

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Sparkwell, South Hams	National Grid Reference SX 5340 5780 (centre)	Number: (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
Subject: Watching brief During Construction of Boringdon Golf Course		Photo attached? N
Planning Application no: 49/2306/03/F	Recipient museum: Plymouth City Museum	
OASIS ID: 60696	Museum Accession no: AR.2009.11	
Contractor's reference number/code: EA5510	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 23 November 2005-22 August 2007	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>A watching brief was undertaken by Exeter Archaeology (EA) during construction of the Boringdon Golf Course, Plymbridge Road, Sparkford, Devon (Figure 1). The golf course straddles the administrative areas of South Hams (Devon) and Plympton (City of Plymouth); monitoring was only undertaken within the former area. An archaeological assessment of the proposed development had been prepared by EA in 2005 (report number 05.14).</p> <p>The groundworks and associated archaeological monitoring were to have been undertaken in line with a written statement of investigation prepared by EA in September 2005, with variations as agreed following site meetings with the Devon County Historic Environment Service. However, on several occasions work – including topsoil stripping, removal of subsoil, deep excavations into the natural geology, construction of haul roads, and dumping – took place without archaeological recording. Where possible, areas were restripped under archaeological control, or evaluative trenches were excavated across these areas. Investigations targeted possible sites of archaeological interest as identified in the assessment. Plots of areas stripped were recorded using a handheld GPS.</p> <p>The locations of observed excavations and the position of other groundworks are shown on Figure 2.</p> <p>In general, natural slate was overlaid by topsoil and subsoil, measuring 0.20m and 0.15m in depth respectively. Towards the west end of the site an approximately 30m length of an east-west aligned ditch (501; section a-a on fig. 2) was exposed. The ditch measured 1m wide by 0.20m deep and had a rounded profile. The ditch was filled with reddish brown firm silty clay (502). No dating evidence was recovered from the ditch fill and its date is unknown.</p> <p>Site 21 was identified in the assessment as a possible curvilinear feature or a former mound. The feature was identified during the watching brief as a large quarry, backfilled with local slate. This feature is not depicted on any historic mapping, but the field was formerly known as 'Quarry Park'.</p> <p>No features were found in the vicinity of assessment site 22.</p> <p>A small quantity of finds was retained from the topsoil, the majority comprising post-medieval pottery and building material. Two sherds of medieval pottery were also recovered, along with 21 pieces of flint, 15 of which had been worked. These worked flints included scrapers, cores and flakes, as well as a possible arrowhead roughout.</p>		
<p>A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.</p>		
Recorder: Andrew Passmore, Exeter Archaeology		Date sent to HER: 4 August 2009

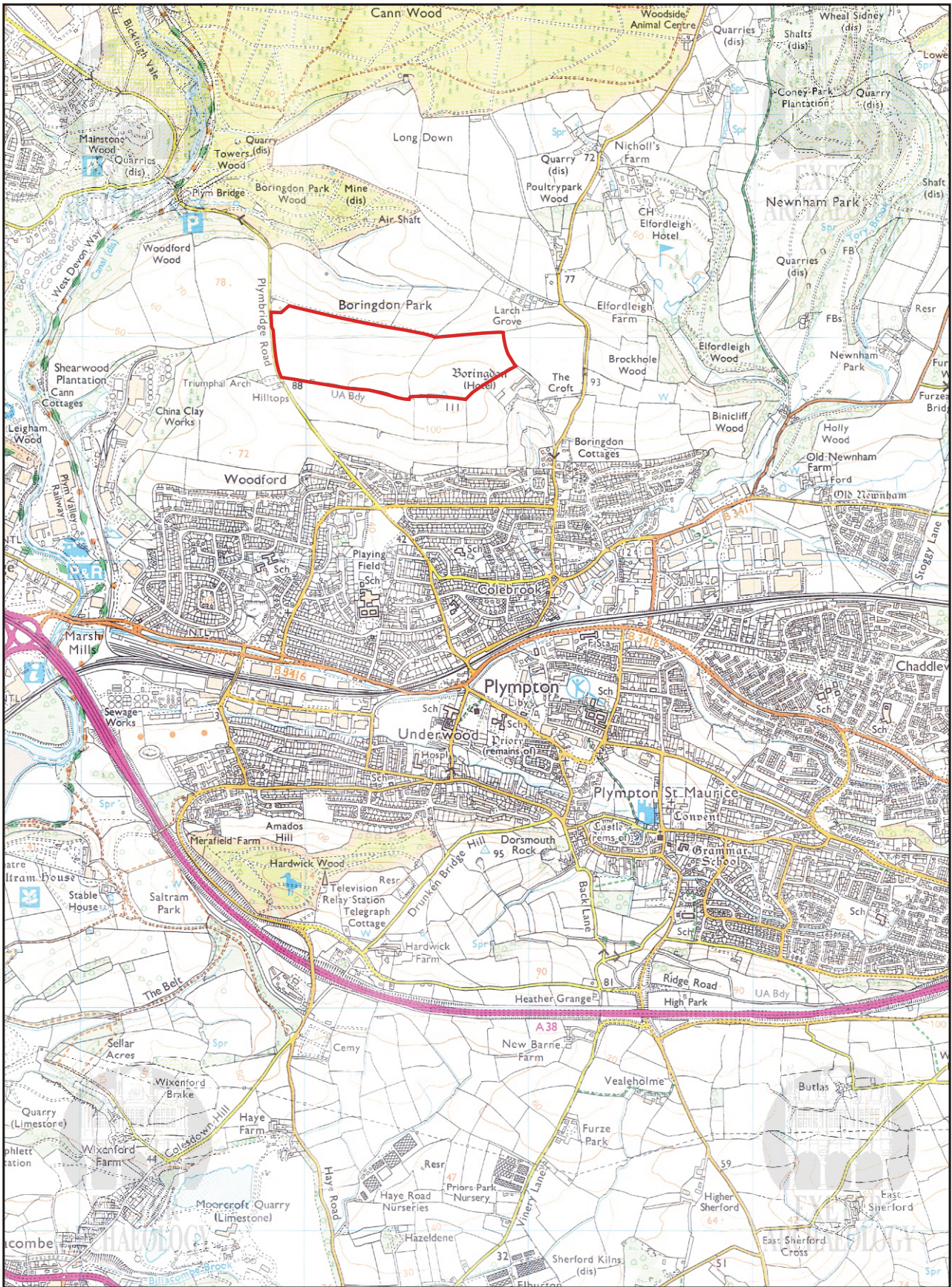


Fig. 1 Location of site (in red). Reproduced from the 1:25000 Explorer™ map OL20 by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright 2006. All rights reserved. Licence No. AL 100016685.

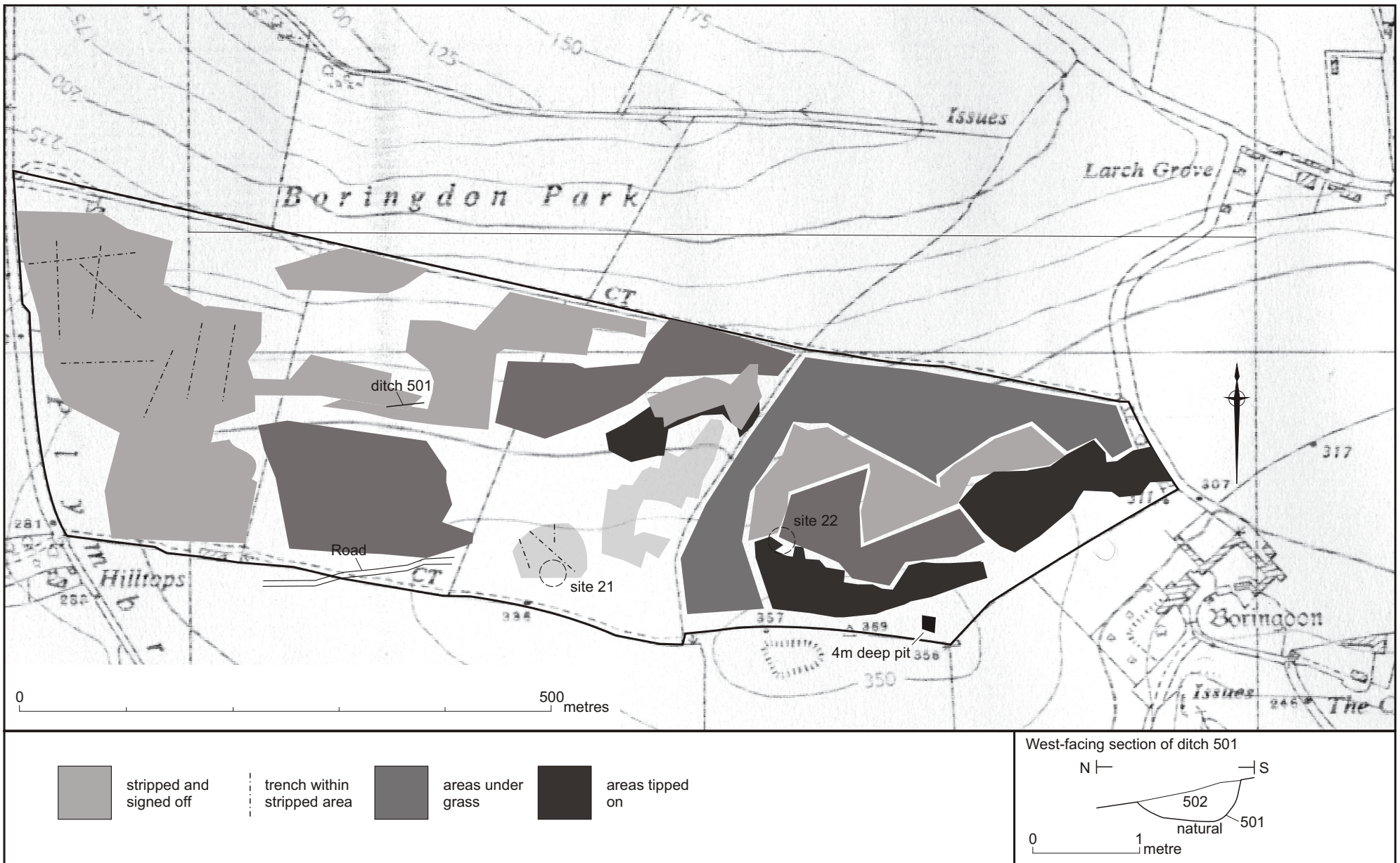


Fig. 2 Location of groundworks and observations.