

Land at Borough House Lifton Devon

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Mr and Mrs Mounce

CA Project: 880346
CA Report: 18456

October 2018



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Lifton
Devon

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Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	4 October 2018	Paul Clarke	Derek Evans	Internal Review	-	Derek Evans

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Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Lifton, West Devon	National Grid Reference: 238528 085052	Number:
Subject: Land at Borough House, Lifton, Devon: archaeological evaluation		Photo attached: N/A
Planning permission no: 4116/17/OPA	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS ID:	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: Site code: LIF18; project number 880346	Date fieldwork undertaken: 13 August 2018	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>In August 2018, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Borough House, Lifton (Fig. 1). These works were undertaken for Mr and Mrs Mounce.</p> <p>Archaeological background</p> <p>An Iron Age or Roman hillfort has been identified in Lifton Wood (c. 300m south of the evaluation site) from aerial photographs. The evaluation site is located within the historic core of Lifton, which was founded prior to the 9th century. The site borders onto the churchyard of the Grade I Listed Church of St. Mary the Virgin (Historic England list no. 1317823) to the east, which was founded in the 12th century.</p> <p><i>Map regression</i></p> <p>The Lifton Tithe Map (1840) shows the majority of the site within an irregularly shaped plot to the south and south-west of Borough House. The site is described as an orchard in the accompanying apportionment. The northern part of the site is shown as being within a small garden to the immediate west of Borough House.</p> <p>The Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1884 shows little change, though two small ancillary structures are depicted at the eastern boundary of the site, and another in its south-western corner. A yard, partially surrounded by structures, is shown within the northernmost part of the site. The OS map of 1953 shows an expansion of Borough House into the yard and garden in the northern part of the site. A trackway is depicted running across the site from Borough House to a cluster of small structures in the east of the site.</p> <p>The OS map of 1966 shows a structure in the centre of the southern plot of the site, within the orchard. The OS map of 1988 shows the majority of the southern part of the site continuing in use as an orchard, although the central structure had been removed by this point. With the exception of the main barn and yard currently in the centre of the site, the present layout of the site was in place by 1988.</p> <p>Methodology</p> <p>The evaluation followed the methodology set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Cotswold Archaeology 2018) and comprised the excavation of four trenches (Fig. 2). There was some variance from the trench plan proposed in the WSI in order to avoid overhead services.</p> <p>Results (Figs. 2 & 3)</p> <p>The natural substrate comprised mid orangey brown sandy clay and was exposed 0.34m–0.71m below present ground level. The natural substrate was overlain by 0.24m–0.49m of clayey silt subsoil. The subsoil layer in T1, T2 and T4 was overlain by 0.2m of modern topsoil; the subsoil in T3 was overlain by 0.1m of hardcore, forming a yard. Two features were recorded, each of which was cut into the subsoil layer:</p> <p>Tree throw 204 (T2) was 1.2m in diameter and 0.14m in depth. It contained a burnt clay and charcoal-rich fill (205) that appeared to have been burnt <i>in situ</i>. No finds were retrieved from this deposit.</p> <p>Ditch 103 (T1; Fig. 3, Sec. AA) was oriented east-north-east/west-south-west and was gently curved in plan. This ditch was 0.58m wide and 0.2m deep, with a single undated fill (104).</p>		

Finds

A total of four sherds of North Devon gravel-tempered ware were recovered from the subsoil. Three of these sherds were recovered from subsoil 101 (T1) and are base sherds from a single vessel. A bowl rimsherd was recovered from subsoil 201 (T2). The fabric dates to the 17th–18th centuries (Allan 1984).

Discussion

The archaeological works recorded a burnt-out tree throw and a shallow ditch in the southern part of the site. Although undated artefactually, these features were cut into the subsoil layer, from which 17th/18th century pottery was recovered. The three throw is most likely related to the orchard that is known to have been present at the site in the 19th and 20th centuries. It is likely that the ditch is also related to the orchard, judging by its stratigraphic position, although it is not depicted on any consulted historic map.

References

Allan, J.P. 1984 *Medieval and Post-medieval Finds from Exeter 1971-1980*. Exeter, Exeter Archaeological Reports: Vol. 3

Cotswold Archaeology 2018 *Borough House, Lifton, Devon. Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Work*

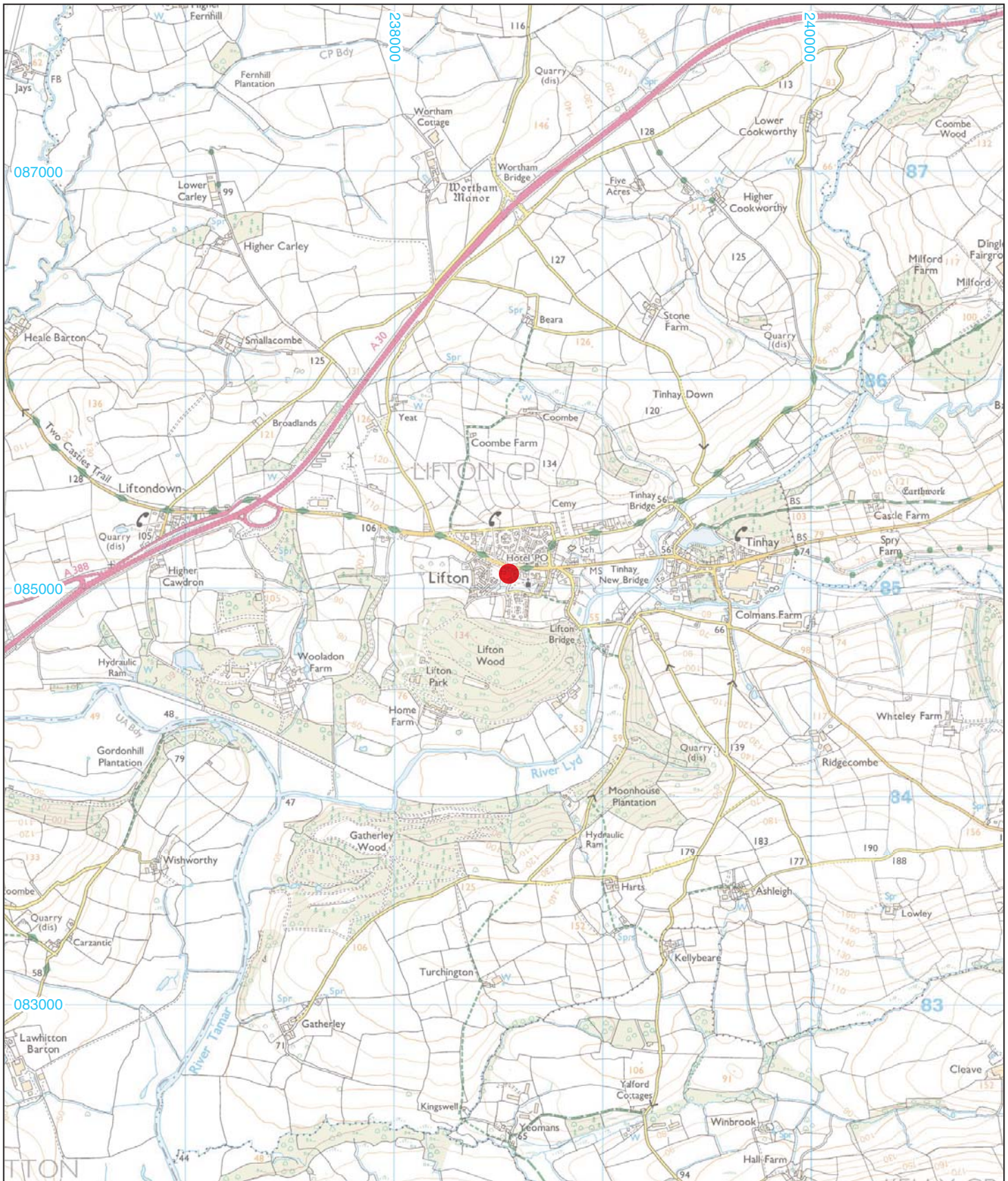
Recorder:

Paul Clarke, Cotswold Archaeology

Date sent to HER:

APPENDIX A: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Land at Borough House, Lifton, Devon	
Short description	<p>In August 2018, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Borough House, Lifton, Devon.</p> <p>The archaeological works recorded a burnt-out three throw and a shallow ditch. Both features were undated artefactually but were cut into a post-medieval subsoil layer. It is likely that both features relate to an orchard which was present at the site in the 19th and 20th centuries.</p>	
Project dates	13 August 2018	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	N/A	
Future work	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Borough House, Fore Street, Lifton , Devon	
Study area (m ² /ha)	0.34ha	
Site co-ordinates	238528 085052	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	N/A	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Derek Evans	
Project Supervisor	Paul Clarke	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	N/A	N/A
Digital	N/A	N/A
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2018 <i>Land at Borough House, Lifton, Devon. Archaeological Evaluation. CA Report No. 18456</i>		



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PROJECT TITLE
 Borough House, Lifton, Devon

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

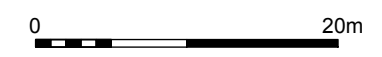


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DRAWN BY	RP	PROJECT NO.	880346	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	28.08.18	
APPROVED BY	DE	SCALE	@A4 1:25,000	1



- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- cut feature (un/excavated)
- modern
- treethrow (un/excavated)



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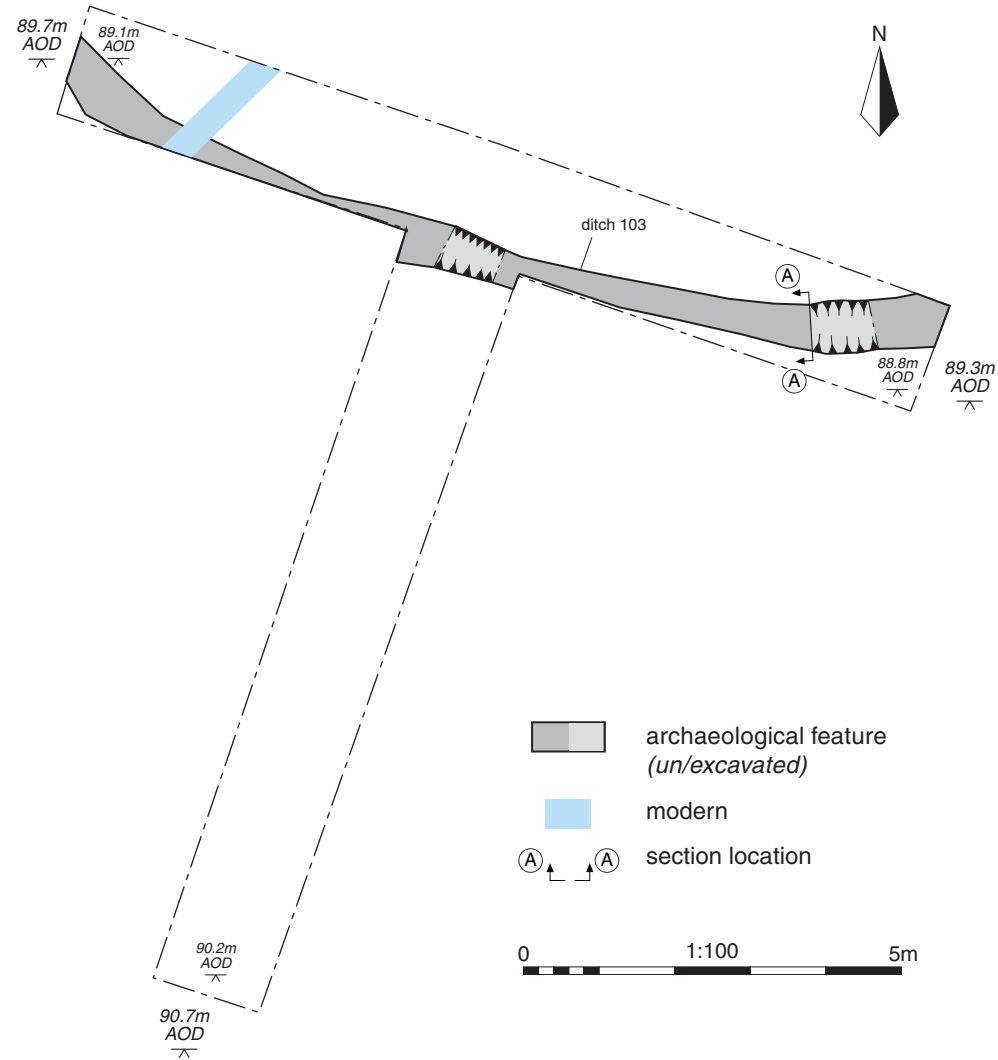
PROJECT TITLE
Bourough House, Lifton, Devon

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan, showing archaeological features

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CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 28.08.18	2
APPROVED BY DE	SCALE@A3 1:500	

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Trench 1, plan



Trench 1 overview, looking north-east (1m scales)

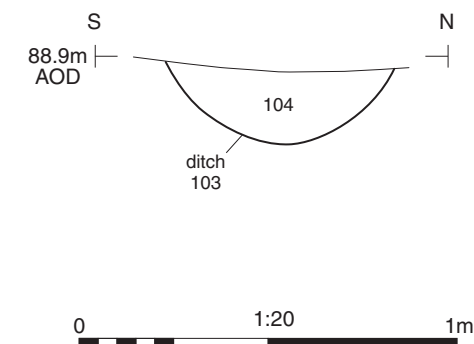


Trench 1 overview, looking north-west (1m scales)



Ditch 103, looking west (0.3m scale)

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