

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Sparkwell, South Hams	National Grid Reference: SX 5627 5750	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording at The Paddock, Hemerdon, Devon.		Photo attached: Y
Planning Application no: 0190/18/FUL	Recipient museum: n/a	
OASIS ID: oakforda1-338223	Museum Accession no: n/a	
Contractor's reference number/code: OA1499	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 09/07, 31/07, 13/08-15/08, and 17/08/2018	
<p>Description of works:</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology between July and August 2018 during work at The Paddock, Hemerdon, Devon (SX 5627 5750). The site (Fig. 1) is located within the historic core of Hemerdon, a settlement of Saxon origin and adjacent to a possible later medieval manor house (Hemerdon Farm). The work was therefore required by the South Hams District Council (SHDC) as advised by the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>A watching brief was maintained during works associated with the construction of the new dwellings and associated groundworks (Fig. 2, Pls. 1-4). The area was reduced to the level of the subsoil before series of foundation trenches were excavated and monitored.</p> <p>Results:</p> <p>The groundworks exposed natural subsoil (102) consisting of loose shale. This was in turn overlain by a 0.15-0.2m thick light greyish-brown silty clay subsoil (101) underneath a 0.2-0.25m thick mid-to-dark brown topsoil (100).</p> <p>Inspection of the groundworks along the road frontage exposed the remains of two NW-SE aligned linear features running parallel with Hemerdon Lane. Feature [103] was located at the northern end of plot 3/4. This probable ditch was 1.44m wide and 0.7m deep, with gradually breaking sides and a concave base. No finds were recovered from its fills (104 and 105). These consisted of silty clay-based deposits suggesting a gradual weathering of the sides, the natural subsoil and colluviation. Feature [107] is likely a continuation of the latter. This probable ditch was at least 1.02m wide and 0.58m deep, with gradually breaking sides and a concave base. No finds were recovered from its fills (106 and 108). These consisted of silty clay-based deposits suggesting a gradual weathering of the sides, the natural subsoil and colluviation.</p> <p>The remains of a probable linear feature and large pit were identified at the southwestern end of the site. Feature [110] was located along the northern edge of plot 1. This probable ditch was at least 1.96m wide and 0.64m deep, with gradually breaking sides and continued below the base of the trench. No finds were recovered from its fills (111 and 112). These consisted of silty clay-based deposits suggesting a gradual weathering of the sides, the natural subsoil and colluviation. The latter fill was similar to the overlying topsoil. Feature [113] was a possible pit, with gradually breaking sides and continued below the base of the foundation trench. It was approximately 2.65m wide and at least 0.68m deep. No finds were recovered from its fills (114 and 115) and consisting of light greyish brown silty clay and mid reddish-brown silty loam respectively.</p> <p>Conclusion:</p> <p>The Historic Landscape Characterisation programme characterises the landscape as having been enclosed during the post-medieval period, with fields laid out in the 18th and 19th century. None of the</p>		

ditches produced datable evidence, although in all cases the features cut the subsoil, suggesting that they are relatively recent (i.e. post-medieval). 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:

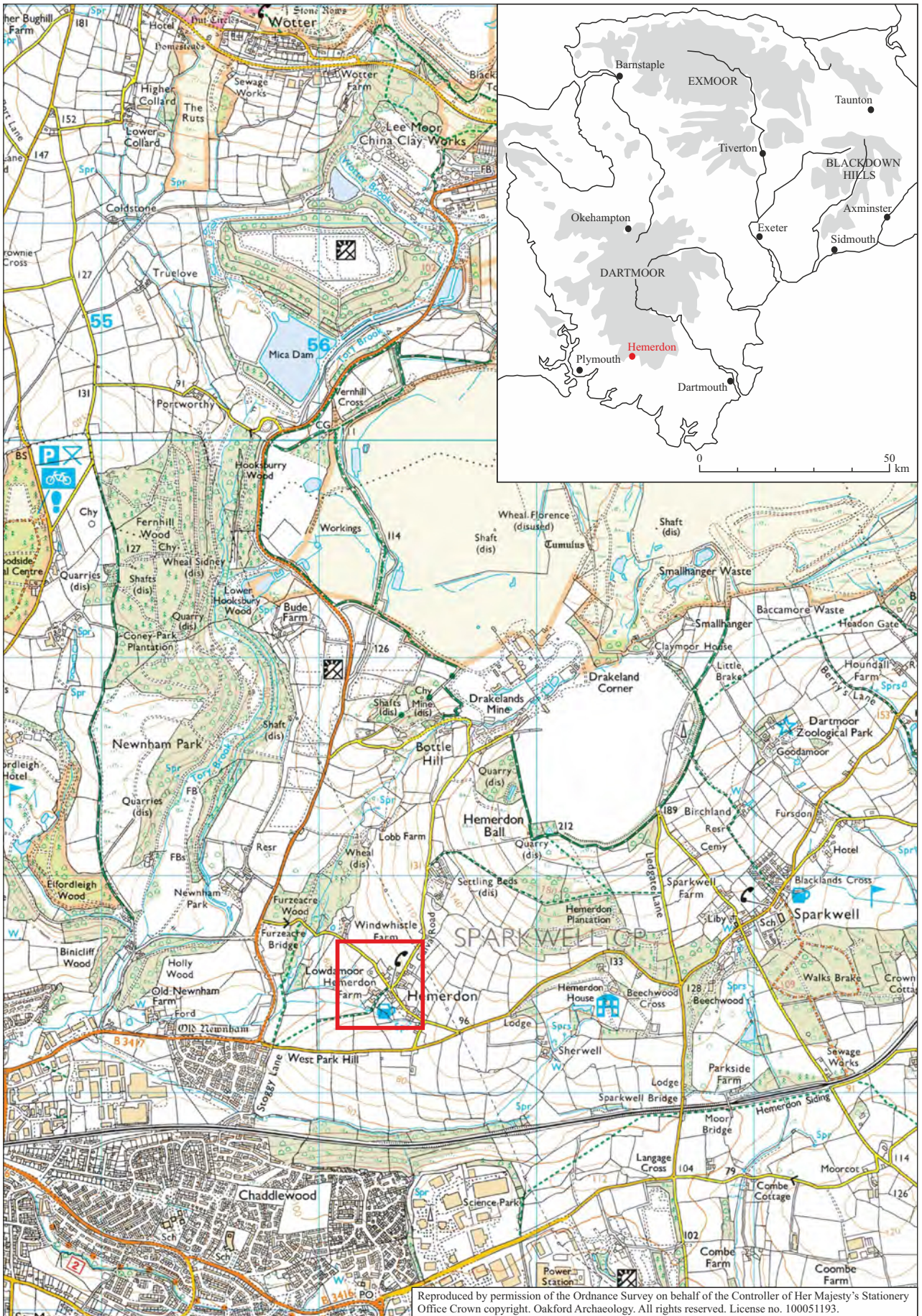


Fig. 1 Location of site.

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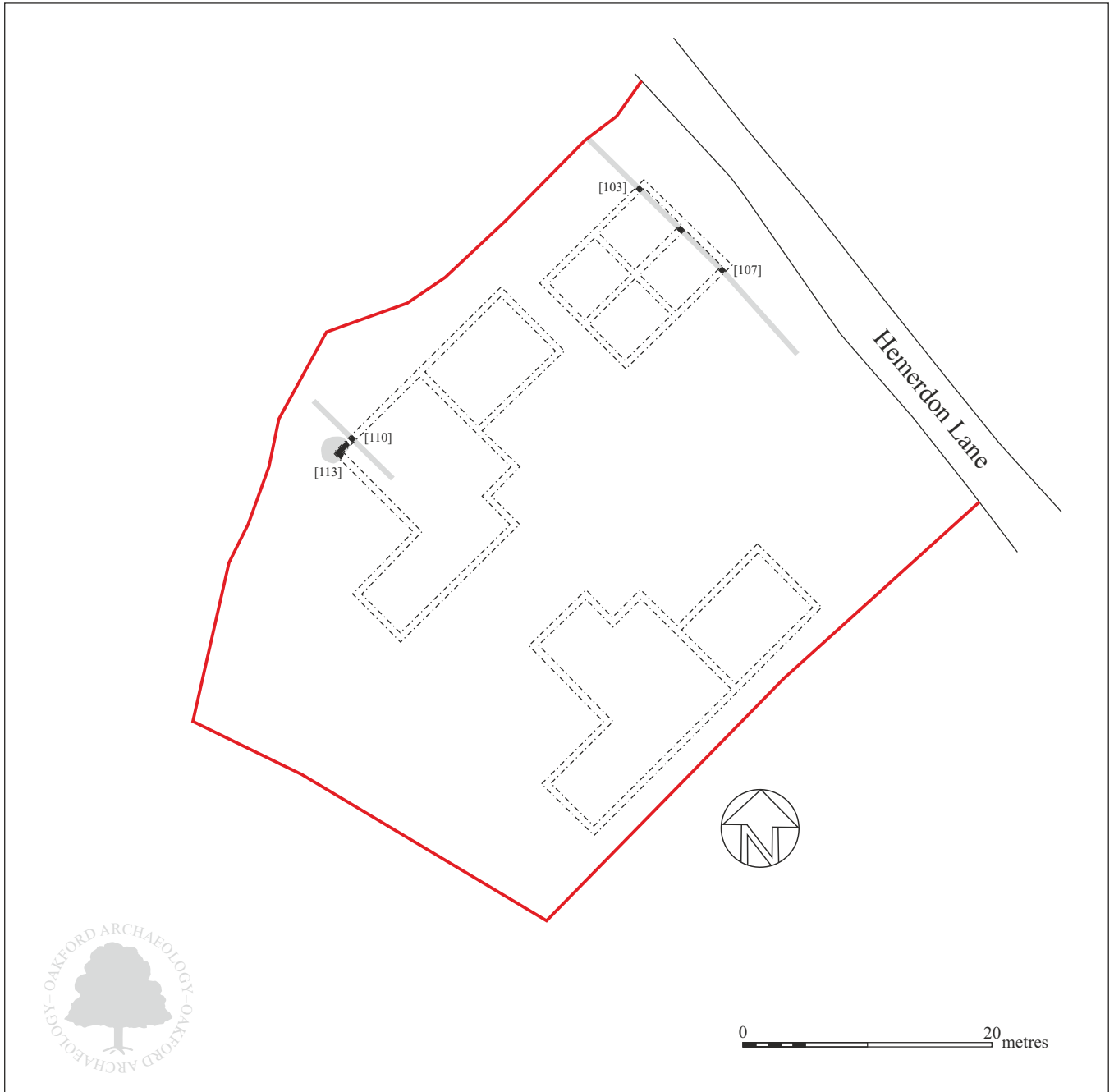
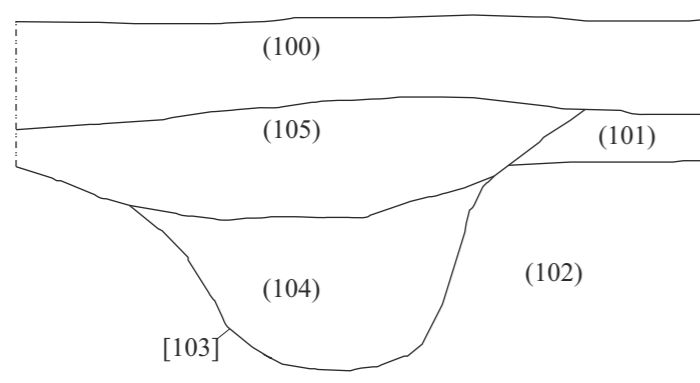
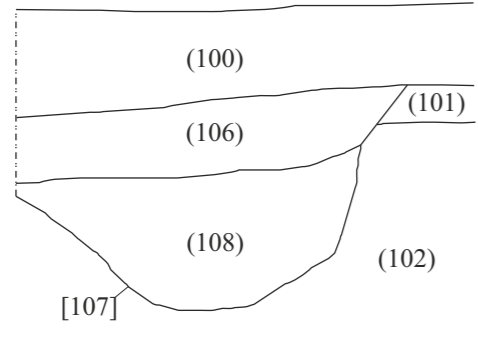


Fig. 2 Plan showing location of observations.

NE ← → SW
78.37m AOD



NE ← → SW
78.50m AOD



NE ← → SE
78.45m AOD

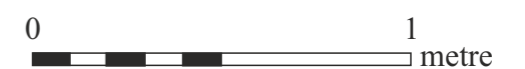
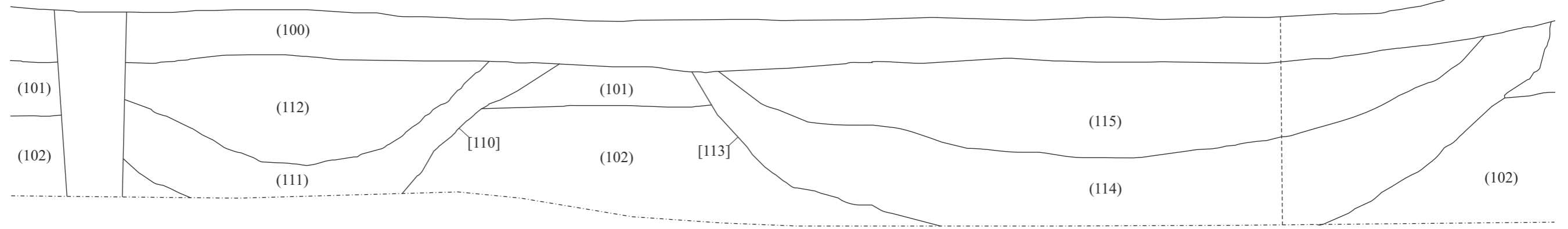


Fig. 3 Sections through Ditches [103], [107], [110] and Pit [113], and photos of Ditch [107] (top left) and Pit [113] (bottom left and right).