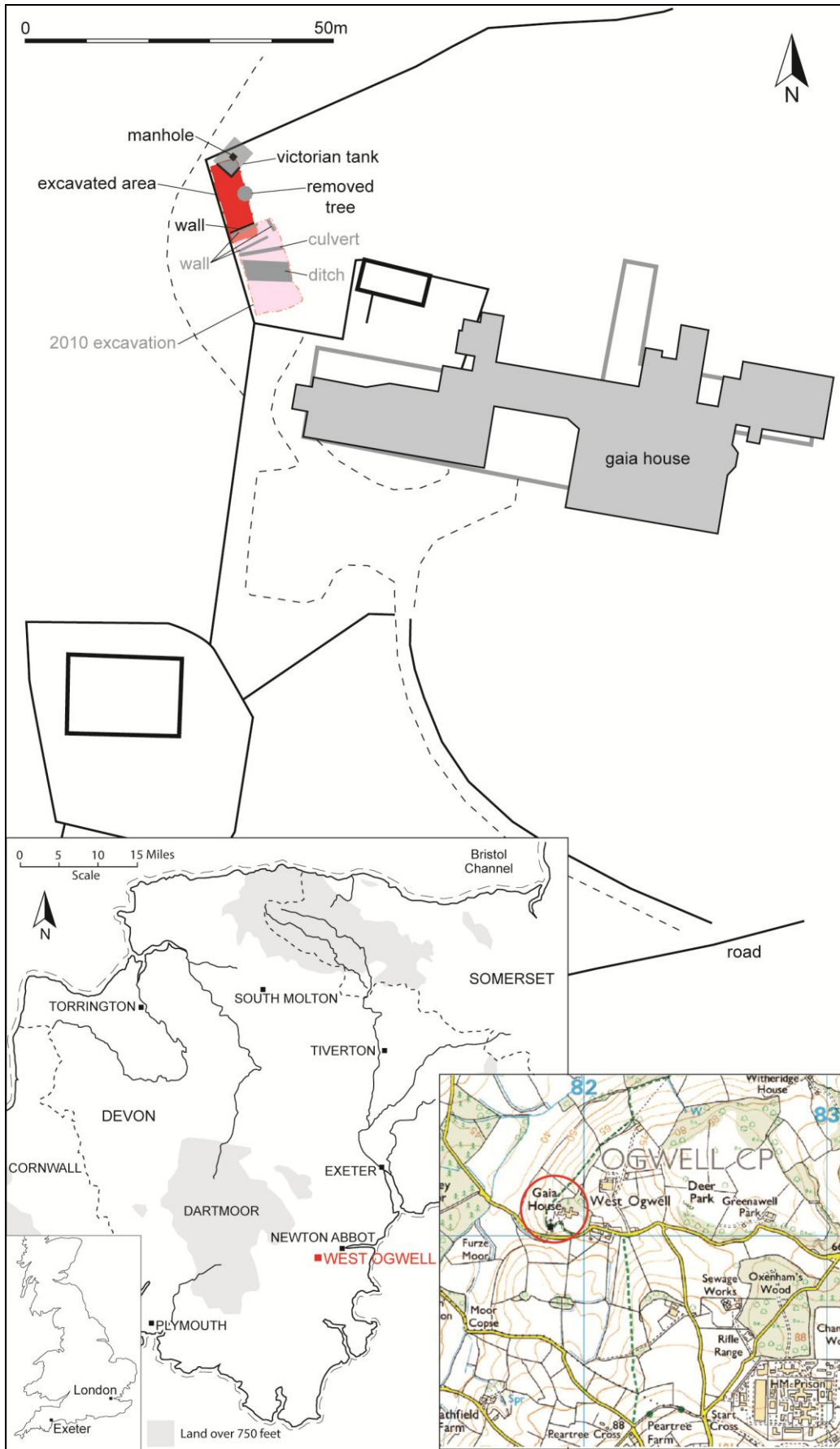


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION AND SITE PLAN. THE RESULTS OF THE 2010 EXCAVATIONS ARE INCLUDED FOR REFERENCE.

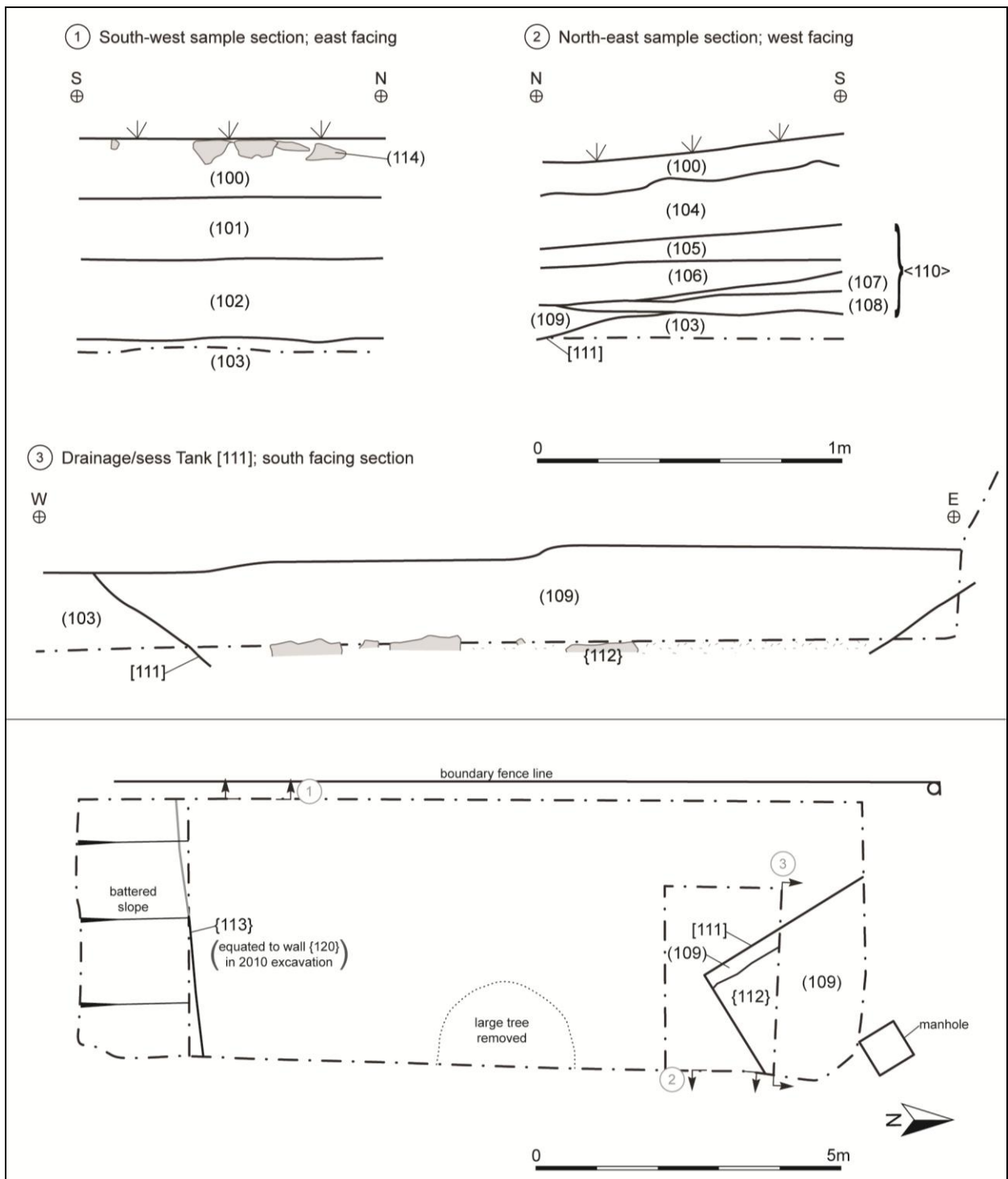


FIGURE 2: PLAN OF EXCAVATED AREA AND SECTION DRAWINGS.





FIGURE 3: SITE SHOT, POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-SOUTH-EAST (1M & 2M SCALE).



FIGURE 4: VICTORIAN TANK, PARTIAL DEMOLITION; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (NO SCALE).



FIGURE 5: SITE SHOT, POST INSERTION OF NEW SEPTIC TANK VIEWED FROM ABOVE AND THE NORTH-WEST (NO SCALE).