

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: East Worlington, North Devon	National Grid Reference SS77466 13689	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording during the construction of a new porch at the Village Hall, East Worlington, Devon		Photo attached? Yes
Planning Application no: 64819	Recipient museum: Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon	
OASIS ID: southwes1-334253	Museum Accession no: NDDMS:24.2018a	
Contractor's reference number/code: WVH18	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 28 th March 2019	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) during groundworks (foundation trenches) in advance of the construction of a new porch at East Worlington village hall, North Devon. The work was carried out on the 28th March 2019 in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Balmond 2018) drawn up in consultation with the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET). East Worlington is a small hamlet c.3km east of Witheridge perched above the Little Dart River in the base of its valley. The village hall is located in the centre of this small settlement, at a height of c.140m AOD. The soils of this area are the well-drained fine loamy soils of the Neath Association (SSEW 1983), which overlie the sandstones and siltstones of the Bude Formation (BGS 2019). This Grade II Listed barn has been in community use for over a century, and forms part of the curtilage of the former Rectory (see SWARCH 2012). The former rectory, East Worlington House, has medieval origins: a small two-bay structure was extended in the early 16th century to create a more conventional three-cell cross-passage house; this gained an early 17th century detached kitchen block, and the rectory underwent significant phases of aggrandisement in the late 17th/early 18th and early 19th century. The 1679 glebe terrier mentions '...a barn with mud walls...' and the 1727 lists '...a barn of five bays... having mud walls and thatch covering...' The roof of the barn is much repaired, but the remaining historic elements would suggest a late 16th to mid 17th century date, perhaps coeval with a detached kitchen block (dated to c.1600-40) at the house (SWARCH 2013).</p> <p>The footprint of the new porch, located on the western side of the village hall, was 10.5x4m across; the structure it replaced was removed prior to monitoring, leaving concrete with brick foundations and a series of deeply-buried (up to 0.8m) 4" bituminous waste pipes that converged on an inspection chamber to the south-west. The monitoring demonstrated the old porch had been terraced into the slope, with modern tarmac surfaces overlying the natural on the upslope (north) side. To the downslope (south) side the tarmac (100) and screed (101) overlay a rough cobbled surface (102) and its bedding material (103). This sealed a firm heterogeneous mid brown clay silt soil (104) that produced a reasonable quantity of dumped late 19th century pottery and glass. Running parallel to the side of the village hall was a stone drain with capping stones {106} set within a cut with vertical sides 0.7m across and up to 0.24m deep and an internal diameter of c.0.2m. The drain was partly filled with a soft clean pale grey silty clay (108) 0.08m deep. The drain was cut through and truncated by the foundations of the old porch structure and a black alkathene water pipe had been inserted through it to service the old porch. At its northern end the drain was quite close to the surface and was packed around with (110), a firm deposit of clean yellow and reddish brown decayed shillet natural. At its southern end a sherd 16th/17th century North Devon ware had been built into the capping of the drain.</p> <p>Finds</p> <p>A single sherd (88g) of 16th/17th century North Devon gravel-tempered pottery (rim from a Type 3 bowl) was recovered from {106}. The rest of the assemblage came from a single dump of material (104) to the south-west corner of the site. A representative sample was retained for recording and this included: x10 fragments (2044g) of vessel glass (including one complete wine bottle and one fragment of probable 18th century onion bottle); x1 sherd (277g) of an English stoneware flask; x13 sherds (785g) of white refined earthenware, including x2 sherds of marmalade jar, x1 sherd of plain white mixing bowl, and various blue- and brown transfer-printed wares, including one plate produced on the 4th August 1880. This material was returned to the community.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>The monitoring at East Worlington village hall exposed the foundations of the earlier porch and demonstrated it had been terraced into the slope. Parallel to the wall of the village hall was covered stone drain; pottery associated with the drain would suggest a date after the 16th century, and the drain may be coeval with the construction of the hall, formerly a barn attached to the adjacent East Worlington House. Monitoring work around East Worlington House encountered similar covered drains. The barn was converted to community use in the early 20th century.</p> <p>Bibliography</p> <p>Balmond, F. 2018: <i>The Parish Hall, East Worlington, North Devon, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH WSI no WVH18WSlv1. British Geological Survey 2018: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>. SWARCH 2012: <i>East Worlington House, East Worlington, Devon: results of a desk-based assessment, historic building recording, and archaeological excavation</i>. SWARCH 2013: <i>The Parish Hall, East Worlington, Devon: results of a desk-based assessment and historic building survey</i>.</p>		
Recorder: B. Morris	Date sent to HER: 25.06.19	

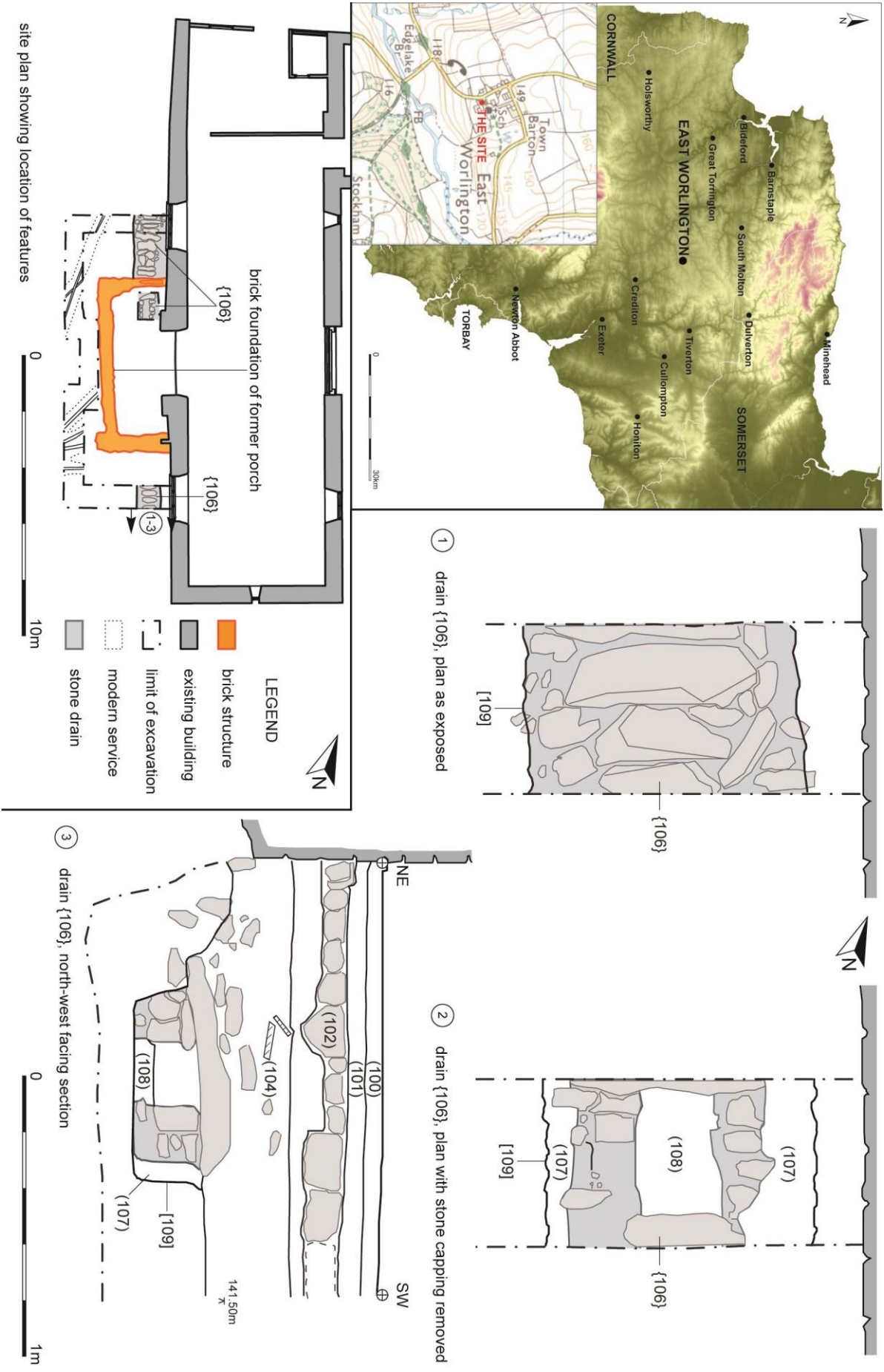


FIGURE 1: PLANS, SECTIONS AND LOCATION MAP.



LEFT FIGURE 2: STONE DRAIN {106} RUNNING ALONG THE WEST SIDE OF THE VILLAGE HALL; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (SCALE 1M).
RIGHT: FIGURE 3: AS ABOVE, WITH THE CAPPING STONES REMOVED AND SHOWING THE BLACK ALKATHENE WATER PIPE.



FIGURE 4: NORTH-FACING SECTION OF STONE DRAIN {106} (SCALE 1M).