

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Bratton Fleming, North Devon	National Grid Reference 264340.137668	Number:
Subject: archaeological watching brief in advance of the construction of a garage within the garden of Dale Cottage.		Photo attached? No
Planning Application no: 50488	Recipient museum: Museum of Barnstaple & North Devon	
OASIS ID: southwes1-81615	Museum Accession no: NDMS 2010.45	
Contractor's reference number/code: BFDC10	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 19.08.10-20.08.10	
<p>Description of works. Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. at the request of Mr & Mrs Ellis Smith (the Client) prior to the construction of a garage. The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) approved by DCHES and the work was undertaken by B. Morris.</p> <p>An area of c. 60m², corresponding to the footprint of the proposed garage, was stripped to the surface of the subsoil by a tracked, mechanical excavator using a 1.2m wide toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision.</p> <p>The development was taking place within the garden of Dale Cottage, a low, two-storey stone-rubble cottage (probably originally two cottages). Beneath the turf was layer (101), 0.25-0.4m thick and comprising a soft, dark greyish-brown clay silt garden soil with common sub-angular to sub-rounded stones <30mm. This layer contained frequent sherds of 19th century pottery and occasional 18th century pottery, as well as occasional fragments of cinder and (sawn) animal bone. This overlay layer (102), c.0.25m thick and composed of soft, mottled mid greyish-brown clay silt. This contained frequent sub-angular blocky stones <30mm, occasional charcoal flecks and fragments, and occasional pottery. A few sherds dated to the post-medieval period (North Devon type), but this layer also produced obviously 19th century pottery (industrial slipware etc.). The subsoil varied slightly across the site, but was mainly composed of a mid brown loose silty matrix containing abundant sub-angular to sub-rounded blocky stones avg. 30-50mm but frequently larger, up to 120 or 150mm in size.</p> <p>No archaeological features were identified cutting into the subsoil, but it was clear that some 19th or 20th century rubbish pit(s) had been dug to or into layer (102) in the south-west corner of the garden.</p> <p>No securely stratified finds were recovered, but a small assemblage of mainly 19th ceramics was retrieved. The ceramics assemblage contained 34 sherds (399g) and was dominated by 18th or 19th century white refined earthenwares (20 sherds, 153g), with 1 sherd of 19th century North Devon ware (23g) and 1 sherd of bone china (1g). It also contained some 18th pottery: 6 sherds North Devon ware (123g), 2 sherds of North Staffordshire/Bristol Yellow slipware (7g) and one sherd (handle) from a Mottled ware tankard (26g). Only three sherds of post-medieval North Devon ware were recovered (66g). In addition, it is of note that only one clay pipe stem fragment (2g) was recovered. A representative sample of this material was retained.</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.		
Recorder: B.Morris	Date sent to HER: 31.08.10	

Please email completed form to: archaeol@devon.gov.uk or post to County Archaeology Service, Environment Directorate, Matford Lane Offices, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QW. Information recorded on this form will be added to the Historic Environment Record, and made available to all researchers.

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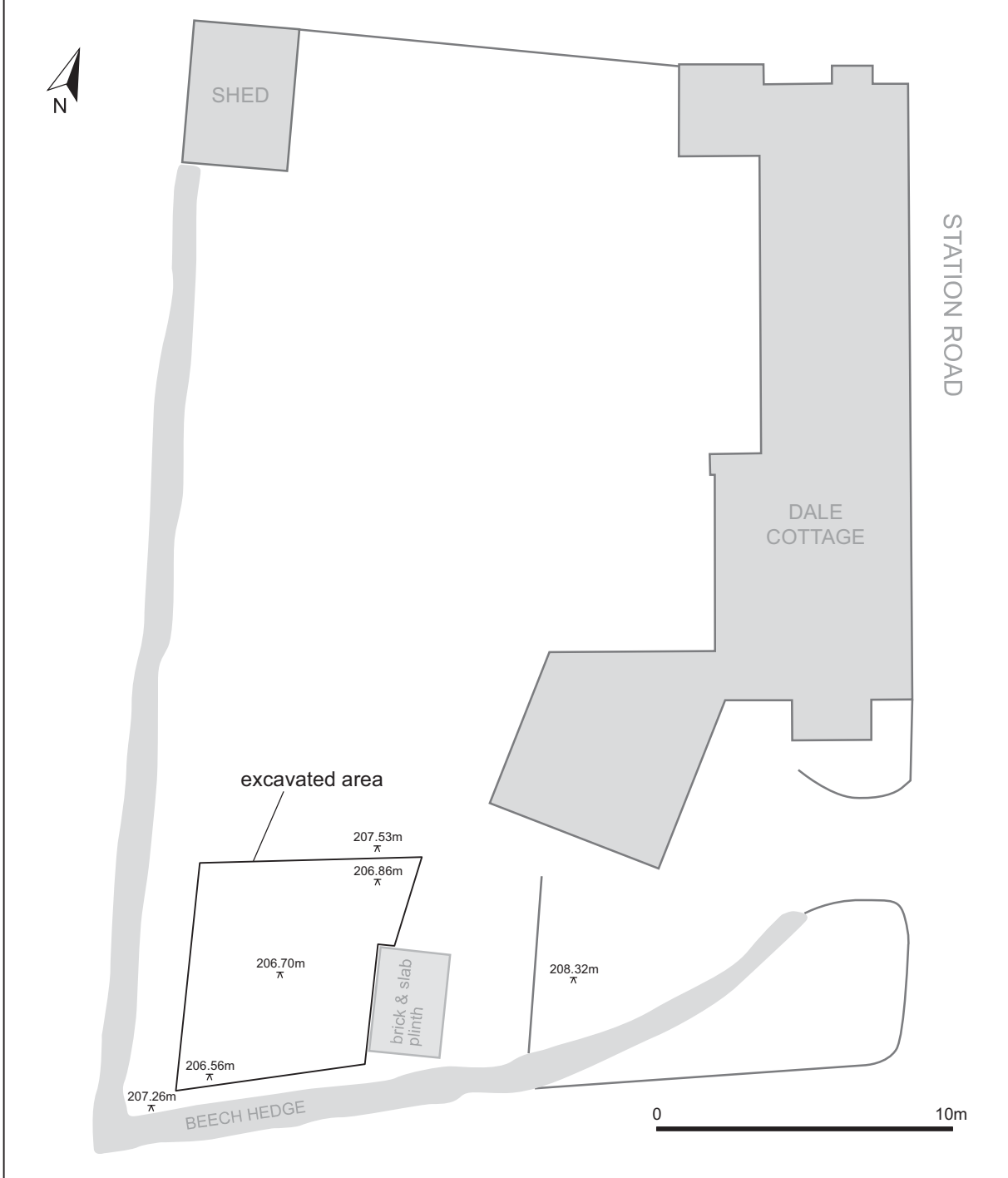
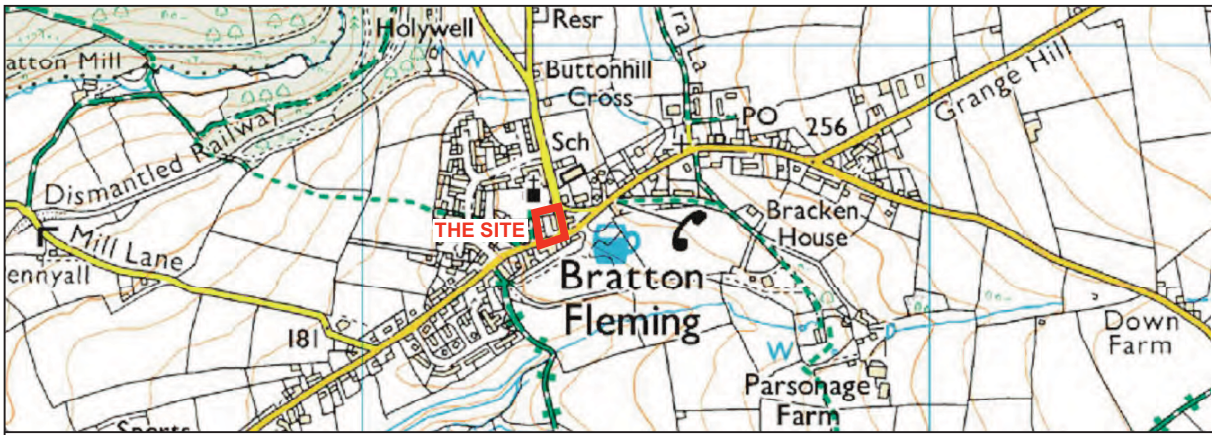


Fig. 1: Location of site and excavated area.