

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish: Bigbury	National Grid Reference SX 66352 47180	Number: (Leave blank)	
Subject: Former Inn, St Ann's Chapel, Bigbury, Devon: Archaeological Field Evaluation Planning Application no: Pre-determination		Plan/Photo attached? Y	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out an Archaeological Field Evaluation at the Former Inn, St Ann's Chapel, Bigbury, Devon (Figure 1, NGR: SX 66352 4781) on behalf of M S Developments (Diseworth) Ltd in support of a planning application to South Hams District Council for the erection of three terraced dwellings, a single detached dwelling, and removal of existing extensions to the former inn, and the creation of a new extension.</p> <p>The programme of works was requested by the Local Planning Authority (South Hams District Council) on the advice of Mr Graham Tait (Archaeologist, Devon County Historic Environment Service (HES)). In the Archaeological Brief prepared by Mr Tait, dated 8th March 2011, it was stated that:</p> <p><i>"The Inn is of the early 19th century, but incorporates remains of a regionally important 15th century chapel and a house of 17th or 18th century date. The Ordnance Survey map of 1886 also indicates that part of the service range was formerly a smithy. The area of the proposed development may well contain archaeological deposits, relating to the chapel or other historic features. Given the high potential for survival and significance of below ground archaeological deposits associated with St Ann's Chapel this evaluation is required."</i></p> <p>It was therefore considered that archaeological features/deposits could be present on the Site, and that these could be damaged or destroyed by development. However, as the nature or presence of such features/deposits has not been proven on the basis of currently available information, it was determined that a reasonable archaeological response would be to carry out an archaeological evaluation prior to the determination of the planning application.</p> <p>The archaeological work involved the excavation of three 20m x 1.6m trenches to the rear (north) of the existing standing structures as agreed with Devon County HES (Figure 2).</p> <p><u>Trench 1</u> Excavation of this trench revealed natural geology (101) directly beneath the present gravel car park surface (100). A representative soil profile was recorded at the centre point of the trench (Profile 1, Figure. 2). The stratigraphic sequence is presented below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 – 0.05m: Grey (10yr 6/1) Modern Gravel (100). • 0.05m +: Compacted Yellow (10yr 7/8) clay with shale (101). <p><u>Trench 2</u> Excavation of this trench revealed natural geology (202), beneath naturally accumulated subsoil (201), overlain by modern topsoil (200). A representative soil profile was recorded near the centre of the Site (Profile 2, Figure 2). The stratigraphic sequence is presented below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 – 0.2m: Dark Brown (10yr 3/2) Modern Topsoil (200). • 0.2m- 0.4m: Yellowish brown (10yr 5/6) clay with shale fragments (201). • 0.4m +: Compacted Yellow (10yr 7/8) clay with shale (202). 		<p>Reference. COAS site code: COAS/EVA/11/ACB</p> <p>OASIS ID: Contexto1-96713</p>	<p>Date. <i>of site visit</i></p> <p>15/03/2011</p>

Trench 3

Excavation of this trench revealed natural geology (302), beneath naturally accumulated subsoil (301), overlain by modern topsoil (300). A representative soil profile was recorded near the centre of the Site (Profile 3, Figure 2). The stratigraphic sequence is presented below:

- 0 – 0.2m: Dark Brown (10yr 3/2) Modern Topsoil (300).
- 0.2m- 0.4m: Yellowish brown (10yr 5/6) clay with shale fragments (301).
- 0.4m +: Compacted Yellow (10yr 7/8) clay with shale (302).

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed during the trench evaluation. The area covered by the trench evaluation would appear to have been largely truncated during the construction of the existing car park. Evidence for this was not only recorded within the trenches but within the western boundary of the site where examination of the hedge line revealed that up to 0.5m of deposits (still existing directly beneath the hedge) had previously been removed.

Recorder

Pete Fairclough, Context One Archaeological Services Ltd.

Date sent to HER

16/03/2011



Plate 1. Trench 1, looking northwest, scales 1m.



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking southeast, scales 1m.

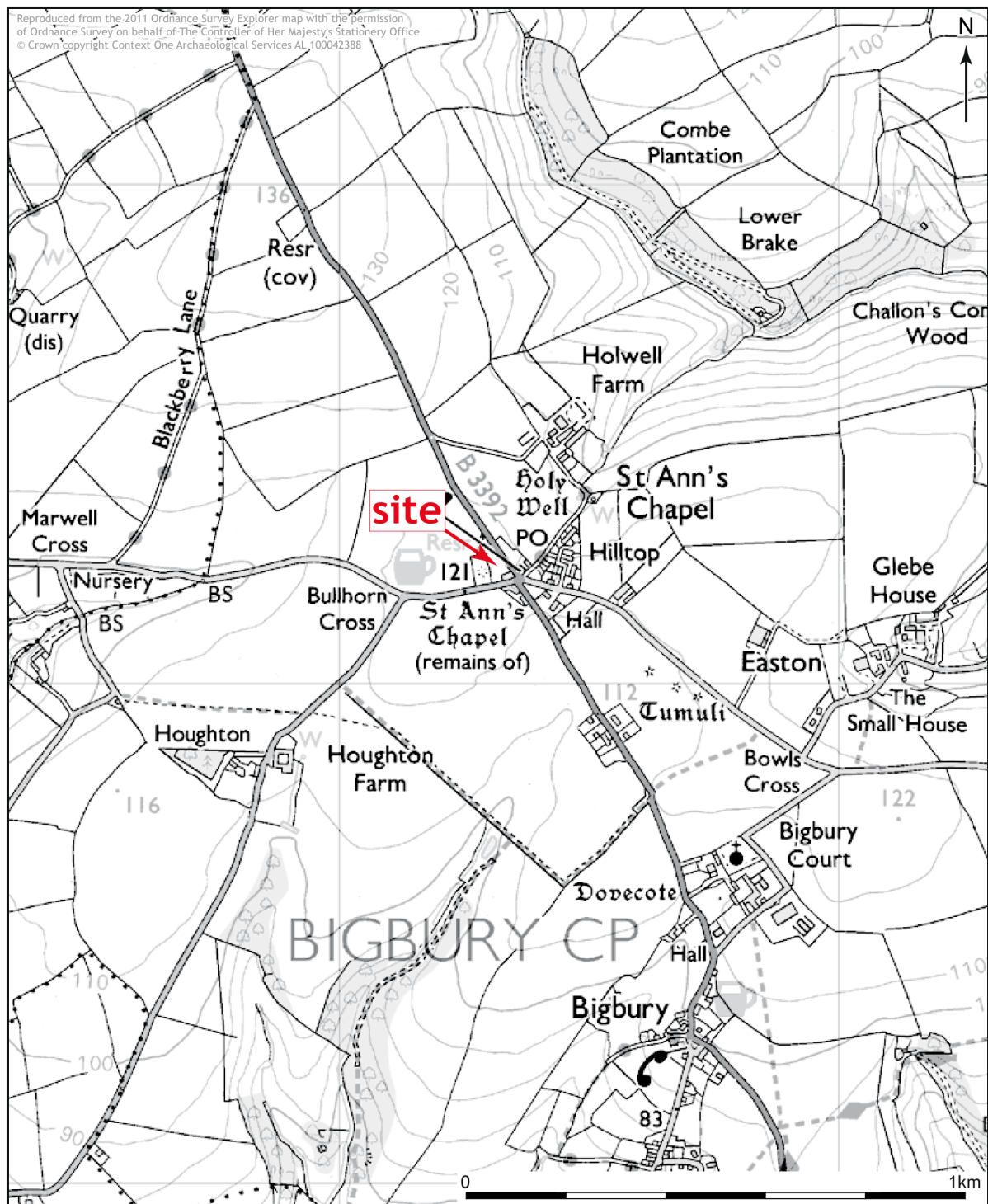




Plate 3. Trench 3, looking north, scales 1m.



Plate 4. General overview of the site excavations.



PROJECT TITLE

Former Old Chapel Inn, St Ann's Chapel,
Bigbury, Devon

FIGURE TITLE

Site setting

SCALE

as shown

PROJECT CODE

C1/EVA/11/ACB

FIGURE NO.

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