

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Gulworthy, West Devon	National Grid Reference: SX 44350 69595	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording for a new education, activity and exhibition facilities at Morwellham Quay, Gulworthy, Devon		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 3410/18/FUL	Recipient museum: Plymouth City Museum (PCM)	
OASIS ID: southwes1-353397	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: GMQ19	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 11 th November 2019	
<p>Description of works: Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of a Private Client (the Client) during groundworks associated with the erection of new education, activity and exhibition facilities at Morwellham Quay, Morwellham, Gulworthy, Devon. The monitoring was carried out by P. Webb on 11th November 2019. This work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Boyd 2019) drawn up in consultation with the Devon County Historic Environment Team.</p> <p>Morwellham Quay is located on the east bank of the River Tamar, c.1.2km north-east of Calstock and c.5.6km south-west of Tavistock (Figure 1). The site lies on the well-drained fine loamy or fine silty soils over rock of the Manod Association (SSEW 1983) which overlies superficial head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel; overlying slate of the Tavy Formation (BGS 2019) at a height of approximately 10m AOD. The site is situated within Area A10 of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site: The Tamar Valley Mining District; the land held by Tavistock Abbey until the Dissolution, and thereafter granted to Lord John Russel, who became Duke of Bedford. A port associated with the Abbey is first documented in 1235-40. During the 19th century the port's transport connections were improved in conjunction with the mineral industry: first with the construction of the Tavistock Canal, and subsequently with the mineral railway from Devon Great Consuls copper mine to Morwellham Quay. From the 1860s Morwellham rapidly declined as a commercial port due to improved infrastructure around Tavistock and the decline of river-based trade. From the 1970s Morwellham Quay was restored and opened as a working museum. A heritage impact assessment (Cottam 2018) provides more detail and indicates that the Site has been agricultural land since at least the mid-19th century, becoming a car park in the late 20th century. Previous archaeological investigations have largely focused on the surrounding mining landscape, though archaeological monitoring in the adjacent field has been carried out, though it did not identify any archaeological remains (Bampton 2014).</p> <p>A single sub-rectangular area measuring 50m x up to 28m wide was excavated under archaeological supervision by machine using a toothless grading bucket to a depth of up to 0.80m, this being the depth of weathered natural. The stratigraphy of the site comprised a modern shillet hardcore car park surface (100) c.0.25m thick; overlying buried topsoil (101), brown soft silt-clay-loam 0.20-0.30m thick; subsoil (102), red-brown friable-soft silt-clay up to 0.16m thick; and the natural (103), grey-yellow soft silt-clay with shillet.</p> <p>No archaeological features were identified during the excavations. Finds recovered from buried topsoil (101) included: 2 sherds (16.5g) blue transfer print pottery; 1 sherd (15g) Bristol & Staffordshire yellow slip; 3 sherds (119.5g) 19th century stonewares; 2 sherds (77.5g) white refined earthenware plate; and 1 (3g) clay pipe stem. All finds were subsequently discarded.</p> <p>Conclusions: The archaeological monitoring identified that the site has remained undeveloped, forming part of a larger agricultural field on the edge of the settlement at Morwellham Quay. Finds recovered as would be expected demonstrate post-medieval activity in the general vicinity of the site.</p> <p>Bibliography: Bampton, J. 2014: <i>Archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Morwellham Quay, Gulworthy, Devon during the erection of two agricultural buildings</i>. HER report. Boyd, N. 2019: <i>Land at Morwellham Quay, Gulworthy, West Devon, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH WSI report no.: GMQ19v1. British Geological Survey 2019: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html Cottam, S. 2018: <i>Proposed additional visitor facilities at Morwellham Quay, Devon: Heritage Impact Assessment</i>. AC Archaeology report no.: ACD1910/1/0 Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>.</p>		
Recorder: P. Webb	Date sent to HER: 14.11.19	

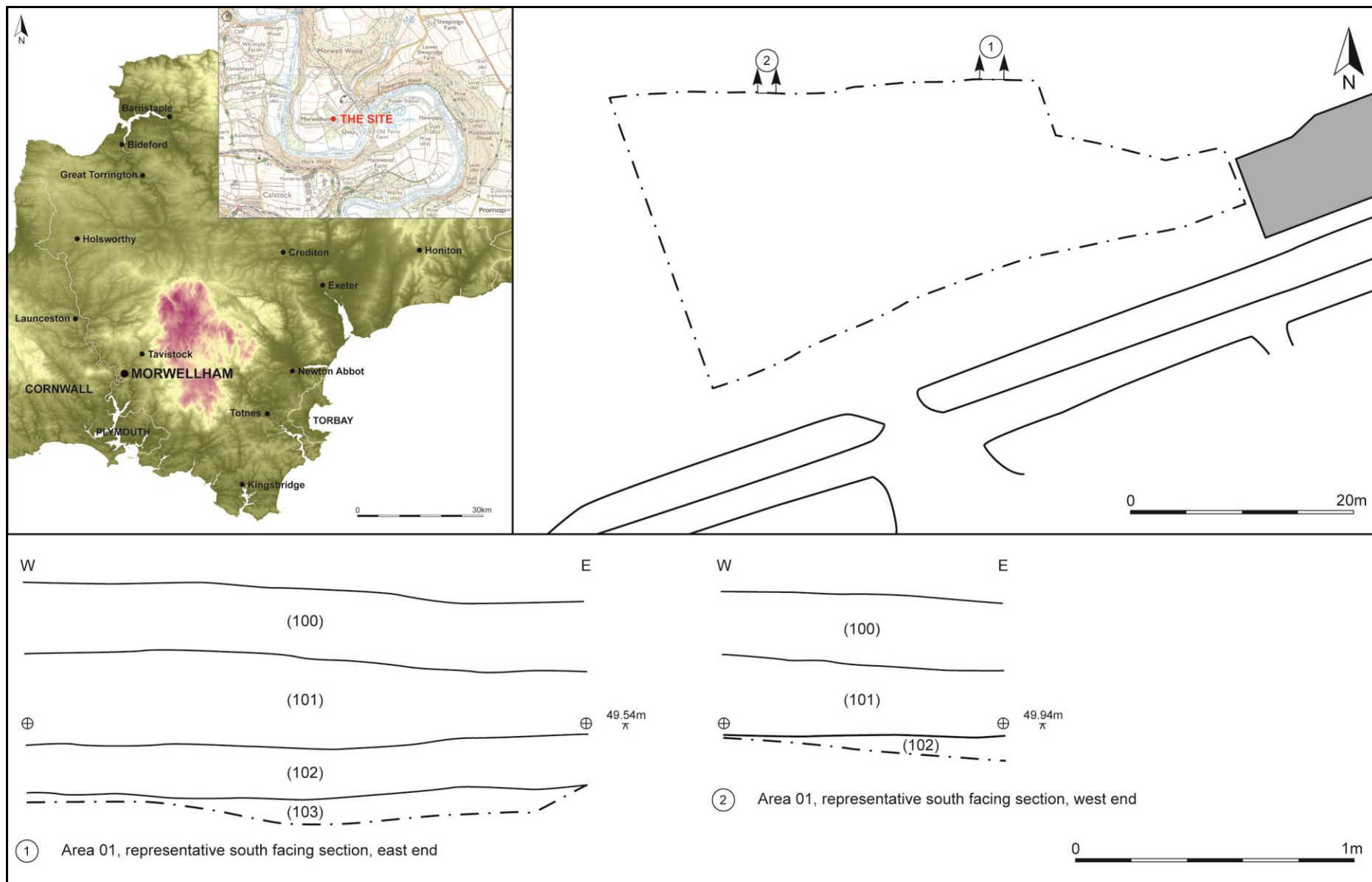


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION, PLAN AND SECTIONS. HEIGHTS AT AN ARBITRARY TBM OF 50M AOD.



FIGURE 2: AREA 01, POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (1M & 2M SCALES).



FIGURE 3: REPRESENTATIVE SOUTH FACING SECTION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (2M SCALE).