

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Atherington, North Devon	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SS 59057 23047	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological evaluation trenching on land at Bonds Farm, Atherington, Devon prior to a residential development		<b>Photo attached?</b> YES
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 60860	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> southwes1-307743	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> NDDMS 2.2018a	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> ABF18	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	
<p><b>Description of works.</b></p> <p>Archaeological evaluation trenching was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Lee Martin (the Client), prior to a residential development at Bonds Farm, Atherington, North Devon, Devon. This work was undertaken on 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> February 2018 in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (SWARCH ref ABF18WSIv1) drawn up in consultation with Stephen Reed of the Devon County Historic Environment Team.</p> <p>The site lies across a long rectangular parcel of land immediately west of Bonds Farm, on the south side of the B3227, c.60m south-west of the St Mary's Church in the centre of Atherington. The site slopes down gently from the north to south, at heights of between c.120m and c.117m AOD. The earliest documentary reference to Atherington is from the 13<sup>th</sup> century: It would previously have been within the estate of the Domesday manor at Umberleigh. Bonds Farm is a 17<sup>th</sup> century Grade II Listed building and the nearby St Mary's Church is a predominantly 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century Grade I Listed building, although likely much earlier in origin. The 1839 tithe map and apportionment denotes the site as divided into two fields with the majority of the land listed as <i>meadow</i> and the southern end listed as <i>orchard</i>.</p> <p>Seven trenches, each 1.20m wide and totalling 67m in length were excavated by a tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket to the depth of <i>in-situ</i> weathered natural (between depths of c.1.80-0.36m). The ground across much of the site had been made-up. A single post-medieval ditch was present. A historic boundary which formerly divided the site was not encountered, so may have been missed or have been formed by a fence line that left no residual impact (see Figures 1-5).</p> <p>In Trench 1 a severely root disturbed mid grey, friable clay-silt Topsoil (0.36m thick) directly overlaid the Natural, a light yellow, compact shillet and clay. The Natural became more clayey towards the south of the site and in Trench 7 was a light brown-yellow, soft-firm clay with occasional shillet stones. Across the rest of the site the Topsoil was c.0.25-0.31m thick. In Trench 2 Topsoil (200) overlaid Subsoil (201), a mid red-brown, friable clay silt with moderate stone inclusions. Other than at the northern end of the site the ground had been made-up. In Trenches 3 and 4 a re-deposited layer of mixed subsoil/topsoil, Made-grounds (301) and (401), was between the Topsoil and the Subsoil. In Trenches 5 and 6 Made-grounds (501) and (601) were light grey-yellow, compact clay (re-deposited natural), again located between the Topsoil and Subsoil. Additionally, Trench 6 contained Made-ground (602), a light yellow-brown, firm silt-clay mix of redeposited Subsoil and Natural. In Trench 7, the Made-ground layers were comprised of re-deposited Subsoil/Topsoil; (701), a light grey-brown, firm silt-clay with occasional small stone inclusions; and (702), a mid red-brown, firm silt clay with moderate-frequent stone inclusions. The subsoil in Trench 7, (703) was relatively soft and overlaid a second deposit of Subsoil, (704), a light yellow-brown, soft silt-clay horizon above the natural. Generally, the depth of stony root disturbed subsoil across the site may be indicative of the historic use of the site as an orchard. The south end of the site may have originally been a slight coombe, or simply have fallen towards the valley to the south-south-west, having been leveled in recent centuries.</p> <p>The only archaeological feature encountered was a single post-medieval ditch. Ditch [303], which aligned east-north-east by west-south-west with steep sides, a sharp break of slope, a flat base and a single fill, (304). Fill (304) was a dark red-brown, soft silt-clay with moderate small-medium stones (similar to the Subsoil). It contained post-medieval finds.</p> <p>All finds recovered from the site were subsequently discarded. The Topsoil finds included: ×6 sherds (66g) of White Refined Earthenware (WRE); ×1 sherd (1g) of 19<sup>th</sup> century red industrial ware; a 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century inkwell (98g); ×1 fragment (1g) of modern glass. Subsoil (201) contained ×1 sherd (3g) of 19<sup>th</sup> century tin glazed ware. Made-ground (401) contained ×1 sherd (2g) of WRE and ×1 fragment (4g) of clear panel glass. Ditch Fill (304) contained ×2 sherds (3g) of post-medieval (18<sup>th</sup> century) North Devon Gravel Free ware; ×1 sherd (9g) of post-medieval North Devon Gravel Tempered ware; and ×1 fragment (1g) of a thin clay pipe stem with a splash of green and brown glaze.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> J. Bampton	<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 09/02/2018	

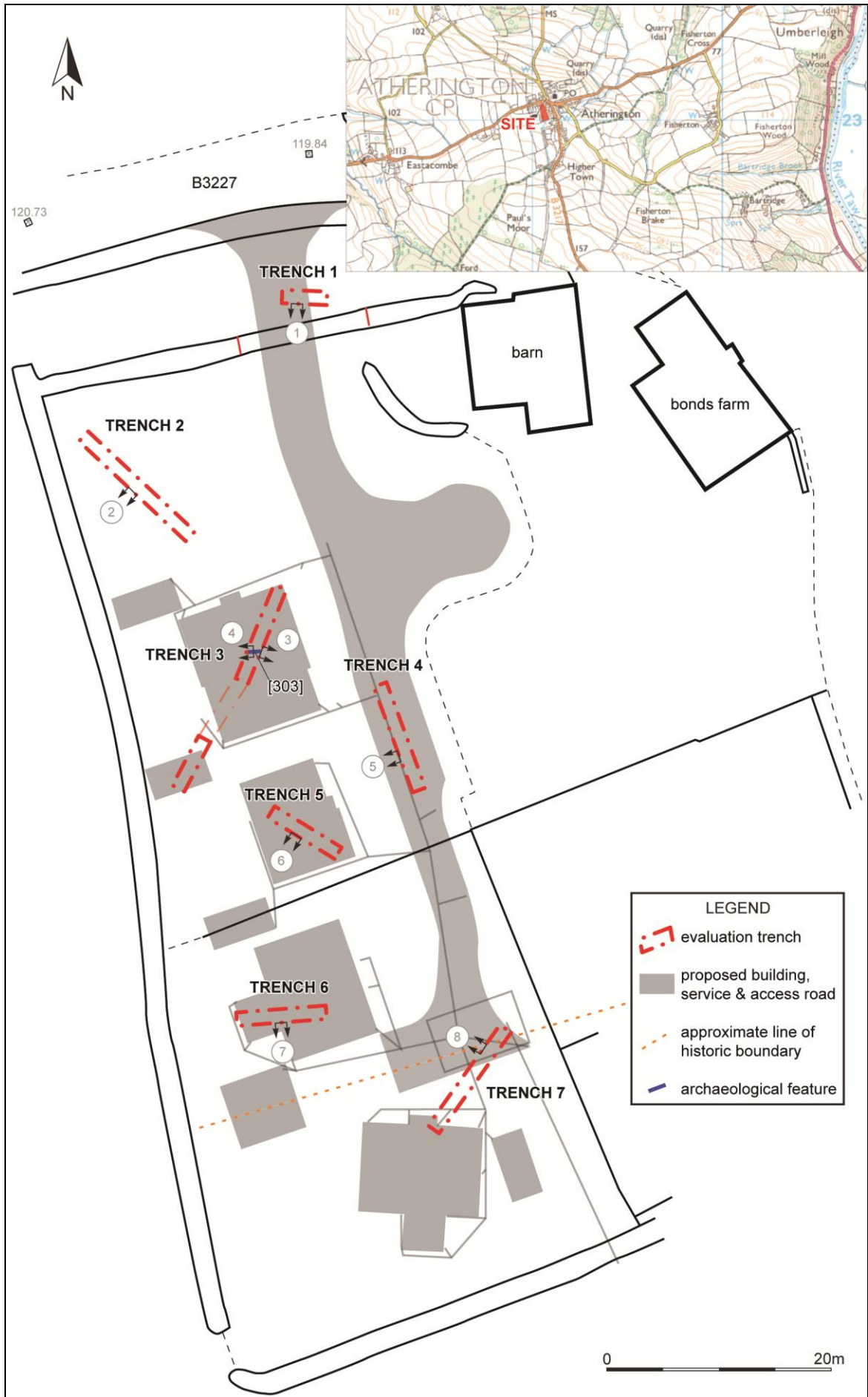


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION AND PLAN; SHOWING FEATURE AND TRENCH LOCATIONS.

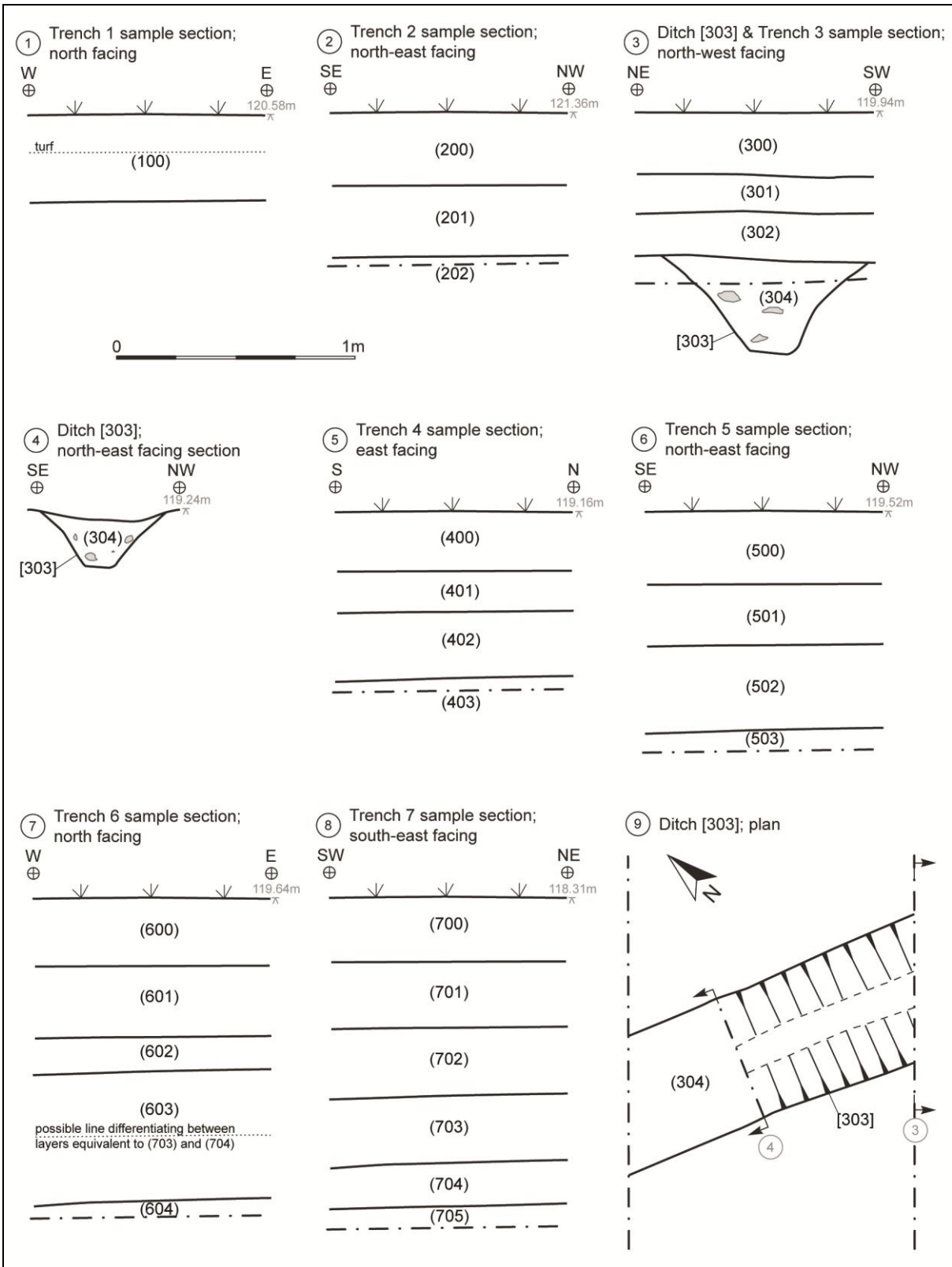


FIGURE 2: SECTION DRAWINGS AND FEATURE PLAN.



FIGURE 3: SITE SHOT, POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (NO SCALE).



FIGURE 4: DITCH [303]; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (1M SCALE).



FIGURE 5: TRENCH 6; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (2M SCALE).