

SITE OF FORMER SCOUT HUT, MARSH STREET, DUNSTER MARSH, SOMERSET

(NGR SS 99352 44394)

Results of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

West Somerset Council Planning Reference 3/10/15/004
(Condition 3)

Somerset Historic Environment Record PRN 41334

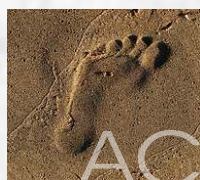
Museum Accession Number TTNCM 34/2019

Prepared by:
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On behalf of:
The Pearce Practice

Report No: ACD2044/2/0

Date: June 2019



archaeology

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(Centred on NGR SS 99352 44394)

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Client	The Pearce Practice on behalf of clients
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The views and recommendations expressed in this report are those of AC archaeology and are presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information currently available.

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Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by AC archaeology during June 2019 on the site of the former Scout Hut, Marsh Street, Dunster Marsh, Somerset (NGR SS 99352 44394). The site lies within the historic core of Dunster Marsh dispersed linear settlement.

The archaeological monitoring and recording comprised the machine excavation of a single trench within the footprint of the proposed new building. The trench revealed no archaeological features, deposits or finds. This appears to confirm the evidence from historical mapping which shows that this has been a vacant plot within the historic period with no evidence for a building or other activity taking place here in the medieval or post-medieval periods.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeological monitoring and recording at the site of the former Scout Hut, Marsh Street, Dunster Marsh, Somerset (NGR SS 99352 44394) was undertaken by AC archaeology during June 2019. The evaluation was required by West Somerset Council as a condition of planning permission, as advised by the South West Heritage Trust Senior Historic Environment Officer (hereafter, SWHT SHEO). The location of the site is shown on *Fig. 1*.
- 1.2 The site of the former Scout Hut comprises a rectangular plot positioned on the west side of Marsh Street. It consists of a mixed concrete surface and grass-covered parcel of land bounded to the north and south by residential properties with arable land to the west (*Plate 1*). The site lies on flat ground at 12m aOD (above Ordnance Datum), with the underlying solid geology comprising mudstone of the Mercia Mudstone Group beneath superficial sand and gravel river terrace deposits (British Geological Survey Online Viewer 2019).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has been subject to an historic environment desk-based assessment as part of the current planning permission (Bryant 2015). This established that the site lies within the historic core of Dunster Marsh dispersed linear settlement but does not contain any known heritage assets. Immediately to the south lie a terrace of two Grade-II 16th century cottages (National Heritage List for England reference 1173435). Numbers 15 and 17 Marsh Street comprise a sandstone rubble and cob two storey range with thatched roof.
- 2.2 The 1842 Dunster parish tithe map shows the site as having formed part of a larger rectangular plot extending parallel to Marsh Street and north of the listed cottages. This plot is described in the accompanying tithe apportionment as having been used as an orchard.

3. AIMS

- 3.1 The aim of the archaeological monitoring and recording was to preserve by record any archaeological features or deposits exposed during works associated with the scheme. This was with reference for the potential to expose medieval or post-medieval roadside settlement remains or associated features.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 Attendance by the site archaeologist undertaking the monitoring was undertaken in accordance with *The Somerset Archaeological Handbook* (Somerset County Council 2017) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for An Archaeological Watching Brief* (published 2014). It was agreed with the SWHT SHEO that the archaeological works could comprise, in the first instance, a machine excavated trench within the footprint of the proposed building ahead of groundworks commencing.

5. RESULTS (*Plan Fig. 1a, section Fig. 1b; Plates 2-3*)

5.1 Introduction

One trench measuring 12m long by 1.8m wide was machine-excavated in the centre of the site within the footprint of the proposed new building. Natural subsoil (102) was exposed at a depth of 0.56m below the ground level. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were uncovered. The deposit sequence is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Trench deposit sequence

Context no.	Description	Depth b.g.s.	Interpretation
100	Dark brown silty clayey loam	0-0.2m	Topsoil
101	Mid to dark brown clayey silt	0.2-0.56m	Subsoil
102	Light reddish-brown clayey silt and sand	0.56m+	Natural

6. COMMENT

- 6.1 The archaeological monitoring and recording of the groundworks has revealed no archaeological features, deposits or finds. This appears to confirm the evidence from historical mapping which shows that this has been a vacant plot within the historic period with no evidence for a building or other activity taking place here in the medieval or post-medieval periods.

7 ARCHIVE AND OASIS

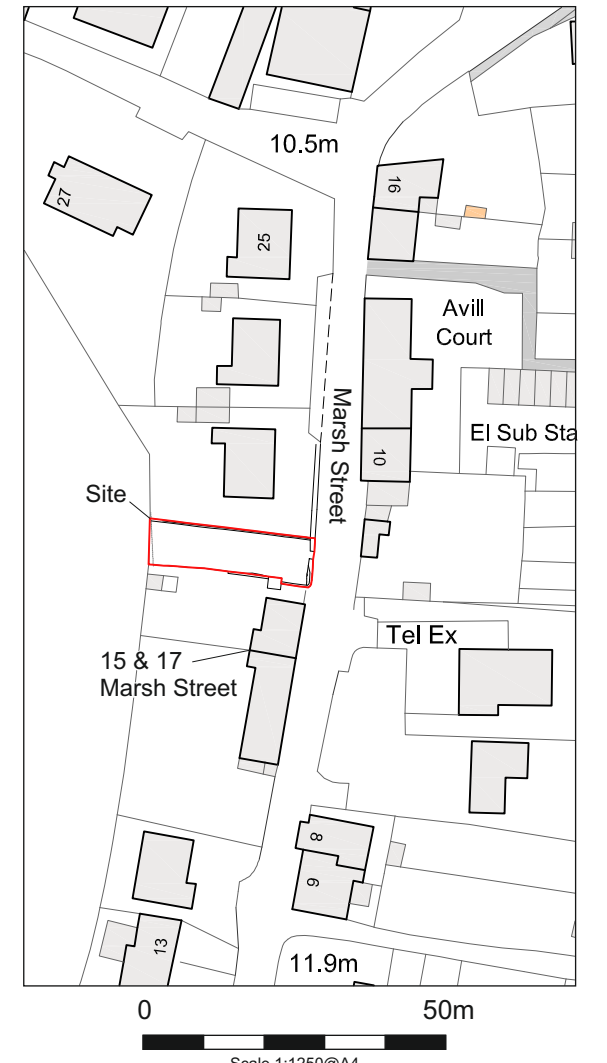
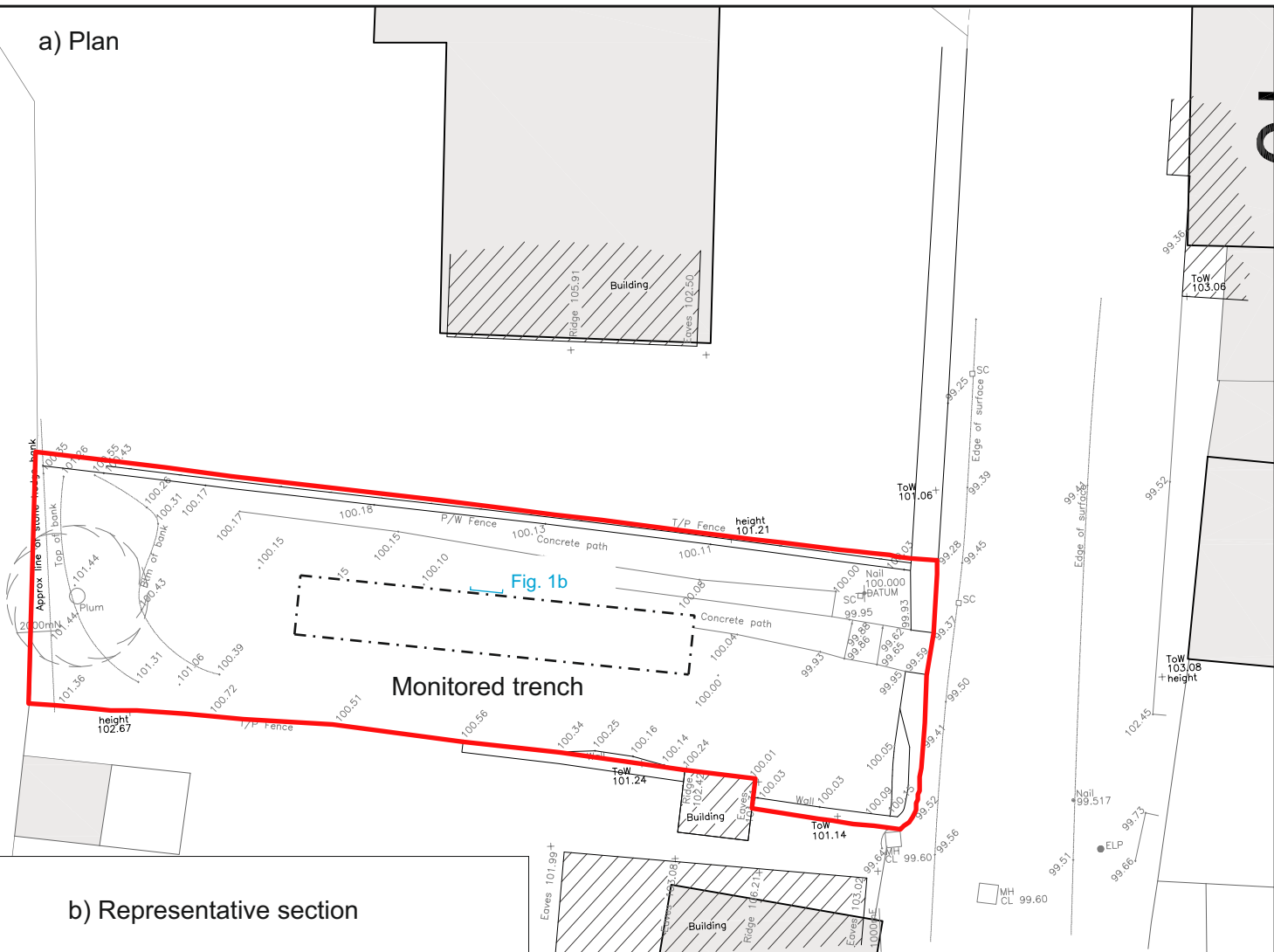
- 7.1 The paper and digital archive is currently held at the offices of AC archaeology Ltd, at 4 Halthaies Workshops, Bradninch, near Exeter, Devon, EX5 4LQ under the unique project code of **ACD2044**. It will be held until it is known if any further archaeological work on the site is required. If no further work is required then an online OASIS entry will be completed, using the unique identifier **356381**, which includes a digital copy of this report. This report will then represent the archive for this project.

8. REFERENCES

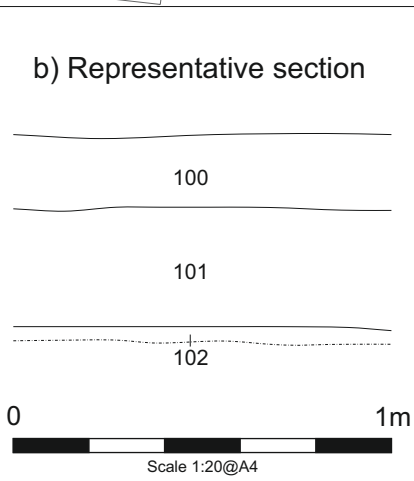
British Geological Survey Online Viewer, 2019 (www.bgs.ac.uk).

Bryant, A., 2015, *Former Scout Hut, Dunster Marsh, Somerset: Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment*. Unpublished Savills-Smithsgore report ref. **1056037**.

a) Plan

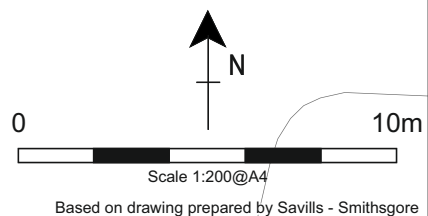


b) Representative section



PROJECT
 Site of the Former Scout Hut,
 Dunster Marsh, Somerset

TITLE
 Fig. 1: Site location, areas monitored
 and representative section



Based on drawing prepared by Savills - Smithsgore



Plate 1: View of site, looking west



Plate 2: Representative section, looking north (1m scale)



Plate 3: View of monitored trench, looking west (1m scale)

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