

# T SOWTON VILLAGE, SOWTON, EXETER, DEVON

(NGR SX 97824 92841)

Results of archaeological monitoring and recording

East Devon District Council Planning ref. 19/1149/FUL  
(Condition 3)

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With a contribution from:  
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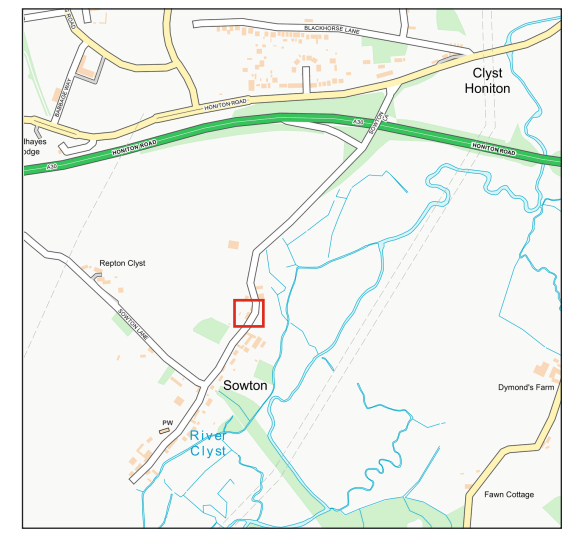
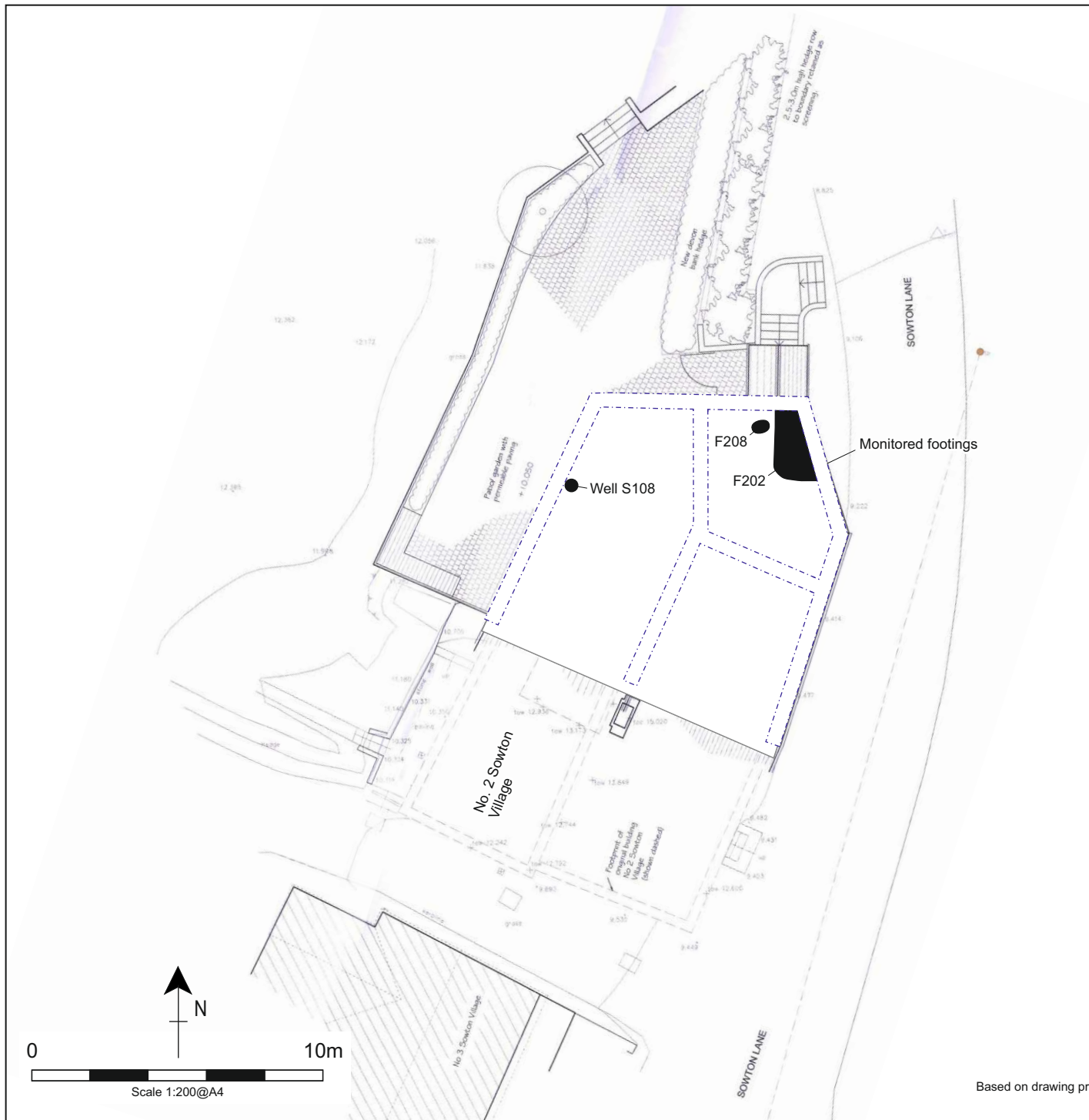


archaeology

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# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Sowton, East Devon	<b>National Grid Reference:</b> SX 97824 92841	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> 1 Sowton Village, Sowton, Exeter, Devon: Results of archaeological monitoring and recording		<b>Photo attached:</b> Plates 1-3
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 19/1149/FUL	<b>Recipient museum:</b> N/A	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> 363491	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b>  ACD2112	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b>  8 January 2020	
<p><b>Introduction</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by AC archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a replacement dwelling at 1 Sowton Village, Sowton, Exeter, Devon (SX 97824 92841). The property, which (as well as the next-door house) sustained significant fire damage in March 2018, is located at the northeast extent of Sowton village. Prior to the 2018 fire, No. 1 Sowton Lane with the next-door property, No. 2, had been Grade-II listed. These properties have now been de-listed and comprised what would originally have been a single house dating to the early 17th century. The combined building consisted of a breccia stone plinth construction capped with cob and with a thatched roof. Although they had been partially re-built including brick wall fabric during the 19th century, No. 1 had a decorative plaster ceiling that was thought to have been original to the build.</p> <p><b>Results</b> (Fig. 1-3; Plates 1-4) Monitored groundworks comprised bulk reduction of recent demolition levelling in the northeast portion of the site and the excavation of footings trenches, which measured 0.9m wide and 1m deep. Natural subsoil (context 201) consisted of red sand and sandstone. The natural subsoil was overlain in the southeast portion of the site by an intermittent mid-red silty sand made ground deposit (200) that measured a maximum of 0.25m thick. The groundworks exposed a pit (F202), a posthole (F206) and a well (S208).</p> <p>Pit F202 was located immediately to the north of where the previous house had been situated. It was sub rectangular in plan and measured 2.5m across, 1.1m wide by 0.45m deep with steep to vertical sides and flat base. The pit contained a mid-reddish-brown sandy silt loam (203) that contained moderately common of crushed mortar and small stone inclusions. Two sherds of 19th century pottery were recovered. Posthole F206 was adjacent to pit F202. It was circular in plan and measured 0.5m in diameter by 0.45m in depth. The posthole contained a dark brown sandy silt loam fill (207) with frequent stone, brick fragment and rotten timber inclusions. A sherd of 19th to 20th century pottery and brick fragment was recovered.</p> <p>Well S208 was located on the west side of the monitored area and was a known feature prior to the fire, which had been retained as a garden feature to the rear of the original building. It was circular in plan and measured 1.3m in diameter. The well lining was constructed from lime mortar bonded 19th century frogged bricks.</p> <p><b>The finds</b> by <i>Charlotte Coles</i> The finds recovered are four pieces of post-medieval pottery (102g) dating to the 19th or 20th century. These are two pieces of plate, a sherd of dish and a sherd of jar, all are industrial wares. The only other find is a fragment of modern house brick (556g) with a frog present from context 207.</p> <p><b>Comments</b> The groundworks exposed a sub rectangular pit and posthole adjacent to the north end of the previous building. The function of these features was not clear, although finds recovered from these indicated that they were of 19th to early 20th century origin. A similar 19th century date was also likely for the construction of a brick-lined well exposed to the rear of the former house.</p> <p>No evidence for archaeological features dating from the 17th century origin of the former house was exposed by the groundworks.</p> <p>This report represents the archive for the project.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b>  George Gandham, AC archaeology	<b>Date sent to HER:</b>  20 January 2020	



PROJECT  
**1 Sowton Village, Sowton, Exeter,  
 Devon**

TITLE  
**Fig. 1: Location of site and  
 monitored areas**



Based on drawing prepared by ara architecture



Plate 1: General view of 1 Sowton Village. Looking north



Plate 2: Showing pit F202 and posthole F206. View to south (scales 1m and 0.4m)



Plate 3: Well S208. View to north (scale 1m)

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