

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: South Molton, North Devon	National Grid Reference SS 71491 25988	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording on land at the garden of 3 Paradise Lawn, North Street, South Molton, Devon, during groundworks associated with the construction of a dwelling		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: Outline 70478; Reserved 73699	Recipient museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum	
OASIS ID: southwes1-516021	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: SMBS23	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 31 st May 2023	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of a private client, during groundworks associated with the construction of a new dwelling in the garden of 3 Paradise Lawn, North Street, South Molton, Devon (Figure 1). This work was undertaken on 31st of May 2023 in accordance with a WSI drawn up in consultation with the Devon County Historic Environment Team (Boyd 2023).</p> <p>The site is within the garden plot of Paradise Lawn, accessed off North Street, within c.60m to the east of St Mary Magdalene Church in the heart of South Molton. The site lies at a height of c.147m AOD. The soils of the site are recorded as <i>urban</i> (SSEW 1983), which overlay the mudstone and siltstone of the Bideford Formation (BGS 2023). The site lies within the South Molton Conservation Area. Devon's Historic Environment Record indicates that the site is in an area of Medieval burgage plots (MDV72167); and in the gardens of Paradise Lawn, which was formerly six Victorian villas centred on a lawned garden (MDV64881). SWARCH conducted archaeological works at the nearby 27 Broad Street that revealed Medieval pottery, a stone vault, drains, postholes and pits. A 20th century garage on the site had been demolished prior to the archaeological monitoring being carried out.</p> <p>An area c.10.50m×6.50m was excavated by a tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket to the development's formation level; which corresponded with the top of the subsoil (c.0.50m deep). Footing trenches, totalling c.27m in length and 0.60m wide were then excavated to a depth of at least 0.80m. A modern water pipe was lifted along the line of the intended western footing trench (aligned approximately north-south). This pipe trench contained the remains of an earlier water pipe and was excavated within made-ground. No archaeological features were present.</p> <p>Disturbed Ground (100) consisted of debris from a demolished garage and adjacent topsoil and patio/paving that was removed or disturbed prior to the site's excavation and archaeological monitoring. It was c.0.11-0.18m thick and comprised of concrete and stony leveling material and rough topsoil/turf. Disturbed Ground (100) overlaid Made-ground (101), a dark blackish-grey, friable clay-silt with moderate-frequent 19th-21st century debris and finds. Made-ground (101) overlaid Subsoil (102), a light yellow-grey/grey-brown, soft-firm silt-clay with occasional-moderate Post-Medieval/19th century debris and finds. Subsoil (102) was c.0.20m thick across the north-west half of the site and <0.37m deep in the south-east corner of the excavated area. Its finds were generally pressed into the top 0.10m of the layer. Subsoil (102) overlaid Natural (103), a light brown-yellow, compact weathered shillet in clay at a depth of c.0.73m-1m below ground level.</p> <p>Unless stated, all finds recovered from the site were subsequently discarded. A sample of finds were recovered from made-ground (101) and Subsoil (102). Finds from made-ground (101) included: ×1 heavy molded clear glass vessel base (108g); ×1 roof slate fragment with two small notches (fore wire fixing?) (49g); ×1 flowerpot rim with mortar accretion (14g); ×1 19th-20th century tin glazed cream ware sherd (14g); ×5 fragments (15g) of clay pipe stem; ×8 sherds (34g) of White Refined Earthen ware (×2 with blue transfer print decoration); small fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) were also noted as present in this layer. Finds from Subsoil (102) included: ×1 red brick/CBM fragment (13g); ×1 large North Devon Post-Medieval ware sherd (102g); ×1 roof slate fragment (199g) with a notch for a nail/peg; ×2 sherds (3g) of 19th century tin glazed cream ware; ×3 mortar fragments (91g), ×1 pink in colour with possible coal inclusions and ×2 white; ×4 fragments (5g) of animal bone</p> <p>The site contained no significant archaeological features or deposits.</p> <p>Bibliography: Boyd, N. 2023: <i>Written Scheme of Investigation: Garden of 3 Paradise Lawn, North Street, South Molton, Devon.</i> SWARCH WSI no. SMBS23WSiv1. British Geological Survey 2022: Geology of Britain Viewer. https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales (a brief explanation of the constituent soil associations).</p>		
Recorder: J. Bampton, MCIfA, South West Archaeology Ltd.		Date sent to HER: 31/05/2023

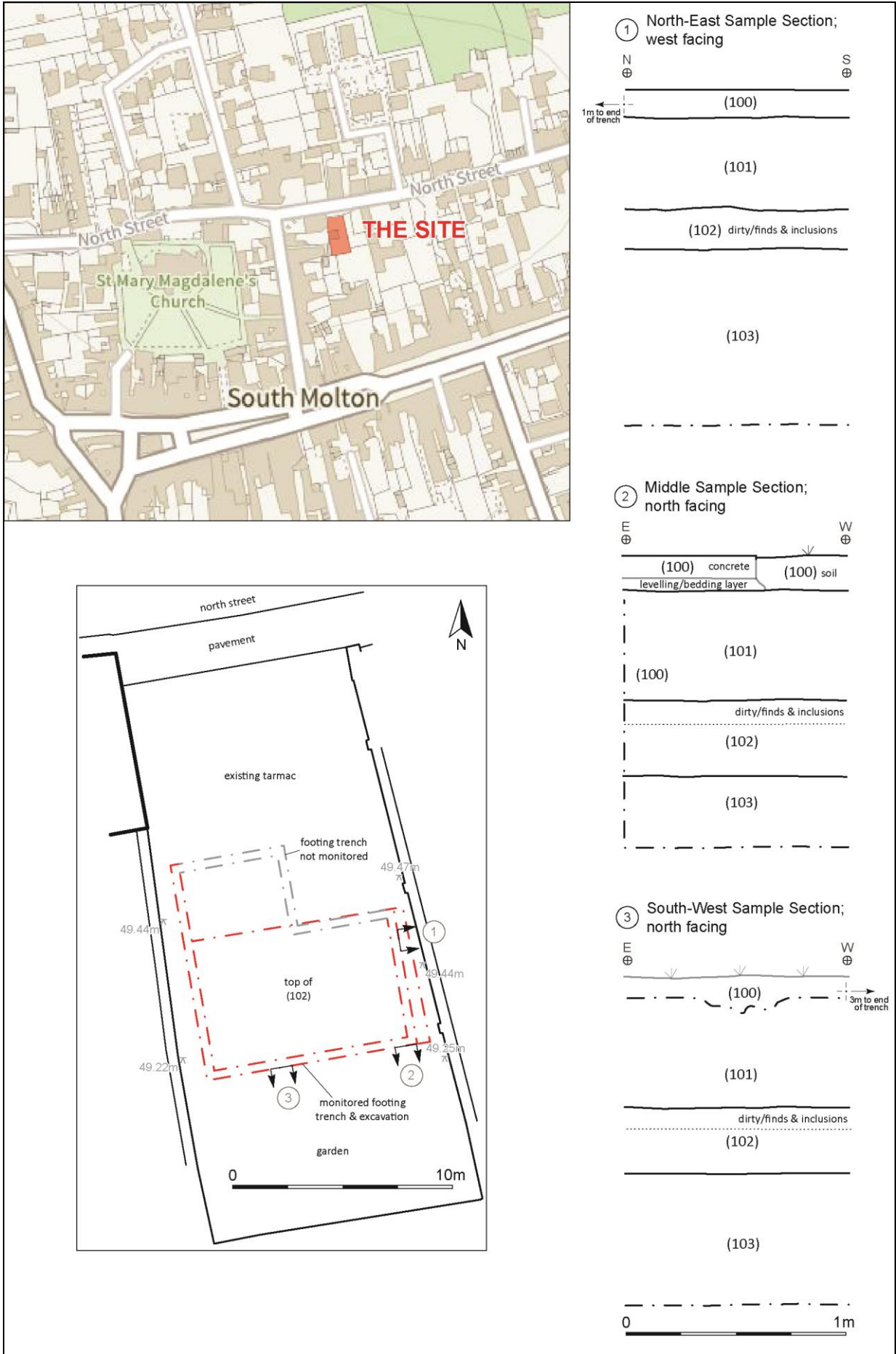


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION, PLAN AND SECTION DRAWINGS.



FIGURE 2: EASTERN FOOTING TRENCH, SHOWING NORTH-EAST SAMPLE SECTION; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (1M SCALE).



FIGURE 3: SITE SHOT, MID EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (NO SCALE).