

1 The Manor House, Chapel Street, Holsworthy, Devon.

An archaeological desk-based appraisal and field evaluation.



1 The Manor House, Chapel Street, Holsworthy, Devon.

An archaeological desk-based appraisal and field evaluation

for

Mr and Mrs T Horwood

by



Brickfield Offices, Maperton, Wincanton, Somerset. BA9 8EG.

T: 01963 824696

F: 07092 259858

E: mail@contextone.co.uk

W: www.contextone.co.uk

COAS Project Reference: C1/EVA/11/MCH

National Grid Reference: centred on NGR SS 3426 0365

Torridge District Council Planning Application ref.: 1/1271/2008/FUL

North Devon District Museums Service Accession Number: NDDMS 2011.23

Devon County Council HES Reference: ARCH/DM/TO/14064

OASIS ref.: 1-100232

Project Director: Richard McConnell

Fieldwork Manager: Stuart Milby

Fieldwork team: Peter Fairclough and Stuart Milby

Research: Richard McConnell

Report: Richard McConnell

Graphics: Tara Fairclough

May 2011

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd shall retain the copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other projected documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Design/Specification/Written Scheme of Investigation.

Front cover image: Trench 2 from the west after excavation of feature [205]. © Context One Archaeological Services 2011

Contents

Non-technical summary.....	ii
1. Introduction	1
2. Site Location, Topography and Geology	1
3. Desk-based appraisal.....	2
4. Methodology	5
5. Results	6
6. The Finds	7
7. Discussion and Conclusions.....	7
8. Archive.....	7
9. Acknowledgements	8
10. Bibliography	8
Illustrations	
Figure 1. Site setting.....	2
Figure 2. Historic map regression.....	4
Figure 3. Detailed site setting showing location of trenches and representative profiles	6

Non-Technical Summary

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out an archaeological desk-based appraisal and field evaluation relating to land at 1 The Manor House, Chapel Street, Holsworthy, Devon (centred on NGR SS 3436 0365) during April 2011. The project was commissioned and funded by Mr and Mrs T Horwood.

The requirement for the archaeological work was made by the Local Planning Authority (Torrige District Council) on the advice of Mr Stephen Reed (Archaeologist, Historic Environment Service, Devon County Council) as a condition of granting planning permission for a residential development of two flats and five cottages with access improvements (Planning Application ref. 1/1271/2008/FUL).

The Site is located within the historic core of the town and on the edge of burgage plots identified from historic mapping.

The evaluation consisted of four trenches totalling 63m in length and 1.2-1.6m wide. Excavation in all trenches revealed a horizontal sequence of deposits comprising only topsoil, subsoil and natural sandstone. Excavation showed a variation in the matrix and depth of the topsoil and subsoil across the site due to repeated episodes of modern garden landscaping that has seen the importation or movement of soils resulting in a general increase in ground level. Two modern garden features were encountered in Trench 2 and these comprised a section of a narrow stone 'wall' that probably served as a flower border, and the base of a wooden barrel or cask that was set into the ground.

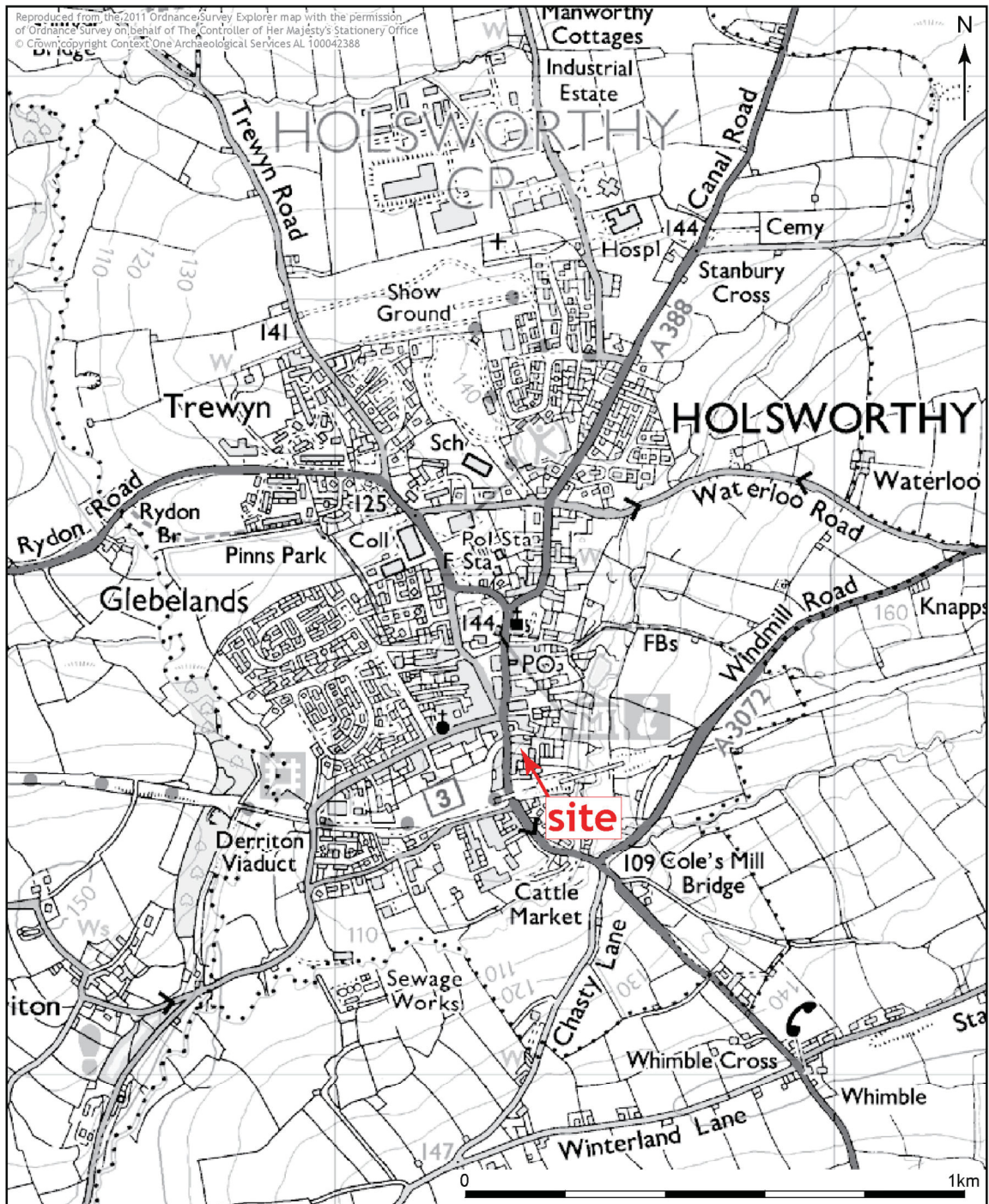
No evidence of a boundary shown on late 19th and early 20th century maps was encountered and despite being located within the historic core of the town, there was no evidence of any medieval activity. A small assemblage of post-medieval and modern pottery sherds were observed in the topsoil and subsoil but were not collected.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out an archaeological desk-based appraisal and field evaluation relating to land at 1 The Manor House, Chapel Street, Holsworthy, Devon (centred on NGR SS 3436 0365) (hereafter referred to as the Site) during April 2011. The project was commissioned and funded by Mr and Mrs T Horwood.
- 1.2 The requirement for the archaeological work was made by the Local Planning Authority (Torrige District Council) on the advice of Mr Stephen Reed (Archaeologist, Historic Environment Service (HES), Devon County Council) as a condition of granting planning permission for a residential development of two flats and five cottages with access improvements (Planning Application ref. 1/1271/2008/FUL). In a *Brief for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording* (dated 28 March 2011), Mr Reed stated:
- “The proposal site lies within the historic core of Holsworthy, which was a Domesday settlement held by the king. By 1309 it had gained Borough status, with 15 burgesses. The remains of the pattern of burghal plots to the south of the church can be seen on historic mapping, and the application site lies at the southern edge of these plots. It is possible therefore, that archaeological features relating to medieval domestic and/or industrial activity may survive as buried deposits within the footprint of the proposal site.”*
- 1.3 The Brief was prepared in the absence of Ms Ann Dick, the HES archaeologist normally responsible for Torrige District. The site owners, Mr and Mrs Horwood requested whether an archaeological field evaluation could be carried out instead of a programme of monitoring and recording to assist the sale of the Site. This was agreed by Mr Reed. Prior to the commencement of the archaeological work, COAS submitted a *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Field Evaluation: Land at 1 The Manor House, Chapel Street, Holsworthy, Devon* (Milby 2011), which provided a strategy for the investigation. This was submitted to and approved by Ms Dick prior to the commencement of the works.
- 1.4 The requirement for the archaeological work follows advice given by Central Government as set out in *Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (2010); and the Local Development Framework Policy on Archaeology.
- 1.5 This report summarises the topographical and geological setting of the Site, and presents the results of the desk-based appraisal and field evaluation.

2. Site Location, Topography and Geology

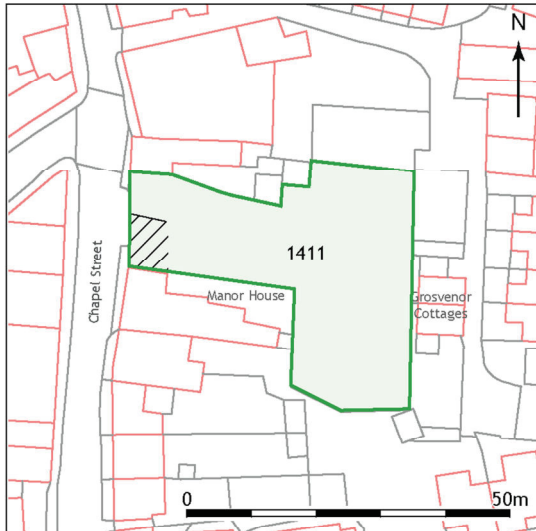
- 2.1 The Site is situated within the historic core of Holsworthy, in the civil parish of the same name and in the district of Torrige. The Site is centrally located along the main A379 road that passes through the town. Known as North Road, as it enters the town, it becomes Fore Street and then Chapel Street before exiting the town. The Site is situated on the eastern side of Chapel Street behind and to the north of 1 Manor House. The part of the Site that was subject to evaluation is currently in use as private hard standing and garden (**Figure 1**). The Site falls from north to south from a recorded high point of 139.25m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) to 137.69m aOD.
- 2.2 According to the British Geological Survey (2011), there is no superficial (drift) geology. The underlying solid geology comprises sandstone of the Bude Formation.



PROJECT TITLE		
1 The Manor House, Chapel Street, Holsworthy, Torrington, Devon		
FIGURE TITLE		
Site setting		
SCALE	PROJECT CODE	FIGURE NO.
as shown	C1/EVA/11/MCH	1

3. Desk-based appraisal

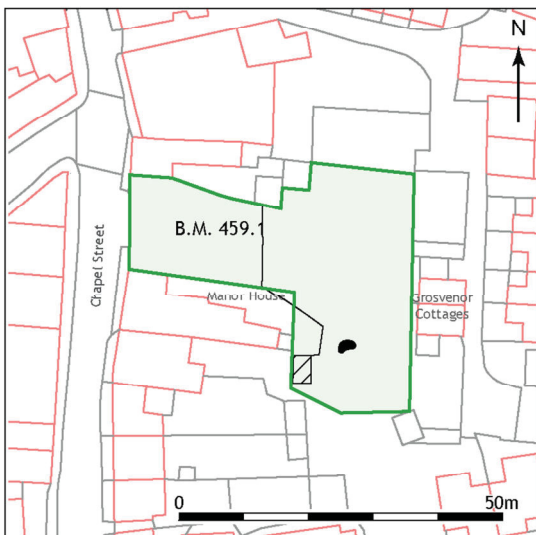
- 3.1 An archaeological desk-based appraisal was first carried out to place the Site into its historic and archaeological context and to assist the positioning of field evaluation trenches. The appraisal principally involved a trawl of the Devon Historic Environment Record (HER) for archaeological events within a 750m radius of the Site; a study of historic maps including the Tithe Map and Apportionment from the 1830s/40s and Ordnance Survey maps from the late 19th century; and aerial photographs held by the Devon County HES.
- 3.2 The HER comprises 37 entries for archaeological events within 400m of the Site and these span the prehistoric to Modern periods. Most of the records relate to the built environment. There are no entries for recorded archaeological activity on the Site itself or in the immediate vicinity. Given the relatively small area of the development area, an examination of aerial photographs was unhelpful in enhancing an understanding of the Site.
- 3.3 Map regression of historic maps shows that the Site boundaries have remained largely static since the first half of the 19th century (**Figure 2**). The 1843 Tithe Map shows the Site as being largely unoccupied with a rectangular structure set on the road frontage. The apportionment accompanying the Tithe describes this as 'houses', presumably a small terrace, amongst 'waste' ground. The Site was owned by 'John Wood' and tenanted by 'Thomas Tull'. The structure is not evident on maps after 1885. Maps from the late 19th and early 20th centuries show a boundary bisecting the Site. Aligned roughly north to south, the boundary appears in a slightly different position in the 1885 and 1906 maps but may well represent the same feature. A small outbuilding, which is still extant, was first represented on the 1885 map. A further structure, perhaps an additional outbuilding, is only evident on the 1885 map.



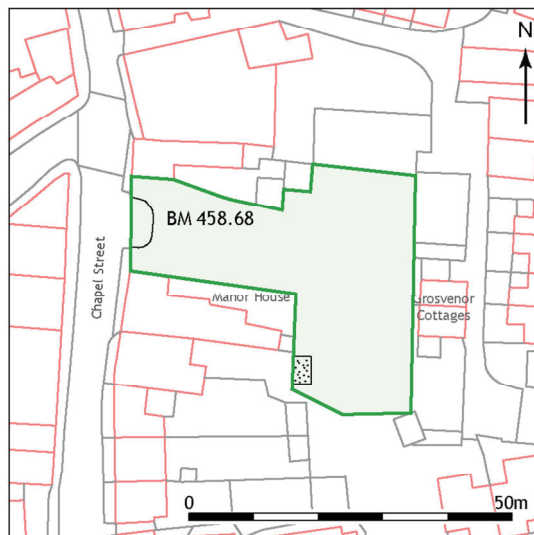
Transcription of 1843 Tithe Map



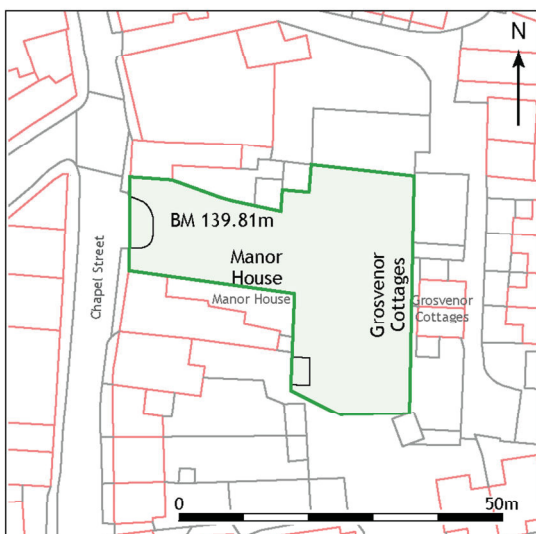
Ordnance Survey 25" map transcription, 1885



Ordnance Survey 25" map transcription, 1906



Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map transcription, 1954



Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map transcription, 1966 - 1985

4. Methodology




- 4.1 The field evaluation was carried out in accordance with the *Standards and Guidance for archaeological evaluation* published by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) in 1995 (revised 1999). COAS adhered to the *Code of Conduct* issued by the IfA in 1985 (revised 2000), and *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* (1990, revised September 2000), at all times during the course of the investigation. Current Health and Safety legislation and guidelines were followed on Site.
- 4.2 Ms Dick was kept informed of progress as the evaluation proceeded and carried out a monitoring visit on 19 April 2011.

Field Evaluation

The field evaluation was carried out over two days between 18 and 19 April 2011 and consisted of 4 machine and hand excavated trenches: trench 1 measured 16m x 1.2m; trench 2 was 'L'-shaped and measured 15m x 1.6m and 4m x 1.6m; trench 3 measured 14m x 1.2m; and trench 4 measured 14m x 1.2m. Combined, the trenches represented a 7.23% sample of the development area (0.115 hectares). The size and layout of the trenches varied from the Written Scheme of Investigation due to on-site obstacles such as garden features (a disused concrete pond) and mature trees/vegetation. The original plan was to excavate 4 no. 20m x 1.6m trenches representing an 11% sample of the proposal area.

- 4.3 A tracked mini-digger equipped with a 1.2m wide toothless (grading) bucket was used to remove topsoil and subsoil under the supervision of COAS archaeological staff. Where there was an absence of archaeological deposits/features, machine excavation continued to natural geology. Hand excavation was carried out to sample any archaeological features/deposits.
- 4.4 Details of each trench including a representative profile of the general deposit sequence and a sketch plan was recorded using standard COAS evaluation trench sheets. Scaled drawings of two modern garden features were additionally recorded on stable drawing film. A photographic record of the work was carried out and involved the sole use of digital images. This included photographs of each trench in plan, representative trench sections, buried garden features, and general working shots to illustrate the nature of the archaeological investigation.
- 4.5 Following completion of the evaluation and prior to backfilling, the trenches were surveyed with a TopCon GRS-1 GPS unit to record the location and altitude of the trenches relative to the National Grid and Ordnance Datum.



<p>  site boundary  Tr X trench locations and numbers  profile locations </p>	<p>PROJECT TITLE 1 The Manor House, Chapel Street, Holsworthy, Torridge, Devon</p>		
	<p>FIGURE TITLE Detailed site setting showing trench and profile locations</p>		
	<p>SCALE as shown</p>	<p>PROJECT CODE C1/EVA/11/MCH</p>	<p>FIGURE NO. 2</p>

5. Results

- 5.1 In the text below, context numbers appear in standard brackets, e.g. (102) and cut numbers in square brackets, e.g. [205].
- 5.2 Excavation revealed a similar sequence of horizontal deposits in all four trenches. These comprised topsoil ((100), (200), (300),(400)) above subsoil ((101), (201), (301), (401)) which in turn lay directly on natural geology ((102), (206), (302), (402)). Topsoil varied between 0.20m-0.40m thick; the subsoil between 0.26m-0.80m; and natural geology was reached between 0.50m and 1.00m below the ground surface. The variation between the thickness of deposits was a direct result of modern episodes of garden landscaping. This had also resulted in a variation of the deposit matrix of the topsoil and subsoil. The natural geology was recorded as a generally dark yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) deposit with frequent, loose 'squared' sandstone fragments (no dimension greater than 0.20m). Both the topsoil and subsoil deposits incorporated varying scatters of natural sandstone fragments testifying to repeated episodes of modern intervention.
- 5.3 Two archaeological 'features' were recorded. This included the base of a modern wooden barrel or cask ([205]/(203)/(204)) that was once set into the ground as deep as the natural geology, and the modern remains of a single width stone wall (202) that probably served as a flower bed border. Both were encountered in Trench 2.

6. The Finds

- 6.1 A small quantity of post-medieval and modern artefacts was recovered from topsoil and subsoil deposits including pottery sherds, animal bone and brick fragments. The assemblage was probably the result of domestic refuse disposal over a lengthy period. None of the artefacts were distinctive or unusual and as such, the finds were noted but not collected.

7. Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1 Excavation in all trenches revealed a horizontal sequence of deposits comprising only topsoil, subsoil and natural sandstone. Excavation showed a variation in the matrix and depth of the topsoil and subsoil across the site due to repeated episodes of modern garden landscaping that has seen the importation or movement of soils that have generally raised the ground level. Two modern garden features were encountered in Trench 2 and these comprised a section of a narrow stone wall that probably served as a flower bed border and the base of a wooden barrel or cask that was set into the ground.
- 7.2 No evidence of a boundary shown on late 19th and early 20th century maps was encountered and despite being located within the historic core of the town, there was no evidence of any medieval activity. A small assemblage of post-medieval and modern pottery sherds were observed in the topsoil and subsoil but were not collected.

8. Archive

- 8.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of Context One Archaeological Services Ltd and consists of 68 digital images in .jpg format, 1 plan of garden features on stable drawing media, and the written paper record - including 4 evaluation trench sheets, 1 photographic register, 1 levels register, and a day record. The archive will be prepared to comply with guidelines set out in *Standards in the Museums Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museum and Galleries Commission 1992) / *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991). Arrangements will be

made to deposit the paper archive with North Devon District Museums Service under the accession reference: NDDMS 2011.23 within 12 months following the submission of this report.

8.2 Copies of this report will be deposited in paper and electronic format with:

Mr and Mrs T Horwood
1 Manor House
Chapel Street
Holsworthy
Devon
EX22 6AY

Historic Environment Service
Devon County Council
Environment, Economy and Culture Directorate
Matford Offices
County Hall
Exeter
EX2 4QW

9. Acknowledgements

9.1 Context One Archaeological Services Ltd would like to thank Mrs Norma Horwood for her kind assistance throughout the course of this investigation; Ms Marrina Neophytou (Historic Environment Administration/Technical Support) for supplying HER data and aerial photographs; the staff at Devon Record Office and the West Country Studies Library, Exeter for locating historical material; and Mr Stephen Reed and Ms Ann Dick (Archaeologists, Historic Environment Service, Devon County Council) for curatorial advice. We would also like to acknowledge the assistance of G M Plant Hire for carrying out mechanical excavation of the trenches.

10. Bibliography

- | | |
|--|---|
| British Geological Survey, 2010 | <i>Http://www.bgs.ac.uk</i> |
| Devon Historic Landscape Characterisation, 2005 | <i>http://www.devon.gov.uk/landscape-characterisation</i> |
| Department of Communities and Local Government, 2010 | <i>Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment. London, TSO</i> |
| English Heritage, 1991 | <i>Management of Archaeological Projects 2. London: English Heritage</i> |
| Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), 1985 (rev. 2008) | <i>Code of Conduct. Reading: IfA</i> |
| Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), 1990 (rev. 2008) | <i>Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology. Reading: IfA</i> |
| Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), 1994 (rev. 2008) | <i>Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation. Reading: IfA</i> |
| Milby, S., 2011 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Field Evaluation: Land at 1 The Manor House, Chapel Street, Holsworthy, Devon (unpublished Context One project document)</i> |
| Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC), 2010 | <i>http://www.magic.gov.uk</i> |



Museum and Galleries Commission, 1992 *Standards in the Museums Care of Archaeological Collections.* London: Museum and Galleries Commission