

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Meeth, West Devon	National Grid Reference: SS 54884 09342	Number:
Subject: Archaeological Monitoring and Recording during Groundworks for the Installation of a Track on Land at Park Farm, Meeth, Okehampton, Devon		Photo Attached?: Yes
Planning Reference: 2834/21/FUL	Recipient Museum: N/A	
OASIS ID: southwes1-430696	Museum Accession Number: N/A	
Contractor's Reference: MSPF21	Dates Fieldwork Undertaken: 28.03.22	
<p>Description of Works</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of a Private Client as part of archaeological work before building works associated with the installation of a new track, running along field boundaries at land at Park Farm, Meeth, Okehampton Devon. This work was carried out by S. Stevens on 28th March 2022 in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Boyd 2021) having been agreed during consultation with the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>The site lies c.1km to the north of the village of Meeth, in the parish of the same name, in the historic Hundred of Shebbear and deanery of Torrington. The site is located to the north of Meeth, and a short distance to the east of the A386, in an area of agricultural land. It lies on land that slopes to the east at a height of between c.122 and 109m AOD. The soils of the area are the well-drained, sometimes shallow, fine loamy soils often over rock of the Denbigh Association (SSEW 1983), which overlie the sedimentary sandstone of the Bude Formation (BGS 2021).</p> <p>The Devon Historic Environment Record does not indicate any heritage assets in the immediate area, although the route would cross a field called Lower Beacon Park in 1840; the crest of the hill, and the logical location for a beacon site, lies in the field to the west (Higher Beacon Park). The track would also run to the south of a lost farmstead called Goosecott. Park Farm was called Stonypark in 1840; this probably refers to the geology/depth of the ploughsoil, but may infer the presence of buried walls etc.</p> <p>A 3m wide track was excavated, by machine using a graded bucket, as in accordance with the WSI both ends of the route were excavated under archaeological supervision. The works in the north-east corner of Field 1 consisted of monitoring a c.35m long strip up to an aggregate pile to the east. The intended depth measured c.0.35m deep, which bottomed out within the subsoil. A similar length (c.34m) was excavated in the north-east corner of Field 3, which was also c.0.35m in depth and was within the subsoil. The stratigraphy of Field 1 comprised topsoil (100), a dark-mid red-brown soft-friable silt-soil c.0.25m thick; overlying subsoil (101), a mid-light brown soft-friable silt, with common small sub-angular stone. The stratigraphy in Field 3 comprised a topsoil (300), of mid-dark brown friable silt soil c.0.20m thick; overlying subsoil (301) a mid-light brown soft-friable silt, with common small sub-angular stone (as (101).</p> <p>No features were identified within the excavated area and no finds were recovered from site.</p> <p>Conclusions</p> <p>The results of the excavation indicated that no archaeological deposits or features were going to be encountered within the shallow depth of the trackway.</p> <p>Bibliography</p> <p>Boyd, N. 2021: <i>Land at Park Farm, Meeth, Okehampton, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH report no. MSPF21.</p> <p>British Geological Survey 2021: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html</p> <p>Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>.</p>		
Recorder: S. Stevens		Date Sent to HER: 30.03.22

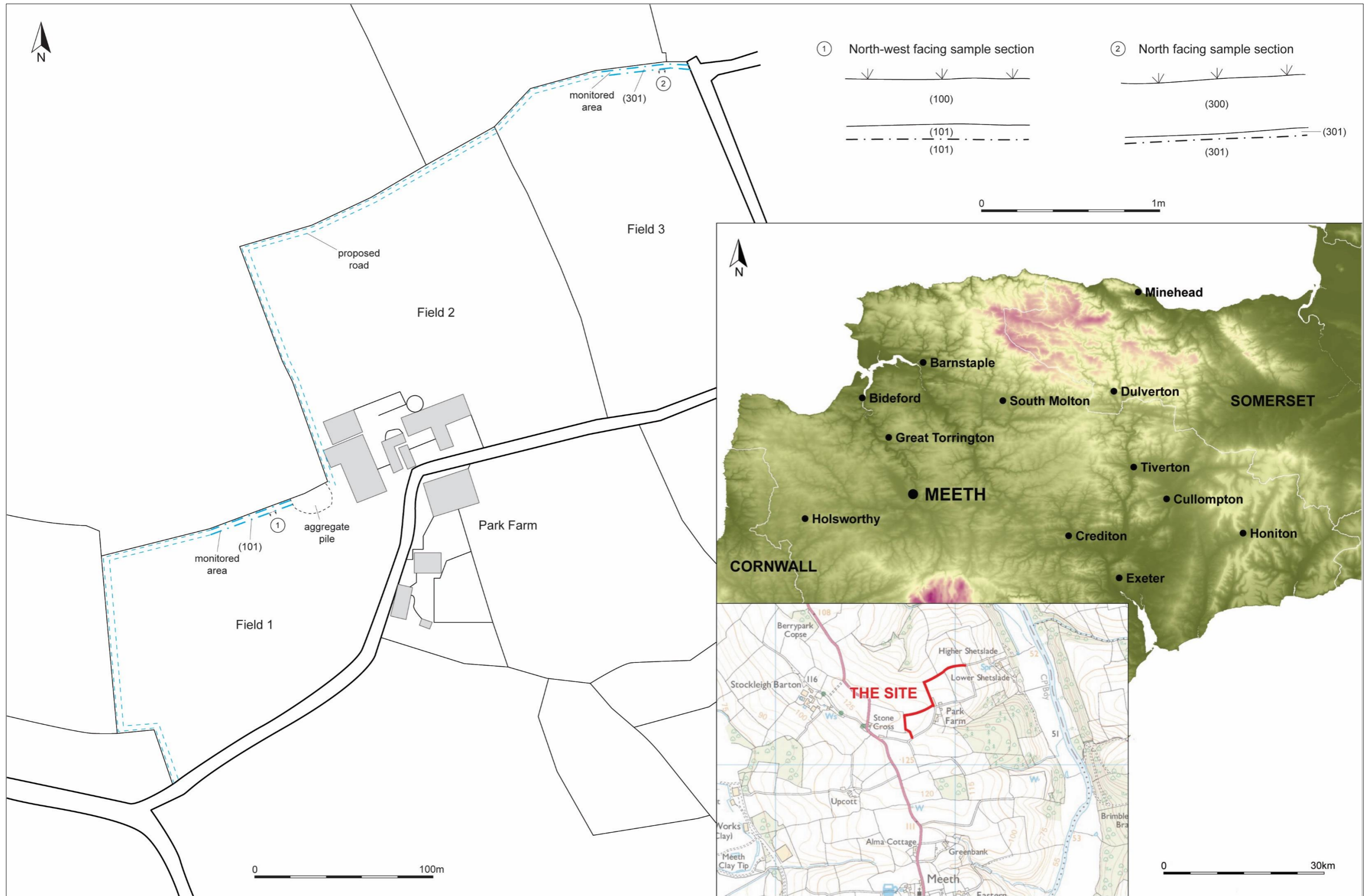


FIGURE 1: SAMPLE SECTIONS AND SITE PLAN SHOWING LOCATION AND SURROUNDING AREA.



FIGURE 2: EXCAVATED AREA IN FIELD 1; FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (1M SCALE).



FIGURE 3: SAMPLE SECTION OF FIELD 1; FROM THE NORTH-WEST (1M SCALE).



FIGURE 4: EXCAVATED AREA IN FIELD 3; FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).



FIGURE 5: SAMPLE SECTION OF FIELD 3; FROM THE NORTH (1M SCALE).