

# The Chanter's House Ottery St. Mary Devon

Results of Archaeological  
Monitoring and Evaluation, 2008



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## Acknowledgements

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Mr. Max Norris for unrestricted access to the site  
The staff of the Devon Record Office  
The staff of the West Country Studies Library  
The staff of the Devon County Historic Environment Service

## 1.0 Introduction

<b>Location:</b>	Chanter's House
<b>Parish:</b>	Ottery St. Mary
<b>District:</b>	East Devon
<b>County:</b>	Devon
<b>NGR:</b>	SY09689560
<b>Proposal:</b>	Provision of new driveway and vehicle entrance, new external staircase to coach house, erection of new boiler house, replacement porch within walled garden and alterations to main house.
<b>DCHES ref:</b>	arch/dc/ed 11416, 12099
<b>Full Planning Ref.</b>	07/1617/FUL
<b>Listed Blding Ref.</b>	07/1622/LBC
<b>OASIS No.</b>	southwes1-40347
<b>OS Map Copying Licence No:</b>	100044808

### 1.1 Background

This report details the archaeological watching brief, evaluation and monitoring carried out by South West Archaeology for Jonathan Rhind, Architects, on behalf of Mr Max Norris (the Client) at the Chanter's House, Ottery St Mary on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup> 2008. These works were carried out as a condition for planning consent on the site to fulfil the brief composed by Devon County Historic Environment Service (DCHES 2007 - see Appendix 1).

In 1335 the Bishop of Exeter, John Grandisson, purchased the manor of Ottery from the Canons of Rouen and set up a college of priests who became the lords of Ottery. The collegiate buildings were established to the south and west of the church, with the house of the Precentor, or Chanter, lying to the north of this group. When the college was dissolved in 1545, the House fell into secular hands, and eventually came into the possession of the Coleridge family, who owned it from 1796 until 2006 (see Witham 1984).

The present Chanter's House retains a medieval core but was largely rebuilt in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by the Heath family, and extensively renovated and extended in 1880-3 by William Butterfield on behalf of Sir John Duke Coleridge (Cherry & Pevsner 1989, 621). The house is located immediately to the west and northwest of the church of St. Mary, set in extensive landscaped grounds and accompanied by walled gardens and ancillary buildings.

### 1.2 Summary

A series of watching briefs and evaluation trenches were monitored in advance of development at the Chanter's House. Service trenches 1 and 2 revealed only two archaeological features: the footings of a narrow brick (garden?) wall in Trench 1, and a stone structure, possibly a culvert, protecting a drainage pipe in Trench 2.

Trenches 3 and 4 bisected the proposed line of a new driveway below the house to the west. Trench 3 revealed two shallow parallel linear features at its eastern end which are interpreted as truncated ditches. The fill of the easternmost ditch contained fragments of roofing slate and glazed roofing tile. Trench 4 contained only a modern brick drain and two ceramic field drains.

Monitoring the topsoil strip between Trenches 3 and 4 uncovered the remnant of an earlier boundary, probably the one shown on the tithe map of 1840. This boundary had been lost by 1888, but was reconstituted before 1903 as an iron fence.

### 1.3 Methodology

The renovation and development of the Chanter's House necessitated the excavation of two additional service trenches (Trenches 1 and 2 – see Fig. 6), and this work took place under archaeological supervision. Trenching was carried out by a mechanical excavator with a 0.4m wide toothless grading bucket. Monitoring was carried out by L.S. Bray on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> April 2008.

Two evaluation trenches (Trenches 3 and 4) were excavated under strict archaeological supervision along the line of a proposed driveway leading up to the house (see Fig. 6). After consultation with DCHES, additional archaeological monitoring and recording took place between these two trenches and along the route of the driveway during its construction. Trenching was carried out by a mechanical excavator with a 1.6m wide toothless grading bucket, and the monitoring was carried out by L.S. Bray and M.J. Gillard. The initial evaluation trenches were opened on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2008, and subsequent monitoring took place on June 30<sup>th</sup> 2008.

All archaeological works were carried out in accordance with the methodology laid down in the WSI drawn up by SWARCH in consultation with DCHES (SWARCH 2008 - see Appendix 2).

## 2.0 Results

Trench 1 ran from the gated entrance south of the Chanter's House and west of St Mary's Church, along the drive and around the eastern side of the House and from there into the courtyard to the north. Trench 2 was excavated west to east across the driveway to the south of the Chanter's House and intersected with Trench 1 close to the steps leading up into the church graveyard (see Fig. 6).

Trenches 3 and 4 were dug across the line of the new driveway running northeast to southwest approximately 100m to the west of the Chanter's House (see Fig. 6). Both trenches were aligned east-west and were 15m long by approximately 2m wide. The topsoil strip for the driveway between Trenches 3 and 4 was also monitored, and this area was approximately 30m long by 3m wide.

### 2.1 Results of watching brief on service trenching

#### 2.1.1 Trench 1 (see Fig. 6 and Plates 1-2)

Under the driveway to the south of the house, and lying directly on natural, was a 0.3m thick deposit of loose soil and rubble containing fragments of brick and mortar with some slate, charcoal and occasional coal. This material increased in thickness to the east of the Chanter's House, reaching a thickness of c.1 m to the north of the building. In this area its character had changed somewhat, consisting of a mass of redeposited topsoil containing fragments of building material, especially grey roof slate, which was much more common in this area. In the courtyard to the north of the Chanter's House the ground had been extensively disturbed by various service trenches, some of which were still active. The natural subsoil in Trench 1 consisted of a soft, yellow and red mottled

silty-sand with a consistent homogenous texture, although it contained occasional patches of red clay.

The only feature of archaeological note in Trench 1 was the base of a brick wall, 0.2-0.3 m wide, trending east-west across it to the west of the steps leading to St. Mary's Church. It comprised a single course of brick with some stone set into a bed of mortar resting on the natural subsoil. It is probable this can be associated with the garden walls shown on 19<sup>th</sup> century maps (see Figs. 4 & 5).

Only a single sherd of modern pottery and a clay pipe stem were recovered from the overburden.

#### 2.1.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was cut into the driveway to the south of the Chanter's House. The nature and character of the deposits encountered was identical to those of Trench 1.

The foundations of a 0.4 m wide wall or possible service trench were encountered in Trench 2. This ran approximately north-south and consisted of a single course of stone blocks with some brick set in lime mortar. As the orientation of this structure coincided with a line connecting the two drainage cisterns in the driveway, it may have provided a protective structure for a pipe running between them.

No artefactual material was recovered during the excavation of Trench 2.

## 2.2 Results of evaluation on line of proposed driveway

#### 2.2.1 Trench 3 (see Fig. 7 and Plate 3)

The topsoil in Trench 3 was 0.4-0.5m thick and consisted of a soft mid-brown loam. The natural subsoil proved to be a soft homogenous grey clayey-silt with occasional charcoal fragments on its upper surface.

Two linear features were identified at the eastern end of Trench 3, both roughly parallel to each other and trending northeast to southwest.

Feature [301], the westernmost of the two, was up to 1m wide and proved to be only 0.1m deep with a flat bottom. This feature is likely to represent the truncated base of a ditch. It contained a single fill, context (302), a soft homogenous red-brown silty-clay that contained occasional pieces of flint or chert up to 80mm in size, and rare fragments of charcoal up to 10mm in size. (302) also contained several fragments of grey roof slate, including one near-complete example, and these were similar to those encountered during the excavation of Trenches 1 and 2 (see above). Also recovered were three pieces of green-glazed ceramic roof tile. Though these were broken and somewhat abraded and lacked diagnostic crests or slashing, it is probable these are of late or early post-medieval date, and may therefore be derived from one of the religious collegiate buildings associated with the Chanter's House.

Feature [303], the easternmost of the two, was similar in character to [301], consisting of a shallow ditch up to 1.35m wide by 0.12 m deep with a concave profile. Its fill, (304), was a soft homogenous reddish-grey silt containing rare inclusions of flint or chert up to 40mm in size, and very occasional flecks of charcoal.



Given the proximity of the two features and their common orientation, it is likely they represent the remnants of a field boundary, with a hedge or possibly a wall running between them.

#### 2.2.2 Trench 4 (see Fig. 7)

The topsoil in Trench 4 was identical to that encountered in Trench 3. The natural subsoil was also similar, with the exception that in the western part of the trench it was capped by a thin (<0.1 m) layer of yellowish-brown clayey-silt containing common stone inclusions.

The only archaeological features encountered were 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century in date. Two ceramic field drains trending roughly southeast to northwest were identified, one of which was linked at its western end to a larger brick drain trending northeast to southwest at the western end of the trench. This well-built structure was 0.5m wide with a U-shaped profile and was composed of two courses of mortared and frogged brick. The drain was set in a cut, 1.3m wide and 0.3 m deep with a U-shaped profile, the fill of which yielded 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery. This cut truncated the western edge of another feature that was at least 1.3 m wide and a maximum of 0.3 m deep, filled with a pink clay-silt with occasional patches of yellow clay-silt. This feature also contained abundant stone inclusions and fragments of brick and silt indicating a relatively modern date.

### 2.3 Archaeological monitoring on the route of proposed driveway

#### 2.3.1 Results (see Fig. 7 and Plate 4)

The topsoil strip removed 0.4-0.5m of soft mid-brown loam topsoil and revealed the clean grey clayey-silt subsoil beneath. The subsoil was not entirely homogenous, and some patches of yellow silty-clay were observed toward the northeastern end of the trench. The topsoil contained little artefactual material, with the few ceramics being post-medieval or modern in date. This dearth of ceramics so close to a medieval town (see Fig. 2) would suggest it had not been routinely manured. In the southwestern half of the trench several lengths of iron post were present in the topsoil; the significance of this is discussed below.

At the northeastern end of the trench the brick drain seen in evaluation Trench 4 was encountered. It curved away to the west and disappeared beneath the baulk 4m from the end of the trench. A pair of field drains – vertical-sided cuts 0.45m wide filled with stones – ran across the trench 5m and 8.5m from the northeastern end.

At the southwestern end of the trench a linear feature [501] was observed. It ran diagonally across the trench from northeast to southwest. The observed length of [501] was 14m and it was 1.1m wide by up to 0.16m deep with a shallow, concave profile. It was filled by (502), a fairly soft, mid-brown slightly clayey silt that produced a single sherd of post-medieval glazed stoneware. The homogeneous, silty nature of this fill suggests that cut [501] had silted up naturally.

(502) was itself cut by linear gully [503], which ran down its centre. This was 0.35m wide, 0.07m deep with a shallow concave profile. It was filled with (504), a soft, light-grey silt in which a single sherd of 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery was found.

Linear [501]/[503] shared the same alignment as features [301] and [303] observed in evaluation Trench 3 a few metres to the southwest. It is probable that [501]/[503] represents a continuation of one of these features, with the absence of the second attributed to truncation – and both [301] and [303] were very shallow features.

Alternatively, [301] and [303] may converge to form [501]/[503]. It is notable that these

features follow the line of a boundary present on the OS surveyor's draft map of 1806-7 and the tithe map of 1840 (see Fig. 3). The apportionment makes clear that this boundary divides the closes appertaining to Chanter's House (then Heath's Court) from the meadows to the west, subsequently interpreted as the boundary of the collegiate grounds (see Dalton 1917, 77). It is notable that this boundary is not present on the OS map of 1888 (see Fig. 4) but is reinstated in the same position by 1903 (see Fig. 5).

### 2.3.2 Interpretation

In light of the cartographic evidence the archaeological features can be interpreted as follows:

[501] was a ditch belonging to the historic boundary between meadows to the west and the closes of Chanter's House to the east (see Fig. 3). There is nothing to indicate this boundary was anything other than a shallow ditch, most probably with a hedge and bank, as there is no sign of a more substantial ditch or footings for a wall or stone-lined bank. This boundary was removed sometime between 1840 and 1888, the ditch being filled in if it had not already silted up. This was part of a programme of works that saw the small closes and meadows to the west of Chanter's House being replaced by formal gardens and parkland.

[503] is a recut along the line of [501], and perhaps some trace of the older boundary was then still visible. It was along this line that pieces of iron post were found in the topsoil suggesting that the reinstated boundary took the form of metal fencing. The posts looked similar to those forming part of extant fencing to the southwest in a boundary running on the same line as [503]. [503] is probably a shallow drainage ditch but it is so slight that it may simply be a ditch worn by the passage of animals along the base of the fencing. The fence and ditch seem to have been lost by the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## 3.0 Conclusion

Trenches 1 and 2, dug to accommodate services for the Chanter's House, revealed only two archaeological features: the footings of a narrow brick (garden?) wall in Trench 1, and a stone structure, possibly a culvert, protecting a drainage pipe in Trench 2. Given its location within a substantial medieval settlement, artefactual remains were surprisingly rare.

Trench 3, evaluating the course of the proposed driveway, revealed two shallow parallel linear features at its eastern end which are interpreted as truncated ditches. The easternmost yielded fragments of roofing slate and glazed roofing tile. Trench 4 contained only a modern brick drain and two ceramic field drains.

Monitoring the topsoil strip between Trenches 3 and 4 uncovered the remnant of an earlier boundary, probably the one shown on the tithe map as dividing the meadows to the west from the closes related to the Chanter's House to the east. If this feature formed the medieval boundary of the college it was not very substantial. This boundary had been lost by 1888, but was reconstituted before 1903 as an iron fence.



## 4.0 References

### Published Sources:

**Cherry, B. & Pevsner, N.** 1989: *The Buildings of England: Devon*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. London.

**Dalton, J.N.** 1917: *The Collegiate Church of Ottery St. Mary*. Cambridge.

**Witham, J.A.** 1984: *Ottery St. Mary: A Devonshire Town*. Chichester.

### Unpublished Sources:

**DCCHES 2007:** Brief for archaeological monitoring and recording - The Chanter's House, Ottery St Mary

**SWARCH 2008:** Written scheme of investigation for an archaeological monitoring and recording at the Chanter's house, Ottery St Mary, Devon

### Devon Record Office:

Ottery St. Mary tithe map (1840)

Ottery St. Mary tithe apportionment (1840)

Ordnance Survey Second Edition 1:2500 Devon sheet 70.13

### West Country Studies Library:

Ordnance Survey First Edition 1:2500 Devon sheet 70.13

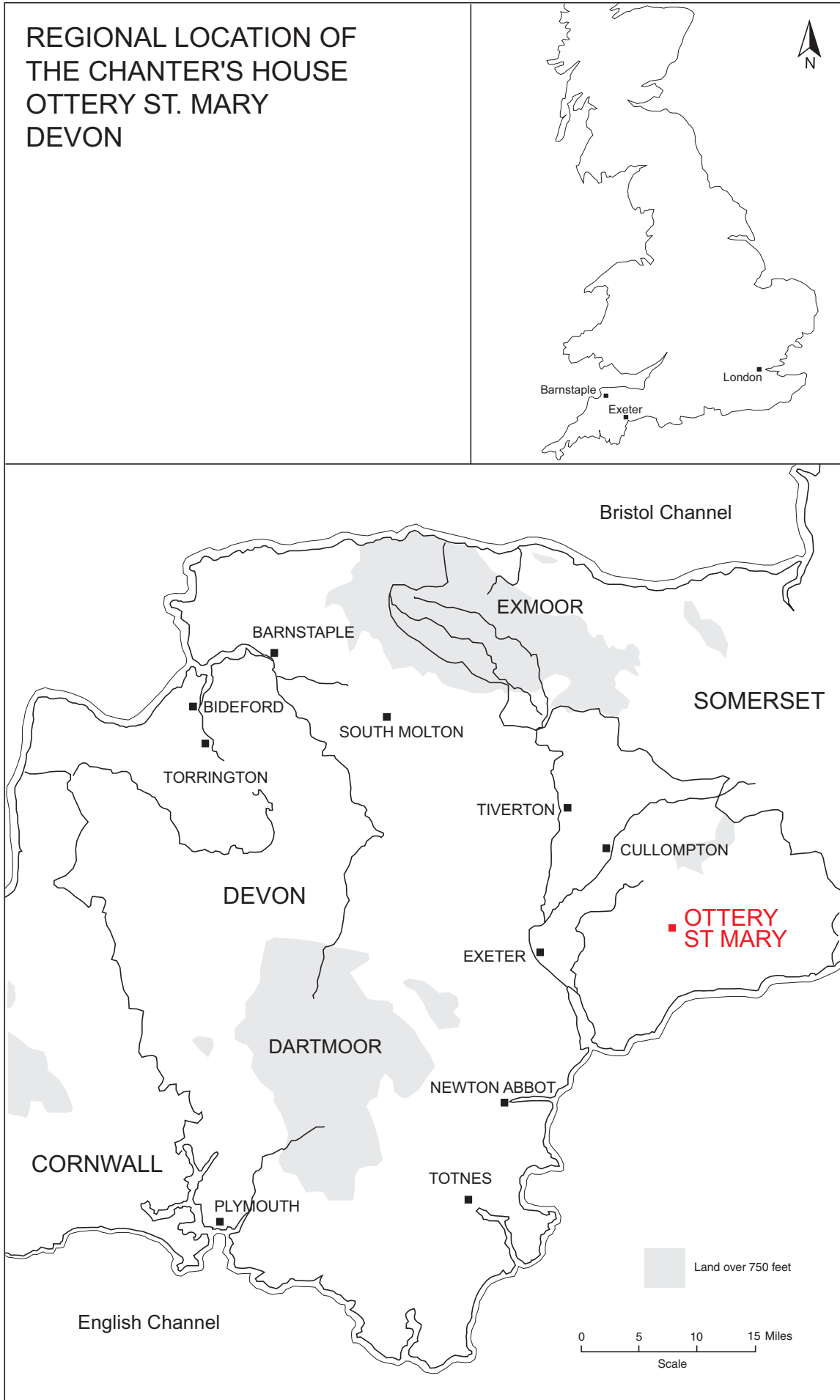


Fig. 1: Regional location.

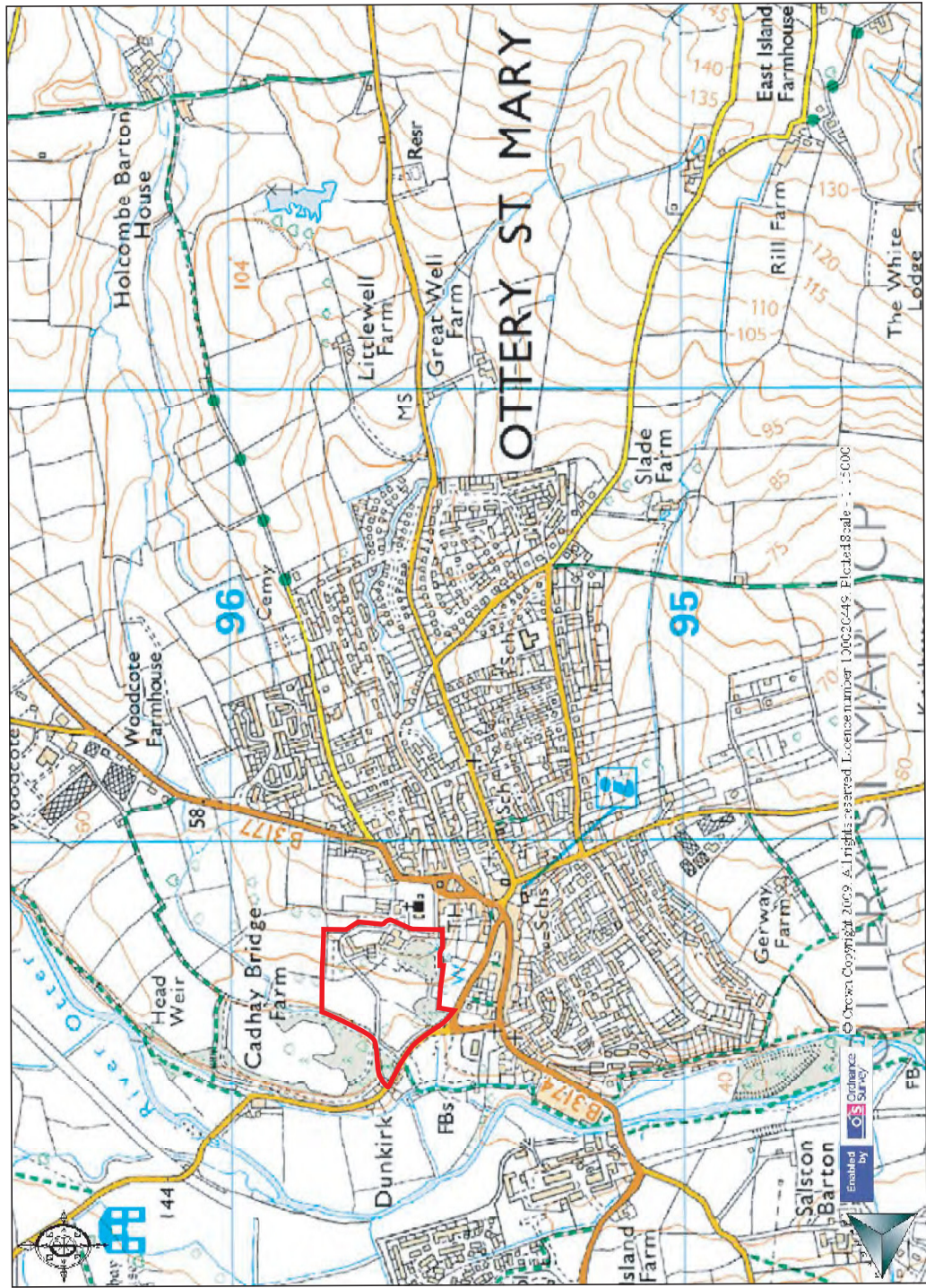


Fig. 2: Ottery St. Mary, showing the location of The Charter's House (in red) (OS 1:25,000 scale map).





Fig. 3: Extract from the 1840 tithe map of Ottery St. Mary. The Chanter's House is shown in red (DRO).

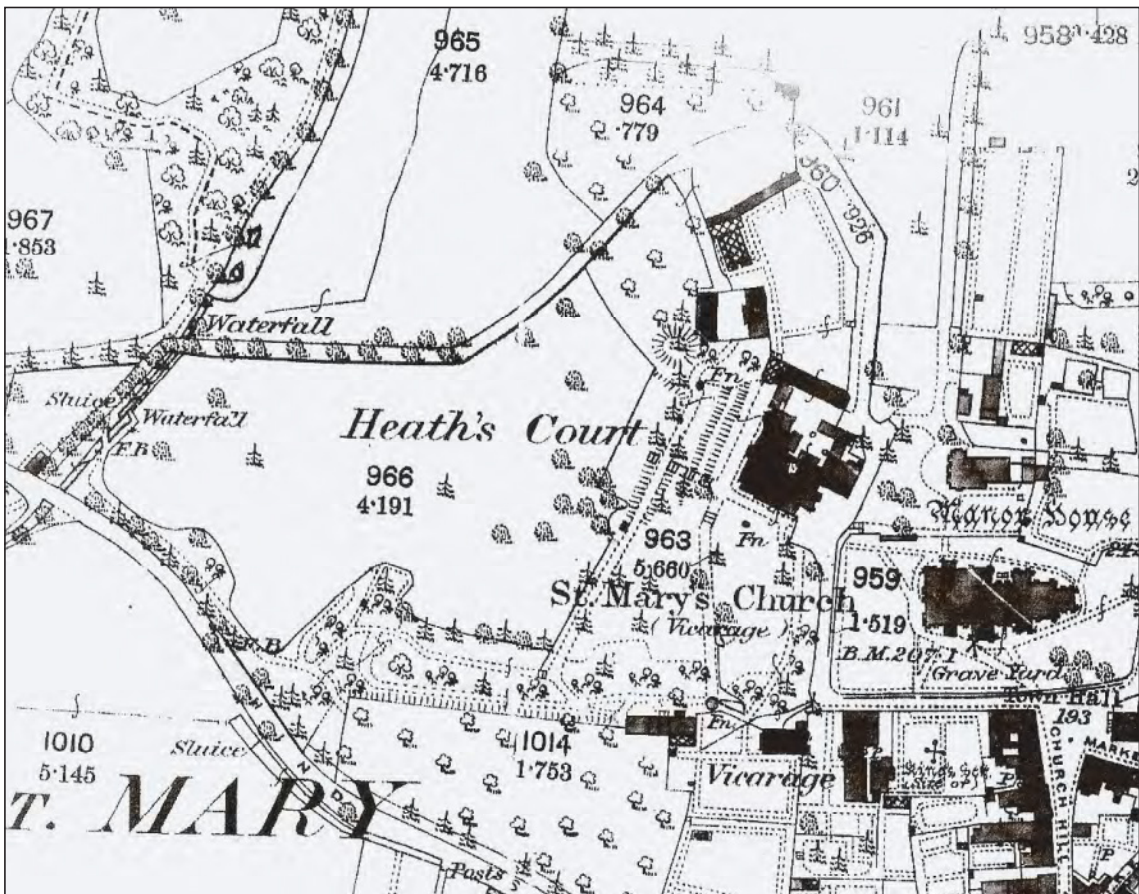


Fig. 4: Extract from the Ordnance Survey First Edition map at 1:2500 surveyed 1888, published 1889 (Devon sheet 70.13) (WCSL).

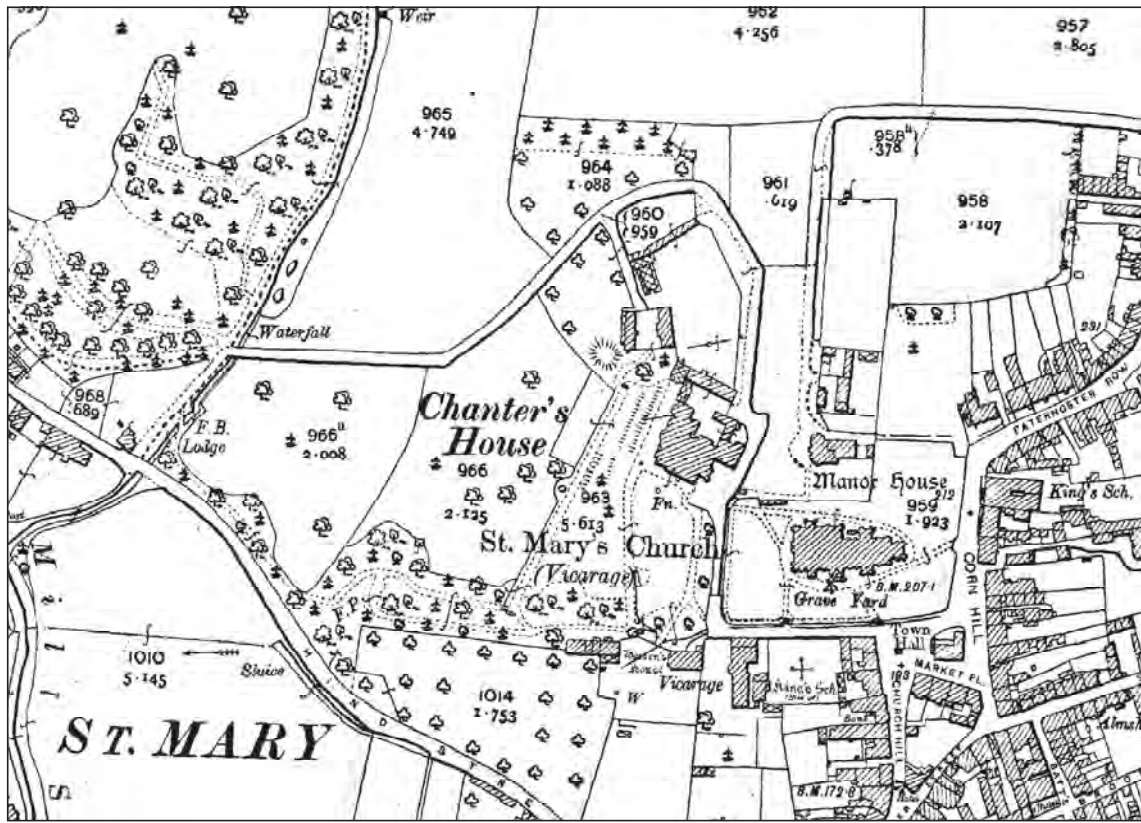


Fig. 5: Extract from the Ordnance Survey Second Edition map at 1:2500 revised 1903, published 1905 (Devon sheet 70.13) (DRO).



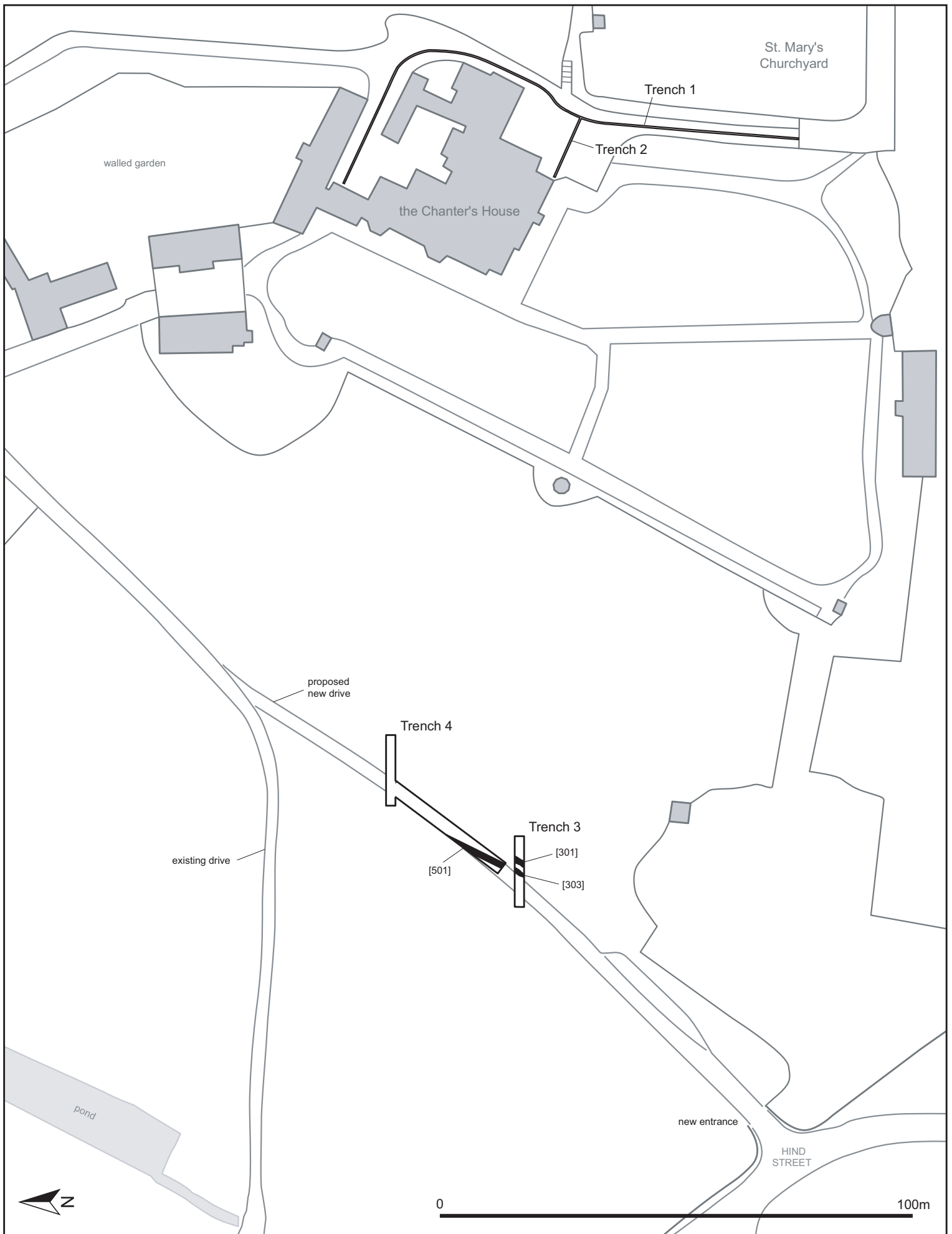


Fig. 6: Map showing the location and orientation of archaeological investigations.



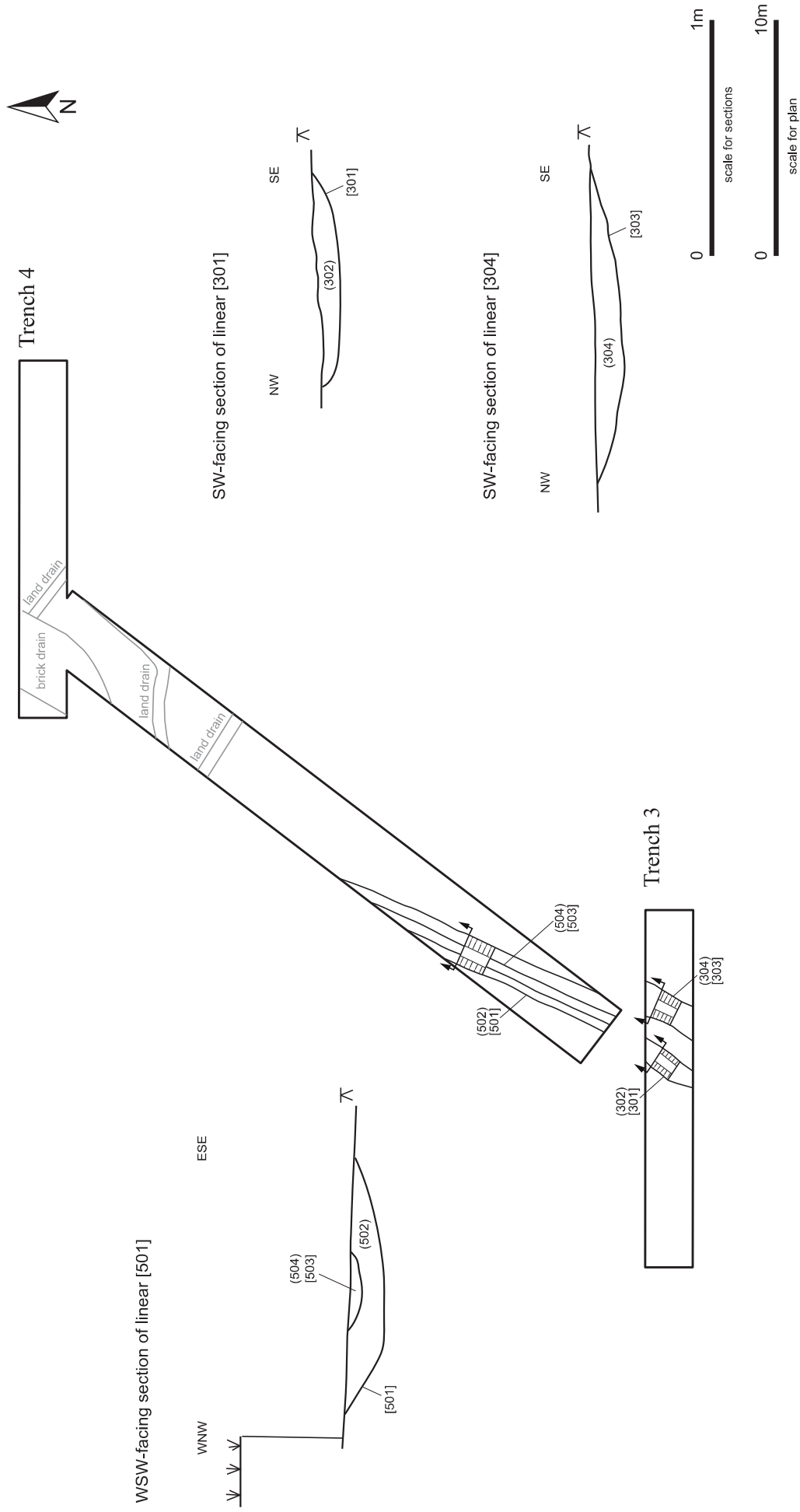


Fig. 7: Plans and sections relating to evaluation Trenches 3 and 4.

Plate 1: Trench 1, looking north along the drive to the Chanter's House. The wall of St Mary's Churchyard is on the right (2m scale).



Plate 2: Trench 1, looking east across the courtyard at the rear of the Chanter's House (2m scale).







Plate 3: Trench 3, linear features [301] and [303] (2m scale).



Plate 4: Topsoil strip between Trenches 3 and 4, showing linear feature [501]/[503] (2m scale).

## APPENDIX 1

### BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

**Location:** The Chanter's House  
**Parish:** Ottery St Mary  
**District:** East Devon  
**County:** Devon  
**NGR:** SY09689560  
**Planning Application no:**  
**Proposal:** Proposed swimming pool and new entrance drive  
**Historic Environment Service ref:** ARCH/DC/ED 11416  
Full Planning Ref. 07/1617/FUL  
Listed Building Consent Ref. 07/1622/LBC

#### 1. INTRODUCTION AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

1.1 This brief has been prepared by the Devon County Council Historic Environment Service (HES), at the request of Russell Gray of Jonathan Rhind Architects, with regard to the archaeological works required as a condition of planning consent for the above works at The Chanter's House.

1.2 In accordance with PPG16 (1990) Archaeology and Planning Policy, and the Local Development Framework Policy on archaeology, consent has been granted, conditional upon a programme of archaeological work being undertaken. This condition requires that:

*'No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Authority.'* The development shall be carried out at all times in strict accordance with the approved scheme, or such other details as may be subsequently agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

1.3 The principal objective of the programme shall be to observe, investigate, excavate and record any surviving below-ground archaeological artefacts and deposits across the area affected by the proposed development.

1.4 The proposal is located near to, and possibly within the grounds of the medieval Ottery St. Mary College. Pre-1890 mapping shows a number of field boundaries that existed prior to the creation of the parkland/gardens. One boundary, approximately on the line of the new access, has been interpreted as the boundary of the college and grounds.

1.5 This Brief covers the application area as defined on the attached location plan.

#### 2. WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

This document sets out the scope of the works required to record the extent and character of any surviving archaeological deposits within the application area and will form the basis of the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) to be prepared by the archaeological consultant to be approved by the HES and the Local Planning Authority (LPA).

#### 3. PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS

3.1 The programme of work shall include initial desk-based work to establish the context of the site and will involve the examination of relevant cartographic, documentary and photographic sources held by the Devon Record Office, West Country Studies Library and the County Historic Environment Service.

3.2 *Selective monitoring and recording.*

Topsoil removal and all groundworks in the archaeologically sensitive area of the swimming pool should be removed by machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket, under the supervision and control of the site archaeologist, to the depth of formation, the surface of *in situ* subsoil/weathered natural or archaeological deposits whichever is highest in the stratigraphic sequence. Should archaeological deposits be exposed machining will cease in that area to allow the site archaeologist to investigate the exposed deposits.

The topsoil stripping and groundworks for the access road will be monitored and recorded by the site archaeologist at agreed and appropriate intervals throughout the groundworks phase of the construction programme. The intervals will be determined by the archaeological consultant in consultation with the applicant, the ground-workers and the HES and set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation.

3.3 Archaeological features will be cleaned and excavated by hand, recorded and fully recorded by context as per the Institute of Field Archaeologist *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological*

*Watching Brief* (1994 - revised 2001). All features shall be recorded in plan and section at a minimum scale of 1:20, larger where necessary.

As a minimum:

- i) small discrete features will be fully excavated;
- ii) larger discrete features will be half-sectioned (50% excavated); and
- iii) long linear features will be excavated to sample 20% of their length - with investigative excavations distributed along the exposed length of any such feature.

Any variation of the above will be undertaken in agreement with the HES.

3.4 Spoil will be examined for the recovery of artefacts.

3.5 Should deposits be exposed that contain palaeoenvironmental or datable elements appropriate sampling strategies should be initiated. The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve or report on finds or advise or report on other aspects of the investigation (e.g. palaeoenvironmental analysis) can be called upon and undertake assessment and analysis of such deposits - if required.

3.6 In the event of particularly significant discoveries, the HES will be informed and a site meeting between the consultant, the HES and the client/applicant to determine the appropriate mitigation.

3.7 The photographic record shall be made in B/W print supplemented by digital or colour transparency. If digital imagery is to be the sole photographic record then suitably archivable prints must be made of the digital images by a photographic laboratory. Laser or inkjet prints of digital images, while acceptable for inclusion in the report, are not an acceptable medium for archives. The drawn and written record will be on an appropriately archivable medium.

3.8 Human remains must be left in-situ, covered and protected. Removal can only take place under appropriate Home Office and environmental health regulations. Such removal must be in compliance with the relevant primary legislation.

3.9 Should gold or silver artefacts be exposed, these will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act 1996. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

## **4. MONITORING**

4.1 The archaeological consultant shall agree monitoring arrangements with the HES and give two weeks notice, unless a shorter period is agreed, of commencement of the fieldwork. Details will be agreed of any monitoring points where decisions on options within the programme are to be made.

4.2 Monitoring will continue until the deposition of the site archive and finds.

## **5. REPORTING**

5.1 The reporting requirements will be confirmed with the HES on completion of the site work. In the event that few or no archaeological remains are exposed, only minimal reporting would be required. The results may be presented in the form of a short entry to the Historic Environment Record (HER), sent to the HES. If archaeological deposits or remains are exposed during the course of the works, then more detailed reporting would be required, in the form of an illustrated summary report and, if merited, wider publication.

5.2 The report shall be prepared collating the written, graphic, visible and recorded information outlined above. The report shall include plans of the features, including their location, description of deposits and artefacts together with their interpretation. It is recommended that a draft report is submitted to the HES for comment prior to its formal submission to the Local Planning Authority. A copy of this brief shall be included in the report.

5.3 The HES would normally expect to receive the report within three months of completion of fieldwork - dependant upon the provision of specialist reports, radiocarbon dating results etc the production of which may exceed this period. If a substantial delay is anticipated then an interim report will be produced.

5.4 On completion of the report, in addition to copies required by the Client, hard copies of the report shall be supplied to the HES on the understanding that one of these copies will be deposited for public reference in the HER. In addition to the hard copies of the report, one copy shall be provided to the County Historic Environment Service in digital format - in a format to be agreed in advance with the HES - on the understanding that it may in future be made available to researchers via a web-based version of the Historic Environment Record.

5.5 The archaeological consultant shall complete an online OASIS (*Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations*) form in respect of the archaeological work.

### 5.6 Publication

Should particularly significant archaeological remains, finds and/or deposits be encountered, then these, because of their importance, are likely to merit wider publication in line with government planning guidance (PPG16). If such remains are encountered, the publication requirements – including any further analysis that may be necessary – will be confirmed with the HES.

## 6. PERSONNEL

6.1 The work shall be carried out by a recognised archaeological consultant, agreed with the HES. Staff must be suitably qualified and experienced for their project roles. All work should be carried out under the control of a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (MIFA), or by a person of similar standing. The Written Scheme of Investigation will contain details of key project staff and specialists who may contribute during the course of the works - excavation and post-excavation.

6.2 Health and Safety matters, including site security, are matters for the consultant. However, adherence to all relevant regulations will be required.

6.3 The work shall be carried out in accordance with *IFA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (1994)*, as amended (2001).

## 7. DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE AND FINDS

7.1 The archaeological consultant shall contact the museum that will receive the site archive to obtain an accession number and agree conditions for deposition. *The accession number will be quoted in the Written Scheme of Investigation.*

7.2 Archaeological finds resulting from the investigation (which are the property of the landowner), should be deposited with the appropriate museum - in a format to be agreed with the museum, and within a timetable to be agreed with the HES. The museum's guidelines for the deposition of archives for long-term storage should be adhered to. If ownership of all or any of the finds is to remain with the landowner, provision and agreement must be made for the time-limited retention of the material and its full analysis and recording, by appropriate specialists.

7.3 The condition placed upon this development will not be regarded as discharged until the report has been produced and submitted to the HES and the LPA, the site archive deposited and the OASIS form submitted.

## 8. CONTACT NAME AND ADDRESS

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13 February 2007



## APPENDIX 2

### WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING AT THE CHANTER'S HOUSE, OTTERY ST MARY, DEVON.

**Location:** The Chanter's House  
**Parish:** Ottery St Mary  
**District:** East Devon  
**County:** Devon  
**NGR:** SY09689560

**Proposal:** Provision of new driveway and vehicle entrance, new external staircase to coach house, erection of new boiler house, replacement porch within wall garden and alterations to main house.

**Historic Environment Service ref:** ARCH/DC/ED 11416

**Full Planning Ref.** 07/1617/FUL

**Listed Building Consent Ref.** 07/1622/LBC

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document forms a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which has been produced by South West Archaeology (SWARCH) at the request of Laura Boyt of Jonathan Rhind, Architects on behalf of Mr. Max Norris (the Client). It sets out the methodology for archaeological monitoring and recording to be undertaken during ground works associated with the above works at Chanter's House and for related off site analysis and reporting. The WSI and the schedule of work it proposes is commissioned in line with government planning policy (PPG No. 16 *Archaeology and Planning* (Doe, 1990) and the Local Development Framework Policy. The condition attached to the planning consent states that;

*'No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Authority.' The development shall be carried out at all times in strict accordance with the approved scheme, or such other details as may be subsequently agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.'*

1.2 The programme of work to be carried out by SWARCH and covered by this WSI consists of the archaeological monitoring and recording of all groundworks in areas subject to development; during the removal of the existing surfaces, turf and topsoil, the reduction of ground levels, and the excavation of any service trenches and foundations.

#### 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The proposal is located near to, and possibly within the grounds of the medieval Ottery St Mary College. Pre-1890 mapping shows a number of field boundaries that existed prior to the creation of the parkland /gardens. One boundary, approximately on the line of the new access, has been interpreted as the boundary of the college and grounds.

#### 3.0 AIMS

3.1 The principal objectives of the work will be to:

3.1.1 Establish the context of the site.

3.1.2 To observe, investigate, excavate and record any surviving below-ground archaeological artefacts and deposits uncovered by the groundworks.

3.1.3 Analyse and report on the results of the project as appropriate.

#### 4.0 METHOD

4.1 The programme of work shall include an element of desk-based research to place the development site into its historic and archaeological context. This work will consist of map regression based on the Ordnance Survey maps and the Tithe Map(s) and Apportionments.

An examination will also be made of records and aerial photographs held by the HER. In addition, it will involve the examination of other *known* relevant cartographic, documentary and photographic sources held by the Devon Record Office, West Country Studies Library and the County Historic Environment Service.

- 4.2 The Client will provide SWARCH with details of the location of existing services and of proposed groundworks within the site area, and of the proposed construction programme.
- 4.3 Health and Safety requirements will be observed at all times by any archaeological staff working on site.
  - 4.3.1 Appropriate PPE will be employed at all times.
  - 4.3.2 The site archaeologist will undertake any site safety induction course provided by the Client.
  - 4.3.3 If the depth of trenching exceeds 1.2 metres the trench sides will need to be shored or stepped to enable the archaeologist to examine and if appropriate record the section of the trench. The provision of such measures will be the responsibility of the client.
- 4.4 The archaeological work will be carried out in accordance with the *Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Excavation* (revised 2001) and the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (revised 2001).
- 4.5 All groundworks including service trenching and topsoil stripping in the area of the swimming pool and access road will be carried out by machine, fitted with a toothless grading bucket, under the supervision and control of the site archaeologist, to the depth of formation, the surface of *in situ* subsoil/weathered natural or archaeological deposits whichever is highest in the stratigraphic sequence. Should archaeological deposits be exposed machining will cease in that area to allow the site archaeologist to investigate the exposed deposits which will be excavated by the site archaeologist by hand.
  - 4.5.1 In exceptional circumstances where materials of a particularly compact nature are encountered, these may be removed with a toothed bucket, subject to agreement with archaeological staff on site and in consultation with DCHES.
  - 4.5.2 Spoil will be examined and any artefacts recovered.
  - 4.5.3 Should archaeological or palaeoenvironmental remains be exposed, machining will cease in that area to allow the site archaeologist to investigate, record and sample such deposits. The examination will be undertaken before the exposed level is affected by any further construction work and before plant and machinery is driven over it and sufficient time should be allowed in the construction programme to allow the site archaeologist to undertake these investigations. Any archaeological features discovered will then be cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded to IFA guidelines.
  - 4.5.4 If complex or extraordinary archaeological deposits are exposed then the need for further mitigation will be agreed in consultation with the DCHES and the client.
  - 4.5.5 Human remains must initially be left in-situ, covered and protected. Treatment of disarticulated human remains will follow guidance as set out in *Guidance for Best Practice for Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England* (2005, English Heritage and The Church of England). If any burials are encountered all works must stop immediately and will only proceed in consultation with DCHES. If removal is deemed necessary this will be carried out according to IFA guidelines and after acquisition of the requisite licences.
  - 4.5.6 Bulk samples will be obtained where appropriate. Any excavation and sampling will be completed in accordance with the *Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Excavation* (1995 and revised 2001) and the *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials* (2001).
  - 4.5.7 Should gold or silver artefacts be exposed, these will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act 1996. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.
  - 4.5.8 SWARCH shall agree monitoring arrangements with the DCHES and give two weeks notice, unless a shorter period is agreed with DCHES, of commencement of the fieldwork. Details will be agreed of any monitoring points where decisions on

options within the programme are to be made. Monitoring will continue until the deposition of the site archive and finds.

- 4.5 Any variation in the methods laid out in this WSI will be agreed in advance in writing by the DCHES.

## **5.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING**

All features identified will be recorded. Archaeological recording will be based on IFA guidelines and those advised by DCHES and will consist of:

- 5.1 Standardised single context recording sheets, survey drawings in plan, section and profile at 1:10, 1:20, 1: 50 and 1:100 as appropriate, and B/W and digital photography.
- 5.2 Survey and location of features.
- 5.3 Labelling and bagging of finds on site, post-1800 unstratified pottery may be discarded on site after a representative sample has been retained.
- 5.4 Should suitable deposits be exposed then consideration should be made for scientific assessment/analysis/dating techniques that could be applied to further understand their nature/date and to establish appropriate sampling procedures. The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve or report on other aspects of the investigations can be called upon.
- 5.5 If archaeological features are exposed recording levels will be agreed in consultation with DCHES but as a minimum:
- 5.5.1 Small discrete features will be fully excavated
- 5.5.2 Larger discrete features will be half-sectioned (50% excavated)
- 5.5.3 Long linear features will be excavated to sample 20% of their length - with investigative excavations distributed along the exposed length of any such feature.
- Whether any further excavation is required will be confirmed with DCHES.

## **6.0 PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 The project will be managed overall by Colin Humphreys of SWARCH. Fieldwork and recording will be managed by Dr Lee Bray of SWARCH.
- 6.2 The DCHES will be informed of the start of the fieldwork, will monitor the project throughout and may wish to inspect the works in progress.

## **7.0 ARCHIVE AND REPORT**

- 7.1 An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with *The Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991 2nd edition) upon completion of the entire project. The archive will be produced to the relevant archive standards. This will include the photographic record. If digital imagery is to be the sole photographic record the archive medium required will be agreed with the museum; if prints are required then these will be made of the digital images by a photographic laboratory. The drawn and written record will be on an appropriately archivable medium. The archive and finds will be deposited with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter under accession number 166/2008. Conditions for the deposition of the archive will be agreed with the Museum.
- 7.2 Archaeological finds resulting from the investigation (which are the property of the landowner), will also be deposited with the above museum in a format to be agreed with the museum, and within a timetable to be agreed with the HES. The museum's guidelines for the deposition of archives for long-term storage will be adhered to and any sampling procedures will be carried out prior to deposition and in consultation with the museum. If ownership of all or any of the finds is to remain with the landowner, provision and agreement must be made for the time-limited retention of the material and its full analysis and recording, by appropriate specialists. Any significant finds resulting from the excavation will be deposited under the above accession number.
- 7.3 The reporting requirements will be confirmed with the DCHES on completion of the site work. In the event of little or no archaeology being revealed, then a completed HER entry, with location plan, will suffice in lieu of a full report. Copies will be sent to the DCHES within 3 months of close of fieldwork.
- 7.4 If a report is required this would include the following elements as appropriate:
- 7.4.1 Relevant historic maps, plans and images;

- 7.4.2 A location plan and overall site plan showing the location of the area subject to the watching brief as well as the distribution of any archaeological features;
  - 7.4.3 Plans and sections of significant features or deposits at a relevant scale;
  - 7.4.4 A description of any remains and deposits identified including an interpretation of their character and significance;
  - 7.4.5 An assessment of significant artefacts, environmental and scientific samples together with any recommendations for further analysis;
  - 7.4.6 Any specialist reports commissioned;
  - 7.4.7 Discussion of the archaeological deposits encountered and their context.
- Copies of the report will be submitted to the DCHES and the site archive deposited within 6 months of the close of fieldwork unless agreed otherwise with the DCHES.
- 7.5 A copy of the report detailing the results of these investigations will be submitted to the OASIS (*Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological Investigations*) database under OASIS no. southwest 1-40347.
  - 7.6 Should particularly significant remains, finds and/or deposits be encountered, then these, because of their importance, are likely to merit wider publication in line with government planning guidance. If such remains are encountered, the publication requirements - including any further analysis that may be necessary - will be confirmed with the DCHES, in consultation with the Client. SWARCH, on behalf of the Client, will then implement publication in accordance with a timescale agreed with the Client and the DCHES.

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## **Appendix 1 – List of specialists**

### **Building recording**

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 Tel: 01364 652963  
 Richard Parker  
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### **Conservation**

Richard and Helena Jaeschke  
 2 Bydown Cottages, Swimbridge, Barnstaple EX32 0QD  
 Tel: 01271 830891

### **Curatorial**

Alison Mills  
 North Devon Museum, The Square, Barnstaple  
 Tel: 01271 346747

### **Geophysical Survey**

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 South West Archaeology Limited.  
 GSB Prospection Ltd.  
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### **Human Bones**

Seana Cummins  
 South West Archaeology Limited.

Louise Lou  
Head of Heritage Burial Services,  
Oxford Archaeology, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 OES  
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### **Lithics**

Martin Tingle  
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### **Metallurgy**

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### **Palaeoenvironmental/Organic**

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Dana Challinor (wood identification)  
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Julie Jones (plant macro-fossils)  
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Heather Tinsley (pollen analysis)  
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Ralph Fyffe (pollen analysis) University of Plymouth

### **Pottery**

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Henrietta Quinnell  
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### **Timber Conservation**

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**APPENDIX 3**  
Concordance of finds

Context	Slate	Flint	Brick	Glass	Ceramic Roof Furniture	Pottery	DATE
304							
residual TR4	1 0.465						
500	2 0.064	1 0.021	2 0.008	1 0.119	3 0.274	1 0.018	late/early post-med C:18th
502						4 0.156	C:18th
504						1 0.008	? post-med C:18th-C:19th
						1 0.013	C:18th-C:19th
						7 0.197	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3 0.559</b>	<b>1 0.021</b>	<b>2 0.008</b>	<b>1 0.119</b>	<b>3 0.274</b>		