

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Bratton Fleming, North Devon	NGR: SS 66605 35891	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording during the demolition of an existing holiday unit and erection of an open market residential dwelling		Photo attached? Yes
Planning Reference: 72222	Recipient museum: n/a	
OASIS ID: southwes1-407287	Museum Accession no: n/a	
Contractor's reference number/code: BFMD20	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 14 th December 2020	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of a Private Client as part of works associated with the construction of a replacement dwelling at Mockham Down, North Devon, Devon. This work was carried out by Dr. S. Walls on 14th December 2020 in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Boyd 2020) having been agreed during consultation with the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>The site is located c.0.8km north-west of the village of Brayford, c.10km north-north-west of the town of South Molton and c.6.4km north of the North Devon Link Road. The site is located immediately to the north of Mockham Down Camp on a roughly north facing slope and ranges from c.305m Above Ordinance Datum (AOD). The soils of this area are the well-drained fine loamy and fine silty soils of the Denbigh 1 Association (SSEW 1983), which overlies sandstone, siltstone and mudstone of the Baggy Sandstones Formation, no superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2020).</p> <p>The site is located in an area of high archaeological potential adjacent to the Iron Age hillfort at Mockham Down. However, the footprint of the proposed new dwelling has been disturbed by the construction of the extant holiday unit, which has a concrete base and was slightly terraced into the slope during its construction.</p> <p>The monitoring consisted of excavating with a machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket a single trench c.71m long and 0.7m wide trench around the footprint of the existing holiday unit. The stratigraphy consisted of a 0.14m deep mid friable greyish-brown silt-clay loam (100), which directly overlies the natural a firm to soft reddish-yellow silt-clay with common angular shillet. The topsoil was slightly deeper (c.0.17m deep) to the south against the existing tarmac trackway, but presumably as a result of the construction of the existing holiday let or trackway.</p> <p>Other than modern services for the existing holiday unit, a single older service trench (0.5m wide and 0.15m deep) with slightly sloping sides and flat base and containing an iron water pipe. The pipe was orientated broadly north-west to south-east and corresponds with an earthwork visible cutting through the quarry spoil in the hillfort and was presumably related to a pump formerly used to drain this quarry.</p> <p>The finds assemblage recovered from the topsoil was entirely modern and consisted of 14 sherds of White ceramic tile fragments, 1 fragment of plastic pipe, and 1 Stella Artois bottle cap. These were discarded/retained on site.</p> <p>Conclusions</p> <p>The results of the strip did not identify any evidence of significant archaeological deposits, finds or features being present, and given the shallow depth of topsoil on the site it is unlikely any archaeological features/deposits survive below the footprint of the existing holiday unit.</p> <p>Bibliography</p> <p>Boyd, N. 2020: Mockham Down Farm, Bratton Fleming, North Devon, <i>Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH WSI no. BFMD20WSiv1</p> <p>British Geological Survey 2020: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html</p> <p>Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>.</p>		
Recorder: S. Walls		Date sent to HER: 14.12.20

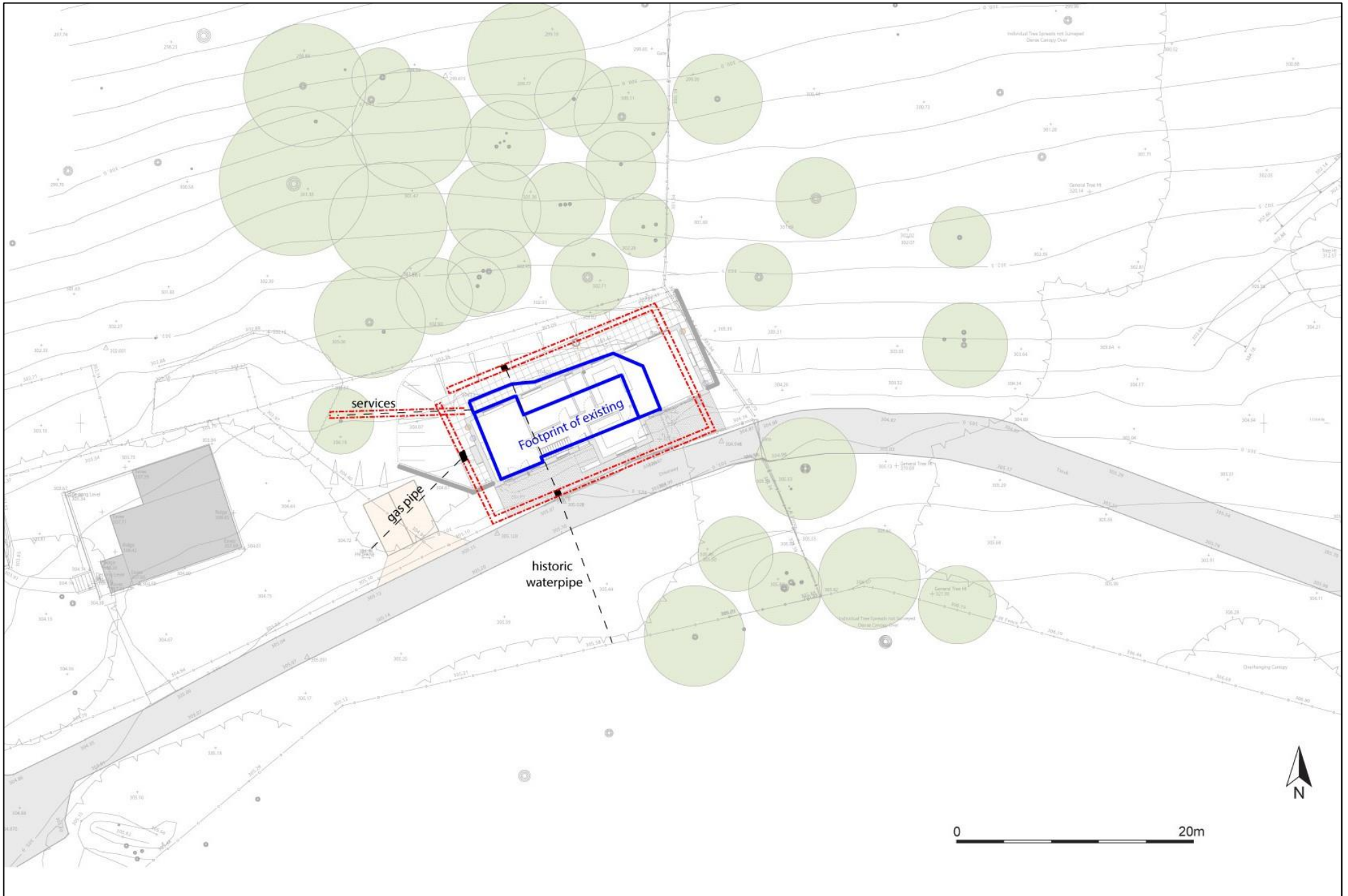


FIGURE 1: SITE PLAN, SHOWING THE EXCAVATED AREA.



FIGURE 2: WORKS IN PROGRESS, VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).



FIGURE 3: NORTHERN PORTION OF TRENCH, VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).