

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Feniton, East Devon	National Grid Reference: SY 1009 9910	Number:
Subject: Archaeological evaluation on land behind to Sunny Lea, Feniton, Devon.		Photo attached: Y
Planning Application no: 14/1394/OUT	Recipient museum: n/a	
OASIS ID: oakforda1-228866	Museum Accession no: n/a	
Contractor's reference number/code: OA1275	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 19/10/2015	
<p>Background: The site (Fig. 1) lies nearly 2km to the south-east of the historic manor of Feniton, on the south-eastern edge of the late 19th and 20th century settlement which grew up around Sidmouth Junction (now Feniton Station). The proposed development lies in an area of high archaeological potential, with a number of prehistoric funerary monuments (round barrows) recorded to the west and south. A Bronze Age bowl barrow was believed to have been located 270m to the west of the site at No. 6 Salisbury Avenue but was destroyed by housing. Two prehistoric ring-ditches to the south-west, visible as cropmarks, may represent the sites of round barrows. These appear to be associated with linear marks which may be part of an earlier field system. Evaluation in 2013 of land just to the north-east has revealed evidence of the Romano-British period and for a suspected field system of Bronze Age date.</p> <p>The Tithe Map of 1842 and the 1889 OS plan show the area of the site within fields. Sunny Lea and the adjacent properties do not appear on the OS plan of 1905 but are visible in an aerial photograph taken just after WWII.</p> <p>Description of works: An evaluation was carried out prior to the start of groundworks. Four trenches, measuring 40m in total, were excavated (Fig. 2, Pl. 1), covering the footprint of the proposed development. The layer sequence revealed by the trenching typically consisted of the following:</p> <p>0-0.4m mid to dark reddish brown silty clay (topsoil) 0.4-0.8m mid reddish brown silty clay (subsoil) 0.8m+ mid yellowish red silty clay (natural subsoil)</p> <p>Trench 2 (Fig. 3, Pls. 2-3): 100 0-0.4m mid to dark reddish brown silty clay (topsoil) 101 0.4-0.8m mid reddish brown silty clay (subsoil) 102 0.8m+ mid yellowish red silty clay (natural subsoil) 103 0.8-1m NW-SE aligned linear 104 0.8-1m mid reddish brown silty clay (fill of ditch 103)</p> <p>Conclusion: The trench evaluation constitutes a thorough examination of the site, with trenches positioned to provide a comprehensive sample of those areas affected by the development. Topsoil and subsoil deposits (up to 0.8m deep) have been confirmed, across the whole of the site, but the total removal of this material within trenches 1, 3 and 4 has failed to reveal any evidence for buried archaeological features or deposits.</p> <p>Trench 2 exposed the remains of a shallow NW-SE aligned linear and provides the only potential evidence for early, possibly prehistoric activity. This interpretation however is far from secure, being</p>		

based solely on marked difference in the alignment of the ditch in comparison with the later field boundaries shown on the 1842 Tithe map and 1889 and 1905 OS plans; it is not supported by any dating evidence.

The lack of pottery and lithics from the site, despite examination of spoil heaps, further indicates that the potential for significant archaeological survival is low. This is the only report on these works.

Project archive and OASIS entry

Due to the limited nature of the findings a project archive will not be produced. A summary of the investigations has been submitted to the on-line archaeological database OASIS (Online Access to the Index of archaeological InterventionS).

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Recorder:

MFR Steinmetzer (Oakford Archaeology)

Date sent to HER:

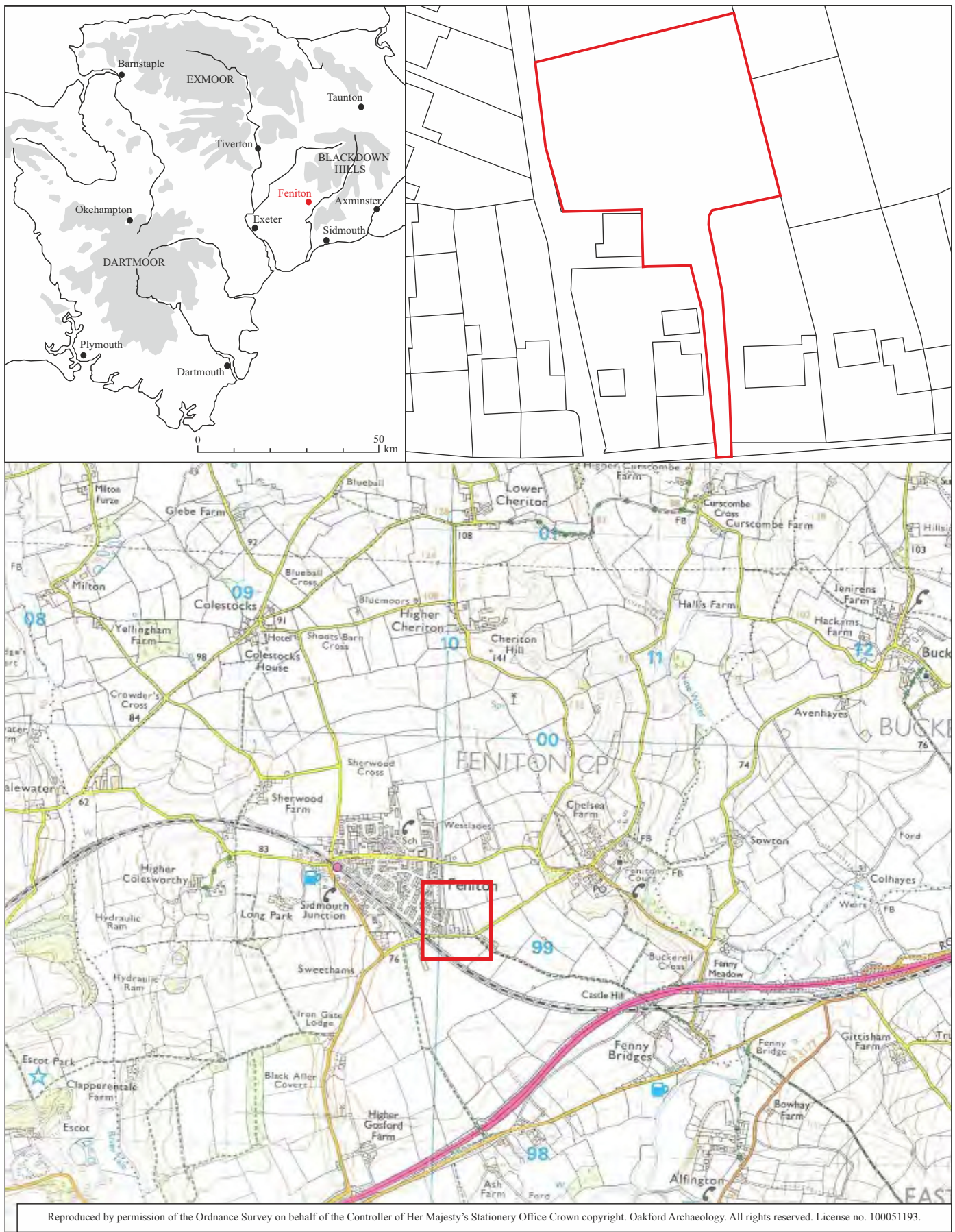


Fig. 1 Location of site.

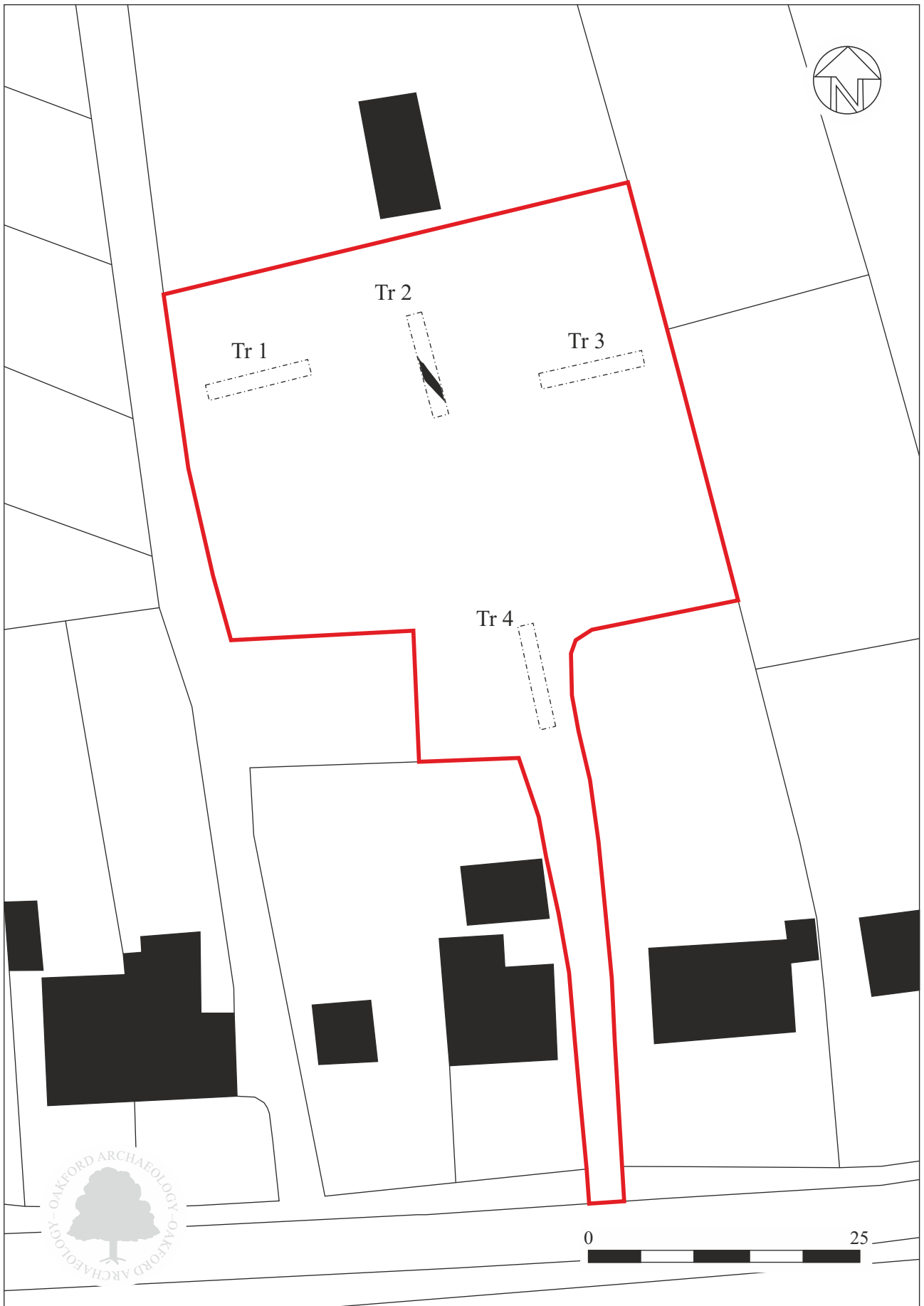


Fig. 2 Plan of trenches showing location of principal feature identified.

Trench 2

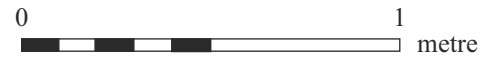
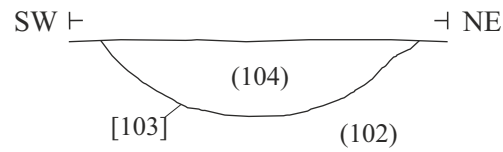
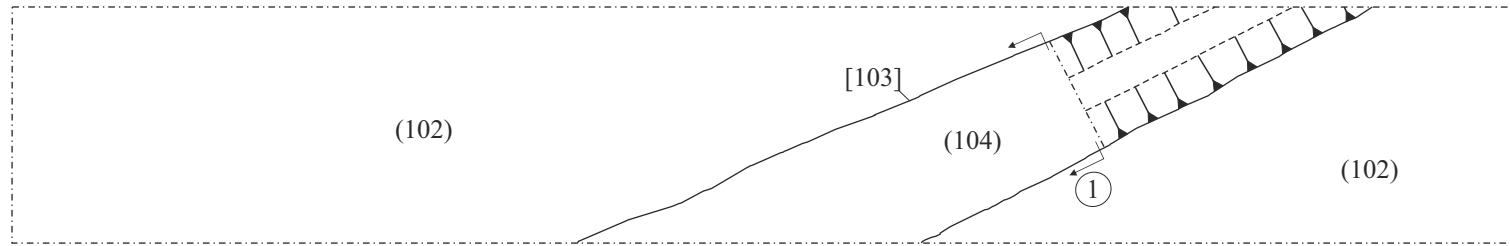


Fig. 3 Plan and section Trench 2.



Pl. 1 General view of trenches 1-3. Looking northeast.



Pl. 2 General view of ditch [103]. 2m scale. Looking northwest.



Pl. 3 Section through ditch [103]. 0.5m scale. Looking northwest.