

SOWTONTOWN FARM, PETER TAVY, DEVON

(NGR SX 51330 76271)

Results of an archeological watching brief

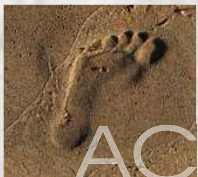
Dartmoor National Park Authority Planning Reference
1497/1/0, condition 4

Prepared by:
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On behalf of:
Mrs C Eatly

Document No: ACD1497/2/1

Date: November 2016



AC archaeology

Dartmoor Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Peter Tavy, West Devon	National Grid Reference (SX 51350 76271)	Number: (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
Subject: Sowtontown Farm, Peter Tavy, Devon, Results of an archaeological watching brief		Photo attached? Y
Planning Application no: Dartmoor National Park Authority 0289/16	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS ID: 269778	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD1497	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 8/11/2016	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p><i>Introduction</i></p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of an extension to the farmhouse at Sowtontown Farm (Fig. 1). The current building is of late nineteenth-century date, but the farm has earlier origins. A house and outbuildings are recorded on the 1847 Peter Tavy tithe map located just to the north and east of current farmhouse, and the plot is recorded as an orchard.</p> <p>The farm is located within enclosed farmland 1.2km to the south of Peter Tavy. It is located on a north-facing hillside above the River Tavy at a height of approximately 210m aOD. The underlying solid geology comprises Carboniferous basaltic lava and tuff of the Milton Abbot Formation.</p> <p><i>Results</i></p> <p>The extension is located within a stable yard on the west side of the farmhouse (Fig. 2; Plate 1), The area has previously been landscaped and terraced into the slope to level off an area for the yard. The ground had been reduced by around 0.40m, which was apparent where a flowerbed had been dug into the subsoil (Plate 2) and filled with redeposited topsoil. This contained several sherds of nineteenth-century industrial china and fragments of bottle glass, perhaps indicating that this terracing took place when the present house was constructed.</p> <p>The foundation trenches measured 0.80m wide and ranged from 0.95m deep against the house, where there was an existing gravel path around the building, to 0.52m deep out at the west side of the new extension (Plates 3 and 4). The natural (104) was a light brownish-red silty clay, with frequent angular stones. Above this, surviving in the northern half of the site, was a remnant subsoil (103), measuring at its deepest 0.24m thick, and consisting of mid reddish-brown clayey loam; this had been removed in the southern half of the site. Overlying this deposit was a sand levelling layer (102) for the gravel courtyard (101). The flower bed topsoil (100) measured 0.26m thick and consisted of mid brown clayey silt (Plate 5).</p> <p><i>Conclusions</i></p> <p>No archaeological deposits of features were present, and the area had previously been landscaped, initially for the construction of the house and associated flower bed, and later for the creation of a stable yard.</p> <p>This report and the associated OASIS entry represent the archive for the project.</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: Chris Caine AC Archaeology	Date sent to HER: 25 November 2016	



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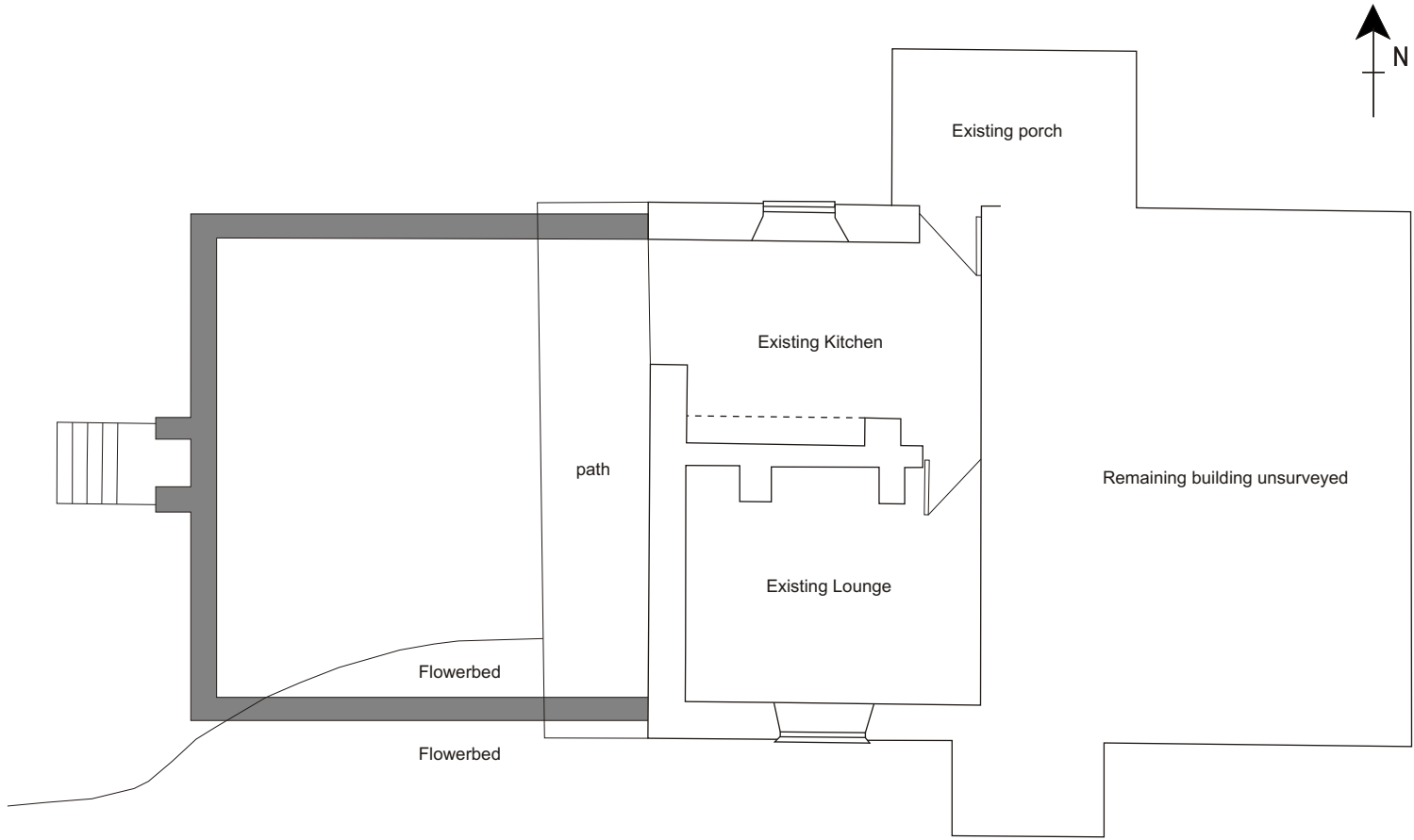
PROJECT

Sowntown Farm, Peter Tavy, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Site location





PROJECT
 Sowntontown Farm, Peter Tavy, Devon

TITLE
 Fig. 2: Site plan

0 5m
 Scale 1:100@A4

Excavated trenches





Plate 1: View of the stable yard before excavation of foundation trenches, view from the southeast



Plate 2: View of the flowerbed cutting into the subsoil, view from the north. (1m scale)



Plate 3: View along the northern foundation trench line, view from the west. (1m scale)



Plate 4: View of the section through the stable yard, view from the north. (1m scale)



Plate 5: View of the site after excavation of the foundation trenches, view from the southeast

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