

Civil Parish & District: Buckfastleigh, Dartmoor National Park	National Grid Reference: SX 74528 66998	DNP Identifier:
Subject: Archaeological Monitoring of change of use of land to parking and amenity area Wee Furzeleigh Cottage, Buckfastleigh, Devon		Photo attached? Yes
Planning Application no: 0465/18	OASIS ID: southwes1-361004	
Contractor's reference number/code: BWF19	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 4 th September 2019	
<p>Description of works: Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of a Private Client, during groundworks at Wee Furzeleigh Cottage, Buckfastleigh, Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA), Devon, (Figure 1). This work was undertaken on 4th September 2019 in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation drawn up in consultation with the DNPA (Boyd 2019 WSI.BWF19v2).</p> <p>Furzeleigh Mill is a Grade II Listed late 16th/ 17th century former mill, since converted to a hotel (1200967). Wee Furzeleigh Cottage was a much later (c.1970) addition but is listed as it falls within the curtilage of the mill. The site is located c.70m to the west of the A38, c.190m north of the River Dart and c.300m east of Buckfast Abbey. The site sits at a height of c.38m AOD. The soils are the well-drained fine loamy and fine silty soils over rock of the Denbigh 1 Association (SSEW 1983), which overlie the Devonian Slates of the Tavy Formation with superficial alluvial deposits (BGS 2019).</p> <p>The monitoring consisted of the excavation of a single trench for a retaining wall for the proposed parking area; the levels across the rest of the amenity area were to be raised. A 1m wide footing trench was excavated by a machine fitted with a toothless bucket. All exposed deposits abutted the historic (18-19th century?) stone wall, and it was clear that the field has been subject to previous phases of landscaping, most likely during the construction of the A38.</p> <p>The site stratigraphy consisted an active c.0.12m thick mid-brown silt-clay topsoil (100). To the west, where it abutted the stone wall, this topsoil overlay a firm orange clay-silt (101); whilst to the east it overlay a yellow-grey clay-silt (104). Both deposits likely represent re-deposited natural, a cleaner deposit abutting the stone wall. To the west these layers of re-deposited natural overlay a layer of a dark brown silt-clay (102) with fragments of bitumen tarmac, stone rubble and various iron objects. This rubble layer overlay a largely clean homogenous soft and fine mid-brown silt-clay (103), seemingly a buried topsoil, but equally likely to be silting-up deposit. Deposit (104) abutted both the stone wall to the west and a bank of reddish-yellow silt-natural (106), this again being formed from re-deposited natural and presumably representing a buried boundary bank. This bank potentially relates to the former leat which ran along the line of the stone wall within the proposal site, deposits (103) and (102) represent the filling up of this leat in the later 19th and 20th century. To the west the bank was also abutted by a clean soft mid-brown silt-loam (105), which may also have potentially been a silting deposit caused by flood events, or overflow of the leat.</p> <p>The only other features noted were three 20th century service trenches, one of which was the current electric feed for Wee Furzeleigh, and another redundant more substantive electric feed likely relating to the use of the field as a site compound for the construction of the A38. More interestingly and running against the hedge boundary to the north of the site was a large concrete drainage pipe, a modern replacement presumably for the leat run-off which ran historically in this approximate location. Only the top of the pipe was exposed, and so no evidence for any older leat was encountered.</p> <p>All finds encountered on site were modern and discarded on site. No significant archaeological features or deposits were identified, although features perhaps relating to the historic water management associated with the mill (i.e. bank (106) and the 20th century concrete drain) were identified.</p> <p>Bibliography Boyd, N. 2019: <i>WSIv2 For Wee Furzeleigh Cottage, Buckfastleigh, Dartmoor, Devon</i>. South West Archaeology WSI. BWF19v2 Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales (a brief explanation of the constituent soil associations)</i> British Geological Survey 2019: http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html .</p>		
Recorder: S.H. Walls, South West Archaeology Ltd		Date sent to DNP: 10/10/2019

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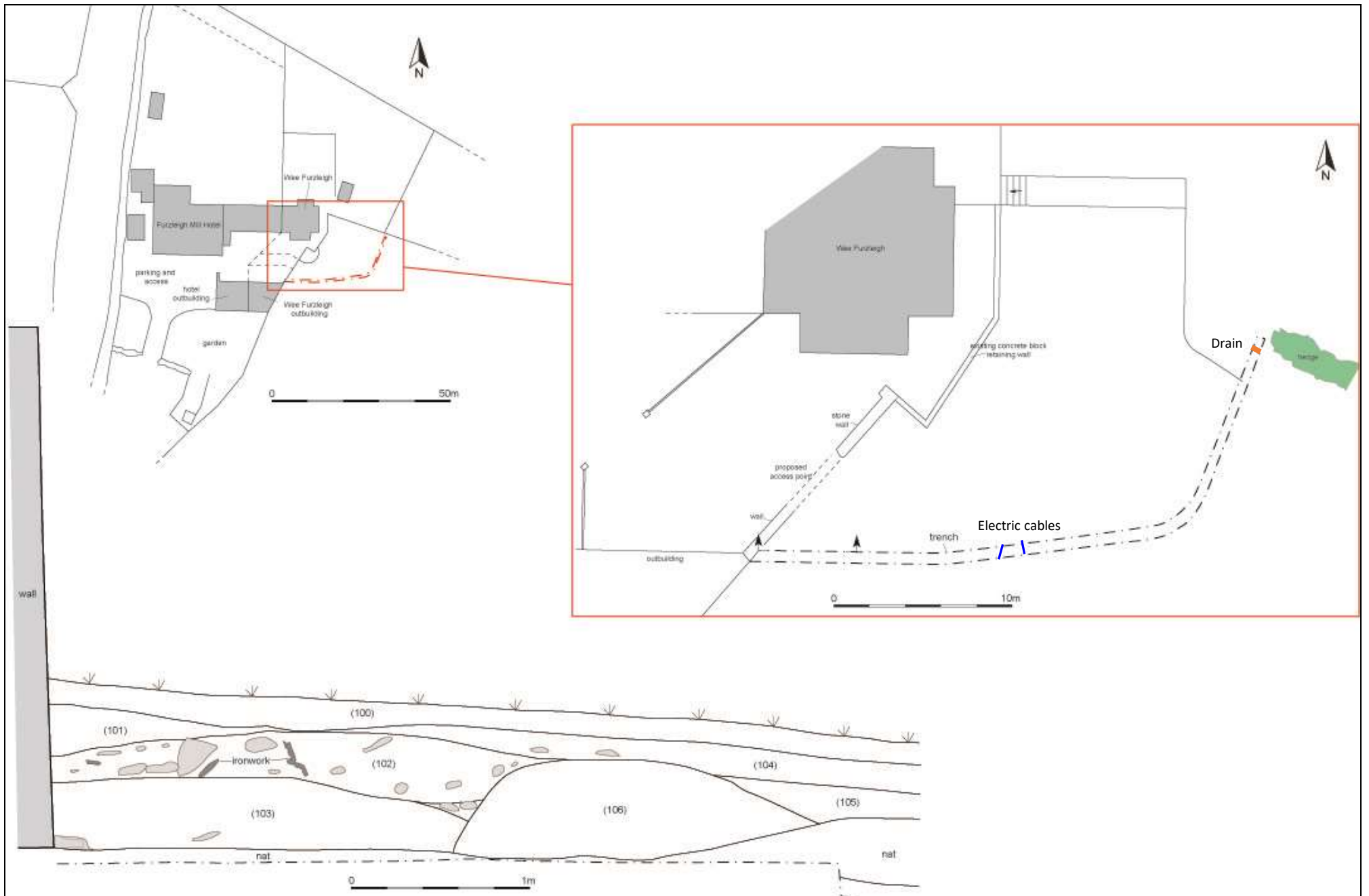


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION AND PLAN AND SECTION THROUGH THE MILL LEAT.



FIGURE 2: EXPOSED STONE WALL FOOTING, NOTE THE PROJECTING STONE IN THE BUILD ABOVE, POTENTIALLY FOR A SLUICE(?), VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).



FIGURE 3: SOUTH FACING SECTION, SHOWING THE INFILLED LEAT DEPOSITS ABUTTING THE HISTORIC STONE WALL; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).



FIGURE 4: FOOTING TRENCH DURING EXCAVATION, THE SCALE LOCATED IN THE LOCATION OF THE BURIED BANK (106); VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (1M SCALE).