

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Holsworthy, Torridge	National Grid Reference: SS34540567	Number:
Subject: Drying Plant, associated plant & equipment, access roads & parking		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: DCC/3349/2012	Recipient museum: Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon	
OASIS ID: Southwes1-130923	Museum Accession no: NDMS.2012.27	
Contractor's reference number/code: HSL12	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 23/07/2012	
<p>Description of works. Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Mr. S. Sherry of Sherry Consultants (the Agent) during an evaluation of groundworks carried out prior to the proposed development. The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation drawn up by SWARCH in accordance with a Brief supplied by Ann-Marie Dick of Devon County Historic Environment Service (DCHES). The work was undertaken by Dr. S. Walls.</p> <p>The site lies a short distance to the north of a proposed development site which was the subject of pre-application investigations (archaeological assessment and evaluation trenching) by AC Archaeology in March 2011. This work demonstrated that that site contained an enclosure - possibly indicative of a settlement in the prehistoric period. A further possible prehistoric enclosure was also identified immediately north of that site - between it and the present proposal site. This feature was not subject to evaluation work, as it lay outside the proposal site. However, the resulting archaeological report suggests that this area may contain a possible prehistoric complex. It is possible that associated prehistoric features extend into the present proposal site.</p> <p>Extensive engineering works had taken place at the present proposal site in advance of the present planning application. While the ground reduction work was understood to have caused disturbance to any archaeological features which may have been present in the area of the groundworks, it was felt that the possibility remained of the survival of deeper features cut into the subsoil and that features may be visible in the exposed face of any areas subject to ground reduction.</p> <p>The area of the development (c.15200m²) had been completely stripped by machine prior to archaeological supervision and the exposed areas had been significantly weathered over several weeks, as well as having been tracked over by machines. The groundworks had terraced into the north facing slope of the field, and a narrow strip (c.10m wide) along the north edge of the site had only been reduced to the top of the natural, unfortunately this was the area that had been most heavily tracked by machines. The exposed sections and stripped area were carefully examined, as were the remaining spoil heaps on the site and surrounding area.</p> <p>The topsoil was a slightly yellowish mid-brown silt-sand which was at most 0.15m thick in section. The topsoil overlay a thin (0.05m thick) band of greyish yellow sandy-silt subsoil, which overlay the natural. The natural varied from yellow to grey sandy-silt containing common small fragments of shillet (>50mm), and had been excavated to a depth of 1.6m in the south-west corner of the site.</p> <p>No archaeological features were seen in plan or section, with only a modern service pipe located in the north facing section.</p> <p>FINDS No finds were found within the sections or area of stripping. On the examination of the spoil heaps a single sherd of white refined earthenware (2g) and a worn sherd of Iron Age pottery (6g) with possible incised decoration were recovered.</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: S. Walls		Date sent to HER: 25.07.2012

Please email completed form to: archaeol@devon.gov.uk or post to County Archaeology Service, Environment Directorate, Matford Lane Offices, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QW. Information recorded on this form will be added to the Historic Environment Record, and made available to all researchers.

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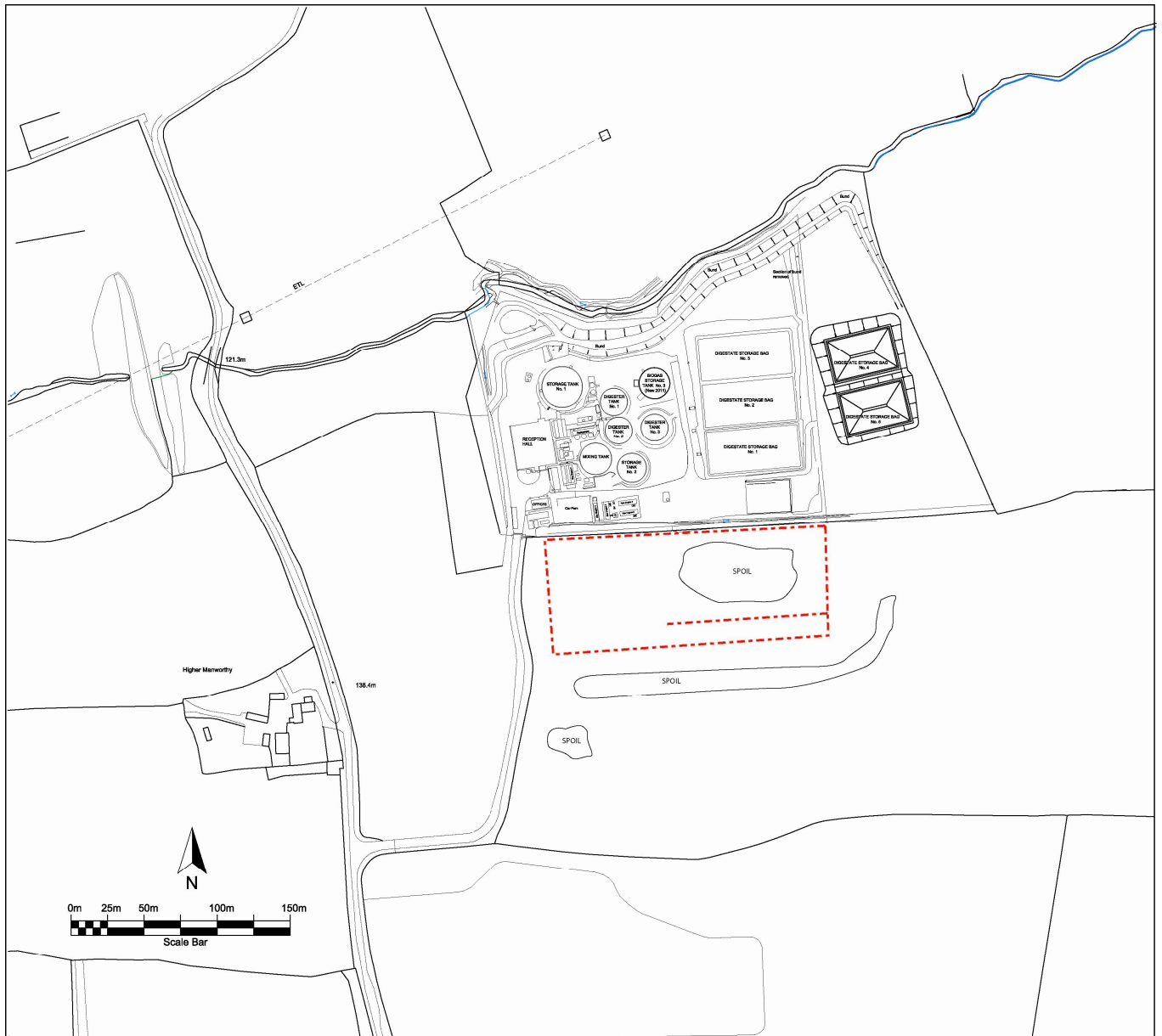


Figure 1: Site plan showing the approximate area of stripping and spoil heaps.



Figure 2: Above: The stripped area, from the south-west. Below: The north facing section in the south-west corner (2m scale).