

# TIME TEAM DIGITAL: DIG VILLAGE TEST PITTING SOUTH OF THE TITHE BARN

**DUNSTER  
SOMERSET**

RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEST PITTING



South West Archaeology Ltd. report no. 180808

TIME TEAM DIGITAL: DIG VILLAGE, TEST PITTING SOUTH OF THE TITHE BARN,  
DUNSTER, SOMERSET  
RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEST PITTING

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By J. Bampton  
Report Version FINAL  
8<sup>th</sup> August 2018

Work undertaken by SWARCH for Time Team Dig Village (the Client)

### Summary

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*This report presents the results of a single archaeological evaluation (test pit) carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) in the garden south of the Tithe Barn, Dunster, Somerset. This work was informed by an earlier program of test pitting in Dunster as part of the Time Team Digital Dig Village. The purpose of this work was to establish the depth of natural within the garden and potentially locate remains of a cloister associated with Dunster Priory.*

*The test pit validated the theory that the cloister of the priory that fell into decline post its dissolution, c.1539, probably extended as far as this point in the gardens south of the tithe barn; however, the amount of post-medieval activity across the gardens leaves opportunity for speculation as to multiple phases of post-medieval garden redesign and activity. It ascertained the depth of natural in this part of the garden and identified approximately three phases of post-medieval garden activity, including bedding terraces and possibly two pathways. The test pit revealed features (a pit and gully) either contemporary to-, or earlier than the Priory.*

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August 2018

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

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<b>LOCATION:</b>	GARDEN SOUTH OF THE TITHE BARN
<b>PARISH:</b>	DUNSTER
<b>DISTRICT:</b>	WEST SOMERSET
<b>COUNTY:</b>	SOMERSET
<b>NGR:</b>	SS 99042 43697
<b>SWARCH REF:</b>	DDV18

### 1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

This report presents the results of archaeological test pit carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) with community engagement, at the request of- and in conjuncture with Time Team Digital Dig Village (the Client) at the garden south of the Tithe Barn, Dunster, Somerset (Figure 1). The purpose of this test pit was to investigate the potential site of the cloisters of Dunster Priory. The work was carried out in accordance with a Project Design (Balmond 2018) drawn up in consultation with Exmoor National Park Authority (ENPA).

### 1.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Dunster is located on the north-east edge of Exmoor National Park, in Somerset on the A369, c.3km south-east of Minehead and less than 2kmsouth-west of Blue Anchor Bay in the Bristol Channel, in an area of steep wooded hills and valleys on the edge of Exmoor. The majority of the village is located on the north-west side of Dunster Castle, which is situated on the River Avill. The site specifically was located at the west end of a relatively level grass garden on the north side of St Georges Church, immediately south of the village Tithe barn, between roads called Priory Green and Church Street. The site was at a height of c.44m AOD.

The underlying geology is the Triassic mudstone of the Mercia Mudstone Group (BGS 2018); this is overlain by the well drained, coarse loamy soils over rock of the Rivington 2 Association (SSEW 1983).

### 1.3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Much of the following background is taken from the Exmoor HER; some of which appears reliant on an earlier archaeological assessment (Gathercole 2002).

Dunster is one of three classic castle/priory/boroughs, along with Montacute and Stogursey, to survive in Somerset. Prior to the Norman Conquest, Dunster (*Torre*) was held by Ælfric. In 1086 Dunster (MSO9461, now a Conservation Area) was held by William de Mohun (or *Moyon*) (Williams and Martin 2002), who built Dunster Castle and Priory (MSO9407). The manor of Dunster was bought by the Luttrell family in 1375. Dunster was first recorded by name as *Dunestore* in 1138, meaning 'Dunn's Torr', derived from a personal name and the Old English *torr*, meaning 'rock' or 'rocky outcrop', referring to the hill on which the castle was built (Watts 2004). The medieval Borough of Dunster was first recorded in 1197, a market was granted to the town in 1222 and it developed through the medieval period as a market centre, harbour and cloth manufacturer, although Minehead had superseded it as a harbour by the 15<sup>th</sup> century (MSO9461).

The priory was Benedictine and founded in 1190 as a cell of the Abbey at Bath. In the late 11<sup>th</sup> and mid 12<sup>th</sup> centuries the priory could host and had increased its endowments and holdings. In 1332 it housed a Prior and four monks. In 1539 the priory was dissolved and passed to the crown and

subsequently sold to the Lutrell family in 1543. The priory was located on the north side of St Georges Church (MSO9435) and today an 'L'-shaped set of buildings (MSO12115), dated c.1380, represent what had been a refectory, offices and lodgings, to the west of which would have been a cloister. After the dissolution the priory eventually fell in to disrepair and there is a report of timber and tile being taken from the 'cloister court' to be used or sold for church repairs. Some post-medieval buildings along Priory Green road appear to incorporate parts of earlier priory buildings (MSO9407).

The site lies within community gardens on the north side of the church. This area is designated as part of the Dunster Castle Registered Park and Garden and is within the Dunster Conservation Area. The site is surrounded by a number of listed buildings including a Grade II\* Listed dovecote (MSO9437, also a scheduled ancient monument), the Grade I Listed Priory Church of St George (MSO9435), and the Grade II Listed Tithe Barn (MSO9436). The barn and the dovecote contain 16<sup>th</sup> century fabric. The tithe barn overlays an earlier structure, but dendro-dates from its roof are 17<sup>th</sup> century in date and most of the current structure is considered to be 19<sup>th</sup> century. The earliest documented account of a barn on the site is from 1498.

The church is 15<sup>th</sup> century with late 19<sup>th</sup> century renovations, although it contains 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century material. An 18<sup>th</sup> century map shows a building (MEM23772) to the north of the church, adjacent to the wall beside the proposed test pit. This building was absent from the 1842 tithe map. When compared 18<sup>th</sup> century 19<sup>th</sup> century mapping also indicate that the wall adjacent to the proposed test pit may have been remodelled with a possible 'linhay-type' structure to the north of the proposed test pit having been removed between the 18<sup>th</sup> and mid 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Dunster Priory Farm is shown on a late 18<sup>th</sup> century map with its farmyard arranged around the dovecote and with the tithe barn comprising its eastern boundary. The area in which the site is located is labelled priory garden (see Appendix 3 for supporting cartographic sources). The c.1842 tithe apportionment denotes the site (plot 59) as 'wall garden', a 'garden' belonging to- and occupied by John Fownes Luttrell Esq.

#### 1.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed test pit is in an area that has previously been subject to a number of 1m x 1m test pits as part of the *Time Team Digital Dunster Dig Village* project between 2012 and 2017. This project has included dendro-dating of structures within Dunster and research of the town. Two of the test pits excavated in the 2018 phase of work, and located adjacent to the test pit (subject of this report) revealed the tops of a north-south aligned stone wall. The intensive use of the site as a garden area in the post-medieval period has been asserted by a watching brief from 2009 during the installation of cable ducting north of the church (MEM22273). It revealed large quantities of 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century pottery from ostensibly cultivated soils. It also revealed a wall foundation aligned north-south, 0.6m below ground level, c.1m wide, similar in construction to walls excavated west of the tithe barn and dated as medieval and partially obscured by the present boundary wall, thought to have been erected in the mid-late 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is a possibly the western extent of the priory cloister wall (MEM22272). A map of heritage assets and archaeological works near to the site, and a summary table of them, can be seen in Appendix 4.

#### 1.5 METHODOLOGY

This work was conducted in accordance with best practice and CiFA guidelines; *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (CiFA 2015) and *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment* (CiFA 2014). The archaeological works in this instance entails the excavation of a 3m x 2m wide trench by hand to the depth of *in situ* weathered natural.

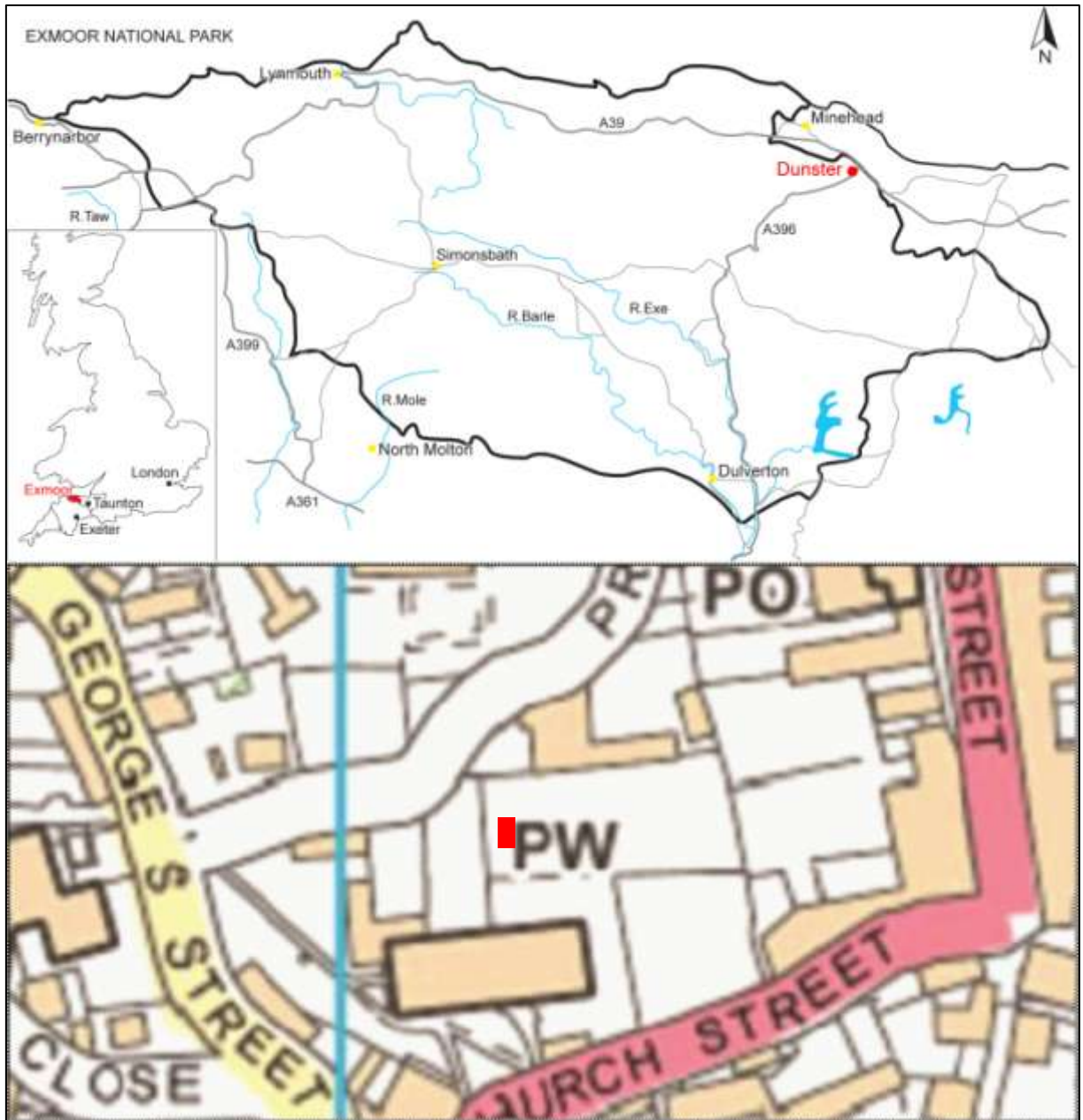


Figure 1: Site location (the approximate location of the trench is indicated in red).

## 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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### 2.1 INTRODUCTION

This investigation forms part of an ongoing test pit evaluation of Dunster as part of the *Time Team Digital: Dig Village*. It is intended to clarify the results of six test pits excavated in the field south of the tithe barn that showed variation in their deposit models and identified a potential wall (Stewart Ainsworth *pers. com.*). The test pit aimed to validate a theory locating the walls of a cloister, and may cross part of an outer cloister wall. It also aimed to confirm the depth of *in situ* weathered natural.

A single trench, 3m×2m wide, was excavated near the middle of the far west end of the field to the south of the tithe barn (see Figure 8). It revealed multiple phases of activity, the earliest phase being a pit and gully. The pit was overlaid by a wall that was eventually partially removed and buried and subsequently a series of soil beds lined or retained with slate edging and a possible drain and posthole and pit were excavated before being buried and a garden path laid, again with slate edging; which was itself subsequently buried with topsoil. Full Context Descriptions can be seen in Appendix 1 and supporting photographs in Appendix 5.

### 2.2 SITE INSPECTION

The site is in a rectangular garden between the tithe barn and the church. The garden was bounded with high brick walls with a lean-to built against the southern side of the tithe barn. The garden was under short grass and public access was granted between Priory Green Road and gardens east of the church. The garden had slight undulations across it that locals suggest are the result of garden beds and activity in the recent past that has subsequently been levelled and buried. The north end of the trench was noted to be adjacent to a blocked entrance in the brick wall, which was located immediately west of the test pit.

### 2.3 DEPOSIT MODEL

Given the extent of disturbance across the test pit from, presumably, the medieval period onwards, the test pit is probably not a typical representation of site stratigraphy/sediment history across the wider area. However, Natural (118), a compact light orange-brown clay occurred at a depth of 1.09m below the current ground level. It was overlaid by c.0.83m of made-ground layers that defined possible garden features and paths. Of note was the earliest made-ground layer, (117) that was between 0.14 and 0.20m thick, which sealed the earliest identified features and was subsequently cut by Wall {121}. The made-ground layers were overlaid by a 0.18m thick modern Topsoil, (101), of friable dark grey-brown clay-silt loam and another c.0.08m of turf (100).

### 2.4 TEST PIT (TP57 OF THE DIG VILLAGE PROGRAM) DESCRIPTION AND RESULTS

*The Test Pit (3m long × 2m wide), was aligned approximately north-south and was located near the middle of the western end of the garden south of the tithe barn. Wall {121} appeared to correspond in form to walls discovered in earlier test pits immediately east and south-east of this evaluation (TP25 and TP45). It cut a layer that contained medieval pottery and sealed the earlier Pit [119] and Gully [130]. A possible flower bed cut, [123], cut the layer that sealed Wall {121} and contained post-medieval pottery (see Figures 2-7). Subsequent features post dated this 'bed' and were associated with the use of the garden and possibly associated with a path that aligned with a blocked doorway in the adjacent garden wall, west of the test pit.*



The following description of the test pit is in stratigraphical order; from the earliest.

Gully [130] was a linear feature aligned north-east by south-west at the north end of the test pit. It had moderate slopes to a flat base. It cut Natural (118) and contained Fill (131), which contained moderate medium sub-angular and sub-rounded stones. It contained no finds. It was overlaid by made-ground (117), which contained possible 16<sup>th</sup> century ridge tile.

Made-ground (117) also overlaid the uppermost fill of Pit [119]. Pit [119] was partially exposed in the trench. It was sub-rectangular with very steep concave sides to a flat or broad concave base (not fully exposed). It contained four fills; (120), (124), (125) and (126), none of which contained any finds. It was also overlaid by Wall {121}.

Layer (117) was either cut by a construction cut [132] for Wall {121} or was built up against this wall. Wall {121} had no discernible/visible construction cut. Wall {121} was a stone wall with a clay bond that overlaid Pit [119] and that survived approximately three courses in height and had slumped slightly into Pit [119]. It was overlaid by Made-ground (114), which contained moderate amounts of mortar fragments.

Made-ground (114) was cut by 'flower-bed'/terrace cut [123], which had a moderately steep south slope and a flat base. Its southern edge was lined/retained with slate slabs, {113}. It contained fill/layer (112).

Fill/layer (112) was cut by 'Drain'/terrace cut [127] in the north end of the test pit and Posthole [115] in the south end of the test pit. Posthole [115] was ovoid in plan with vertical sides and a flat base with moderate-large packing stone that defined a sub-rectangular post-pipe filled by Fill (116), which contained no finds. It appeared to abut Wall {121} and although partially truncated it, perhaps define the edge of 'flower-bed'/terrace cut [123]. 'Drain'/terrace cut [127] had a near vertical south edge that was lined or retained by a wall of slate slabs, {122}. It contained Fill (128), which was overlaid by a thin mortar rich deposit, (111). The entire trench was then overlaid by Made-ground layer (104), which contained residual sherds of medieval pottery.

Made-ground (104) was overlaid by a stony made-ground defined as Path (103), which contained a fragment of medieval floor tile. It was either cut by- or abutted possible Posthole [109], an ovoid to sub-rectangular feature with vertical sides and a single fill, (110), which contained a possible piece of medieval or later pottery. Along the eastern edge of the test pit a thin intermittent sediment, (108), which was like a topsoil, overlaid (104) and was cut by Pit [106]. Pit [106] contained two fills; (129) and (107).

Fills (107) and (110) were overlaid by Layer (102), a relatively topsoil rich subsoil, which extended across the eastern edge of the test pit and was separated from Layer (103) by a wall of slate slabs, {105}. Layer (102) contained post-medieval pottery. The slate line, {105}, defined the eastern edge of Path (103).

Layers (102) and (103) and the slate line {105} were all overlain by Topsoil (101), which was overlain by Turf (100) and contained medieval to modern pottery.



FIGURE 2: TEST PIT POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (1M SCALE).

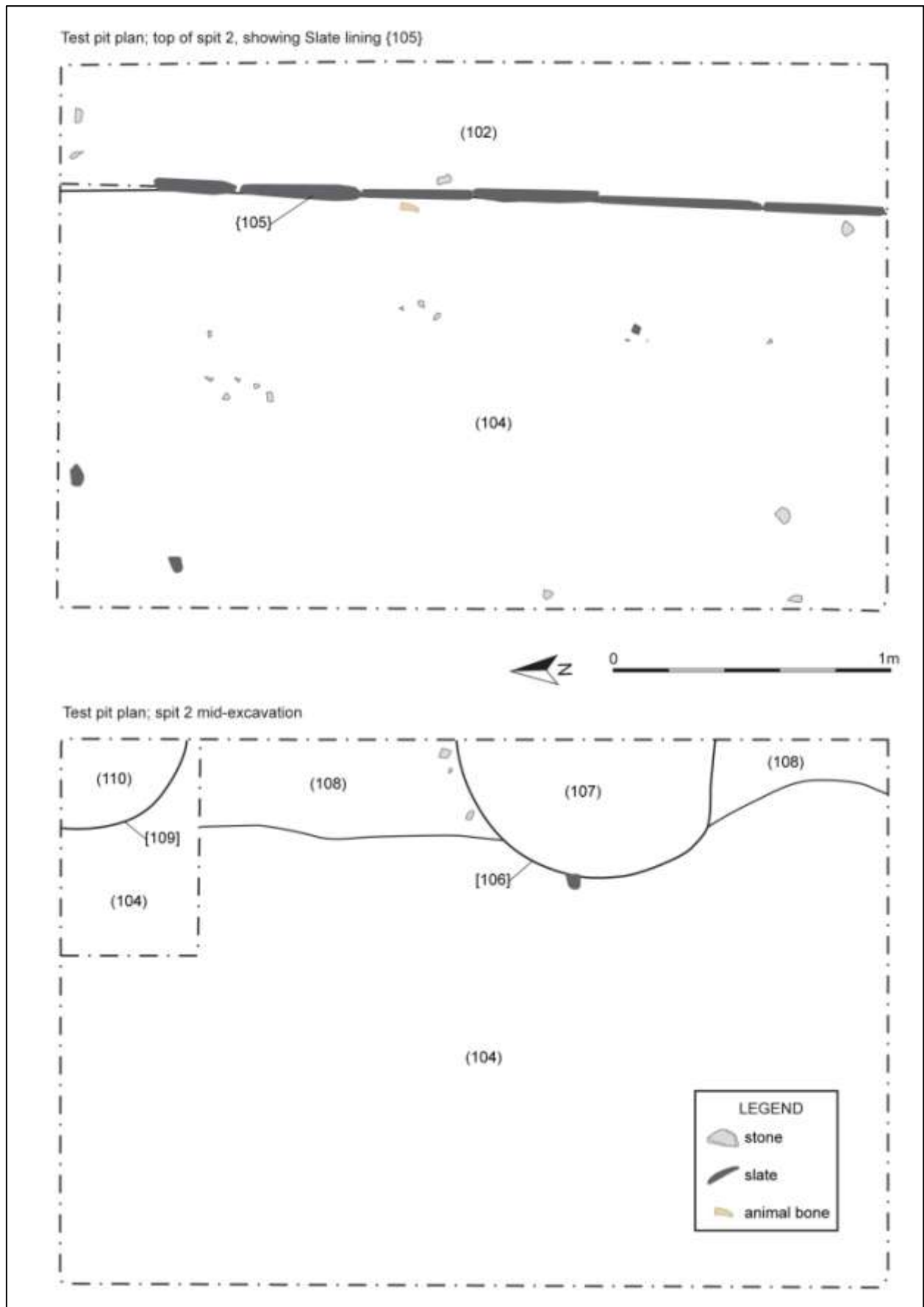


FIGURE 3: PLANS OF TEST PIT, POST-EXCAVATION OF TOPSOIL AND LAYER (103).

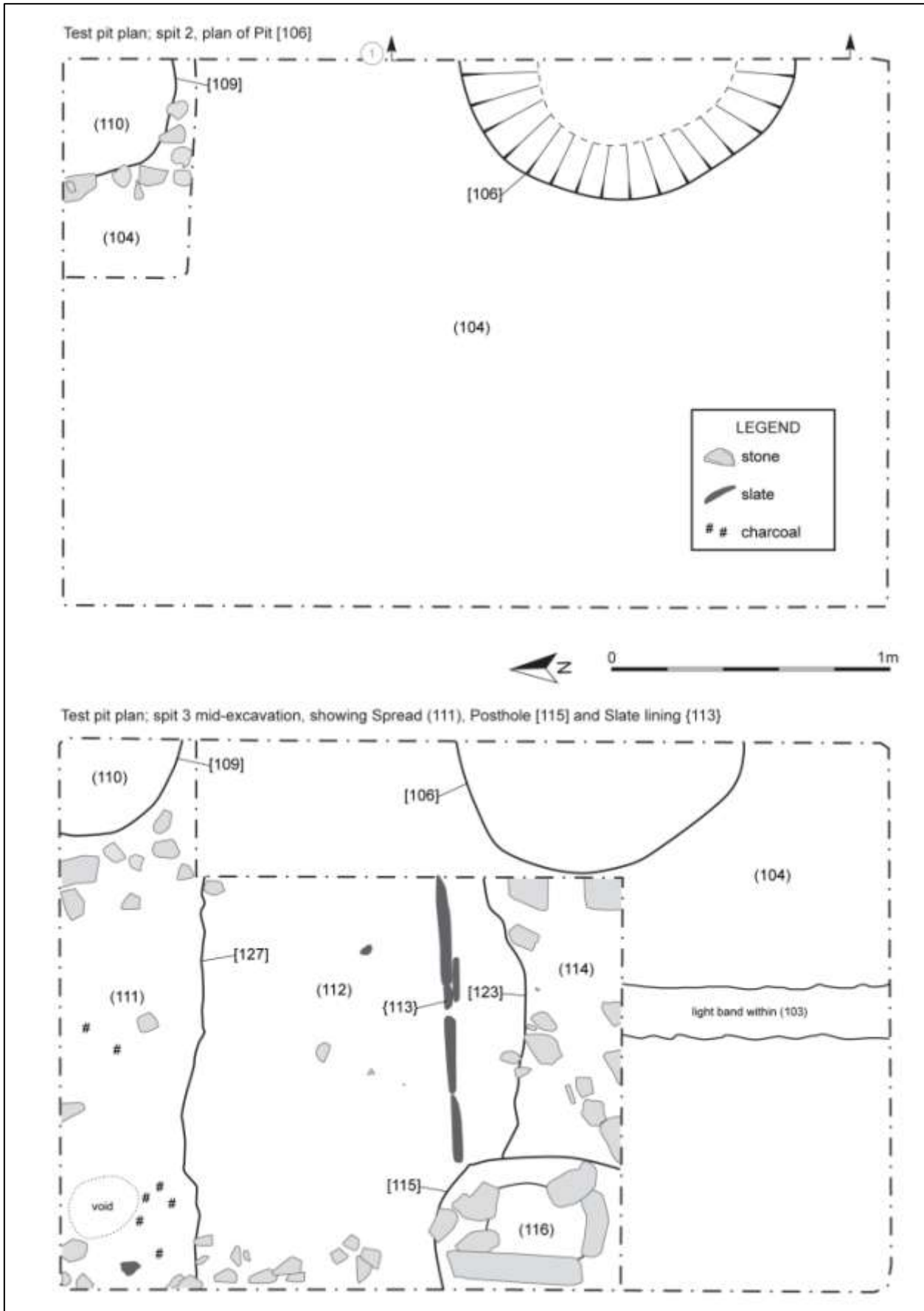


FIGURE 4: PLANS OF TEST PIT, POST-EXCAVATION OF PIT [106] AND PARTIAL EXCAVATION THROUGH LAYER (104) (FOR SECTION DRAWING SEE FIGURE 6).

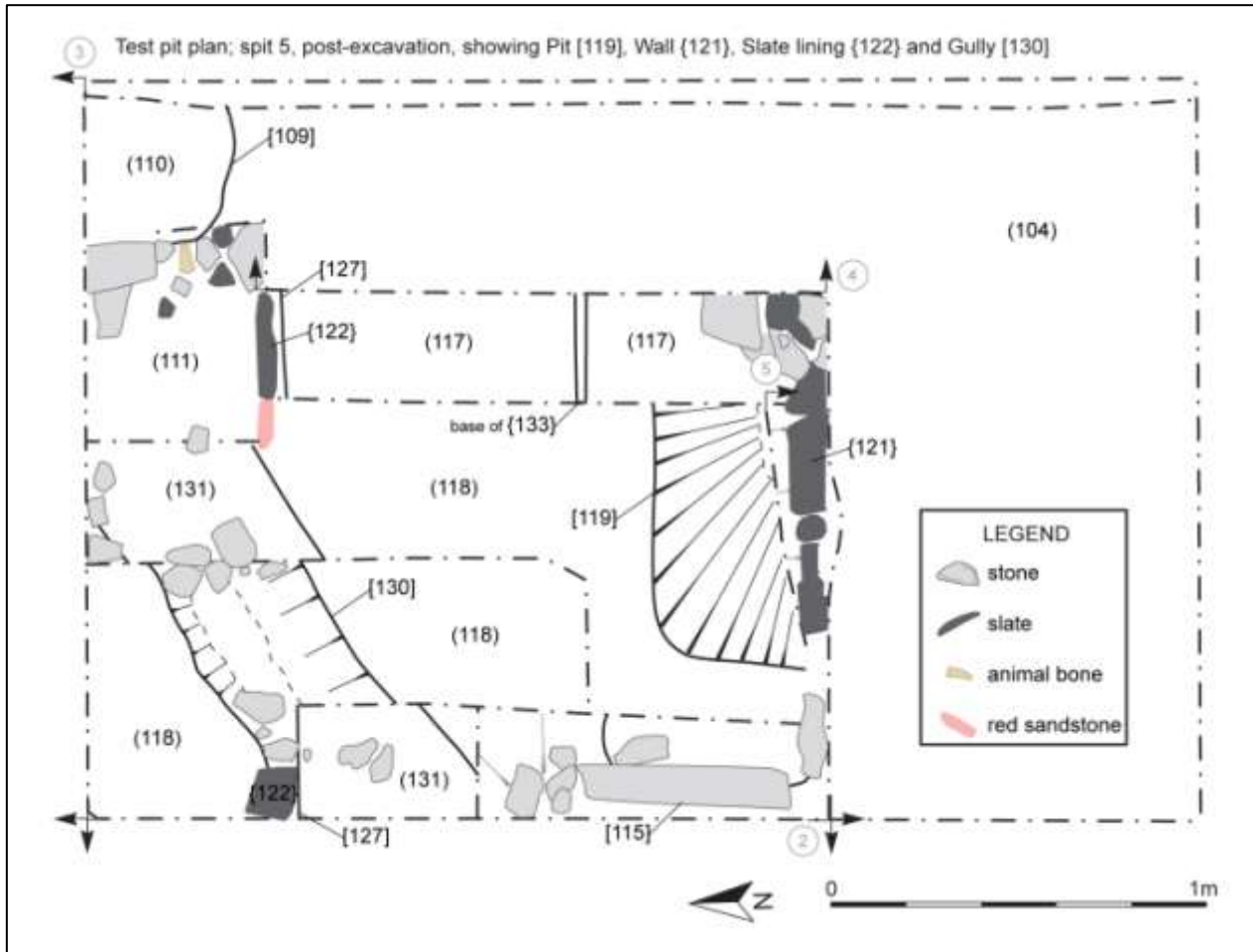


FIGURE 5: PLAN OF TEST PIT POST-EXCAVATION, SHOWING LOCATION OF FEATURES [119], [121], [122] AND [130] (FOR SECTION DRAWINGS SEE FIGURES 6 AND 7).

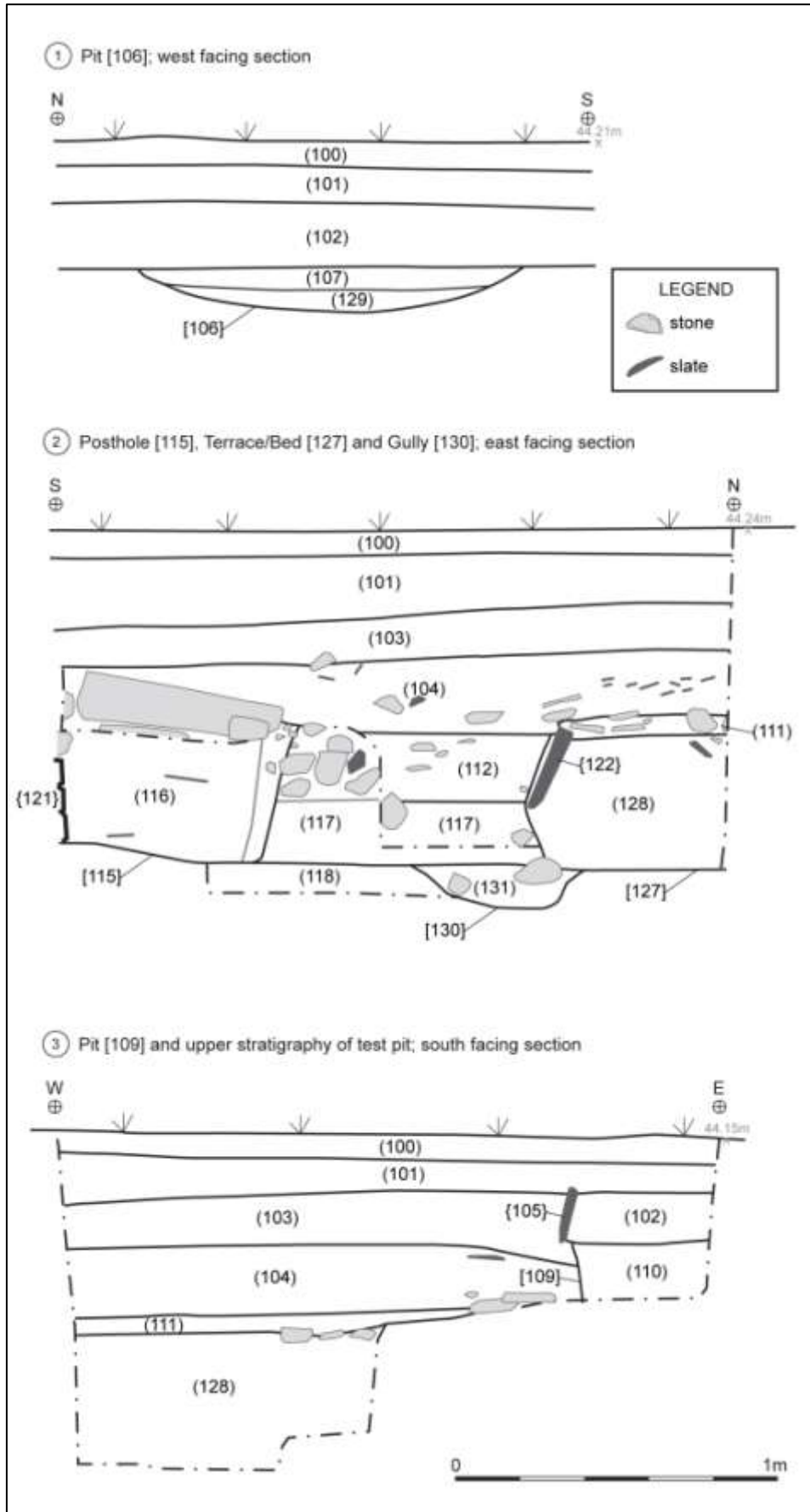


FIGURE 6: SECTION DRAWINGS FROM TEST PIT (FOR LOCATIONS SEE FIGURES 4 AND 5).

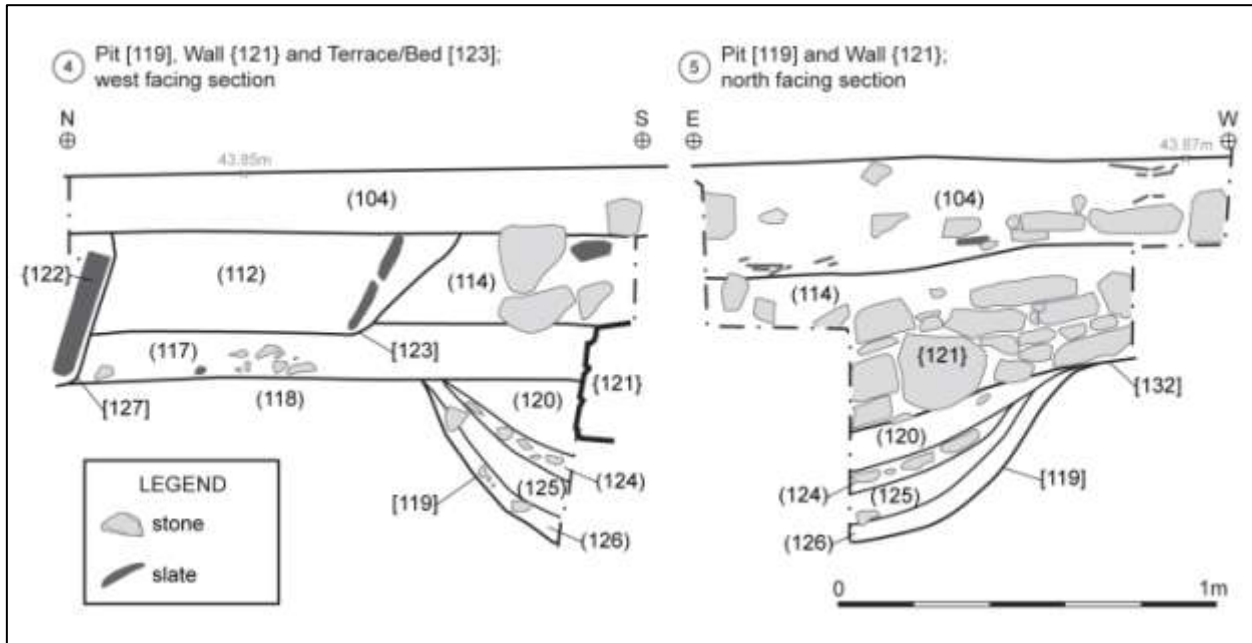


FIGURE 7: SECTION DRAWINGS FOR TEST PIT (FOR LOCATIONS SEE FIGURE 5).



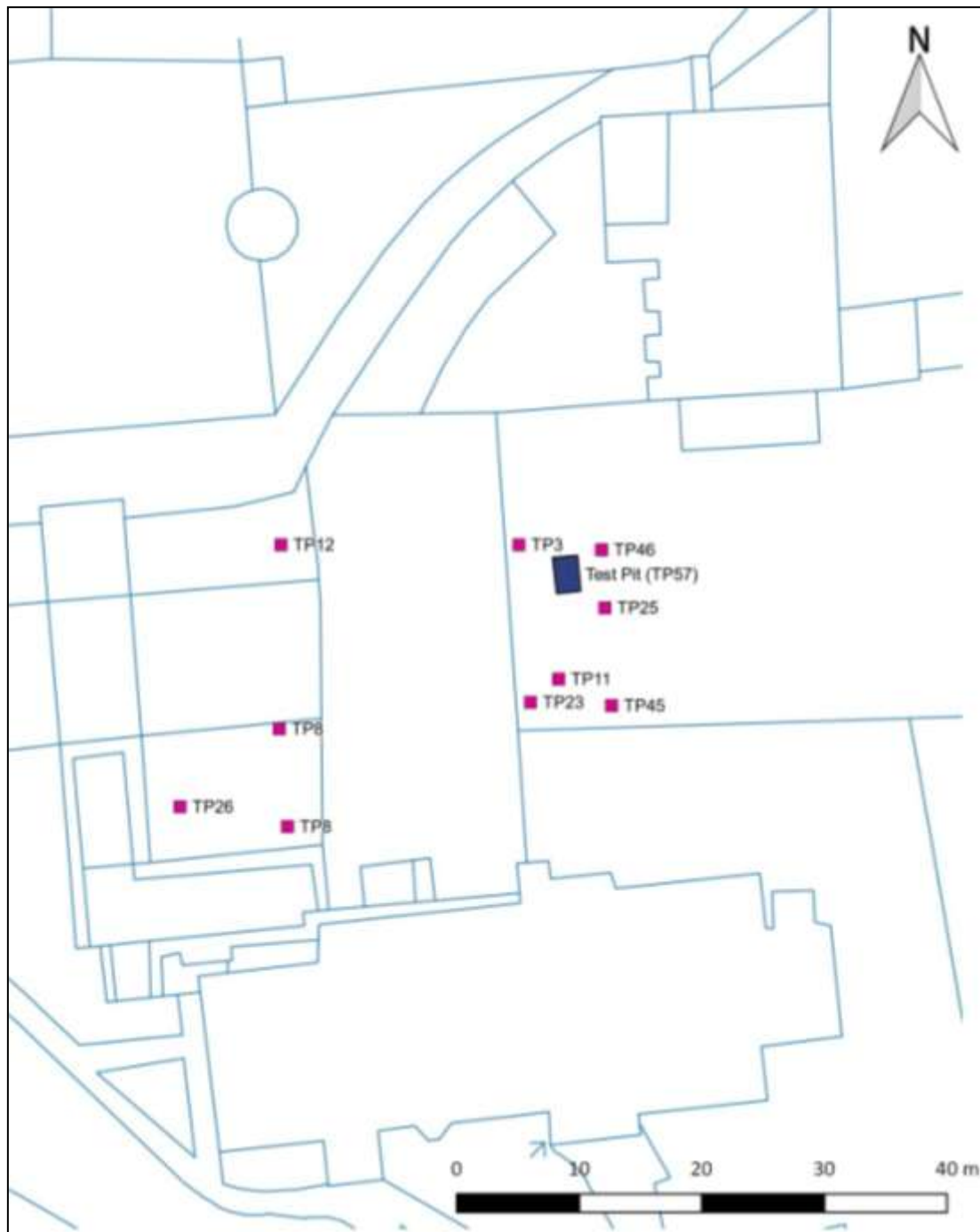


FIGURE 8: TEST PIT (TP57) LOCATION AND LOCATION OF PREVIOUSLY EXCAVATED TEST PITS IN THE TITHE BARN GARDEN (MAP: PROMAP; TEST PIT LOCATIONS: BASED ON DATA SUPPLIED BY STEWART AINSWORTH).

## 2.5 FINDS

The finds from the test pit included a relatively large variety of pottery and material indicative of a demolished structure, including; mortar, tile and slate fragments. Oyster shell, metal objects such as nails and a relatively large amount of animal bone, were also recovered. A full finds list can be seen in Appendix 2.

39 sherds (280g) of pottery were recovered from the test pit, including foreign imports from Belgium (15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> century Raren cup fragments) and Germany (16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> century Frechen and 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century Westerwald wares) as well as a wide range of regional wares from Devon and Somerset. The



sediment overlaying the natural and sealing features (Layer (117)) only contained probable 16<sup>th</sup> century roof tile. The subsequent overlaying layers and deposits contained a mixture of medieval and post-medieval pottery with modern pottery in the uppermost layers, (101) and (102). The mix of pottery types and dates through the cultivated/garden deposits are indicative of deposits that have been mixed and re-dug and re-deposited overtime. The relatively large variety of material and amount of animal bone in Layer (104), which appears to seal the earlier phases of garden activity (pre c.1887) may be of note. It was then overlaid by material indicative of relict garden paths, some of which were depicted in the cartographic record and contained more modern finds

The deepest sealed features; Pit [119] and Gully [130], did not contain any dateable evidence, however they were sealed by Layer (117), which contained probably 16<sup>th</sup> century roof tile. Pit [119] was also overlain by Wall {121}. There was no discernible construction cut between Layer (117) and Wall {121} and either relationship is strictly possible: either the wall post dates the 16<sup>th</sup> century roof tile within (117) meaning it probably post-dates the priory cloister; or Layer (117) built up against the wall foundation and contains material associated with the cloister, perhaps in its decline. Alternatively the tile in Layer (117) was intrusive, perhaps associated with the demolition of Wall {121} meaning the wall could be 16<sup>th</sup> century or earlier. Some mortar was recovered from Pit [119] and Wall {121} had been removed to the top of Layer (117) and it seems probable that during any clearance of the building associated with Wall {121} material could therefore find its way into Layer (117).

## 3.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

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### 3.1 DISCUSSION

The results of the archaeological evaluation/test pit adequately proved the depth and state of the natural on the site, c.1.09m below the present ground surface. The test pit identified clear but multi-phased post-medieval garden activity, which can be inferred from the cartographic record and anecdotally commented on from local accounts. Some examples of residual imported medieval pottery may tie the tithe barn garden into the wider story of the priory's archaeological signature in Dunster. The wall identified in the test pit seems comparable to the walls identified in earlier test pits and may account for the outer face of a cloister associated with the relict Priory of Dunster (14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century). The walls originally identified in earlier test pits may account for garden walls as depicted on 18<sup>th</sup> century mapping meaning the wall discovered in this phase may be associated with the same later phase of activity, rather than being part of the priory. However, it is possible that a cloister wall had survived to some later date and been utilised.

The earliest identifiable phases of activity in the test pit were a gully and a pit that had been buried during or after the medieval period, broadly speaking, based on 16<sup>th</sup> century ridge tile from the sealing context. The pit also predates the wall identified in the test pit, which potentially predates and is abutted by the 16<sup>th</sup> century or later layer; this would suggest that the wall could have been part of the priory complex/cloister: or the wall cuts the 16<sup>th</sup> century layer making it part of the post medieval garden landscape. The layer that seals the wall also seals the 16<sup>th</sup> century layer, which isn't particularly thick, making either scenario possible as any pertinent finds could presumably be intrusive. Ostensibly, the 16<sup>th</sup> century layer contained a small amount of building debris; roof tile, mortar, slate and therefore the wall may have been demolished prior to this layers formation or facilitated intrusion, accounting for the finds. This would support the theory of the wall being a medieval structure. This would mean that the pit predated the priory.

Although the walls identified in earlier test pits may be part of the same structure as the cloister originally, it seems likely that they were associated with the walls depicted on 18<sup>th</sup> century mapping. Furthermore, although Wall {121} was approximately perpendicular to these it is not accounted for on the mapping.

The subsequent garden phases and possible footpaths across the site can be associated in part with historic mapping and standing remains. The uppermost path material, (103), can be equated to paths depicted on the OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition map, c.1887. This map does not show a path running to the west adjacent to the test pit in this investigation. However, a lower band of mortar rich material, over the slate retained garden feature [127] lined-up with the southern side of a blocked entrance through the brick wall to the west of the test pit. This may have been an earlier feature associated with the gardens depicted in a mid 18<sup>th</sup> century estate folio, which shows an access in this approximate location, albeit when the gardens boundary wall was further to the east. It seems likely that the garden wall was first moved and rebuilt; and then the gardens redesigned and the entrance blocked and path covered over.

### 3.2 CONCLUSION

The test pit validated the theory that the cloister of the priory that fell into decline post its dissolution, c.1539, probably extended as far as this point in the gardens south of the tithe barn; however, the amount of post-medieval activity across the gardens leaves opportunity for speculation as to multiple phases of post-medieval garden redesign and activity. It ascertained the depth of natural in this part of the garden and identified approximately three phases of post-medieval garden activity, including bedding terraces and possibly two pathways. The test pit revealed features (a pit and gully) either contemporary to-, or earlier than the medieval (cloister?) wall.



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### *Somerset Heritage Centre*

SHC DD\L/1/10/35b - Survey of the estates of Miss Margaret Luttrell from a folio dated c.1746

Dunster Tithe Map and apportionment, c.1842

Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, 25 inch series, surveyed 1887, published 1889

Ordnance Survey 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 25 inch series, surveyed 1902, published 1904

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT LIST

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	RELATIONSHIPS	DEPTH/ THICKNESS	SPOT DATE
<b>TP57</b>				
(100)	<i>Turf</i>	Common sub-angular and sub-round stones <50mm to base.	Overlies (101)	c.0.08m C20
(101)	<i>Topsoil</i>	Soft/friable, dark grey-brown silty loam. Frequent small (<50mm) sub-angular to sub-round stones. Common, fairly recent finds – pottery and brick.	Overlain by (100); overlies (102)	Up to 0.20m C20
(102)	<i>Garden Beading</i>	Soft/friable, dark grey-brown silty-loam deposit of soil to east of a line of slates {105}. Functionally identical to (101). Frequent small (<50mm) sub-angular and sub-round stones. Common, fairly recent finds.	Overlaid (101); overlies (110), (107); butts {105}	Up to 0.20m C19-C20
(103)	<i>Garden path</i>	Layer consisting of poorly-sorted angular slatey stone, 20-80mm across; mid-reddish brown. Up to 1.5m wide.	Overlain by (101); overlies (104)	0.14-0.20m C19
(104)	<i>Demolition layer</i>	Soft, moist mid grey clay-silt; broken up by frequent small stones and roof slate fragments (50-100mm across). Frequent flecks and small fragments (<20mm) of white lime mortar; frequent charcoal flecks (up to 10mm) and frequent sub-angular stone, poorly sorted (up to 100mm).	Overlain by (103), (108); overlies (116), (111)	0.18-0.22m Post-medieval
{105}	<i>Structure</i>	A line of chunky re-used roof slate, defining the edge of a former flower/garden bed (containing (102)). 0.45-0.6m long x c.0.2m wide.	Overlain by (101), abutted by (102)	Up to 0.03m C19
[106]	<i>Pit</i>	Shallow pit with a concave profile, located on the east side of TP57. C.1.0m wide.	Filled by (107), (129); cuts (108)	0.14m Post-medieval
(107)	<i>Fill</i>	Upper fill of Pit – firm to soft/friable slightly clayey silt loam. Mid-brown/orange; with occasional small sub-angular stones <40mm.	Overlain by (102); overlies (129); fill of [106]	0.07m -
(108)	<i>Layer</i>	Thin (<30mm) vestigial layer of early topsoil on the eastern side of TP57. As (102) but slightly firmer and darker.	Overlain by (102); overlies (104); cut by [106], [109]	<0.03m C19
[109]	<i>Pit/post-hole</i>	Sub-circular pit/post-hole in the north-east corner of TP57. The exposed section is 0.4m across; so presumably the feature would be at least 0.8m in diameter. Not excavated.	Filled by (110); cuts (108)	0.16+m Post-medieval
(110)	<i>Fill</i>	Upper fill of [109] – firm to soft/friable slightly clayey silt loam, mid brown/orange; with occasional small sub-angular stones <40mm across.	Overlain by (102); fill of [109]	0.16+m Post-medieval
(111)	<i>Layer</i>	Thin lense of mortar-rich material along the northern part of TP57, extends to the west, north and (probably) east. 0.5m wide in trench.	Overlain by (104); overlies (128); filled by [127]	c.0.08m Post-medieval
(112)	<i>Fill</i>	Firm, slightly reddish-brown clay-silt, with common sub-angular stone 40-150mm and common mortar flecks and small <20mm fragments. Rare charcoal fragments up to 20mm.	Overlain by (111), (104); overlies (117); fill of [123]; cut by [115]	0.2-0.25m Post-medieval
{113}	<i>Structure</i>	Line of slates (re-used) arranged nearly vertically. Sit within a probable cut [123]. Orientated east-west. 0.25-0.4m long x up to 0.25m wide x 20mm thick.	Fill of [123]; abutted by (112)	c.0.25m Post-medieval
(114)	<i>Layer</i>	Loose grey-brown clay silt with common slate fragments up to 60mm across, with common mortar fragments <20mm. Over the wall = common medium-sized poorly-sorted sub-angular stones, up to 160mm across.	Overlain by (104); overlies {121}, (133); cut by [123], [115]	0.24m -
[115]	<i>Post-hole</i>	Sub-circular, with vertical sides and slightly concave base. 0.7m north-south and 0.54m east-west. Located in the middle/west side of trench TP57.	Filled by (116); cuts (112)	0.54m Post-medieval
(116)	<i>Fill</i>	Fill of post-hole [115] – soft mid grey-brown slightly clayey silt loam. Common mortar flecks and fragments <20mm. Occasional slate fragments up to 100mm across. Frequent, poorly-sorted stones up to 0.5m long x 0.1x0.1m, forming packing material. Including damaged architectural fragment – reddish-brown sandstone.	Overlain by (104); fill of [115]	0.54m -
(117)	<i>Layer</i>	Soft, moist mid grey-brown clay silt, with common sub-angular poorly-sorted stones 40-120mm diameter. Occasional slate fragments <20mm and occasional charcoal flecks.	Overlies (120), (131); cut by [132]	0.14-0.20m C16
(118)	<i>Layer</i>	Lower layer encountered in TP57 – firm to compact light orange-brown silt-clay. Probably natural.	Overlain by (117); cut by [119], [130]	c. 1.04m -
[119]	<i>Cut</i>	Sub-rectangular pit, with steep sides. Partly exposed in the base of TP57, extending beyond the edge	Filled by (120), (124), (125), (126); cut	c.0.45m -

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		of excavation to south and east. Exposed part of the pit – 0.7m east-west x 0.4m north-south. Possibly early medieval or earlier (pre mid-C16).	by [132]		
(120)	<i>Fill</i>	Upper fill of [119] – soft slightly grey-brown clay silt.	Overlain by (117); overlies (124); fill of [119]	c.0.20m	-
{121}	<i>Wall</i>	Fragment of stone wall exposed in the side of TP57 – survives 3-4 courses high. Comprised of sub-rectangular blocky stones up to 0.2m across. Appears to be bonded with clay and has been robbed/lost to upper levels.	Overlain by (114); cuts (120)	0.23-0.34m	C14/15
{122}	<i>Structure</i>	Line of un-interrupted sub-rectangular stone slabs, up to 0.28m long and 0.06m thick. Roughly shaped slatestone or reddish-pink sandstone. The line is not continuous across [127].	Cuts (112)	0.32m high	C14/15
[123]	<i>Cut</i>	Shallow, steep sided but irregular cut containing {113} and (112), extending across the trench east-west and at least 0.96m wide north-south. Steep south side and flat base, truncated by [127] and [115].	Filled by {113}, (112); cuts (114)	0.25m	Post-medieval
(124)	<i>Fill</i>	Fill of [119] – as (120), but with common to frequent sub-angular stones up to 80mm across.	Overlain by (120); overlies (125); fill of [119]	0.05m	-
(125)	<i>Fill</i>	Fill of [119] - As (120).	Overlain by (124); overlies (126); fill of [119]	0.10m	-
(126)	<i>Fill</i>	Basal fill of [119] – soft light bluish-grey clay silt.	Overlain by (125); fill of [119]	0.06m	-
[127]	<i>Cut</i>	Linear, nearly vertical cut at least 0.45m wide, with a flat base. The southern side features {122} and contains (128).	Filled by {122}; abutted by (128); cuts (112)	0.35-0.45m	C17/18?
(128)	<i>Deposit</i>	Moist, soft poorly-consolidated mid buff-brown clay silt. Occasional small sub-angular stones <50mm across. Located at the north end of the trench and seemingly retained by {112} and within cut [127]. A reasonably-large void noted at the western end.	Overlain by (111); fill of [127]; butts {122}	0.40m	-
(129)	<i>Fill</i>	Lower fill of [106] – firm to soft/friable slightly clayey silt loam, light slightly yellowish brown, with few stones.	Overlain by (107); fill of [106]	0.07m	-
[130]	<i>Gulley</i>	At the base of the sequence, c.0.4m across with a steep-sided profile and concave base. Trends north-east – south-west at 45°. Possibly early medieval or earlier (pre mid-C16).	Filled by (131); cuts (118)	0.13m	-
(131)	<i>Fill</i>	Fill of gulley [130] – mid buff-brown firm silt clay, with common medium-sized stones, sub-angular and sub-round 100-150mm across.	Overlain by (117); fill of [130]	0.13m	-
[132]	<i>VOIDED</i>	Probable cut along the line of wall {121} – not observed but must exist. Unknown width; contains {121} and (131).	Cuts (120)	-	VOIDED
(133)	<i>VOIDED</i>	Probable backfill between cut [132] and wall {121}, not distinguishable in the field.	Overlain by (114)	-	VOIDED

APPENDIX 2: FINDS CONCORDANCE

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Context	Pottery			Animal Bone			Glass			CBM			Other Finds		
	No.	Weight (g)	Detail	No.	Weight (g)	Detail	No.	Weight (g)	Detail	No.	Weight (g)	Detail	No.	Weight (g)	Detail
100	1	2	Westerwald ware, C18?												
101	4	66	West Somerset Redware, C17/C18?												
	3	12	Flowerpot?												
	2	14	South Somerset ware?												
	1	10	?medieval/undiagnostic												
	1	9	Frechen ware, C16-C17?												
	2	6	White Refined Earthen ware with Blue Transfer Print (WRE BTP)				1	71	Green bottle neck	1	3	CBM	1	37	Metal plant tag
	1	3	Redware							1	29	Roof tile			
	1	19	Exmoor/Quantocs fabric C13/C14												
	2	5	Tin glazed												
	1	4	Green glazed												
	1	4	Bristol-Staffordshire Yellow Slip Stoneware												
102	2	8	?West Somerset Redware												
	1	1	Bristol-Staffordshire Yellow Slip												
	1	3	Flowerpot?	1	6	Animal bone									
	1	1	WRE												
	1	2	Yellow-green mottled glaze												
103									1	61	White slip decorated inlaid tile C15/C16?				
104	2	8	Raren (S. Belgium), C15/early C16						5	156	Floor tile				
	4	44	Raren cups						1	11	Brick				
	2	18	?West Somerset Redware	52	910	Animal bone/teeth			1	34	Burnt mortar/stone	2	14	Fe nails	
	1	8	Flowerpot?						1	1945	Brick, 1879 stamp				
								116	702	Mortar					
								23	129	CBM					
110	1	26	North Devon ware						1	11	Green glazed ridge tile				



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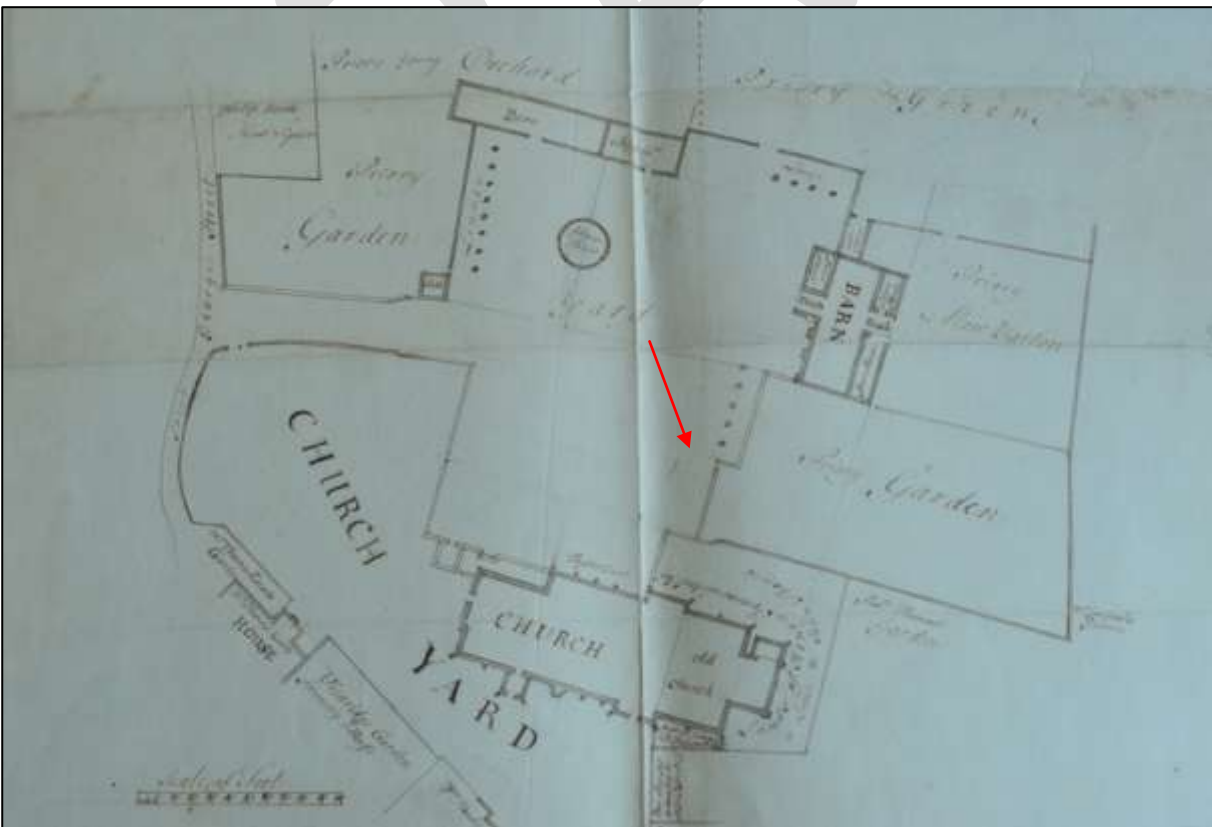
<b>112</b>	1 1	2 4	North Devon Gravel Free ware Post-medieval Redware	8 1 2	26 2 106	Animal bone Oyster shell Animal mandible				94 16 54	277 90 971	Mortar CBM Mortar	1 1	1 131	charcoal pierced slate
<b>117</b>				2 10	51 140	Oyster shell Animal bone				1 1 10	3 1 503	Mortar? Ridge tile fragment Green glazed ridge tile, C16?	1 1	14 129	Fe nail Pierced slate
<b>120</b>										3	3	Mortar	1	5	Undiagnostic slate
<b>U/S</b>				19 6	345 23	Animal bone Oyster shell	1	115	Onion jar (base fragment)				1 1 1	11 7 18	Fe nail Undiagnostic lead Pierced slate
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>280</b>		<b>101</b>	<b>1609</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>186</b>		<b>331</b>	<b>4932</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>393</b>	

DRAFT

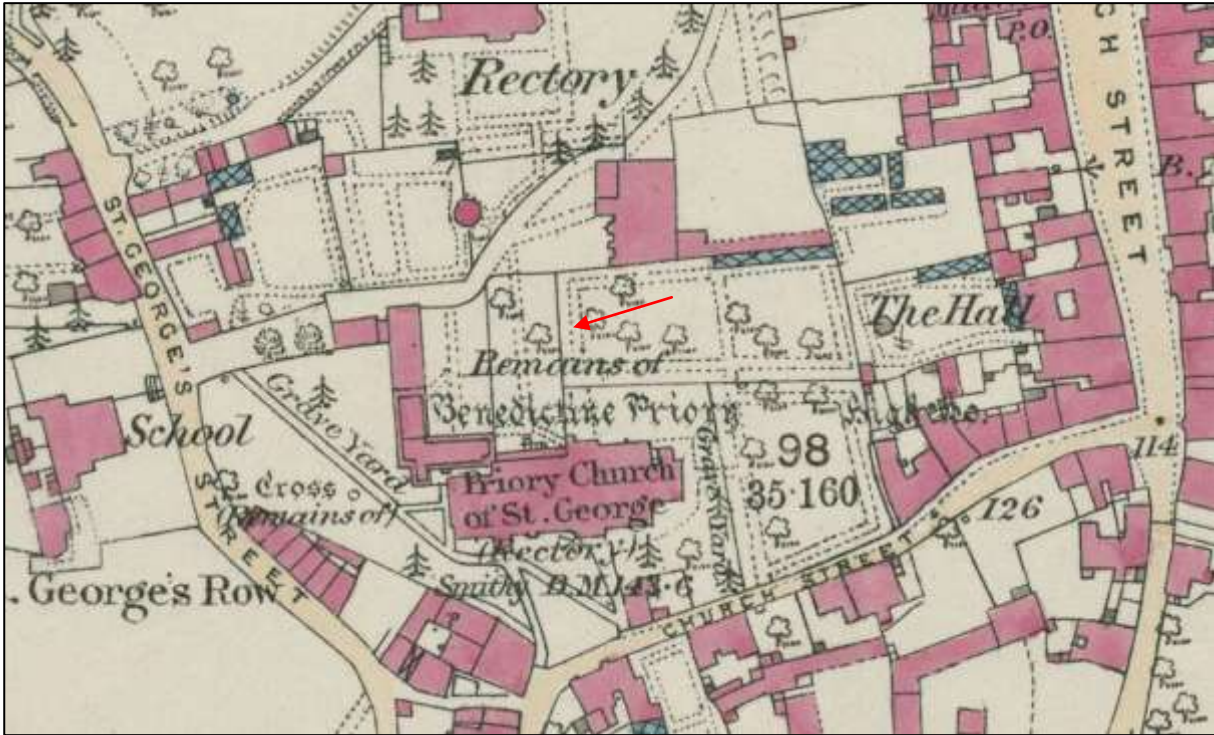
APPENDIX 3: SUPPORTING IMAGES



EXTRACT FROM A FOLIO OF SURVEYS OF THE ESTATES OF MISS MARGARET LUTTERALL, ( c.1746 DATE OF FOLIO)  
THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE TEST PIT IS INDICATED (SHC).



EXTRACT FROM A FOLIO OF SURVEYS OF THE ESTATES OF MISS MARGARET LUTTERALL, ( c.1746 DATE OF FOLIO);  
THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE TEST PIT IS INDICATED (SHC).



EXTRACT FROM THE ORDNANCE SURVEY 1<sup>ST</sup> EDITION, 25 INCH SERIES, SURVEYED 1887, PUBLISHED 1889; THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE TEST PIT IS INDICATED (SHC).

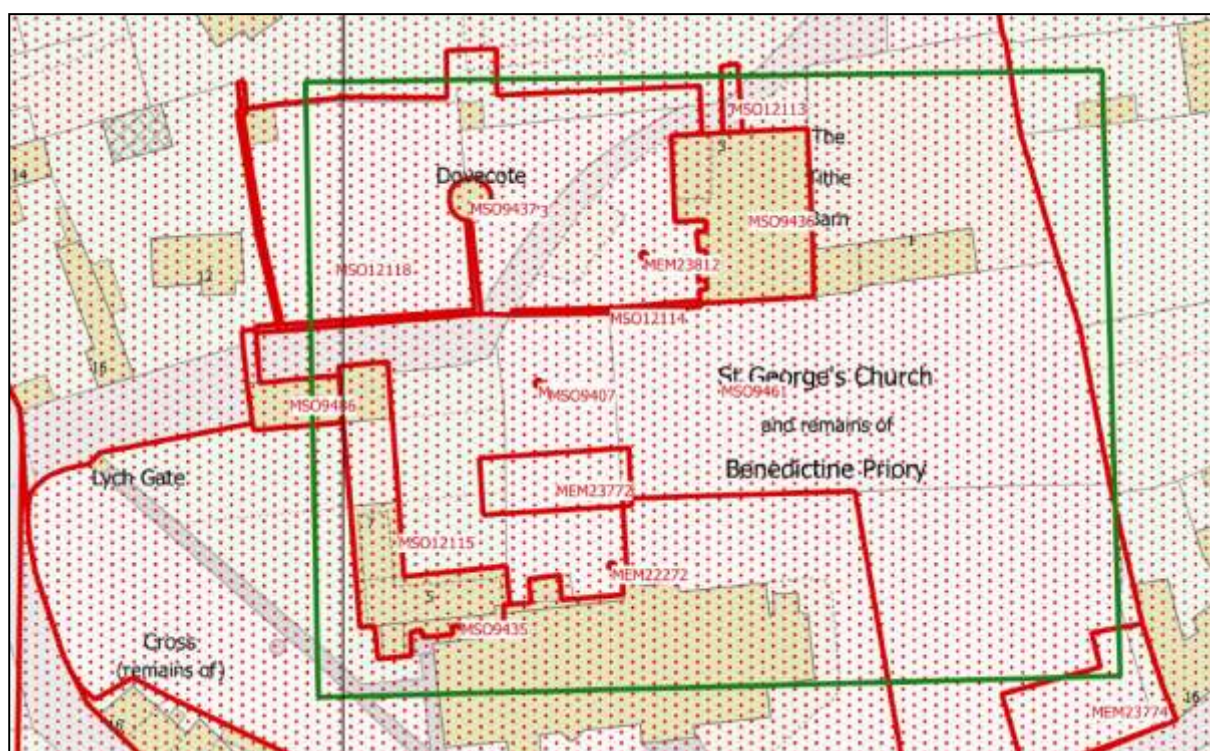


EXTRACT FROM THE ORDNANCE SURVEY 2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION, 25 INCH SERIES, SURVEYED 1902, PUBLISHED 1904; THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE TEST PIT IS INDICATED (SHC).





APPENDIX 4: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORDS



MAP OF HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORDS IN IMMEDIATE AREA OF THE SITE (SOURCE: ENPA).

HER No.	Name	Record	Description
MSO9407	Dunster Priory	Documentary	Dunster Priory was a Benedictine priory, founded after 1090 and dissolved in 1539. It abutted the north side of the parish church. Within Grade II* Registered Park or Garden of Dunster Castle (1000467) and Dunster Conservation Area.
MSO9435	St George's Church and Churchyard, Dunster	Extant Structure	St George's Church is mainly 15th Century with 12th and 13th Century work. It was restored in 1875-7. Grade I Listed (1057646).
MSO9436	Tithe Barn, 3 Priory Green, Dunster	Extant Structure	The tithe barn of Dunster Priory. The present building probably has some 16th century fabric, but is thought to mainly date from a 19th century rebuilding including the roof structure. Grade II Listed (1173455).
MSO9437	Dovecote at Dunster Priory Farm	Extant Structure	A dovecote that formed part of the property owned by Dunster Priory Farm. Some of the features inside are characteristic of the 14th Century but it is also thought the current structure could date to the 16th Century. Grade II* Listed (1057581).
MSO9461	Medieval Town of Dunster	Documentary/Settlement	The medieval borough of Dunster was first recorded in 1197. It is considered to be one of the finest examples of a medieval settlement in the country. Conservation Area with Registered Park or Garden.
MSO9486	Stone archway and adjoining lime storage building in Priory Green	Extant Structure	Early 19th Century stone archway attached to a contemporary single-storey building in Priory Green, Dunster. The building was used for storing lime from the kilns at Alcombe but has since been converted to a garage. Grade II Listed (1345581).
MSO12113	Stone archway linked to Dunster Tithe Barn	Extant Structure	An early 19th Century stone-built archway, with segmental arch. It is around 3-4 metres tall. Grade II Listed (1345580).
MSO12114	19 <sup>th</sup> century wall of south side of Priory Green	Extant Structure	An early 19th red sandstone wall, in two sections. Grade II Listed (1173460).
MSO12115	Nos 5 and 7, Priory Green,	Extant	Priory buildings attached to St George's Parish Church.



	Dunster	Structure	They are described as the Prior's House by Pevsner. The roof has been dated to 1270-1302, with the northern end lost to fire. In the 19th Century, the building was converted into cottages. Grade II Listed (1057623).
MSO12118	19 <sup>th</sup> century stone wall on north side of Priory Green	Extant Structure	A stone wall that includes an 18th Century moulded framed doorway. It may form a remnant of the Priory Farm buildings. Grade II Listed (1057580).
MEM22272	Possible Cloister, ST George's Church, DUnster	Event	A watching brief in 2009 recorded a wall foundation, which ran north-south and was thought to form the western limit of the cloister.
MEM22273	Post-medieval gardening activity at Dunster Priory	Event	A watching brief in 2009 recovered quantities of post-medieval pottery, glass and bone, which appeared to relate to significant and intrusive cultivation of the area since the 18th Century.
MEM23772	Demolished building north of St George's Church	Documentary	A building is depicted on an 18th Century map of Dunster. It may have been connected to the Priory, or have been constructed at a later time. It had been demolished by the middle of the 19th Century.
MEM23773	Dunster Priory Farm	Documentary	A map of Dunster dating to the late 18th Century shows a farmyard arranged around the dovecote and with the Tithe Barn forming its eastern boundary. Several stone walls appear to survive that may be associated with the farmyard.
MEM23774	Post-medieval building west of 16, Church Street	Documentary	A large building with a rear (northern) wing on its eastern end is shown on a late 18th Century map of Dunster fronting the road to the south. It had been demolished by the mid 19th Century.
MEM23812	Demolished medieval building west of the Tithe Barn	Event	A watching brief in 2007 recorded two substantial wall foundations on north to south and east to west alignments, adjacent to and running beneath the existing barn. They are thought to be the remains of a substantial medieval building.
MEM23813	Post-medieval farm building remains west of the Tithe Barn	Event	In January 2007 an archaeological watching brief noted sandstone wall remains and yard surfaces of pitched sandstone cobbles, overlying a set of medieval walls. They may relate to post-medieval farm ancillary buildings.

TABLE 1: LIST OF NEARBY HERITAGE ASSETS (SOURCE: ENPA HER).

APPENDIX 5: SUPPORTING PHOTOGRAPHS



1. TEST PIT, MID EXCAVATION SHOWING PATH MATERIAL (103) IN SECTION AND SLATE LINING {105}; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (2x2M SCALES).



2. TEST PIT, MID EXCAVATION SHOWING SLATE LINING {105}; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (2M SCALES).





3. TEST PIT, MID EXCAVATION, TO TOP OF LAYER (104) AND SHOWING PIT [106], PRE-EXCAVATION ON THE RIGHT; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (2x2M SCALES).



4. PIT [106], PRE-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (PARTIAL 2M SCALE).





5. PIT [106], POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (PARTIAL 2M SCALE).



6. PIT [109], MID-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (PARTIAL 2M SCALE).





7. TEST PIT, SHOWING SLATE LINING {113} AND POSTHOLE [115]; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M AND 2M SCALE).



8. TEST PIT, SHOWING SLATE LINING {113} AND POSTHOLE [115]; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M AND 2M SCALE).





9. TEST PIT, SHOWING LINING {122}, POSTHOLE [115] AND PIT [119], PRE-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).



10. WALL {121}; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (1M SCALE).





11. WALL {121} AND PIT [119], PRE-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (1M SCALE).



12. POSTHOLE [115] AND WEST FACE OF TEST PIT, MID-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (2M SCALE).





13. NORTH FACE OF TEST PIT, MID-EXCAVATION, SHOWING LINING {122}; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (2M SCALE).



14. PIT [119] AND WALL {121}; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (1M SCALE).





15. PIT [119] AND EAST FACE OF TEST PIT; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (1M SCALE).



16. NORTH FACE OF TEST PIT, POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (2M SCALE).





17. (LEFT) BLOCKED ENTRANCE IN WALL TO WEST OF THE TEST PIT; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (2M SCALE).

18. (RIGHT) BLOCKED ENTRANCE IN WALL IN RELATION TO THE NORTH END OF THE TEST PIT (BACKFILLED); VIEWED FROM THE EAST (PARTIAL 2M SCALE).



19. TEST PIT, POST-BACKFILLING; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (NO SCALE).





20. TEST PIT, POST-BACKFILLING, IN RELATION TO TITHE BARN; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (NO SCALE).



21. TEST PIT, POST-BACKFILLING, IN RELATION TO BLOCKED ENTRANCE IN ADJACENT WALL; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (NO SCALE).





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