

Land at Hittisleigh Barton, Hittisleigh, Devon

NGR SX 73407 95456

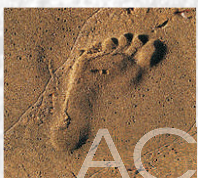
Results of historic building recording and an archaeological watching brief

Prepared by
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On behalf of
Mr J. Milverton

Document No: ACD156/2/0

Date: February 2011



archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Hittisleigh, Mid Devon	National Grid Reference SX 7340795456	Number:
Subject: Historic building recording and an archaeological watching brief at Hittisleigh Barton		Photo attached: Plates 1-6
Planning Application no: 09/01319/FULL	Recipient museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum	
OASIS ID: 94050	Museum Accession no: 98/2010	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD156	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 27th April-25th October, 2010	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>Historic building recording and archaeological watching brief was carried out at Hittisleigh Barton, Hittisleigh, Devon, prior to and during groundworks associated with the conversion of a redundant barn to a training room/office and holiday let. The work was commissioned by the site owner Mr J. Milverton.</p> <p>The site is situated approximately 0.4km to the northeast of Hittisleigh village on ground lying at around 203m OD (Fig. 1). The underlying solid geology comprises Lower Sandstone of the Permian and Triassic periods.</p> <p>Hittisleigh Barton consists of a range of buildings and includes a farmhouse with associated barns, sheds and stables, all situated to the immediate northeast of the Grade I listed 13th century church of St. Andrews. Hittisleigh Barton is referred to as a Manor in the 1086 Domesday Survey, although the present farmhouse dates from the 16th century, with the associated outbuildings (including the building to be converted) dating to the 18th century.</p> <p>The aim of the archaeological works was to provide an archive record of the barn prior to its conversion and to preserve by record any archaeological deposits exposed during associated groundworks.</p> <p>Results</p> <p><u>The barn</u></p> <p>The structure is located to the southwest of the main farmhouse, is approximately north to south aligned and 29m long by 8m wide (Fig. 1 & Plate 1). It is constructed on a 0.8m high stone sill and topped with cob and a corrugated sheet roof. The outer wall is 0.8m thick. Much of the east facing outer wall consists of exposed stone and cob with rendering towards the northeast end, as well as along the north, west and south facing outer walls. Where exposed, there are numerous signs of repair work of brick, particularly around the doorways and along part of the east facing wall within the southeast corner (Plate 2). A later brick built lean-to shelter with corrugated sheet roof has been added on to the southeast corner of the barn.</p> <p>Internally, the barn is divided into two compartments, with exposed stone and cob in both showing frequent patching of brick and stone repair work throughout, as well as more recent concrete block repair work. A blocked entrance is located along the west wall (Plate 3). The roof trusses have been mostly replaced, probably during the re-roofing of the barn with corrugated sheeting. An original feature of the barn survives intact and <i>in situ</i> within the northern partition. This consists of two oak floor joists with timber constructed boxed frame, housing two large cylindrical stone rollers on large iron cogs. The whole feature is supported on two oak beams housed into the main joists, together with some surviving planking (Plate 4).</p> <p><u>The watching brief</u></p> <p>A watching brief was carried out during excavation of foundation trenches for a new extension within the southeast corner of the barn (following the demolition of the brick built lean-to), an area of ground reduction for a second extension abutting the north wall and during the excavation of two service trenches (Fig. 1).</p>		
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The south eastern extension area was 7m by 3m in plan and abutted both the stone boundary wall to the south and barn wall to the west. The L-shaped foundation trench was 0.8m wide and was excavated to a depth of between 0.7-0.9m below ground level (Plate 5). The layer sequence exposed comprised 0.25m of made ground (100), comprising a mixed dark brown/grey silt clay with frequent small-large stones and brick and concrete fragments, onto a light/mid yellow clay and shillet natural subsoil (101).

The area of ground reduction for the northern extension measured 6m x 5m and was reduced down onto the top of the natural subsoil (101), below 0.40m of made ground (100).

The two service trenches to the east side of the barn and to the northwest corner were 0.6-0.8m wide and were excavated to a depth of between 0.9-1m. The layer sequence comprised between 0.25-0.4m of made ground (100) onto natural subsoil (Plate 6).

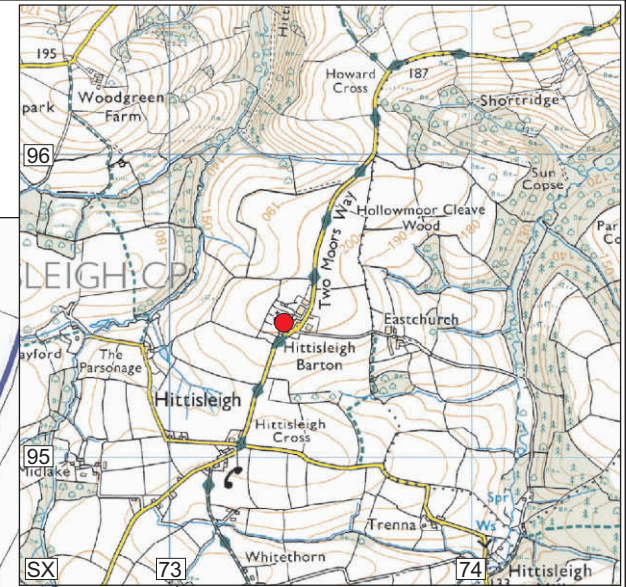
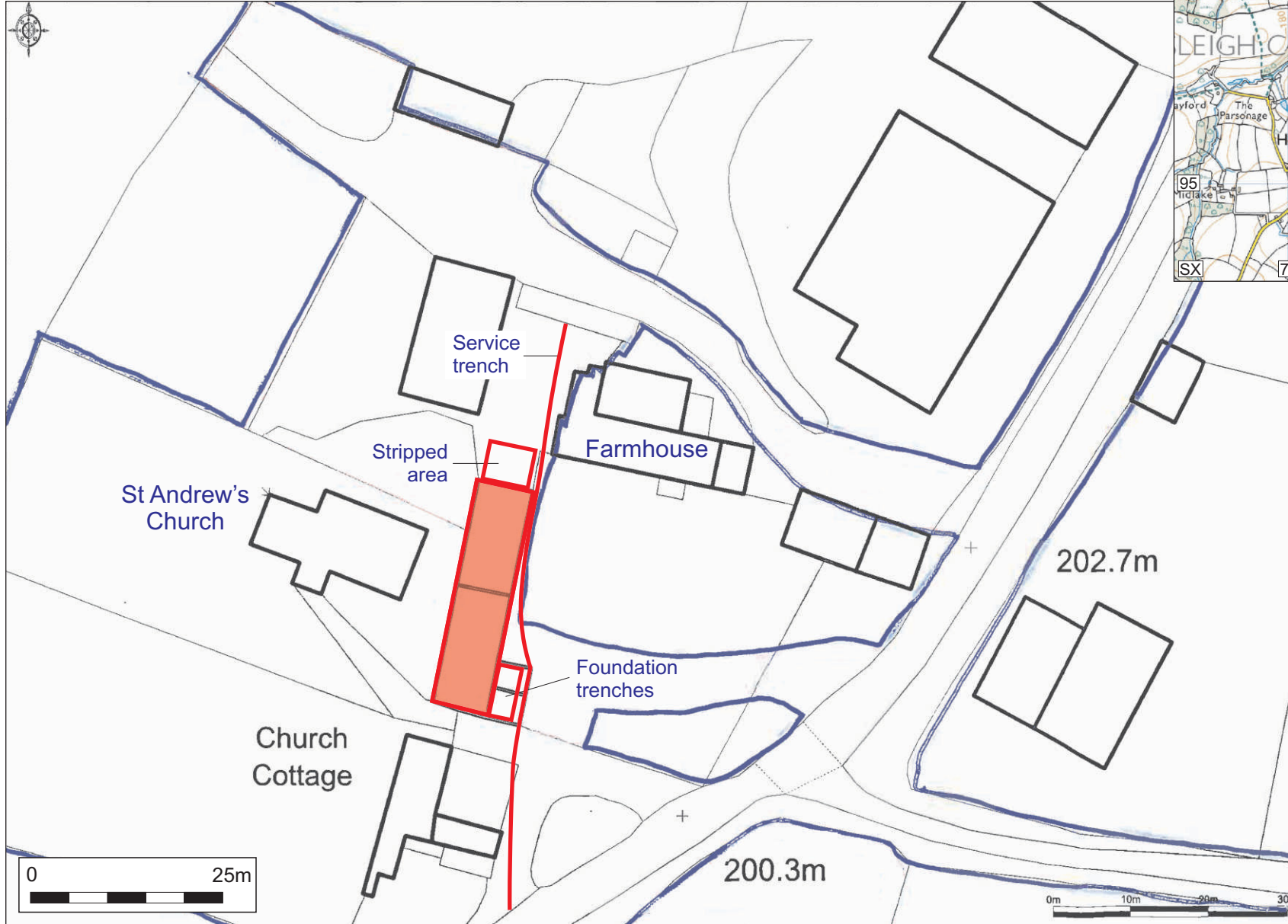
Comments

While the building retains much of its original stone and cob fabric, there has clearly been much in the way of minor repair work carried out to the cob structure, probably undertaken during the 19th and 20th centuries. Internally, the roof structure has almost entirely been replaced. The wooden framed rolling machine within the northern compartment may represent some form of apple crusher designed to break up the apples from within the loft area for pressing. If this is the case, it is possible that the barn may have at one time served as a poundhouse.

Monitoring of the groundworks during the watching brief did not expose any *in situ* archaeological deposits or features and, likewise, no finds were recovered from the spoil. Most of the groundworks were within the main working yard area of the farmhouse where any such surviving deposits and features are likely to have been heavily disturbed and/or truncated away.

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Recorder:	Date sent to HER:
Richard Sims (AC archaeology)	22 February 2011



- Groundworks recorded
- Barn recorded

PROJECT
**Hittisleigh Barton,
 Hittisleigh, Devon**

TITLE
**Fig 1. Site location and
 location of barn and
 groundworks recorded**





Plate 1. General view of the barn, looking to the west



Plate 2. West elevation of barn, view to the northwest. (Scale 2m)



Plate 3. Internal view of the west wall of the barn, showing exposed stone and cob construction, brick and stone repairs and a blocked entrance. (Scale 1m)



Plate 4. A possible apple crusher surviving *in situ* within the northern partition



Plate 5. Excavation of the foundation trench to the southeast corner of the barn, view to the west.



Plate 6. Section through service trench, view to west. (Scale 1m)

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