

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Bridestowe, West Devon	National Grid Reference SX 5139 8927	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording in advance of construction of a single, two-storey dwelling adjacent to the White Hart Inn, Bridestowe.		Photo attached? Yes
Planning Application no: 12182/2008/OKE	Recipient museum: Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery	
OASIS ID: southwes1-83046	Museum Accession no: AR.2010.34	
Contractor's reference number/code: BWH10	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 9 th , 10 th , 18 th & 19 th November 2010	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology at the request of Mr & Mrs D. Hemsley (the Clients) in advance of the construction of a single two-storey dwelling at the White Hart Inn, Bridestowe. This work was carried out on 9th, 10th, 18th & 19th November 2010 by L. Bray in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) approved by Devon County Historic Environment Service (DCHES). The groundworks for the development consisted of the stripping of the tarmac over the footprint of the new dwelling and its parking area and the excavation of foundations and a setting for a substantial tank required in order to manage rainwater runoff.</p> <p>Bedrock on the site consists of mudstones and siltstones of the Ashton Member and Crackington Formation while the soil is a brown earth of the Denbigh 1 Association.</p> <p>The area to be developed was situated immediately to the east of the White Hart Inn in Bridestowe (Figure 1) and was broadly rectilinear in shape, measuring c.31m along its north-east to south-west axis and 12m from north-west to south-east, with an approximate area of 370m². The area formerly formed the eastern end of the car park and garden of White Hart Inn and was bounded to the north by the Crandford Brook and to the south by the wall separating the car park from the pavement and road to the south. The ground within the development area was largely level although the area to the north of the building footprint, which was originally separated from the car park by a hedgebank, was approximately 1m lower. Originally, the ground is likely to have sloped to the north towards the river, the difference in height being explained by the dumping of debris under the car park.</p> <p>Topsoil was only encountered in the former garden area and consisted of a single layer of up to 0.25m thickness of dark brown, humic garden soil. The natural subsoil consisted of an orange-brown silty clay with a gritty texture which contained abundant sub-angular stone inclusions up to 0.2m in size.</p> <p>There was no reduction of ground levels during the groundworks so the stripping of tarmac over the area revealed only the gravel hardcore beneath. However, although no archaeological features were identified, a series of deposits were encountered that were thickest under the northern half of the footprint of the new building, becoming thinner and pinching out to the south (Figures 2 and 3). This sequence was not present over the northern part of the site under the garden where a thin layer of topsoil rested directly on the natural subsoil. This is presumably because the sequence was retained to the south by the hedgebank (Figure 1).</p> <p>The earliest and most extensive layer in the sequence consisted of a fairly homogenous grey silty clay (104) with a gritty texture containing occasional stone inclusions of up to 100mm size. This material was thickest in the north-western part of the site, where it reached c.0.3m, and extended to the southern part of the site, although it was absent to the west (Figure 2). Two sherds of white refined earthenware pottery were recovered from (104), suggesting a <i>terminus post quem</i> after 1720. Overlying this context was (105) a mixed, yellow-orange silty clay with the appearance of re-deposited natural subsoil. Again, this layer was thickest to the north-west (c. 0.25m) and pinched out to the west and south. Next in the sequence was (103), a context consisting entirely of broken fragments of black, crumbly shale identified as heavily weathered bedrock which was thickest to the north-east (c.0.2m). This was overlain by (102) a further layer of yellow-orange silty-clay interpreted as re-deposited natural subsoil. The final deposit in the sequence (101) was a mixed, grey-brown clayey-silt containing frequent inclusions of poorly-sorted stone (up to 0.25m in size), mortar, brick and coal suggesting an origin as demolition debris. A single sherd of post-medieval coarseware was recovered from this context</p> <p>The level of the natural subsoil sloped towards the north west of the site and it seems most likely that the sequence of deposits encountered reflects infilling to level the ground, mostly using re-deposited natural material dug off-site, mixed with demolition debris. Two sherds of white refined earthenware were recovered from (104), the earliest deposit in the sequence, suggesting this levelling dates to no earlier than the 18th century.</p>		

Very few finds were recovered from the site, which is unsurprising given the source of much of the material in the sequence as re-deposited natural. In total, 2 sherds of white refined earthen ware were recovered from (104) and a single sherd of post-medieval coarseware from (101).

No archaeological features were identified during the work and the sequence of deposits encountered was of no archaeological significance.

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: L. S. Bray

Date sent to HER:

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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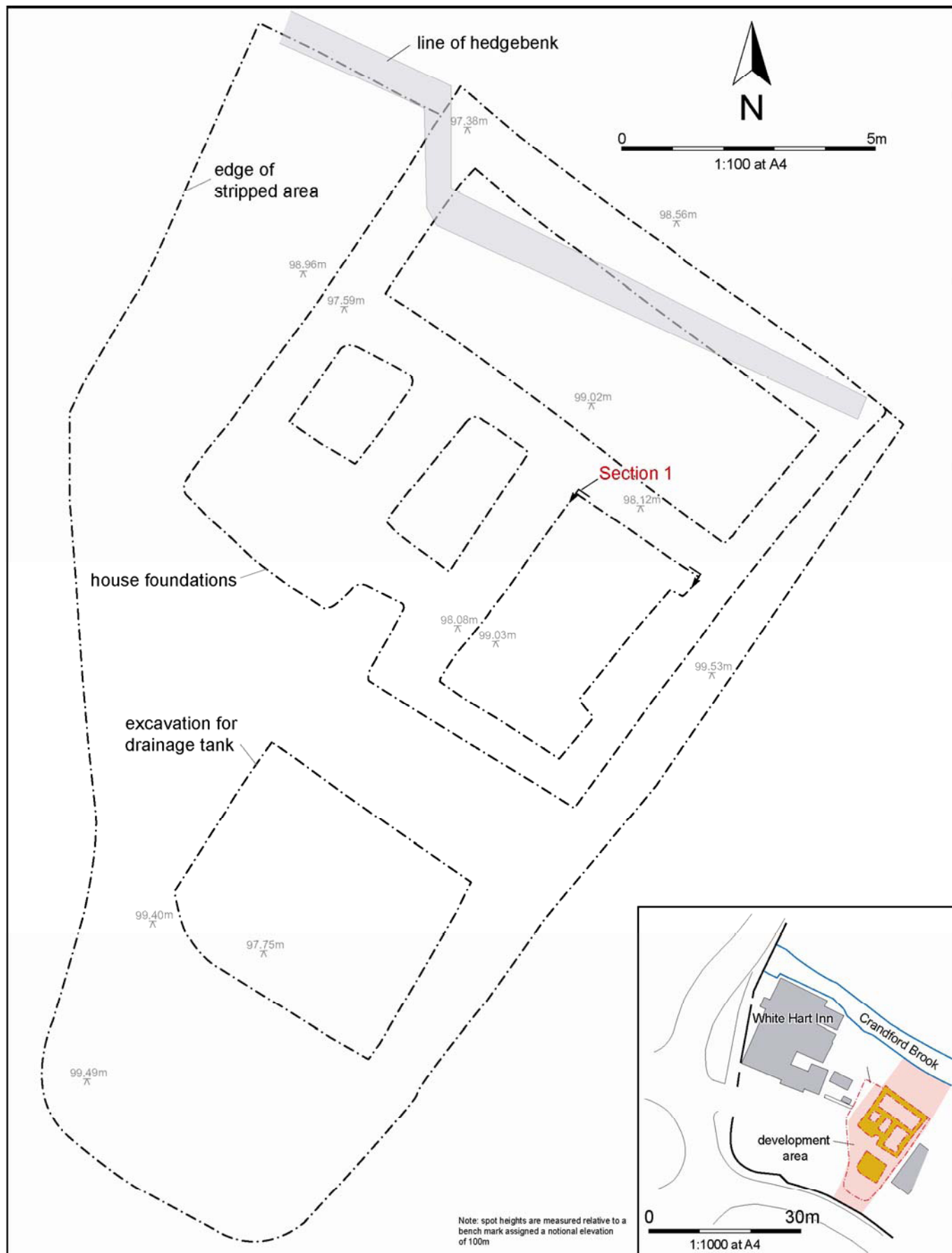


Figure1: Site plan.

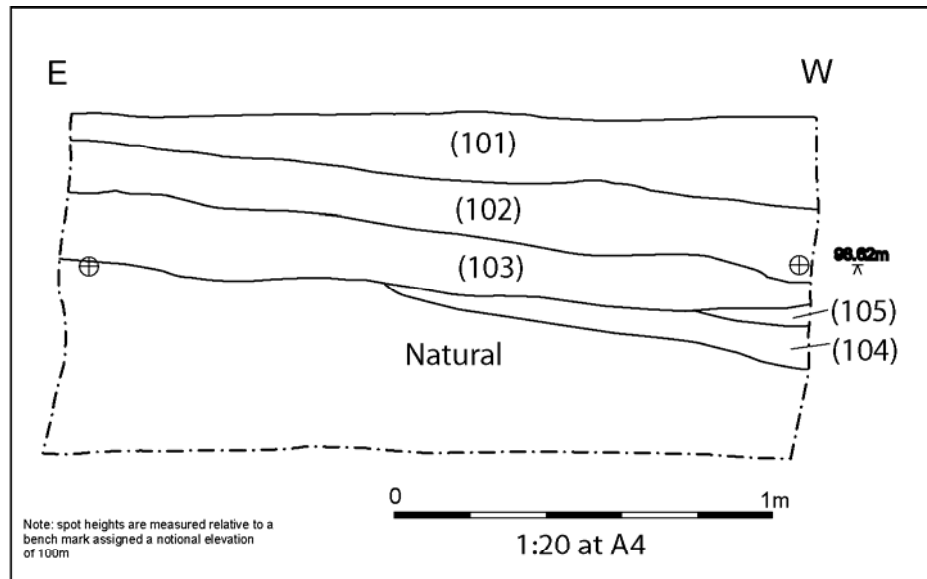


Figure 2: North facing section through the sequence of levelling deposits encountered during the excavation of foundations.



Figure 3: View of the sequence of levelling deposits within the building foundations from the north-west. (Scale: 1m)