

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish: Bampton	National Grid Reference SS 95666 22188	Number: (Leave blank)	
Subject: Archaeological Watching Brief at The Old Vicarage, Station Road, Bampton, Devon Planning Application no: 09/01838/FULL		Plan/Photo attached? Y	
Description of works. Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on behalf of Dr & Mrs Mew as a condition of granting planning permission for the erection of a new conservatory. The request for the investigation was made by Mr Stephen Reed (Archaeological Officer, Devon County Council Historic Environment Service (HES)) following a consultation request from Miss Tina Maryan (Planning Office, Mid Devon District Council). In a consultation letter to Miss Maryan, dated 4th January 2010, Mr Reed stated that: <i>"The proposed development lies within an area of archaeological potential, observations made during the construction of the surgery to the south recorded the exposure of a ditch that may have been associated with the medieval church to the north. The presence of this ditch suggests that the church lands may have been more extensive than today and the Old Vicarage may lie within these grounds..."</i> The archaeological work involved the monitoring of all significant groundworks for the purpose of identifying and recording any archaeological features or deposits. A post-medieval/modern east to west aligned stone lined drain [103]/(104), measuring up to 0.70m across and of unknown depth was identified during the watching brief. The drain was constructed with large flat stones (measuring 0.20m x 0.20m x 0.03m to 1.20m x 0.40m x 0.15m across), that were bonded with a hard pale yellow (2.5YR 8/4) lime mortar. The drain was overlain by modern topsoil (100), and cut post-medieval dump layer (101). The drain was probably associated with the Old Vicarage, located immediately to the north; the foundations of which also cut dump layer (101). The surface of the underlying natural (102) sloped gradually from north to south. The trench was 0.55m deep and the natural was only just exposed at the northern end of the trench. To the south of drain [103]/(104) the foundation trench did not fully penetrate post-medieval dump layer (101). A representative soil profile was recorded near the centre of the Site (Figure 1). The stratigraphic sequence is presented below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.00m - 0.25m. Topsoil (100): Very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) soft silty clay with <5% angular stones, animal bone, glass, brick, metal, pottery, slate, tile, wood and clay tobacco pipe fragments. • 0.25m – 0.50m. Dump layer (101): Brown (10YR 4/3) soft silty clay with 10% angular stones, pottery, animal bone and clay tobacco pipe. • 0.50m+. Natural (102): Yellowish brown (10YR 5/8) compact silty clay with 10% angular stones. A small assemblage of post-medieval finds was recovered from dump layer (101). These comprised, six (81g) clay tobacco pipe bowls; three (57g) animal bone fragments and thirty-three (885g) pottery sherds.		Reference. COAS site code: COAS/WBF/10/OVD OASIS ID: contexto1-75206	Date. <i>of site visits</i> 18/03/2010 30/03/2010

The clay tobacco pipe bowls were all of a similar type with milled rims; none had maker's marks and all were produced between c. 1680 and 1720.

The majority of the pottery assemblage comprised glazed Red Earthenwares (eleven sherds (345g)). Six sherds (194g) of North Devon Gravel Tempered Ware and two sherds of Slipware (97g) were also recovered. None of these ware types were closely dateable, as they all have a production range that spans the 17th to 19th centuries. In addition, three sherds (49g) of Staffordshire Type Slipware; three sherds (14g) of German Westerwald Stoneware; seven sherds (150g) of Scraffito Slipware and one sherd (36g) of Tin Glazed Earthenware were recovered; all of which are of 17th or 18th century date. Four of the Scraffito Slipware sherds derived from two very similar highly decorated bowls. Both were decorated with stylised flower designs and one had the letters 'EG' incised.

Three animal bone fragments weighing 57g were also recovered. These comprised two sheep/goat bones; distal ends of a right tibia and a right radius-ulna and an unidentified fragment.

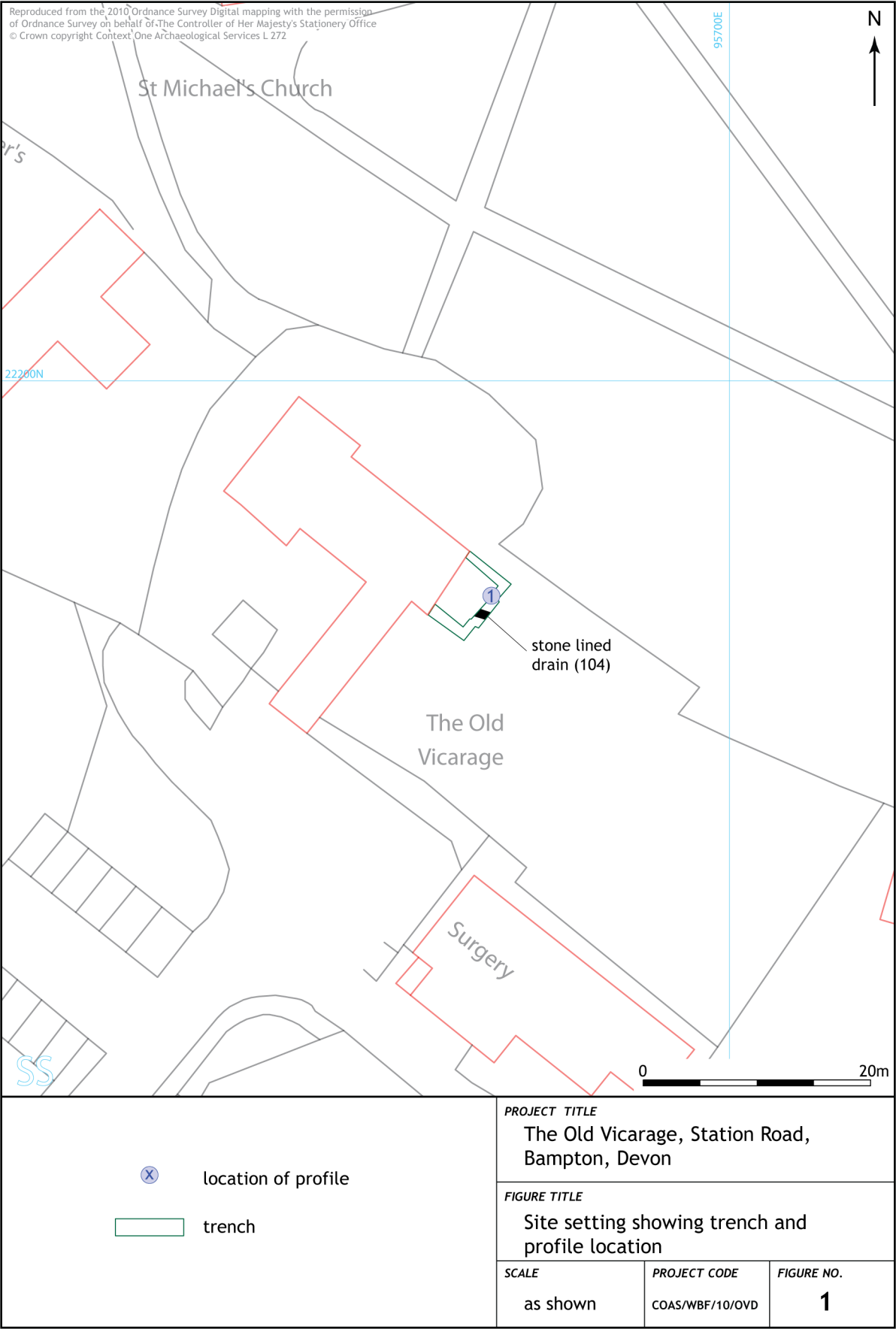
The finds assemblage is typical of a domestic refuse dump, which was probably deposited in the late 17th or very early 18th century. Given that the Old Vicarage itself (Listed Building Number 96716) is mostly of late 18th century date, but believed to have late medieval origins, the discovery of a refuse dump of this date is unsurprising. This dump layer does however provide some dating for the construction of the southern end of the Vicarage and stone lined drain [103]/(104).

Recorder

Cai Mason, Context One Archaeological Services Ltd.

Date sent to HER

07/04/10



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