

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Monkton, East Devon	National Grid Reference: ST 1895 0368	Number:
Subject: Archaeological evaluation on land south of Aplins Farm, Monkton, Devon.		Photo attached: Y
Planning no: 16/3058/FUL	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS ID: oakforda1-289512	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: OA1425	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 19/06/2017	
<p>Description of works: The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Otter Valley Dairy under an archaeological condition attached to the grant of planning permission for the construction of an ice cream parlour including a café, retail, office and making area, and a new access and associated works.</p> <p>The site (Fig. 1) consists of a single field, laid down to pasture. It is located to the west of the A30, north of the village of Monkton, and in an area of archaeological potential. A number of extractive pits, associated with known Roman and later iron production industry, have been identified in the immediate vicinity and across the surrounding landscape. In addition, medieval and later activity is recorded the County HER in the form of findspots in a nearby field and dating from the 12th century onwards</p> <p>Results: The evaluation comprised the excavation of 7 trenches totalling 90m in length, with each trench 1.6m wide. (Fig. 1, pls. 1-4). These were located to provide a spatial sample of those areas affected.</p> <p>Trenches 3, 4, 5 and 6 were archaeologically sterile, that is although they contained a simple deposit sequence of topsoil and subsoil above natural subsoil no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were uncovered by the work. It should be noted that the interface between these deposits was extremely blurred. This may be a consequence of activities related to the straightening of this stretch of the A30 and described in more detail below.</p> <p>Trenches 1, 2 and 7 contained modern clay based deposits consisting of redeposited natural clays. These were excavated to a depth of 1m, 1.8m and 2.5m below current ground level respectively. The removal of this material in trenches 1 and 2 revealed the top of natural subsoil, while the base of the modern made ground was not exposed in Trench 7. A context for the removal of the original soil sequence, and the re-profiling of the upper reaches of the site must be the straightening of the A30 in the late 1950's or 60's.</p> <p>Conclusions: The trench evaluation constitutes a thorough examination of the site, with trenches positioned to provide a comprehensive sample of all available areas. A simple deposit sequence of top- and subsoil overlying natural subsoil (up to 0.6m deep) has been confirmed along the western edge of the site, but the total removal of this material within trenches 3, 4, 5 and 6 has failed to reveal any evidence for buried archaeological features or deposits.</p> <p>Elsewhere, the results have been very consistent, with deep modern made ground deposits identified directly above natural subsoil within trenches 1, 2 and 7, suggesting that the eastern edge of the site has been heavily disturbed by works associated with the straightening of the A30.</p> <p>The lack of pottery and lithics from the site, despite examination of spoil heaps, further indicates that</p>		

the potential for significant archaeological survival is low. As a result, it was agreed with the DCHET that no further archaeological site work was necessary. 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).

Recorder:

MFR Steinmetzer (Oakford Archaeology)

Date sent to HER:

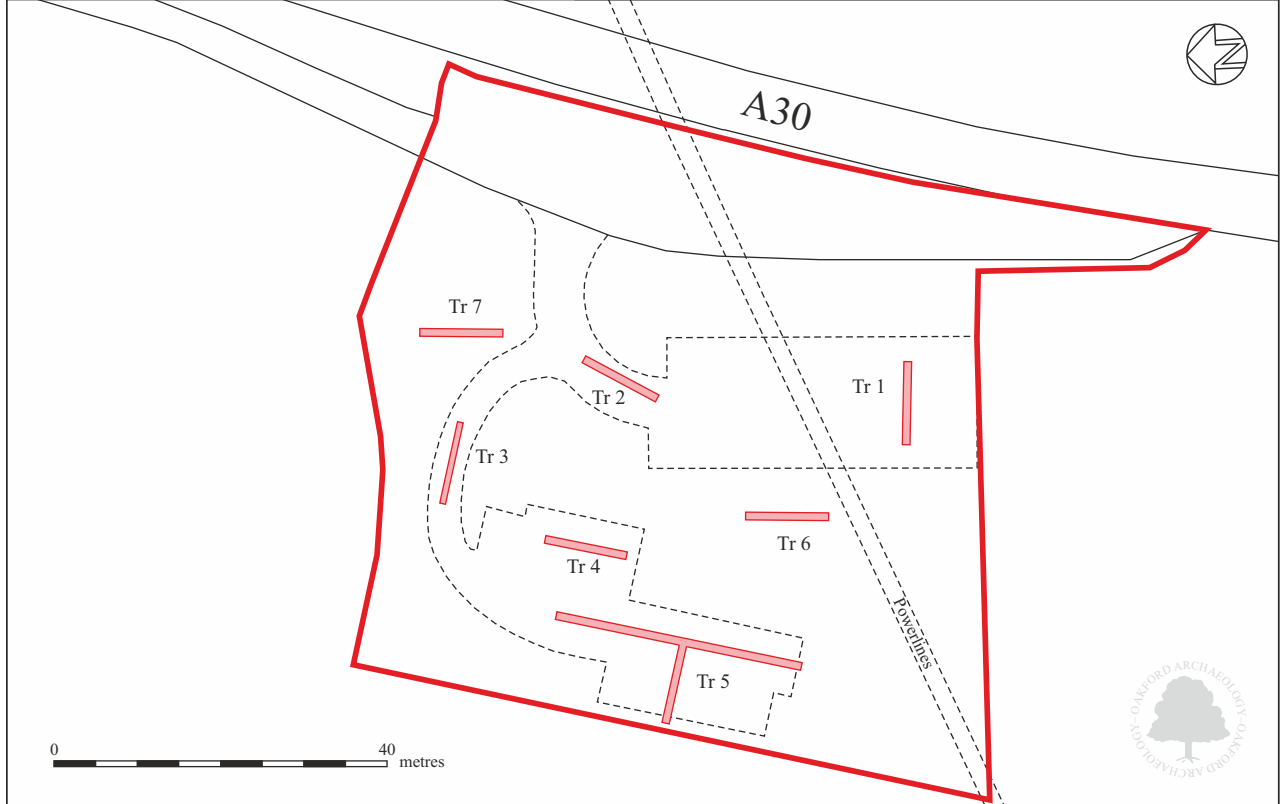
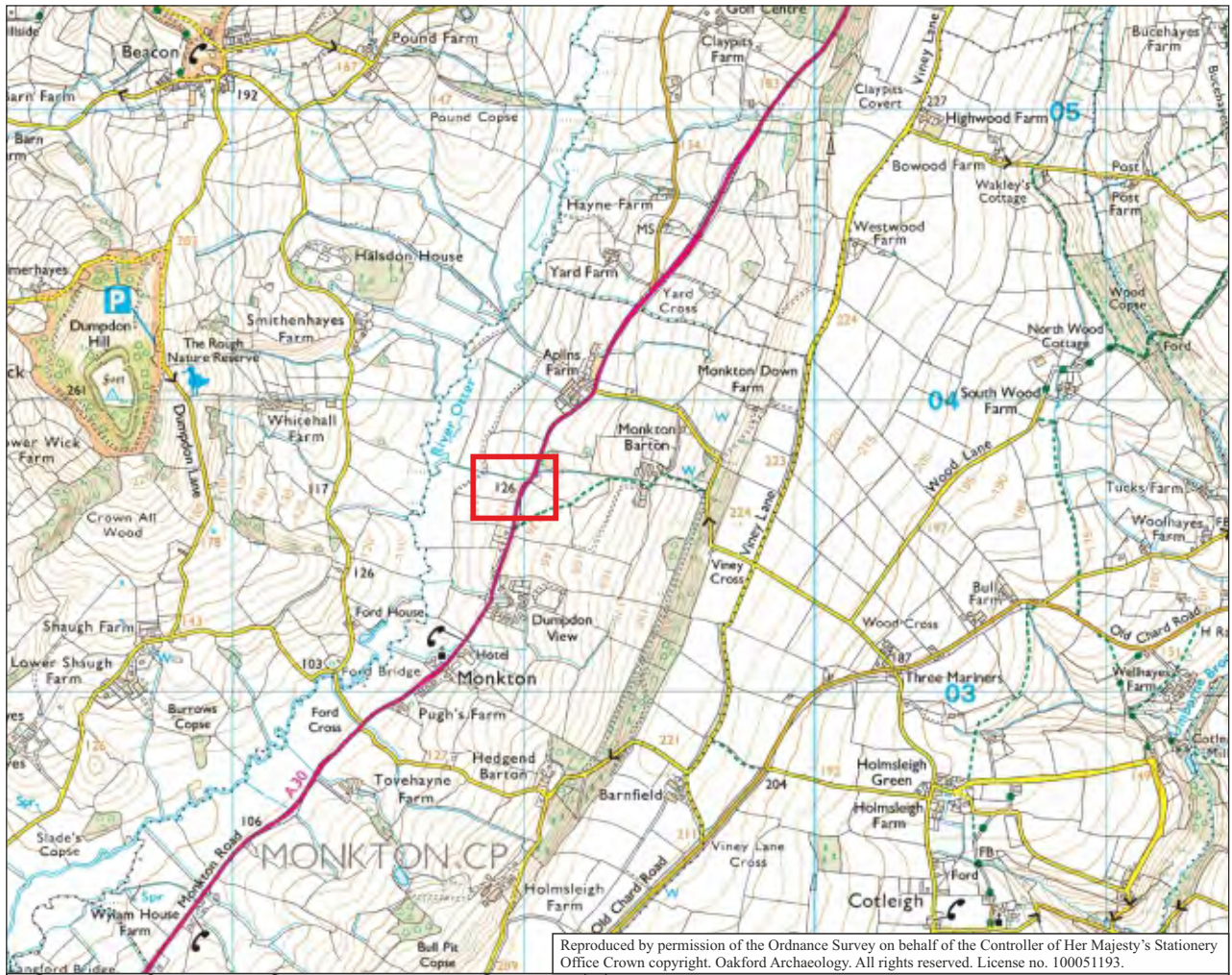


Fig. 1 Site location and trench plan.



Pl. 1 General view of site showing trenches 1-7. Looking west.



Pl. 2 General view of Trench 5 showing simple deposit sequence of top- and subsoil above natural subsoil. 1m scale. Looking east



Pl. 3 General view of Trench 6 showing simple deposit sequence of top- and subsoil above natural subsoil. 1m scale. Looking east



Pl. 4 General view of Trench 7 showing deposit sequence consisting of modern made ground. 1m scale. Looking east.