

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Tavistock, West Devon	National Grid Reference: SX 47889 74240	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring & recording at Abbey Surgery, Tavistock, Devon		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 17/00910/FUL	Recipient museum: Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery	
OASIS ID: southwes1-307266	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: TPC18	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 4 th October 2018	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring & recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of James Lockyer Associates (the Agent) on behalf of Day Lewis (the Client) during groundworks carried out in association with the construction of a new pharmacy building at Abbey Surgery, Plymouth Road, Tavistock, Devon. The monitoring was carried out by P. Webb on 4th October 2018. This work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Balmond 2018) drawn up in consultation with Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>The site is located in the centre of the modern settlement of Tavistock, off the A386, Plymouth Road, and is situated within the Tavistock Conservation Area. Tavistock is a medieval borough created in the early 12th century and was made a stannary town in 1304. The wealth of the town was a result of the success of a combination of woollen cloth production; and the tin and copper trades. The site lies in an area of archaeological potential, c.200m south-east of Tavistock Abbey, within former fields located immediately outside of the former monastic precinct. There are a significant number of Listed buildings in the area surrounding the site, including the Grade II Listed Tavistock Methodist Church, located opposite the site to the north. The surgery which occupies the site is housed within a former school building, established by the 7th Duke of Bedford in 1856 to a design by Edward Rundle. The northern section of the Tavistock Canal lies just to the south of the site, the Abbey Wharf shown on historic Ordnance Survey mapping to both the north and south of the canal.</p> <p>Tavistock is located approximately 18km north of Plymouth, on the western fringes of Dartmoor National Park, covering both banks of the River Tavy (Figure 1). The site is situated on the north-western bank at the foot of the river valley the eastern bank of the River Culm, at a height of approximately 85m AOD. The site lies in an unsurveyed urban area (SSEW 1983) overlying sandstone and argillaceous rocks of the St Mellion Formation of the Teign Valley Group with superficial deposits of alluvial clay, silt, sand and gravel (BGS 2018).</p> <p>An approximately 'L' shaped area measuring up to c.15m×10m to a depth of up to 0.75m deep. The site was initially cleared of modern surface layers prior to archaeological monitoring and was subsequently excavated to the depth of formation under archaeological supervision by a machine using a toothless grading bucket. The stratigraphy of the site comprised: modern tarmac (100) and paving (101), and (102) c.0.06-0.08m thick; overlying mixed yellow and white-grey sands (103), (104), (105), (107), and (108) each up to c.0.20m thick; grey-brown clays (106), and (109) up to c.0.30m thick; and a woven hessian membrane (110) less than 0.01m thick. These all overlay a mid-dark brown-grey alluvial clay (111) 0.30+m thick.</p> <p>No archaeological features were identified during the excavations, and no finds were recovered.</p> <p>Conclusions</p> <p>No evidence of archaeological features was identified during the groundworks, the site stratigraphy demonstrating that the site had been stripped to the depth of alluvial clay when the existing car park and paving surfaces were created; the alluvial clay having presumably been deposited by former courses of the River Tavy.</p> <p>Bibliography</p> <p>Balmond, F. 2018: Pharmacy at Abbey Surgery 28 Plymouth Road, Tavistock, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation. SWARCH report no. TPC18WSlv1.</p> <p>British Geological Survey 2018: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html [accessed 08.10.2018].</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: 10.10.18	

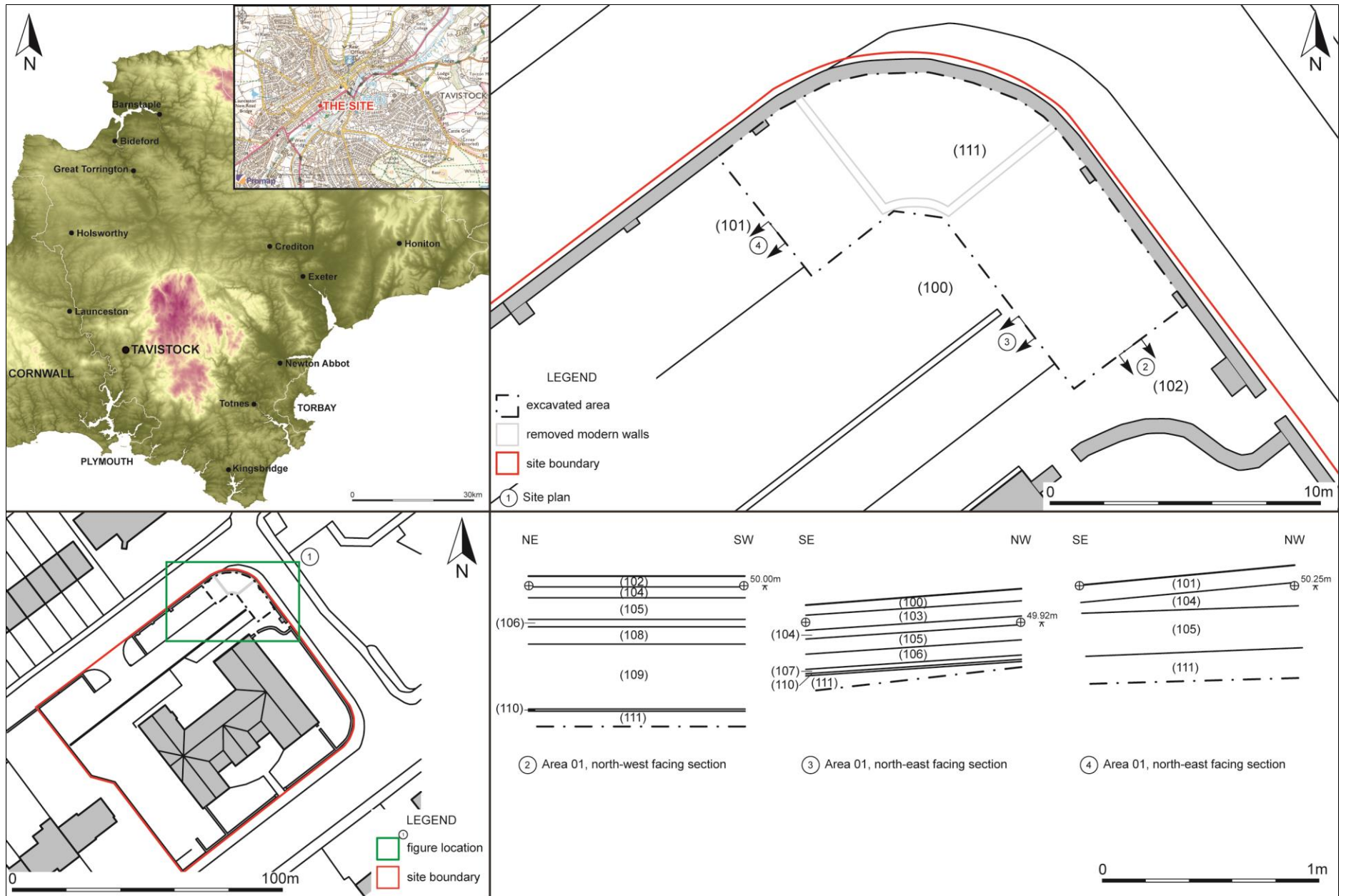


FIGURE 1: SITE PLAN AND SECTIONS. HEIGHTS AT AN ARBITRARY TBM OF 50.00M AOD.



FIGURE 2: AREA 01, NORTH-EAST FACING SECTION BENEATH TARMAC CAR PARK; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (SCALE 2M).



FIGURE 3: AREA 01, POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (SCALES 1M & 2M).