

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Brayford, North Devon	National Grid Reference 268677.134806	Number:
Subject: archaeological monitoring of site strip in advance of the construction of a single dwelling and associated access.		Photo attached? NO
Planning Application no: 44548 Arch/dc/nd/12094	Recipient museum: Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon	
OASIS ID: Southwes1-58611	Museum Accession no: NDDMS:2009.35	
Contractor's reference number/code: BBL09	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 22.02.10	
<p>Description of works. Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by South West Archaeology (SWARCH) at the request of Mr Kevin Robins (the Client) prior to the construction of a dwelling with associated access on land off Littlebray Lane, Brayford, northwest of the Methodist Chapel. The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) approved by DCHES.</p> <p>An area approximately 130m² in extent (see attached figure) was stripped by a mechanical excavator using a 1.5m wide toothless grading bucket under strict archaeological supervision.</p> <p>The site slopes steeply to the west. The garden soil that covered most of the site was up to 0.3m thick. It was a mid greyish-brown mottled friable silty loam containing abundant slate lithorelicts. For most of the site this lay directly on top of the bedrock – a strongly cleaved greyish-brown slate – but on the western/downslope side, where the bedrock dived away more sharply, it overlay a layer of colluvium that increased in thickness to the west (to c.0.6m). This was a light orange-brown, slightly friable clay-silt containing abundant poorly-sorted angular-to-sub-angular platy slate fragments up to 100mm in length. Occasional charcoal fragments were observed. Two pieces of abraded slag, a fragment of probable furnace lining, and two sherds of post-medieval North Devon ware pottery were also recovered.</p> <p>No features were identified. An abrupt break of slope in the bedrock at the western end of the site was adjudged to be natural.</p> <p>The eastern part of the site had been levelled during the construction of the houses immediately to the south. The roadside hedgebank and garden soil had been pushed down the slope to the west, and additional material brought in to create a level platform on which portacabins had been placed. This material contained some fragments of tap slag (not retained).</p> <p>Few finds were recovered. In addition to those already mentioned, the unstratified collection included: 1 fragment of tap slag; 1 fragment of furnace lining; 1 intact 20th glass medicine bottle; 10 sherds of pottery (5 sherds of refined white earthenware, 1 sherd of pearlware, 3 sherds of Bristol/Staffordshire yellow slipware, 1 sherd of Bristol stoneware); 1 fragment of corroded iron (probably from a horseshoe). All of the dateable finds are 18th century or later in date.</p> <p>The spoil heaps were examined after stripping, but no further finds were recovered.</p>		
<p>A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.</p>		
Recorder: B.W.Morris		Date sent to HER: 09.03.10

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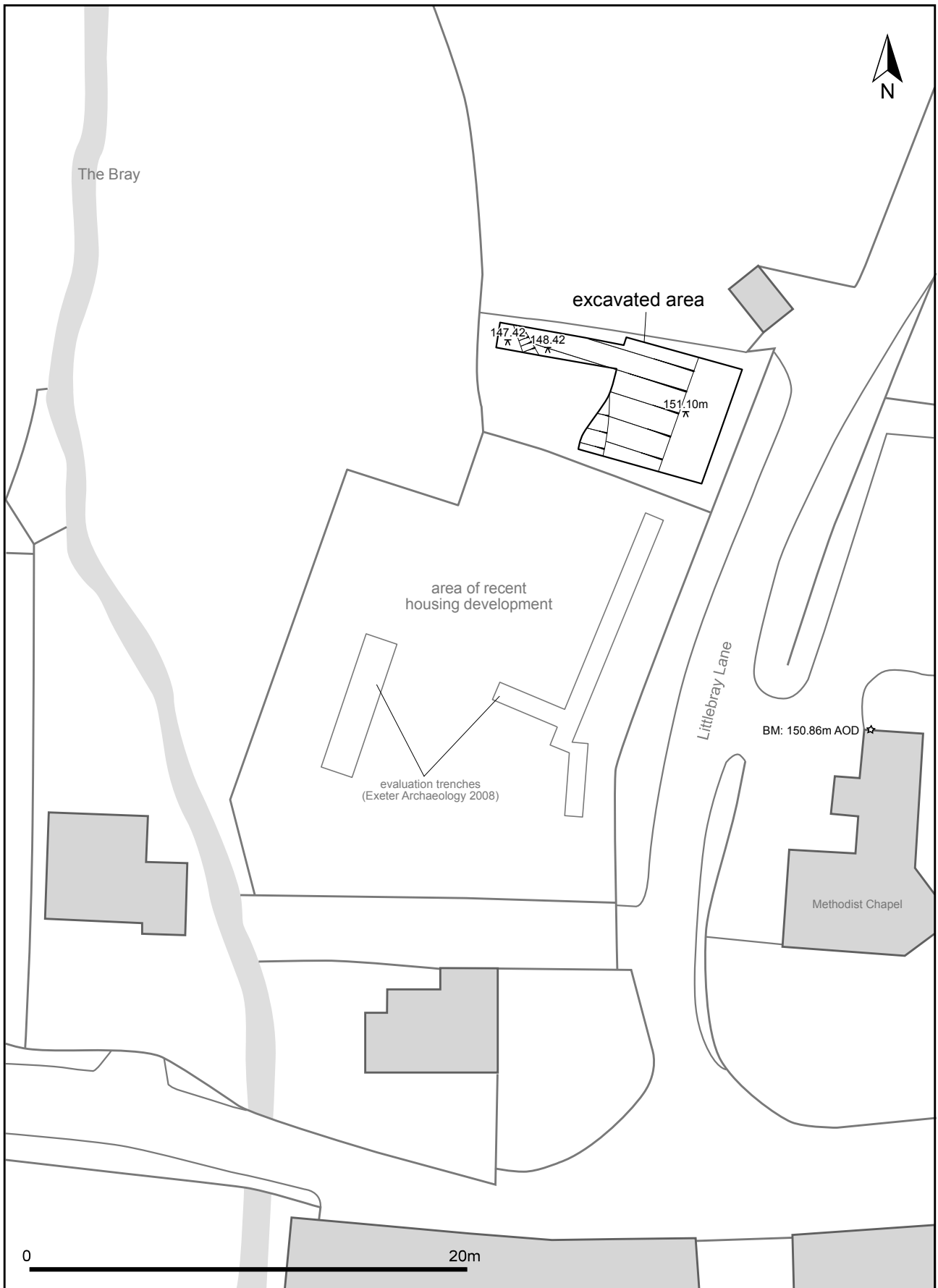


Fig.1 Littlebray Lane archaeological monitoring: location of excavated area.