

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Holsworthy/Torridge District Council	National Grid Reference: SX 236329 096848	Number:
Subject: Land at Grid Reference 236329 096848, Clawton, Holsworthy, Devon: Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample		Photographs attached: Plates 1 – 3
Planning Application No: 1/1007/2024/FUL	Recipient Museum: Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon	
OASIS ID: iscaarch2-531384	Museum Accession No: 'Pending'	
Contractor's reference number/code: P01-0120	Date fieldwork undertaken: 23 - 24 July 2025	
<p>Description of Works:</p> <p><u>Introduction</u></p> <p>An archaeological strip, map and sample (SMS) was undertaken by ISCA Archaeology at the site of a proposed new domestic building at Land at Grid Reference 236329 096848, Clawton, Holsworthy, Devon on 23 - 24 June 2025. A total area of 607.54m² was observed, which included the entire footprint of the new dwelling, garage, access and the locations of the future services. The rest of the site will not have any below-ground works associated with this development. The site is located c. 7km to the south of Holsworthy, on the eastern side of an unnamed lane linking Ashwater and Halwill to the A388 at Blagdon Cross. The SMR was undertaken to the north east corner of a grassed pasture field. The works were commissioned by a private client.</p> <p><u>Archaeological Background</u></p> <p>The site is in an area of archaeological potential within a landscape containing evidence of prehistoric activity. Located 250m to the south lies an enclosure identified by aerial photography of possible prehistoric or Romano-British date. Elsewhere in the vicinity, further features and artefacts have been recorded with possible Neolithic or Bronze Age period dates, along with later medieval and post-medieval settlement and agricultural activity.</p> <p><u>Results and Comment (Figs. 1 and 2 and Plates 1 – 3)</u></p> <p>The topsoil (0.3m thick) and subsequent underlying subsoil (0.1m thick) was removed by a mechanical excavator using a toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision. The underlying natural substrate was observed across the whole SMS area and showed signs of heavy plough scarring. A single, north/south aligned sinuous ditch [104] was noted to the western extent of the area. The ditch measured 16.2m long, 0.88m wide by up to 0.4m deep and extended beyond the southern extent of the SMS area. The northern terminus of the ditch had been truncated by a later north/south linear cut, interpreted as a modern field drain. No artefactual or other dating material was recovered from the single dark brown silty clay fill (103) of the ditch. Elsewhere across the site further field drains and a modern waterpipe were noted.</p>		
Recorder: Simon Sworn (MCIfA), ISCA Archaeology Limited	Date sent to HER:	



Plate 1: General view of site after overburden removal, with ditch [104] to the right. Scales at 2x1m. View to the north

Plate 2: Ditch [104] to the right. Scales at 1m. View to the north west



Plate 3: detail of section through ditch [104], with northern truncated terminus in the background. Scale at 1m. View to the north west