

LAND AT FERNWORTHY, BRIDESTOWE, DEVON

(NGR SX 51125 87025)

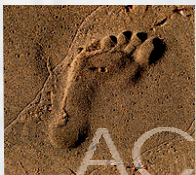
Results of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

West Devon Borough Council Planning Reference
0665/20/HHO (condition 3)

Prepared by:
Simon Hughes

Report No: ACD2304/2/0

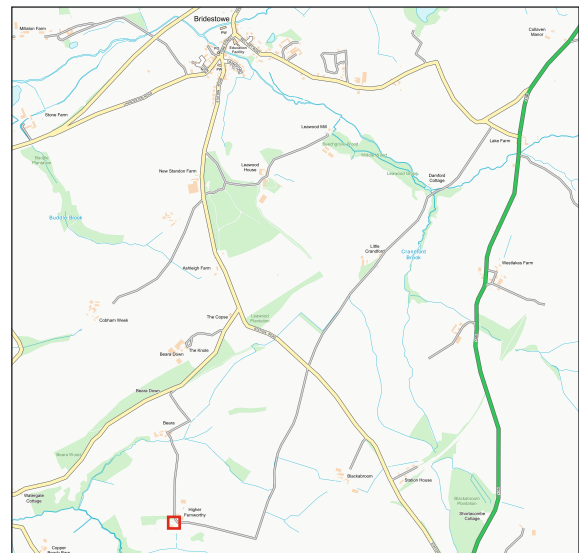
Date: September 2020



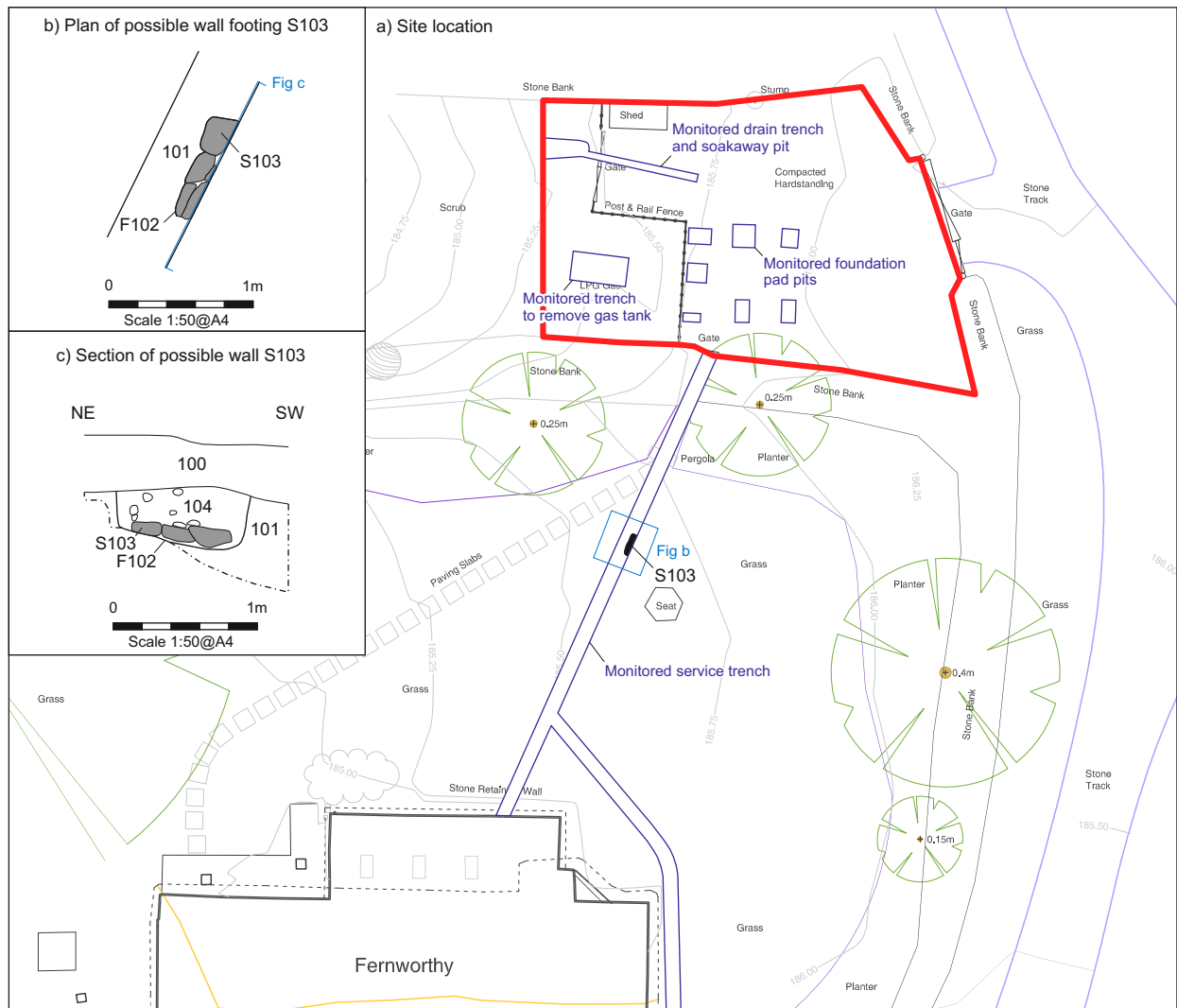
archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

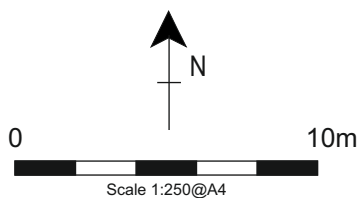
Civil Parish & District: Bridestowe, West Devon Borough	National Grid Reference SX 51125 87025	Number:
Subject: Land at Fernworthy, Bridestowe, Devon: Results of archaeological monitoring and recording		Photo attached Plates 1-4
Planning Application no: 0665/20/HHO	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS ID: 398402	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD2304	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 20th to 23rd July 2020	
<p>Introduction (Fig. 1; Plate 1) Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out by AC archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a new garage on land at Fernworthy, Bridestowe, Devon (SX 51125 87025). Fernworthy forms part of a hamlet some 2.3km to the south of Bridestowe. It comprises a house with associated gardens and wooded grounds, with the position of the new garage occupying an area of hardstanding adjacent to a lane that bisects the hamlet.</p> <p>The settlement at Fernworthy is named as '<i>Fernewrda</i>' in the Domesday Book of 1086 and was attached to the manor of Bridestowe. Fernworthy house is Grade-II* listed and dates from the 15th century, with 17th century alterations and 20th century partial rebuild. Of note in the listing description is the presence of an unusual and grand form of roof. This has been used to suggest that the house was originally larger and more important. Indeed, potential evidence for an additional former element of the house was recorded during the insertion of a septic tank in 2009, when some stone footings were exposed. Prior to its current use as a residence, the house is thought to have comprised the site of a medieval chapel and old hospice. An associated hospice cemetery is reputed to have been within the current lawn-covered garden area immediately to the north of the house. Despite this association, no evidence for the chapel or cemetery have been recorded.</p> <p>Results (Fig. 1; Plates 1-3) Monitored groundworks comprised the machine excavation of foundation footing pads for the new garage, associated service and drainage trenches and the removal of an existing buried gas tank. Natural subsoil (context 101), which comprised a light-yellow clay with frequent gravel inclusions, was exposed at a depth of between 0.4m and 0.9m below existing levels. The natural subsoil within the garden area was overlain by a 0.4m thick dark brown silty loam topsoil (100). Within the new carpark area, a soil layer was overlain by up to a 0.5m thick recent gravel surface or the concrete base of a former shed. The groundworks exposed a possible wall footing (S103) within the monitored service trench that crossed the garden area. This comprised a single course of clay bonded unfaced stone blocks set within a construction cut (F102) that extended from the southeast and terminated within the trench. The upper portion of the construction cut was filled with a light yellowish-brown clay loam with common gravel inclusions (104), presumably representing infilling following the majority removal of the stone fabric. No finds were recovered.</p> <p>Comments The results from the monitoring and recording were limited to the undated largely removed possible wall footing exposed within the garden area. It is possible that it formed part of a former structure or boundary wall, although it was not possible to interpret any further from its limited exposure within the narrow service trench. Elsewhere, no archaeological features, deposits or finds that could be associated with the medieval origin of the property were exposed, or indeed any evidence that could be used support the putative record that the area to the north of the house had been used as a former cemetery.</p> <p>This report represents the archive for the project.</p>		
Recorder: Simon Hughes, AC archaeology	Date sent to HER: 10 September 2020	



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Based on drawing prepared by Le Page Architects



PROJECT
Land at Fernworthy, Bridestowe, Devon

TITLE
Fig. 1: Site location





Plate 1: General pre-commencement view of garden area. Looking south towards Fernworthy



Plate 2: Showing new garage area with excavated foundation pad pits. View to west



Plate 3: Showing excavated service trench, looking southeast (scale 0.4m)



Plate 4: Possible wall footing S103, view to southeast (scale 0.5m)

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