

**BIDGOODS, 19 BURY ROAD
BURY, BROMPTON REGIS
EXMOOR
SOMERSET**

Archaeological Monitoring & Recording



South West Archaeology Ltd. report no. 200131



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Bidgoods, Bury, Brompton Regis, Exmoor, Somerset

Archaeological Monitoring & Recording

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Work undertaken by SWARCH
for a Private Client (the Client)

SUMMARY

South West Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned to undertake archaeological monitoring and recording during external works at Bidgood's, Bury, Brompton Regis, Somerset. The cottage is a Grade II Listed, detached, two storey stone and cob house with a thatched roof towards the southern end of the village of Bury. The programme of works focused upon monitoring and recording the ground reduction in the areas immediately to the south, east and west of the building.

The monitoring confirmed that there had been a severe level of cutting into the slope for the 20th century kitchen extension, and surrounding footpath/patio areas. The topsoil was shown to be up to 1m deep, where not truncated. The works tentatively suggest that the 20th century extension may overlay an earlier (18th or 19th century) feature (a well is shown on the 1st Edition OS Map). The limited evidence for this is that the cut for the footing trench appears to be around double width to the south-east. The footings of a small stone built lime bonded building (water-closet) was exposed abutting the eastern elevation of Bidgoods. The only other features were the modern retaining walls of the garden, a modern soak-away and two service pipes (electric and water).

No features or finds recovered pre-dated the 17th century, but the archaeological potential of the area remains high.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE CLIENT
 BEDFORD ARCHITECTS (THE AGENT)
 JOHN THORPE, KEYSTONE
 J&J SHARPE AND THE REST OF THE SITE CREW

PROJECT CREDITS

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

LOCATION:	BIDGOODS, BURY
PARISH:	BROMPTON REGIS
DISTRICT:	EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK
COUNTY:	SOMERSET
NGR:	SS 94555 27237
SWARCH REF:	BBB19B
PLANNING APPLICATION:	6/3/19/103LB

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of (Private Client) during groundworks associated with external works and landscaping at Bidgoods Cottage, Bury, Brompton Regis, Exmoor, Somerset. The works were carried out in accordance to a WSI (Boyd; December 2019) drawn up in consultation with the Local Planning Authority, Exmoor National Park; Bidgoods is Listed, Grade II (ID: 1057980).

1.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Bidgoods lies towards the southern end of the village of Bury, on Dyehouse Corner, towards the base of a valley which carries a tributary of the River Exe. Dulverton lies approximately 2.5km to the west-north-west and Brompton Regis lies approximately 4km to the north. The house is located at c. 140m AOD, with the garden sloping steeply to the south. The soils are the well-drained fine loamy reddish soils over rock of the Milford Association (SSEW 1983). The bedrock is recorded as the sedimentary sandstone, siltstone and mudstone of the Baggy Sandstones Formation (BGS 2019).

The hamlet of Bury is set on a steep north-facing slope, above a ford over the River Haddeo. Behind rises Haddon Hill, a notable Exmoor landmark popular with walkers. There is a row of attached houses to the north-east and a large farmhouse with courtyard of barns to the west, as the valley rises on the other side are further cottages, sitting in large gardens. Bury has a fine medieval packhorse bridge.

Bidgoods is enclosed on the south and east sides by a traditional English country cottage garden, with a summer house in the top south-west corner. The house lies directly on Dyehouse Corner, forming the south side of the lane leading to Skilgate and Upton. The ground level within the gardens to the east and south of the house is considerably higher than the historic floor levels within the building, a patio now frames the house on the south side, to the east of the small extension which contains the kitchen, a gravelled path and garden gate from the west side of the extension leads to the road.

1.3 METHODOLOGY

The archaeological monitoring was undertaken over multiple visits by S. Walls and B. Morris in January 2020 and follows the guidance outlines in ClfA's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014). All ground works were undertaken by machine and in accordance with the WSI (Boyd 2019).

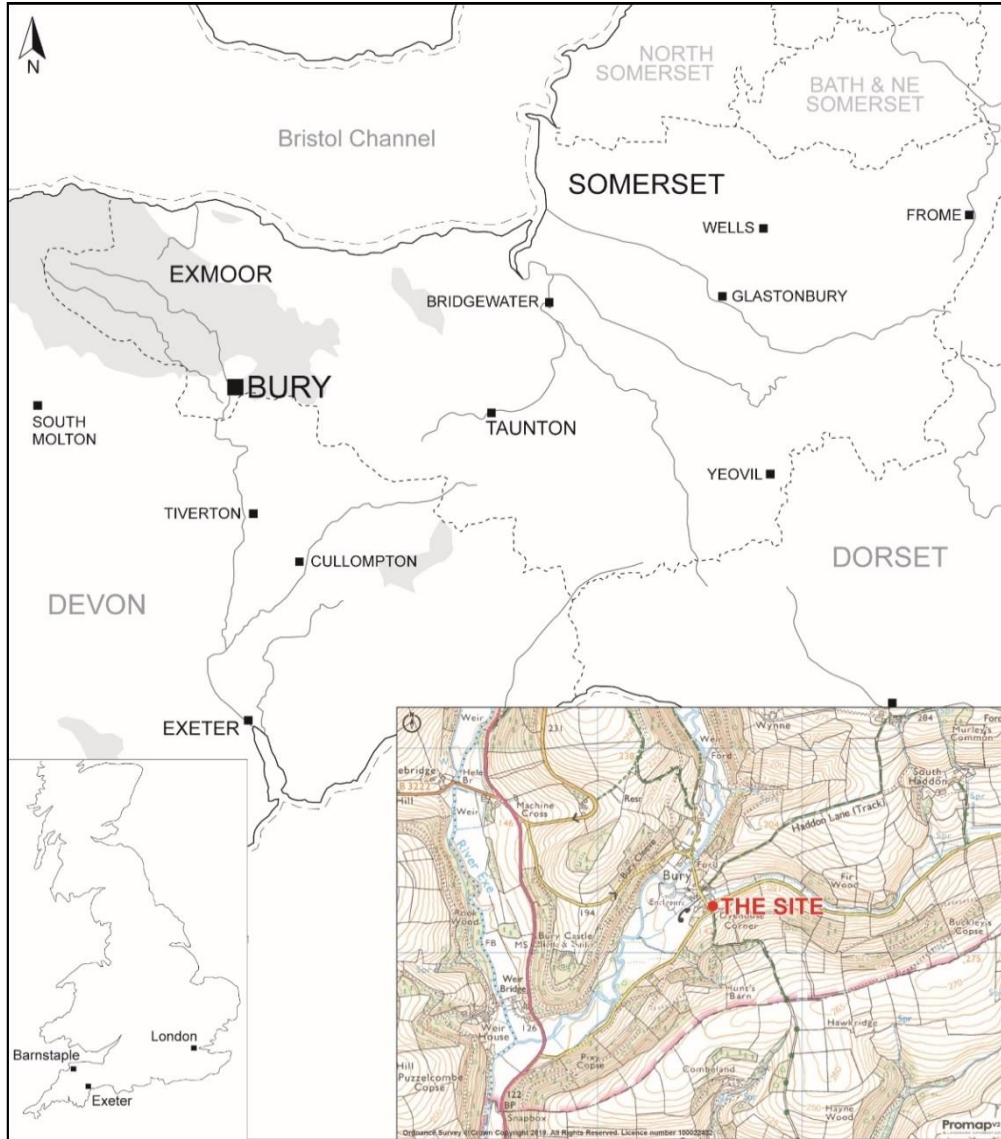


FIGURE 1: LOCATION MAP.

2.0 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

2.1 HISTORICAL SUMMARY

Brompton Regis, historically known as King's Brompton, is a village and parish of the same name. It was part of the historic-hundred of Williton and Freemanners. The manor was held TRE by Gytha Thorkelsdottir, Countess of Wessex. Following the Conquest, it was occupied by Hugh of Vautortes and Count Robert of Mortain. With 46.5 households, it was a large settlement. By the late 12th century, Brompton Regis was the possession of William de Say, who founded Barlynch Priory. In the 13th century, it was in the possession of the Besils, who owned the local Bury Castle. The Bidgoods property is a Grade II Listed, detached, two storey stone and cob house with a thatched roof sat on the southern end of the village of Bury.

2.2 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

The 1840 King's Brompton Tithing map shows the area of *Bury* as quite an established little settlement and depicts the Bidgoods property as a small holding on plot 1629. Henry Herbert the 3rd Earl of Carnarvon, owned much of the area and leased this property to a Richard Tout – a local Sawyer, who according to the 1841 Census recordings, lived here with his wife up until he passed away around 1850.

The 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map shows more landscape changes and an increase in buildings to the north of Bidgoods. Furthermore, field divisions and roads are notably different, although they are similar to its current layout. The property's field boundaries have extended with two small buildings appearing within the garden, suggesting possible change of use, evident through the inclusion of a small wooded area; possibly a small orchard. A well is also located a short distance to the south of Bidgoods.

The 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map illustrates small changes again to the property and surrounding landscape. The two outbuildings have changed to just one, and the original plot has been split into three, with the orchard area seemingly reducing in size. The well is no longer depicted.



FIGURE 2: EXTRACT OF THE KING'S BROMPTON TITHE MAP, C.1840. THE SITE IS INDICATED.

LANDOWNERS.	OCCUPIERS.	Numbers referring to the Plan.	NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF LANDS AND PREMISES.	STATE OF CULTIVATION.
<i>Carnarvon Earl (continued)</i>	<i>Mary Jeffery (continued)</i>	1665	<i>House Garden Orchards &c</i>	<i>Brought forward</i>
		1664	<i>Gales Close</i>	<i>Meadow</i>
		1681	<i>The Plots</i>	<i>Orchard</i>
		1715	<i>Penny meadow</i>	<i>Meadow</i>
		1598	<i>Tops meadow</i>	<i>Meadow</i>
		1553	<i>Hemp's orchard</i>	<i>Orchard</i>
			<i>Richard Tout</i>	1629
	<i>James Vicary</i>	1633	<i>House and Garden</i>	
1662		<i>Orchard</i>	<i>Orchard</i>	

FIGURE 3: EXTRACT FROM THE KINGS BROMPTON TITHE APPORTIONMENT, SHOWING RICHARD TOUT AS THE OCCUPIER, LISTING THE HOLDING AS A COTTAGE AND GARDEN.

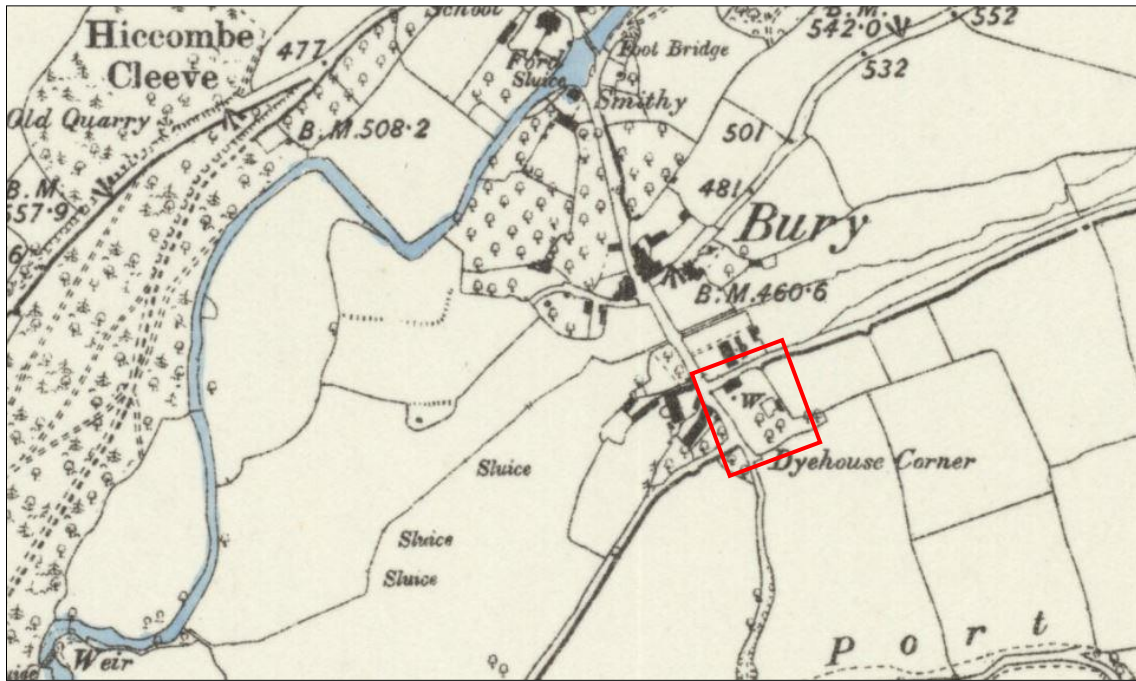


FIGURE 4: 1ST EDITION OS MAP, SURVEYED 1888/ PUBLISHED 1889. SOMERSET: SHEET LXVII.NE.

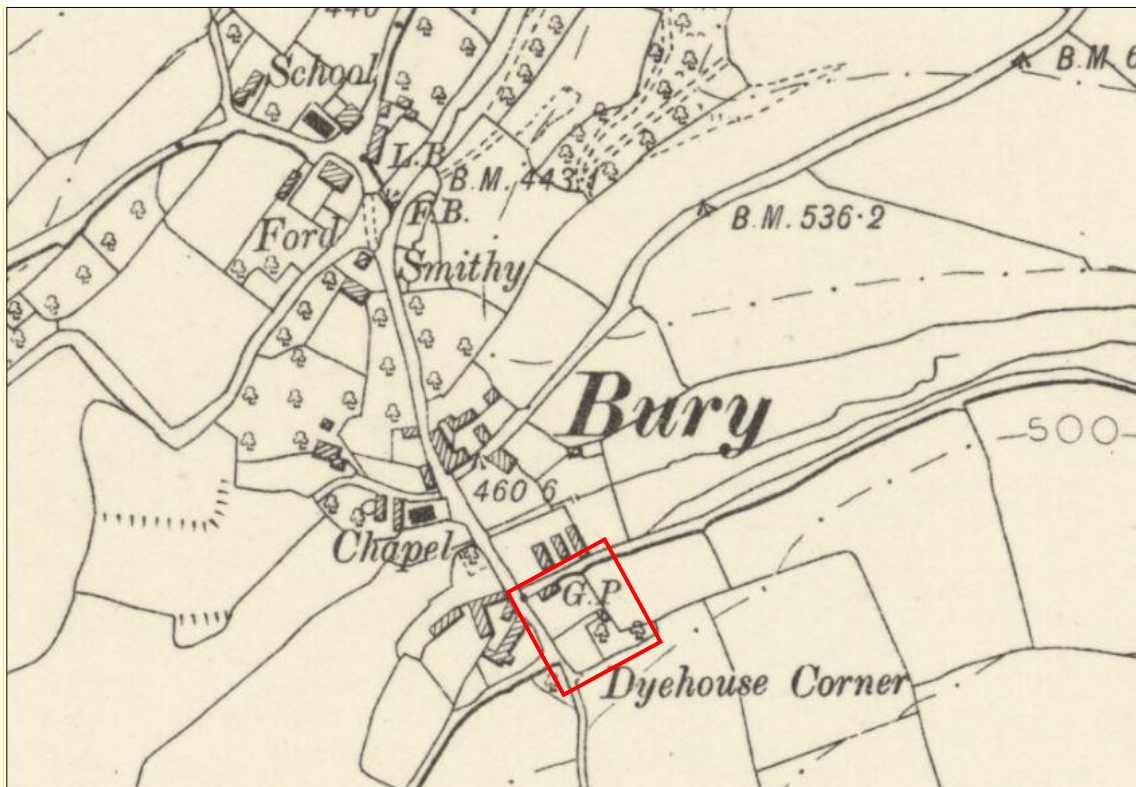


FIGURE 5: 2ND EDITION OS MAP, REVISED 1902/ PUBLISHED 1905. SOMERSET: SHEET LXVII.NE.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

3.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

The works comprised the monitoring and recording of landscaping to the east, south and west of Bidgoods. The excavations were undertaken with a grading bucket, and were to a maximum depth of 1.4m. Much of the excavated area comprised 20th century retaining walls and surface treatments. The retaining wall was in part built out of concrete rubble, which had seemingly been derived from a former floor surface, presumably from a removed patio or internal floor.

Other than two modern services (water and electric) only two archaeological features were identified, to the west of Bidgoods was a 1m² cut filled with a dark grey-brown silt-clay. This likely reflected a soak-away, being adjacent to a down pipe. To the east of Bidgoods the footings of a small stone structure were encountered, seemingly abutting the house. The internal space of this building was 0.9m x 1.1m, and it presumably reflected the remains of a water-closet. The footings survived for a single course, and were of a slate build bonded in a white lime mortar.

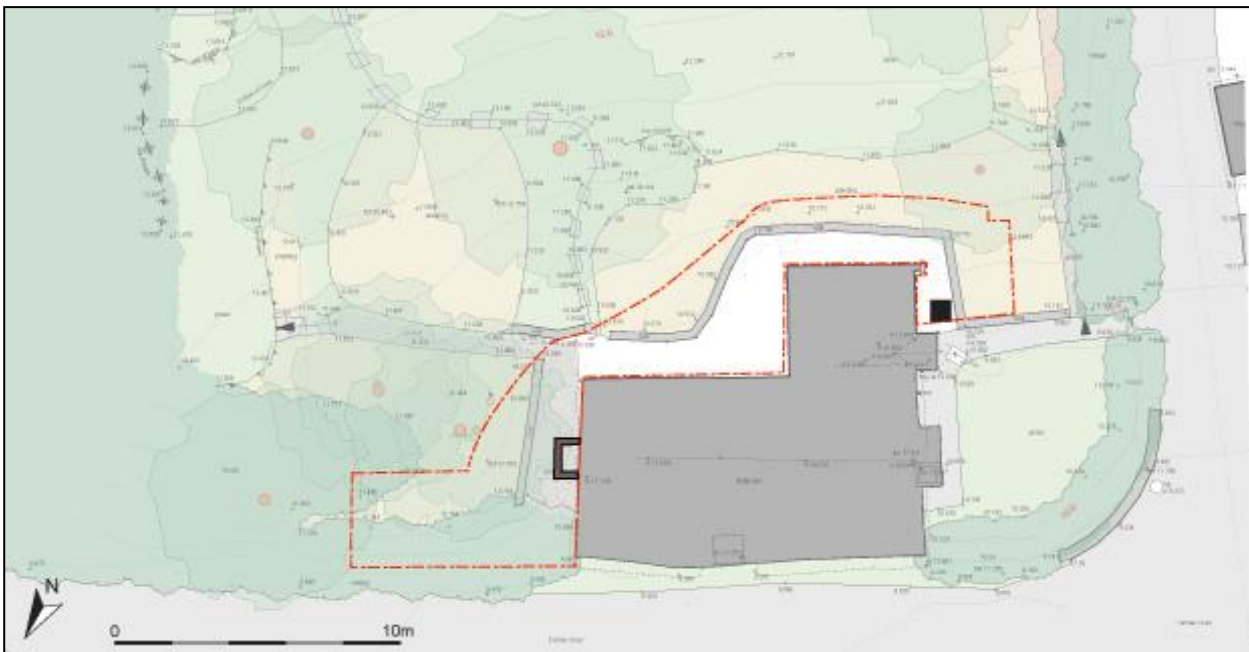


FIGURE 6: PLAN SHOWING THE AREAS OF EXCAVATION AND FEATURES IDENTIFIED.



FIGURE 7: FOOTING OF STRUCTURE TO EAST OF BIDGOODS, VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (1M SCALE).

3.2 FINDS

The assemblage was collected over the course of the monitoring and consisted of an assemblage of post-medieval pottery and glass with a single fragment of ceramic drain and a single pig tooth and fragment of animal bone. Most of the finds were white refined earthenware's and other industrial slips, although the assemblage included a small quantity of 17th-18th wares. There was a noticeable lack of clay pipe stems.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

The monitoring confirmed that there had been a severe level of cutting into the slope for the 20th century kitchen extension, and surround footpath/patio areas. The topsoil was shown to be up to 1m deep, where not truncated. The works tentatively suggest that the 20th century extension may overlay an earlier (18th or 19th century) feature (a well is shown on the 1st Edition OS Map). The limited evidence for this is that the cut for the footing trench appears to be around double width to the south-east. The footings of a small stone built lime bonded building (water-closet) was exposed abutting the eastern elevation of Bidgoods. The only other features were the modern retaining walls of the garden, a modern soak-away and two service pipes (electric and water).

No features or finds recovered pre-dated the 17th century, but the archaeological potential of the area remains high.

5.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT NUMBERS

Context No:	Identifier:	Description:
(100)	Topsoil	Dark brown-red silt-clay
(101)	Hill wash	A reddish-yellow grey silt-clay with occasional to common shillet fragments.
[102]	Structure	Retaining wall to garden, largely of unbonded concrete rubble (broken up floor), to the east and west the wall was of slate rubble and quartz.
(103)	Structure	Slate rubble footing with lime mortar bond, likely a water-closet
[104]	Cut	Cut of 1m square rectangular pit, most likely a soak-away pit or modern feature.
(105)	fill	Dark yellow-brown silt-clay fill of [104]
[106]	Cut	Cut for footing of exiting extension, projects slightly to the south-east end, potentially suggesting two cuts, but no differentiation visible in fills.
(107)	Fill	Dark grey-brown silt-clay fill of [106] a modern feature.
(108)	Natural	Yellow clay-silt hard packed, lots of shale/mudstone inclusions

APPENDIX 2: FINDS CONCORDANCE

Context	Pottery			Bone		Glass			CBM			
	No.	Wgt.		No.	Wgt.	No.	Wgt.		No.	Wgt.		
Topsoil	37	0.257	White refined earthenwares	2	0.056	1x animal bone 1x pig tooth	1	0.045	Pink Glass sherd - heavily decorated	1	0.125	Ceramic drain frag.
	3	0.154	Other Industrial wares				2	0.039	Clear glass bottles/ one with cork			
	9	0.328	Post-med Somerset wares 17 th -18 th century				1	0.009	Clear glass shard			
	1	0.072	Bristol/ Staffordshire Yellow Slip				1	0.039	Thick blue glass sherd			
	1	0.363	Ceramic bed knob									
	1	0.170	Terracotta duck head									
	2	0.021	19 th century English Stoneware									
TOTALS	54	1.363		2	0.056		5	0.131		1	0.125	

APPENDIX 3: ADDITIONAL PHOTOS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING



1. START OF WORKS, VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (1M SCALE).



2. EDGE OF EXCAVATION TO THE SOUTH OF THE EXTENSION, VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).



3. WORKING SHOT, OF WORKS AS THEY PROGRESSED, VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).



4. AS ABOVE AT COMPLETION OF EXCAVATIONS, VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).



5. LIMITS OF EXCAVATION, VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).



6. SOUTH-EASTERN LIMITS OF EXCAVATIONS, VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-NORTH-WEST (1M SCALE).



7. THE WESTERN LIMITS OF EXCAVATION, VIEWED FROM THE WEST-NORTH-WEST (1M SCALE).



8. SLATES RECOVERED TO THE EAST OF BIDGOODS, (NO SCALE).



9. THE EAST FACING SECTION OF THE EXCAVATIONS (1M SCALE).



10. LIMITS OF EXCAVATION TO THE EAST OF BIDGOODS, VIEWED FROM THE WEST (1M SCALE).



11. FOOTING OF STRUCTURE TO EAST OF BIDGOODS, VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).



12. AS ABOVE (1M SCALE).



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