

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Frithelstock, Torridge		National Grid Reference SS 46285 19593	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording at Cloister Hall Farm, Frithelstock, Devon during groundwork associated with the relaying of yard and track surfaces and service trench excavation.			Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: N/A	Historic England Refs: S00217188 and S00226734		Recipient museum: N/A
OASIS ID: southwes1-327642	Scheduled Monument No. SM 24842, HA 1009304		Museum Accession no: N/A
Contractor's reference number/code: FCY18		Dates fieldwork undertaken: 23 rd August – 6 th November 2019	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of a private client during groundwork associated with the relaying of yard and track surfaces and the excavation of a service trench across the same yard at Cloister Hall Farm, Frithelstock, Devon (Figure 1). This work was undertaken on 23rd August 2019 in accordance with a WSI's drawn up in consultation with Historic England (HE) and the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET). The works were undertaken under Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) reference numbers S00217188 and S00226734.</p> <p>Cloister Hall Farm is on the north side of the village of Frithelstock. The Scheduled Ancient Monument of Frithelstock Priory (SAM no.1009304) is within the grounds of Cloister Hall Farm: and the farm building complex is within the limits of the scheduled area. Frithelstock is a Domesday manor (<i>Fredelestoc</i>) (Morris 1992), in which c.1220 an Augustinian priory was founded that lasted until the dissolution (c.1536) (Lysons 1822). Frithelstock is the only monastic site in North Devon to retain parts of its standing structure. The farmhouse and some of the barns are Grade II listed and the farmhouse may contain medieval fabric forming part of the Priors House, as well as reused architectural fragments from the priory. Monitoring works on several sites in the general area have revealed a number of archaeological features and finds, including medieval and post-medieval assemblages.</p> <p>The yard area and stoned track surfaces about the barns on the west side of the farm range were stripped of their upper, working, surface of either concrete or stone prior to being replaced (see Figures 1-3). The extent of these areas can be seen in Figure 1. Beneath the concrete surfaces (100), c.0.16m deep, was a stony hardcore layer (101), between 0.10m and 0.20m deep, which overlaid the natural were exposed by the service trench in the south-east corner of the site. The stony track areas had the upper layer of stony material, which had become dirty with muck and soil in places, removed to reveal a stony disturbed mixture of subsoil and stone/gravel onto which clean material could be relayed. Ground works will not have been deep enough to reveal archaeological features or deposits. No significant archaeological features or deposits were present.</p> <p>A service trench 0.30m wide by c.32m long, aligned north-south, was excavated to the depth of c.0.65m between a telegraph pole and the corner of one of the barns (see Figures 1 and 4). The majority of this trench was across the excavated yard surface, to the depth of 0.65m, into the natural, (106), which was a mottled light reddish-yellow, compact clay with occasional sub-angular stone. The southern 10m of the service trench extended into a garden area, which is c.0.60m higher than the yard area and separated by a retaining wall. The south end of this 10m stretch was 0.65m deep and the north end was 1.20m deep in order to pass the intended service beneath the retaining wall at the correct height relative to the yard. Natural was exposed at the far north end of this 10m stretch of trench and was over laid by c.1.06m of made-ground comprised of layers (103), (104) and (105), which were tips of mid-light yellow-brown, friable-soft clayey-silts with frequent angular stone rubble debris. At the southern end of this trench and within the upper deposit the stone debris was slightly smaller with more faced pieces and occasional pieces of mortar. These made-grounds were overlaid by topsoil/turf (102), a mid-brownish-grey, friable sandy-silt, c.0.07m thick.</p> <p>The only finds recovered from the site were from made-ground layer (103); ×1 sherd (65g) of 19th century pottery (a red industrial ware); ×1 fragment (36g) of 19th century tile with a black glaze. Both finds were subsequently discarded.</p> <p>No significant archaeological features or deposits were exposed during this limited program of works.</p> <p>Lysons, D. & Lysons, S. 1822: <i>Magna Britannia, volume 6: Devonshire</i>. London. Morris, J. 1992: <i>Domesday Book</i>. Phillimore.</p>			
Recorder: J. Bampton		Date sent to HER: 20/11/2019	

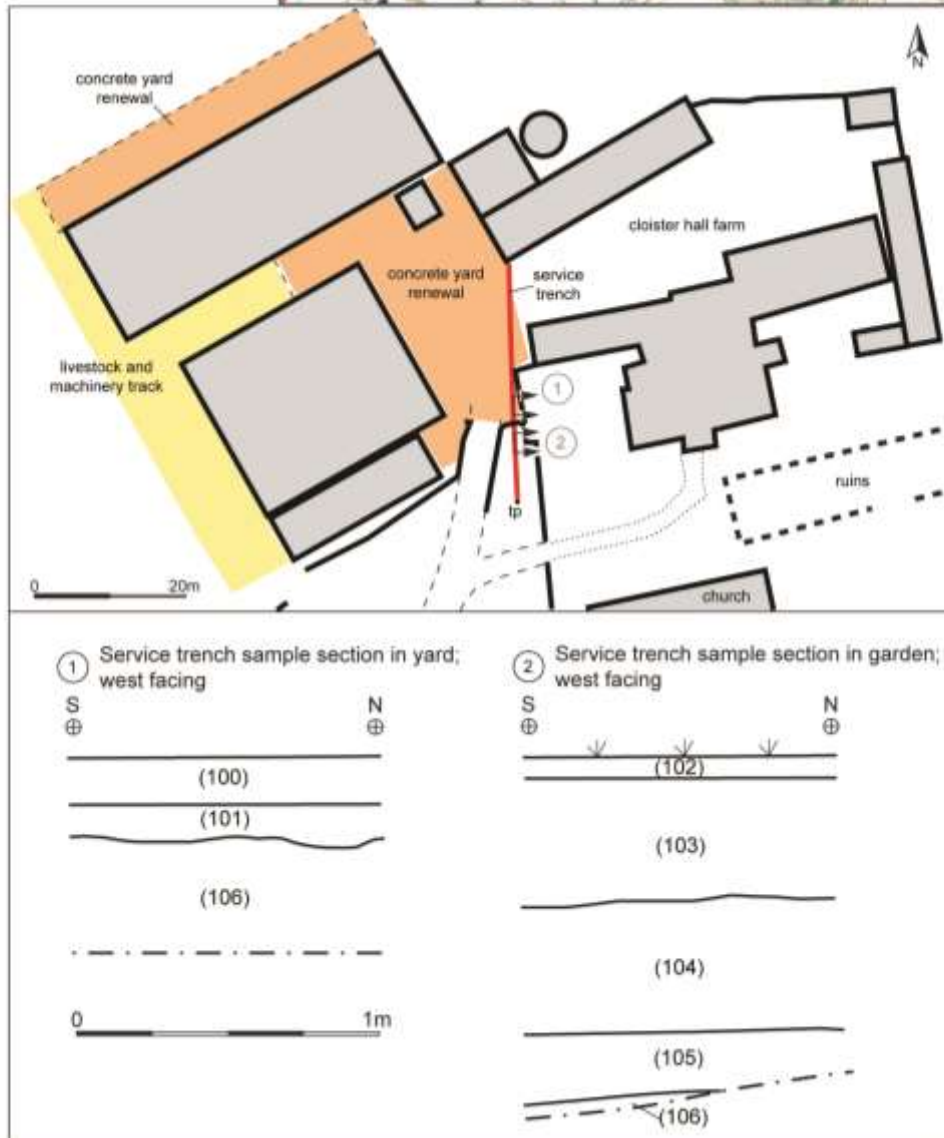
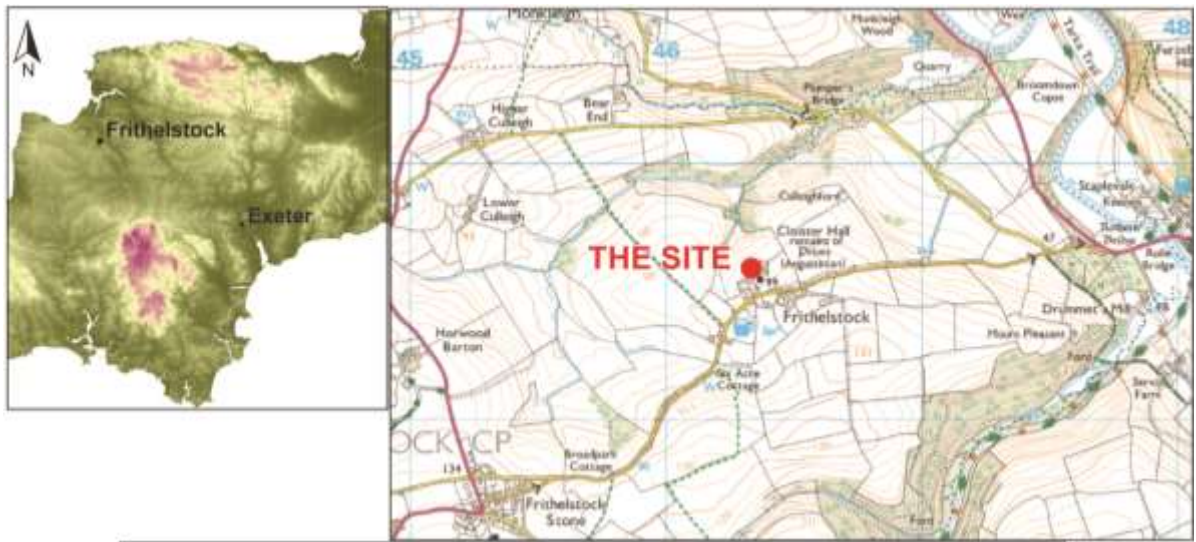


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION, PLANS AND SECTION DRAWING.



FIGURE 2: YARD AREA POST REDUCTION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (NO SCALE).



FIGURE 3: TRACK TO WEST OF BARN; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (NO SCALE).



FIGURE 4: SOUTHERN 10M OF SERVICE TRENCH THROUGH GARDEN; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).