

LAND AT THE FORMER OLD THATCHED INN AND UTILITIES DIVERSION WORKS, STATION ROAD, BOVEY TRACEY, DEVON

(Centred on NGR SX 8139 7878)

Results of archaeological investigations

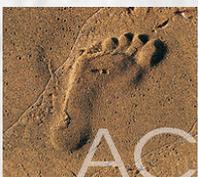
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On behalf of:
Devon County Council

Report No: ACD1591/2/1

Date: January 2018



archaeology

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Client	Devon County Council
Report Number	ACD1591/2/1
Date	19 January 2018
Status	Version 1
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Acknowledgements

The archaeological work was commissioned by Richard Kingsley-Smith, Devon County Council. The site works were carried out by Simon Hughes, Laszlo Lichtenstein and Laura Greed, with the illustrations for this report prepared by Leon Cauchois. Thanks to Bill Horner, Devon County Council Historic Environment Team who provided useful advice prior to and during the course of the site works.

The views and recommendations expressed in this report are those of AC archaeology and are presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information currently available.

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Summary

Archaeological investigations comprising a trench evaluation and monitoring and recording was undertaken by AC archaeology during June 2017 on land at the former Old Thatched Inn and during utilities diversion works, Station Road, Bovey Tracey, Devon (centered on SX 8139 7818). The evaluation comprised the machine-excavation of four trenches totaling 35m in length, with each trench 1.6m wide. These were positioned to provide a sample coverage of the site. Archaeological monitoring and recording comprised attendance during the excavation of service trenches and directional drilling launch and receptor pits.

The investigations within the site of the fire-damaged and subsequently demolished Old Thatched Inn exposed remains of the footprint to the former structure. These were shown to have been constructed on a series of reclamation deposits that probably infilled an existing watercourse. Finds recovered from the reclamation deposits were dated to the 17th century, a date that was consistent with an earlier range of the former structure. The building also included a later range that was thought to have been constructed during the early 19th century. This interpretation was again corroborated by finds recovered from a construction deposit.

No evidence for floor surfaces and only limited survival of internal levelling deposits were exposed during the work. However, an external drain dated to the 18th century and a garden soil containing 18th to 19th century finds were present. The garden soil included a small quantity of pottery wasters and kiln furniture. While no evidence for production was recorded during the work, the finds reflect the history of local pottery production of the area.

Monitoring of the utilities excavations exposed alluvial deposits within the floodplain to the River Bovey. Part of a leat wall, shown on 19th century mapping was also recorded.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeological work, comprising a trench evaluation at the former Old Thatched Inn, Station Road, Bovey Tracey and monitoring and recording during utilities diversion works on land to the north and south of Station Road, Bovey Tracey (centred on SX 8139 7818) was undertaken by AC archaeology during June 2017. The work was required following consultation with the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (hereafter DCCHET). Work undertaken within the plot occupied by the former Old Thatched Inn was carried out in order to provide accompanying information for a proposed future application to develop the site.
- 1.2 The areas investigated lie on the southwest side of Bovey Tracey and close to Bovey Bridge, which spans the River Bovey (Fig. 1). Work comprised a trench evaluation within the plot containing the former Old Thatched Inn and the monitoring of utilities diversion works in four areas (Fig. 2). The plot previously containing the Old Thatched Inn occupies a rectangular plot of land to the southeast of Station Road, with Station Road public carpark to the northeast and Brook Close to the southwest. To the west, a watercourse extends along the south side of Station Road. This then flows into a culvert that directs the stream to the north side the road. The grounds of the recently-demolished public house are situated of flat land at 30m aOD (above Ordnance Datum) and are currently covered by remnants of paved surface and a mixed clay and rubble levelling within the footprint of the former structure. Areas covered by the utilities diversion works lay to the north and south of Station Road to the east of the River Bovey as well as within the Old Thatched Inn plot (Fig. 2). The underlying solid geology

comprises mudstone and sandstone of the Crackington Formation, which is overlain by a clay, silt, sand and gravel alluvium (www.bgs.ac.uk).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Old Thatched Inn, which was substantially damaged by fire in 2008 and subsequently demolished in 2014 following its de-listing by Historic England, was considered to date from the 17th century (Devon County Council Historic Environment Record ref. MDV37418). It comprised a two-storey mixed stone and cob construction that formed a two-ranged irregular L-shaped footprint. The northeast range was the earliest, while the southwest range was considered to be early 19th century. The 1986 Department of the Environment listing described the building as consisting of a:

...north-east range of cob covered with roughcast; south-west range of stone rubble, partly covered with roughcast. Thatched roofs, half-hipped. Each of the two ranges has a rendered chimneystack on ridge. L-shaped, with irregular projection on south-west. The north-east range, which seems to be the earliest, appears to have had a two-room plan with double stack in centre; original stair was at rear of stack, suggesting perhaps that there was an original lobby entry at the front, a rarity for Devon.

- 2.2** This part of Bovey Tracey is associated with an important crossing point of the River Bovey as well as having been an industrial area previously-occupied with water mills and workshops. To the north of the site is the terminal of a leat at the point where it debouches into the River Bovey (MDV30563). This leat, which is first depicted on a map of 1640 and extends parallel on the southeast side of the River Bovey, powered Town Mills; some 100m to the northwest (MDV8964). A mill at Bovey Tracey is listed in the Domesday Book of 1086, with this reference thought to potentially relate to the Town Mills site or its vicinity.
- 2.3** The 1839 Bovey Tracey parish tithe map depicts the site of the former Old Thatched Inn as made up of two attached properties with a yard to the south. Based on the Department of the Environment listing, these properties are therefore likely to comprise the 17th century range to the northeast and the probable early 19th century range to the southwest. At the northeast end of the building, an abutting range is also shown as extending to the plot boundary (across the current access), with this linking to a perpendicular structure that occupied the adjacent plot (currently in Station Road public car park). On its west side, the watercourse, which flows along Station Road, is shown as curving towards the rear of the property and terminating, presumably flowing into a culvert. The accompanying tithe apportionment names the plot (1193) as '*dwelling house buildings*'. To the north of the site, the Town Mills site is depicted with a number of associated leats and sluices. A further leat is shown as branching from the northeast side of the River Bovey and extending to the south and includes a possible access track or slip from the Fore Street side of Bovey Bridge.
- 2.4** The 1887 First-Edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey map shows the property as divided into three, with its southwest range depicted as having been extended south with a diagonal wall. These modifications formed a footprint that was broadly consistent with the arrangement until its recent demolition. Also shown on this map is the watercourse depicted as following its current course in crossing to the northeast side of the road.

3. AIMS: TRENCH EVALUATION

- 3.1** The aim of the trench evaluation was to establish the presence or absence, extent, depth, character and date of any archaeological features, deposits or finds within the

site. The results of the work, as set out in this report, will be reviewed and used to inform any subsequent mitigation should planning consent be granted.

4. AIMS: MONITORING AND RECORDING

- 4.1 The aim of the monitoring and recording was to preserve by record any archaeological features or deposits exposed during the groundworks associated with the scheme.

5. METHODOLOGY: TRENCH EVALUATION

- 5.1 The trench evaluation was undertaken in accordance a project design prepared by AC archaeology (Hughes 2017) and with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' document, *Standards and Guidance for Field Evaluation* (revised December 2014). It comprised the machine-excavation of four trenches totaling 35m in length and with each trench 1.6m wide. These were positioned to provide a sample coverage of the site (Fig. 2).

- 5.2 All trenches were located with a Leica Net rover GPS accurate to 1cm. The removal of soils within the trenches was undertaken in 20cm spits (maximum) under the control and direction of a site archaeologist. Stripping by mechanical excavator ceased at the level at which archaeological deposits or natural subsoil was exposed.

- 5.3 All features and deposits revealed were recorded using the standard AC archaeology pro-forma recording system, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, and in accordance with AC archaeology's *General Site Recording Manual, Version 2* (revised August 2012). Detailed sections and plans were produced at a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate. All site levels relate to Ordnance Datum.

6. METHODOLOGY: MONITORING AND RECORDING

- 6.1 Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' document, *Standards and Guidance for a watching brief* (revised December 2014). All topsoil stripping was carried out using a tracked-machine fitted with a toothless bucket. The groundwork excavations were directly supervised by the attending archaeologist. Groundworks comprised excavations for service trenches, directional drilling transmission and receptor pits and an access road and a compound area.

7. RESULTS: TRENCH EVALUATION

7.1 Introduction (Trench location Fig. 3; Plates 1-2)

Archaeological features were present in all trenches. The results from these are described below.

7.2 Trench 1 (Detailed plan Fig.4a and sections Figs.4b-d; Plates 2-3)

Trench 1 was positioned across the southwest portion of the footprint to the former Old Thatched Inn. It was excavated to a depth of 1m below existing levels. The earliest deposits exposed comprised of loose gravels and grit (111) and a multiple layer deposition of dark grey silty-clay and sand lenses (113). Both these deposits comprised alluvial accumulations representing variable water flow speeds. These deposits were overlain by a dumped deposit of re-deposited river boulders and gravels in a light reddish-brown sand matrix (104) and a re-deposited alluvial silty-clay (110). Deposit 104 was sealed by a light reddish-brown clayey-loam subsoil (112) to the southeast. Six sherds of late 17th century pottery was recovered from dumped deposit 104.

At the northwest end of the trench, deposit 110 was overlain by a dumped made-ground deposit (106) comprised of mid brown sandy-loam, with abundant stone rubble, gravel and grit inclusions. This was cut by a northwest to southeast aligned construction cut (F107) that contained some stone footings (S105). The construction cut measured 0.97m deep and footings S105 were comprised of clay-bonded large water-worn boulders and cobbles. At their northwest extent, the footings terminated. The construction cut was then infilled with a light-yellowish-brown clayey-sand (102). One sherd of 17th century pottery and three fragments from clay tobacco pipes, including 19th century glazed stem fragments, were recovered from fill 102.

At the southeast end of the trench and cutting through subsoil 112 was a northeast to southwest aligned ditch (F115). This measured 1.6m wide and 0.4m deep with moderately-steep sloping sides and a concave base. It contained three water-lain deposits comprising a light reddish-grey sand basal deposit (114), which was overlain by two mid-grey to mid brownish-red clayey-loams (109 and 108).

The upper deposits consisted of a dark greyish-brown silty-loam soil (103), which was present across the southeast portion of the trench and was overlain by recent demolition and levelling material (101). Pottery recovered from soil layer 103 dated from the 18th and 19th centuries.

7.3 Trench 2 (Detailed plan Fig. 5a and section Fig. 5b; Plates 4-5)

Trench 2 was located to the northeast of Trench 1 and was positioned across the southeast side of the former Old Thatched Inn building. It was excavated to a depth of 1.35m into a dumped deposit of boulders, cobbles and gravels (209) that was similar to deposit 104 in Trench 1. One sherd of medieval pottery, one sherd of post-medieval pottery and a fragment of clay tobacco pipe was recovered from dumped deposit 209.

Deposit 209 was cut by a northeast to southwest aligned construction cut (F206), which contained stone footings (S205). The position of the wall corresponded with the former rear wall to the building. Wall footing S205 measured approximately 1.3m wide and was comprised of large water-worn boulders and cobbles with a light greyish-yellow silty-clay bond. The construction cut was backfilled with a light yellowish-brown sandy-clay loam (207). The internal (northwest) side of the wall was abutted by a layer of cobbles in a mid greyish-brown clayey-sand matrix (204). This was sealed by a mid grey sandy-clay (203) and a layer of yellow clay (202). A fragment from an unidentifiable possible bronze coin was recovered from deposit 204.

The external side of wall S205 was abutted by a light reddish-brown clayey-loam subsoil (210), which was then sealed by a dark greyish-brown silty-loam soil (208), similar to soil deposit 103 in Trench 1. The upper layer comprised recent demolition material (201). Finds recovered from soil layer 208 consisted of a quantity of 18th to late 19th century pottery and glass, a fragment from a 18th century shoe buckle and 134 fragments of clay tobacco pipe including a bowl depicting a scene associated with the abolition of slavery in 1833. Other finds recovered were associated with pottery production, with these comprising waster sherds from locally-produced vessels as well as fragments from saggers and kiln spacers.

7.4 Trench 3 (Detailed plan Fig. 6a and section Fig. 6b; Plates 6-7)

Trench 3 was positioned across the northeast end of the former Old Thatched Inn. It was excavated to a depth of between 0.6m and 0.9m below existing levels onto multi-layered mixed silty-sand, gravel and sand and sandy-loams (303 and 312). These represented a mix of alluvial deposition and/or dumped deposition. At the southeast end of the trench, deposit 303 was overlain by a light yellowish-brown clayey-loam subsoil (302). Three fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered from deposit 303.

Layer 313 was cut by a northeast to southwest aligned construction cut (F306) that contained some stone footings (S308) and backfill deposit (307). These corresponded with the position of the former southeast wall to the Old Thatched Inn. The northeast wall was not encountered. However, its anticipated position corresponded with a deeper section of demolition material (300) suggesting that it had been removed.

Wall footings S308 measured approximately 1m wide and were of a similar composition as exposed in Trench 2 (S205). The internal (northwest) side of wall S308 was abutted by a layer of cobbles (305) overlain by yellow clay levelling (304 and equivalent deposit 314).

Extending 0.45m from wall S308 was a parallel arrangement of granite blocks (S309) that represented the lining of a possible drain. These were set within a construction cut (F310) and had an associated backfill and stone packing (311) exposed on its external (southeast) side. The granite lining was abutted by a dark greyish-brown silty-loam soil (301) and contained a mid brown sandy-loam (312), which also extended over 301 and contained frequent gravels, charcoal, demolition material comprising plaster and brick fragments. Three sherds of 18th-century pottery and a fragment from a clay tobacco pipe was recovered from soil layer (301). One sherd of late 18th century pottery was recovered from construction packing deposit 311 and two locally-produced pottery waster sherds were recovered from drain fill 312.

At the northwest end of the trench, deposit 313 was cut by a partially-exposed steeply-sided probable ditch (F315). The ditch contained five fills, the earliest-exposed of which (316) comprised a light-greyish-yellow clay. This was overlain by a water-lain clayey-loam (317) that included light grey possible clay tailings (waste silts). This was sealed by a further water-lain gravel-rich deposit (318). The upper deposits consisted of a silty-loam accumulation sealed by a light greyish-yellow clayey-sand dumped backfill (320). Finds recovered from ditch F315 consisted of six sherds of 17th to 18th century pottery.

7.5 Trench 4 (Detailed plan Fig. 7a and section Fig. 7b; Plate 8)

Trench 4 was positioned in the area to the southeast of the former Old Thatched Inn. It was excavated to a depth of 0.7m below existing levels into a mid yellowish-brown sandy-clay subsoil (403). This was overlain by dark brown and mid yellowish-brown silty-loam soils (402 and 401) and recent demolition material (400).

At the northeast end of the trench a partially revealed possible pit was exposed (F404). This contained a dark grey silty-loam (405) from which 20th century domestic refuse was recovered.

8. RESULTS: MONITORING AND RECORDING *by Abigail Brown*

8.1 Introduction

Groundworks were monitored in four areas. The location of these are shown on Fig. 2.

8.2 Area 1 (Plan Figs 2 and 3)

Area 1 of the monitoring and recording work comprised the plot previously occupied by the Old Thatched Inn. Groundworks here comprised the excavation of a directional drilling launch pit that measured approximately 3m by 2m. This was excavated to a depth of 1.2m below existing levels.

The earliest-exposed deposit was an alluvial mid grey silty-clay with abundant gravel inclusions. This was overlain by a 0.5m thick mid greyish-brown subsoil which was cut by a northeast to southwest aligned construction cut that contained some wall footings.

The footings measured 0.25m wide and were comprised of sub-angular stone rubble. Above the base of the launch pit, the construction cut was infilled with loose rubble representing demolition material. This was then sealed by a series of modern made ground layers and surfaces that measured a total of 0.7m thick.

8.3 Area 2 (Plan Fig. 2; Plate 9)

Area 2 was located in pasture land and verge to the east of the River Bovey and north of Station Road. Works in this area consisted of a topsoil strip for an access route and a lay down area, utility receiver pit and a service trench. Natural subsoil, which consisted of an alluvial light grey sandy-clay was exposed within the receiver pit at a depth of approximately 1.3m below existing levels. This was overlain by a 0.8m thick mid greyish brown silty-clay alluvial subsoil and a dark greyish-brown silty-clay topsoil. The area stripped for the access route and laydown area was maintained within the topsoil.

A northeast to southwest aligned wall was exposed within the service trench. This extended parallel to a leat watercourse flowing to the southeast. The wall measured 1m wide, at least 0.9m high and was constructed from stone blocks and rubble with a heavily root-disturbed light grey lime mortar. It was overlain by soils forming the current tree-lined hedgebank.

8.4 Area 3 (Plan Fig. 2)

Area 3 was located to the south of Area 2 in an area currently occupied by a supermarket carpark. Work here comprised the excavation of a directional drilling launch pit that measured 3m by 2m. It was excavated to a depth of 1.1m onto an alluvial mid greyish-brown sandy silt loam. The overlaying layer sequence consisted of a sandy gravel made ground layer and the current tarmac surface. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed.

8.5 Area 4 (Plan Fig. 2)

Area 4 comprised the public car park to the east of the former Old Thatched Inn. Monitored groundworks consisted of a service connection pit that measured 2.3m long and 1.8m wide. It was excavated to a depth of 1.3m below existing levels onto a mid yellowish-grey alluvial clay. This was overlain by a 0.35m thick subsoil and 0.25m thick buried topsoil. This was sealed by made ground, stone hard core and the current tarmac surface. No archaeological features were exposed.

9. THE FINDS *by Charlotte Coles and John Allan*

9.1. Introduction

All finds recovered have been retained, cleaned and marked where appropriate. They have been quantified according to material type within each context and the assemblage examined to extract information regarding the range, nature and date of artefacts represented. The collection of finds are summarised in Appendix 1, Table 1. The finds consist of a quantity of post-medieval pottery and kiln furniture as well as glass and stoneware bottles, clay tobacco pipes, copper alloy, iron objects and a single sherd of medieval pottery.

9.2 Copper Alloy

Three copper alloy objects were recovered from three contexts, these include a single copper alloy coin-like object the size of a half penny from context 204, this is very worn with no relief, one side possibly has two faint counter stamps. Half of a copper alloy shoe buckle with missing iron spindle was recovered from context 208. This is likely to be 18th century. The remaining object is a horse harness buckle from context 405, which is of 19th or early 20th century date.

9.3 Iron

Three iron nails were recovered from context 208. These are hand made and date from the 18th or 19th centuries.

9.4 Medieval Pottery by John Allan and Charlotte Coles

A single piece of medieval pottery was found from context 209 (122g). This is a large rim sherd of Totnes type jar with sooting and dates from the late 13th to the 14th century.

9.5 Post-medieval Pottery by John Allan and Charlotte Coles

A total of 222 sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from eleven contexts. These are detailed in Appendix 2, Table 2. The majority of the pottery was recovered from context 208 and included single fired wasters, complete stoneware bottles and sherds of locally-made pottery, as well as some non-local wares. The unglazed wasters from context 208 include both white and red wares. These are from open cups, open bowls, a sugar basin in the white wares and plant pots, cups and fine stone wares for the red wares. There are also unglazed mocha type decorations in brown and black. The wasters and the kiln furniture (see below) represent a dump of material from a local production site.

9.6 Kiln Furniture

A quantity of kiln furniture was recovered all from context 208, which also contained the waster sherds described above. The kiln furniture includes two sections of circular wedges known as placing rings made of white unglazed clay. These were for separating and spacing the vessels in the kiln (Passmore 2007). Three other spacers in the form of trivets or spurs were recovered. These are square in cross section and are made from white clay, two of which are glazed. The assemblage includes two pieces of saggar (a protective ceramic box enclosing ceramic ware while it is being fired). These are made from a dense white clay with many inclusions. One piece is unglazed and the other has a bright yellow glaze on the internal surface. A single piece of unglazed kiln prop with a diameter of 14cm was also found.

9.7 Ceramic building material

Two pieces of ceramic water pipe (32g) were recovered from context 208, these are of probable 19th century date.

9.8 Glass

A total of 19 pieces of glass (1425g) were recovered. These are mostly whole or partial glass bottles, with the exception of two pieces of vessel glass probably from a cup. The glass retrieved from context 208 is fragmentary and mostly 19th century with the exception of a slightly earlier 18th century apothecary bottle neck. The glass from context 405 comprises complete and near complete bottles that include: a Shippam's paste bottle dating from 1930s-1950s; a Percy's Rennet bottle dating to the late 19th century; a brown plain bottle with an external screw thread dating from the 1920's onwards (<https://sha.org/bottle/closures.htm>); a Yorkshire Relish Goodall, Backhouse and Co bottle dating from the late 19th century; and, a square bottle bottom marked Patent 9318, J L and Co Ltd that relates to John Lumb and Co, a glass bottle manufacturer who started making bottles in 1909 (<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details>).

9.9 Clay tobacco pipes (Plate 10)

A total of 142 clay tobacco pipe fragments were recovered from the trenches. These are summarised in Appendix 2, Table 3. The majority of the assemblage consists of stem fragments and was recovered from soil layer 208 in Trench 2.

Two of the stem pieces from near the mouthpiece end are glazed, a practice which was thought to be introduced in around 1800 (Higgins, 2009). The decorated bowls include a Turks Head design popular in 1830s-1860's, which had thin walls, a pointed spur and were often made quickly as demand was high and tool marks are often visible (Dawnmist.org/gallery). Three other highly decorated pipes of the same era were also found, these have vertical ribs on the bowls and a variety of lines and dots around the top of the bowl. The most interesting example in the collection is an early 19th century example of an abolition pipe. This depicts a shackled naked kneeling figure on the left of the bowl and a female figure on the other side, possibly representing Liberty or Britannia. These pipes were popular in the early 19th century in the lead up to the abolition of the slave trade in 1833, as well as in subsequent years as a form of celebration (http://www.britishmuseum.org/research/collection_online).

9.10. Other Finds

Animal bone totalled four pieces (63g), with these comprising three pieces from context 208 (two large mammal ribs and a distal sheep/goat humerus) and a single unidentified piece from context 311.

A small blue glazed undecorated cube (4g), with sides measuring 12.4mm square was recovered from context 208, this could possibly be a pottery production test piece or a gaming piece (pers comm John Allan). The only other find recovered was a white plastic modern top of a jar or similar vessel (9g) from context 405.

10. DISCUSSION

- 10.1** The investigations within the plot previously occupied by the Old Thatched Inn have exposed remains associated with the former structure. These were of variable survival and were shown to overlay a series of pre-existing deposits.
- 10.2** Deposits pre-dating the former structure were exposed in Trenches 1, 2 and 3, while Trench 1 provided the best example of these. Here, deposits 111 and 113, which were the earliest-exposed of the deposit sequence, have been interpreted as representing alluvial deposition of silts and gravels. This suggests that a watercourse formerly extended across the site. These were then shown to have been overlain by deposits 104, 110 and 106, which represented the dumping of river gravels, boulders and silts on top of the alluvial deposits. The loose nature of deposit 104 is likely to indicate that this was probably a fairly rapid process. These later deposits suggest that the probable watercourse was deliberately infilled, a process by which the ground level was made up and levelled.
- 10.3** Pottery recovered from deposit 104 has provided a 17th century date for the dumping; a date that is consistent with the considered date of construction for the northeast range of the former Old Thatched Inn (Devon County Council Historic Environment Record ref. MDV37418). This would suggest that the backfilling of the watercourse and levelling of the plot represented land-reclamation that was carried out in preparation for construction. An equivalent to deposit 104 in Trench 1 was exposed as deposit 209 in Trench 2, while in Trench 3, the top of the made ground sequence was exposed as deposit 303 (and 313). The sherd of residual medieval pottery recovered from deposit 209 provides background evidence for the earlier occupation of the area
- 10.4** Ditch F115 exposed at the southeast end of Trench 1, may have represented a drainage ditch to the rear of the later structure. However, its fill sequence, which included alluvial sands and silts that probably reflect flowing water, may have formed an element of the watercourse subsequent to the phase of dumping, although this was not conclusive from the exposed portion. A further, potential phase to the watercourse

was represented by ditch F315, which was exposed adjacent to the road frontage in Trench 3. Here, the presence of water-lain deposits associated with 17th to 18th century pottery may provide evidence that the watercourse was previously diverted along the street frontage, prior to its current route as following the northwest side of Station Road.

- 10.5** The exposure of wall footings in Trenches 1, 2 and 3 were likely to have formed parts of the former Old Thatched Inn structure, with those in Trenches 2 and 3 probably parts of the same wall. Each of the exposed sections of wall footing were constructed from large water-worn boulders and bonded with alluvial clay that in the case of Trench 1 (S105) was shown to be 1m deep. There was no evidence for a northwest wall to the former building exposed in Trench 3. As described above, the presence of a hollow corresponding with its approximate position suggests that it was probably removed during the recent demolition works.
- 10.6** In Trenches 2 and 3, a broadly consistent sequence that included stone cobbles (204 and 305) sealed by yellow clays (202 and 304/314) were exposed as lain against the internal side of the wall footing. The function of these deposits was not clear but may have been associated with construction and initial floor levelling.
- 10.7** Other than the *terminus post quem* provided by finds yielded from the probable reclamation episode, evidence that could date from the construction of the structure was principally limited to the early-19th century glazed tobacco pipe stem fragments recovered from Trench 1 footings S105 backfill deposit 102. The position of these footings formed part of the southwest range and therefore provide a date consistent with the description made for this section of the building prior to the fire (MDV37418).
- 10.8** The function of Structure S309, which consisted of the granite blocks positioned parallel to wall S308 in Trench 3, probably formed a drain extending along the southeast side of the building. Finds recovered from the backfill of the construction cut (311) suggest this was of 18th century date, and were therefore a later addition to the probable 17th century northeast range.
- 10.9** The wall footing exposed during the monitoring of the utility launch pit to the northeast of Trench 3 broadly corresponds with the position of a range shown on the 1839 Bovey Tracey parish tithe map. This therefore had the potential to have formed part of this structure.
- 10.10** Later deposits exposed on the site principally consisted of the accumulation of soils in the area to the rear of the former building. This was recorded as deposits 103, 208, 301 and 402 in Trenches 1-4 and probably represented an equivalent garden soil. Finds recovered from these deposits dated to the 18th and 19th century. This included the pottery wasters and kiln furniture, which although not representing evidence for pottery production on site, suggests that the site was used for dumping some waste from a nearby production site. Pottery production has been a major industry in Bovey Tracey since the 1750's (Adams, 2005). Further evidence for the industrial past of Bovey Tracey was suggested by the deposit of possible clay tailings (waste silts) within ditch F315, with this perhaps reflecting the nearby clay processing.
- 10.11** Monitoring of the utilities works was largely negative. Excavations principally exposed natural alluvial deposits either side of the River Bovey that were overlain by modern levelling or soils.
- 10.12** The wall exposed in Area 2 was likely to have been of post-medieval date and associated with the leat channel to the southeast that extends south beneath the road

bridge. Its position corresponds with the boundary depicted on the Bovey Tracey parish tithe map as also bounding a possible slipway leading down to the watercourse from the Fore Street (northeast) side of Bovey Bridge.

11. CONCLUSIONS

- 11.1 Investigations within the site of the fire-damaged and subsequently demolished Old Thatched Inn exposed a series of stone footings representing parts of the footprint to the former structure. These were shown to have been constructed on a series of reclamation deposits that probably infilled an existing watercourse.
- 11.2 Finds recovered from the reclamation deposits were dated to the 17th century, a date that is consistent with a previous listing describing the earlier range of the former structure (Devon County Council Historic Environment Record ref. MDV37418). The building also included a later range that was thought to have been constructed during the early 19th century. This interpretation was again corroborated by finds recovered from a construction deposit.
- 11.3 No evidence for floor surfaces and only limited survival of internal levelling deposits were exposed, with this potentially due to the recent demolition works. However, an external drain dated to the 18th century and a garden soil containing 18th to 19th century finds were present. The inclusion of pottery wasters and kiln furniture within the garden soil, while not demonstrating that production was carried out on the site, reflects the well-documented history of local pottery production of the area.
- 11.4 Monitoring of the utilities excavations principally exposed alluvial deposits within the floodplain to the River Bovey. Part of a leat wall, shown on 19th century maps was also exposed.

12. ARCHIVE AND OASIS

- 12.1 The finds, paper and digital archive is currently held at the offices of AC archaeology Ltd, at 4 Halthaies Workshops, Bradninch, near Exeter, Devon, EX5 4LQ under the unique project codes of **ACD1571** and **ACD1591**. It will be held until the need for any further archaeological work on the site is established and ultimately will be offered to the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter under the temporary reference number **RAMM:17/23**, but if they are unable to accept this, it will be dealt with under their current accession policy.
- 12.2 An online OASIS entry has been completed, using the unique identifier **283244**, which includes a digital copy of this report.

13. REFERENCES

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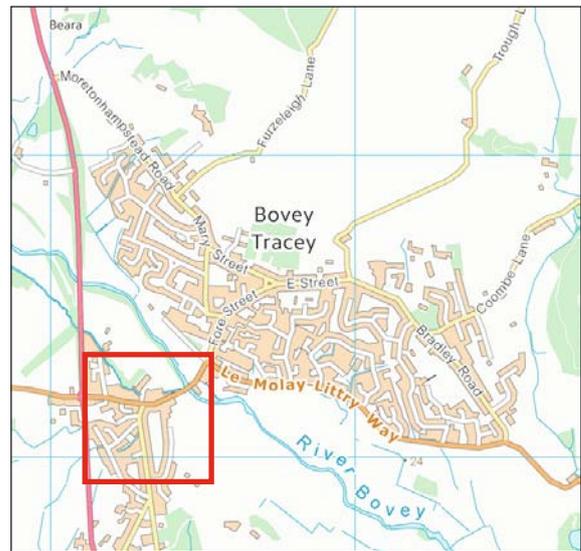
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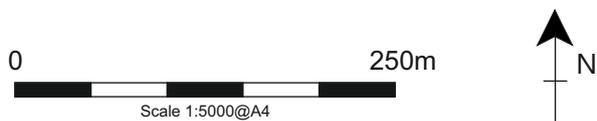
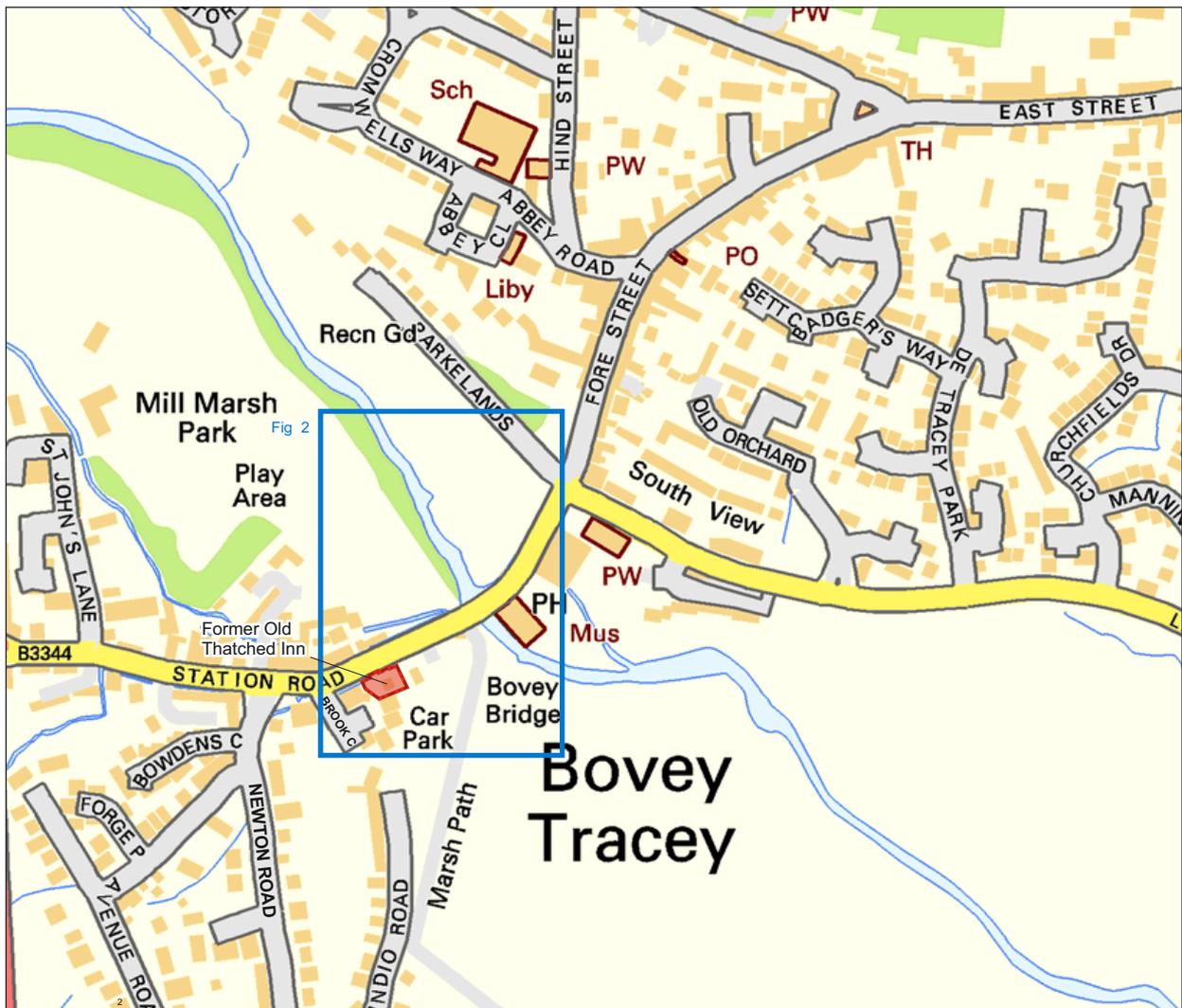
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PROJECT
Land at the former Old Thatched Inn,
Station Road, Bovey Tracey, Devon

TITLE
Fig. 1: Site location



Key

-  Boundary of former Old Thatched Inn
-  Trial trenches
Trench 2
-  Monitored utility excavations

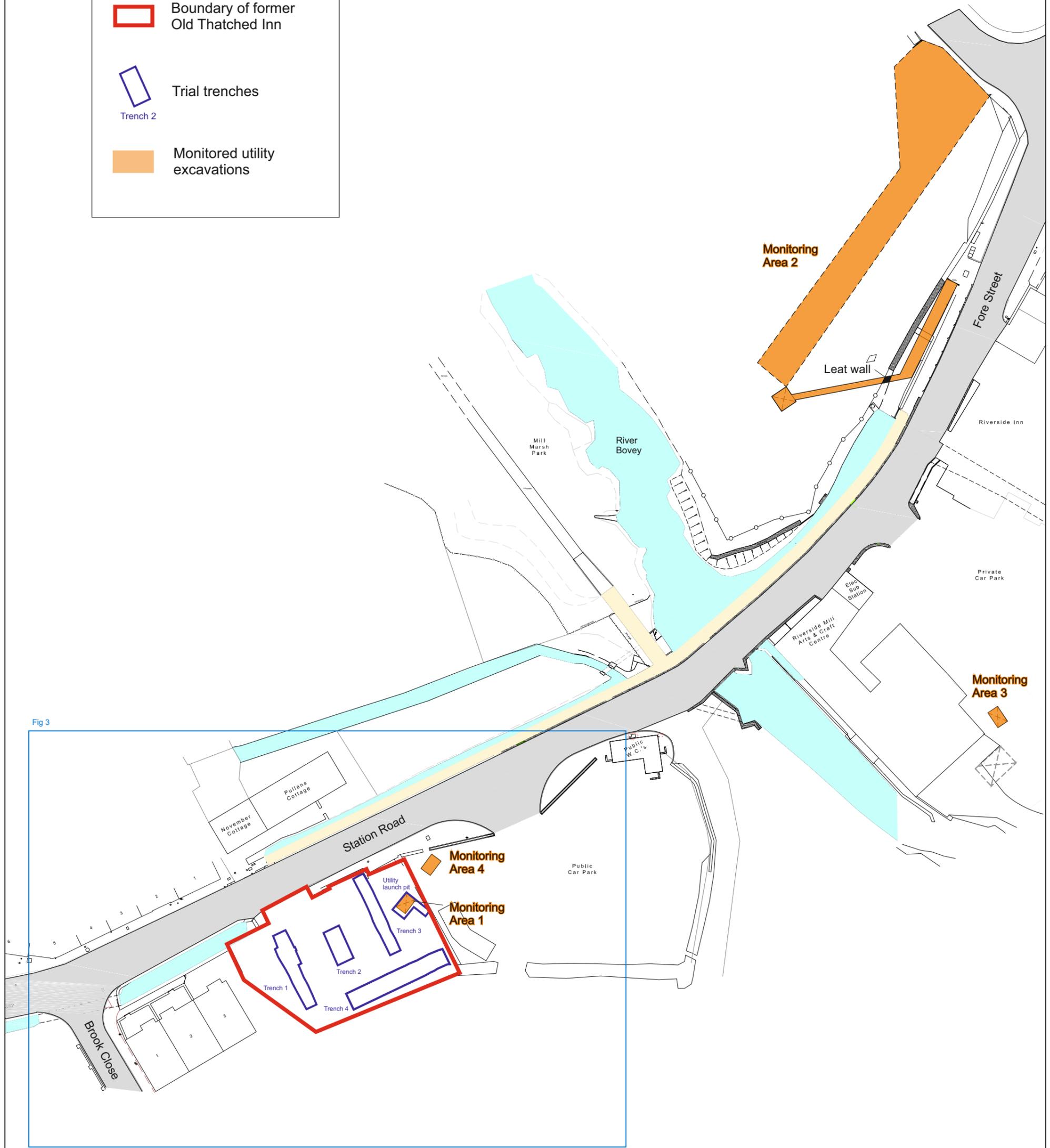
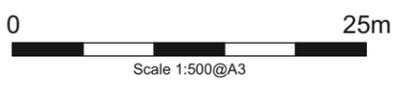


Fig 3

PROJECT
Land at the former Old Thatched Inn,
Station Road, Bovey Tracey, Devon

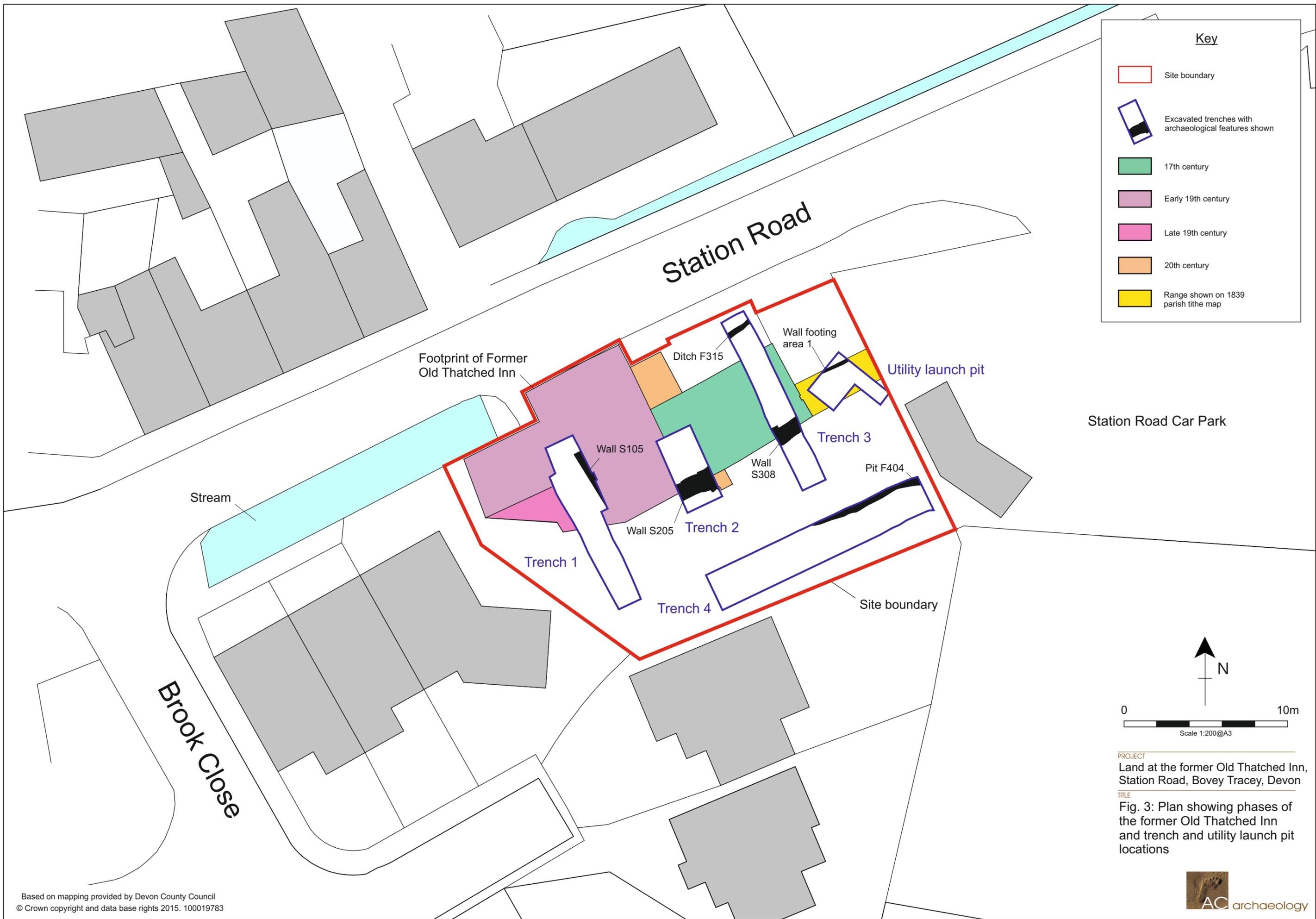
TITLE
Fig. 2: Plan of site with areas of
investigation shown



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Based on drawing prepared by Devon County Council





Key

- Site boundary
- Excavated trenches with archaeological features shown
- 17th century
- Early 19th century
- Late 19th century
- 20th century
- Range shown on 1839 parish tithe map

Station Road Car Park

N

0 10m

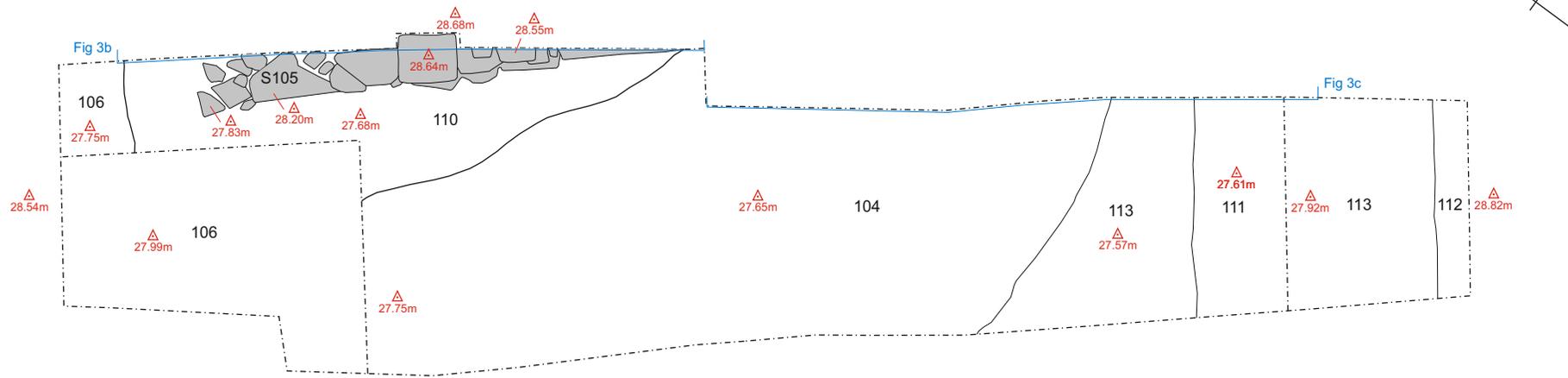
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PROJECT
Land at the former Old Thatched Inn,
Station Road, Bovey Tracey, Devon

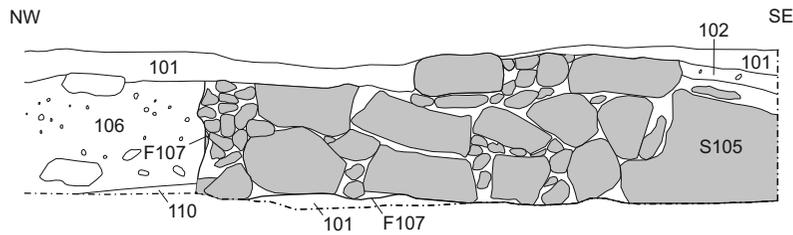
TITLE
Fig. 3: Plan showing phases of
the former Old Thatched Inn
and trench and utility launch pit
locations



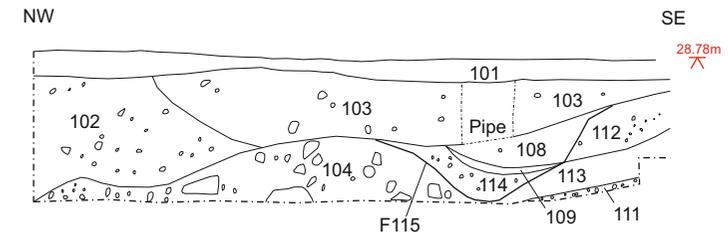
a) Plan of Trench 1



b) Section of Trench 1

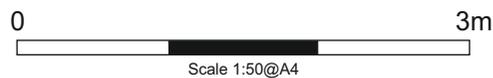


c) Section of Trench 1



Key to all figures

-  Structure
-  Stones
-  Charcoal



PROJECT

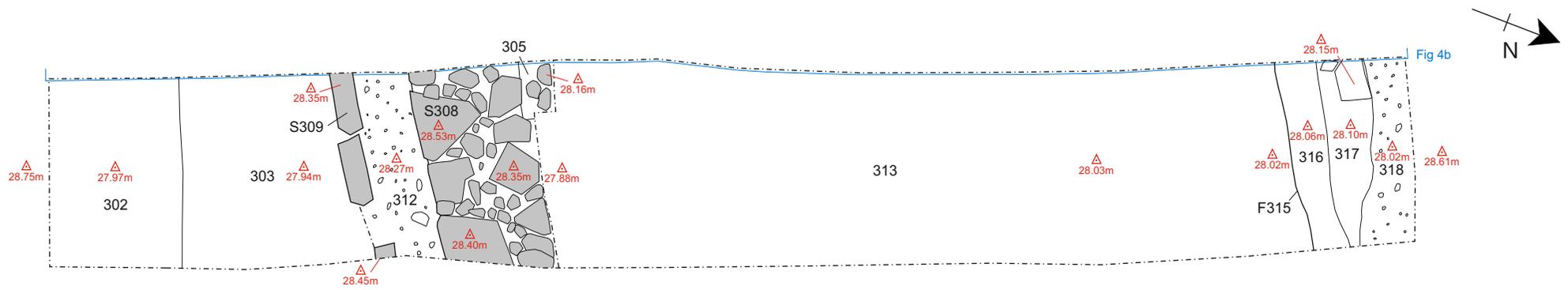
Land at the former Old Thatched Inn,
Station Road, Bovey Tracey, Devon

TITLE

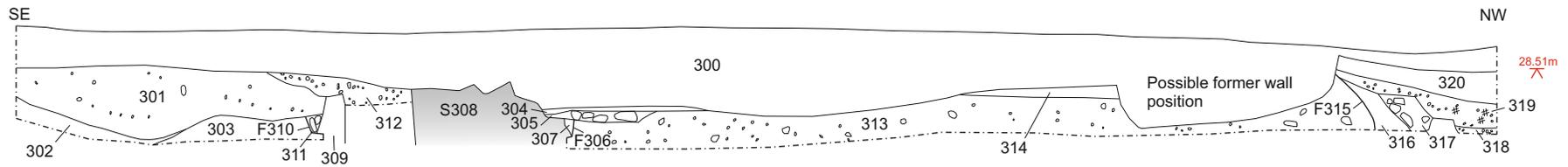
Fig. 4: Trench 1, plan and section



a) Plan of Trench 3



b) Section of Trench 3



PROJECT

Land at the former Old Thatched Inn,
Station Road, Bovey Tracey, Devon

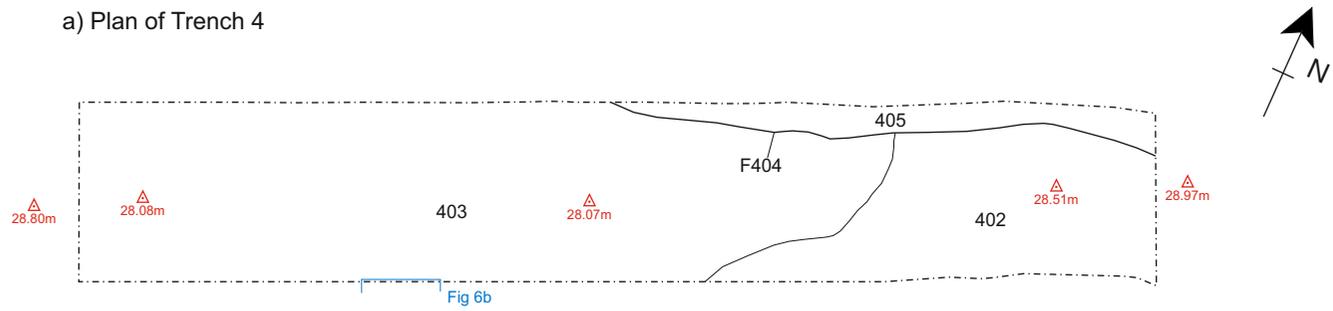
TITLE

Fig. 6: Trench 3, plan and section

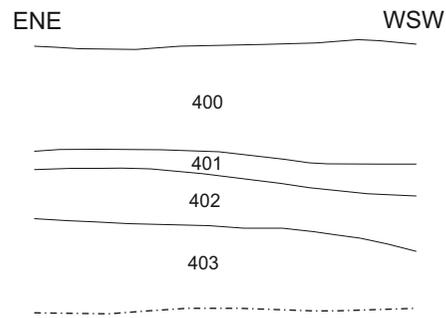


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a) Plan of Trench 4



b) Representative section of Trench 4



PROJECT

Land at the former Old Thatched Inn,
Station Road, Bovey Tracey, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 7: Trench 4, plan and section



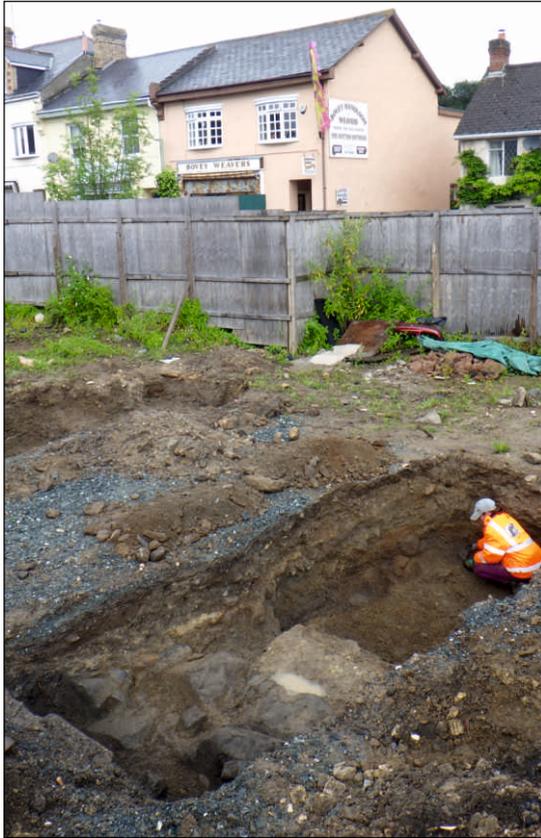


Plate 1: General view of site looking west with Trench 2 in foreground



Plate 2: Trench 1, view to north (scale 2m)



Plate 3. Trench 1, view to east (scale 2m)



Plate 4. Trench 2, view to southwest (scale 2m)



Plate 5: Trench 2, detailed view to wall S205. Looking southwest (scale 1m)



Plate 6: Trench 3, view to north (scale 1m)



Plate 7: Trench 3, ditch F315, view to west (scale 1m)



Plate 8: Trench 4, view to northeast (scale 1m)



Plate 9: Area 2, showing leat wall. View to southwest (scale 1m)



Plate 10: Showing abolition clay tobacco pipe

Appendix 1

Finds Quantification and Table

APPENDIX 2: FINDS QUANTIFICATION AND TABLES

Table 1. Finds quantification table

Context	Context Description	Copper Alloy		Iron		Medieval pottery		Post-medieval pottery		CBM		Kiln Furniture/saggers		Kiln spacer		Clay tobacco pipe		Glass		Plastic		Animal bone		Glazed cube	
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
102	Trench 1, fill of construction cut F107							3	101							3	8								
103	Trench 1, layer							3	194																
104	Trench 1, layer							6	207																
204	Trench 2, layer	1	8																						
208	Trench 2, layer	1	26	3	25			189	1497	3	66	2	106	5	20	134	425	8	112			3	62	1	4
209	Trench 2, layer					1	122	1	1							1	5								
301	Trench 3, layer							3	11							1	4								
303	Trench 3, layer															3	27								
311	Trench 3, fill of drain F310							1	2													1	1		
312	Trench 3, fill of drain F310							2	28																
318	Trench 3, fill of ditch F315							3	51																
319	Trench 3, fill of ditch F315							3	146																
405	Trench 4, fill of pit 404	1	120					8	1365									11	1313	1	9				
Total		3	154	3	25	1	122	222	3603	3	66	2	106	5	20	142	469	19	1425	1	9	4	63	1	4

APPENDIX 2: FINDS QUANTIFICATION AND TABLES

Table 2. Summary of Post Medieval Pottery

Context	NDGT	NDS	NDC	TT	SW	POR	WW	TP	CW	PW	RW	STWE	MISC	Comments
102	1			2										NDGT (Type 10) jar, C17th
103					1			1			1			Staff type white salt glazed stoneware deep bowl with moulded decoration, 1740-1770. Staff white earthenware transfer printed 1800-1830. Jackfield type redware with black glaze, large storage vessel, late C18th
104	2	4	1											NDSC 2 dishes, 1 with spiral decoration and 1 with cross hatching on the rim. One handle from a closed cooking pot (Type 16A). Late C17th.
208	5			1	1	1		8		6	21	3	143	Stoneware pill pot, "Illidge, London, 1oz." Late C19th. English Porcelian late C19th. Transfer printed wares 1770-1830s including willow pattern, poss locally made. Pearlware 1790-1840. Redwares including wasters of cups and plant pots with engine turned decoration and 2 sherds of redware with metallic glaze, probably a small cream jug. Staff type ware including pot with initials JS on base and also 2 cane handles. Other vessels include tortoiseware, basalt ware and a sherd of a handpainted Chinese exported cup 1740-1770.
209												1		Probably local ware. Late C18th.
301							1		1	1				Westerwald tankard 1690-1720. Creamware after 1760. Handpainted pearlware, probably locally made, late C18th.
311												1		Probably local ware. Late C18th.
312											1	1		Both wasters only fired once. One red ware flowerpot, one staffs type whiteware.
318		1	1	1										NDSC dish combed, late C17th. NDC jar C17th. TT small bowl.
319	3													NDGT large storage vessel, C17th-C18th.
405					3			1					1	3 stoneware vessels, 1 Kerswell Exeter bottle 1870-1910. 1 pill pot, 1 ink bottle. 1 sherd of slipware press moulded plate in Bristol/staffs style, most likely to be local.
Total	11	5	2	4	5	1	1	10	1	7	23	6	144	

All references in brackets refer to Allan et al, 2005.

Abbreviations

C = Century

NDGT = North Devon Gravel Tempered

NDS = North Devon Sgraffito

NDC = North Devon Calcareous

TT = Totnes type RW = Redware

SW = Stoneware

MISC = Miscellaneous

WW = Westerwald

TP = Transfer Printed

CW = Creamware

PW = Pearlware

STWE = Staffordshire type white earthenware

POR = Porcelain

APPENDIX 2: FINDS QUANTIFICATION AND TABLES

Table 3. Summary of clay tobacco pipe details

Context	No of Stems	No of Heel or Spur fragments	No of bowls	Comments
102	3			1 stem fragment green glazed
208	114	2	16	3 mouthpieces, 1 glazed yellow/green. 1 C19th bowl with an anchor on left side, right side is worn, small daisies on either side of the spur – light use. 1 early C18th abolition bowl, with image of shackled slave on the left of the bowl and Britannia or Liberty on the other. 1 1830-1860's Turks head bowl – moderate use. 3 1830-1860's ribbed bowls with dots and lines around the top of the bowl – moderate use. 1 early C18th plain decorated bowl – moderate use. 1 late C18th early C19th plain bowl – moderate use.
209	1			
301	2			
303			1	Mid C17th, milling around the top, possibly Bristol made – moderate use

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