

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Tiverton, Mid Devon	National Grid Reference SS 296720 114054	Number:
Subject: Flood relief works and establishment of site compound and access track on land adjacent to the A361 west of Little Gornhay, Tiverton, Devon		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: pre-planning	Recipient museum: RAMM	
OASIS ID: southwes1-133725	Museum Accession no: RAMM: 12/78 has been obtained in lieu of an accession number	
Contractor's reference number/code: TG12	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 15 th -26 th October, 2012	
<p>Description of Works: South West Archaeology Limited monitored the excavation of an access track and compound for flood relief works on land adjacent to the A361 west of Little Gornhay, Tiverton, Devon (see Figure 1). The access track was excavated to a width of between 3.10-3.80m by a tracked 360° machine using a toothless grading bucket to the depth of formation (0.23m) or deeper where required due to soft ground due to poor drainage. The compound was excavated to a sufficiently firm layer, in this case being the natural clay in the area directly below the plough soil, which was at a depth of c.0.40m. A 3.80m long section of the existing hedge bank and ditch along the eastern boundary of the field in which the site is located had to be removed to grant access to the site. These groundworks were observed and recorded photographically and in illustrations. No archaeological features were encountered and only 19th-20th century pottery and CBM debris were recovered from the top- and plough soils.</p> <p>Site Stratigraphy: (see Figures 3, 5, 6; Photos 4, 6) The site revealed a simple stratigraphy of 0.27-0.34m of a mid grey-brown, friable clay-silt topsoil (100) containing very occasional small sub-angular stones. This overlay a 0.18m thick plough horizon (106) of mid orange-grey brown, soft clay silt with very occasional small angular stones. The Topsoil and Plough soil both directly overlaid the natural, both contained finds included 19th-20th century pottery, plastic, CBM and glass. These finds were subsequently discarded.</p> <p>The natural (107) varied from mid orange-red to light orange-yellow clay with occasional medium angular stones and rare small angular quartz stones. The clay sat on a reddish gravel/stone band.</p> <p>Results: The access track clearly revealed the line up to which ploughing had cut into the natural, with the plough soil occurring in plan at the level of formation (Figure 4, Photo 3). This ploughing to a depth of c.0.40m coupled with the thin amounts of topsoil in places due to erosion at the southern end of the field greatly reduce the chances of survival of shallow archaeological features. It is likely any shallow field divisions or features have been fully truncated. Where plough soil was fully removed in the compound and parts of the access track no archaeological features were observed.</p> <p>The section through the long established (Medieval?) hedge bank and ditch were recorded, the majority of this feature remains as part of the active landscape for drainage and as a boundary (Figure 2; Photos 1, 2). The steep sided ditch [101] was not bottomed. It was c.1.8m wide and 0.40m+deep. It only revealed a secondary fill (102); a light brown-grey soft clay-silt with occasional small sub-rounded stones. This fill (102) contained modern refuse, such as plastic bags. The earthen bank was 0.65-1.4m in height with steep sides and a flat top. It was 1.75m wide at its base and 0.65m wide at its top. It was overgrown with oak trees and bramble and hawthorn hedges. It had a rich upper layer (105) of dark black-grey loose humic silt c.0.10m thick, over two layers of re-deposited natural dug from the ditch. The upper of these (104) was a root disturbed light red-brown friable clay silt c.0.20m thick. This was due to the root disturbance from flora on the bank penetrating less substantially into the centre of the bank. The inner core to the bank (103) was a c.0.35m thick clean mid brown red firm silt-clay. There was no evidence of a buried/re-deposited topsoil at the base of the bank but one can imagine this would have only been a tiny percentage of the soil moved to create the bank; or may even have been shovelled back into the field at the time of construction. The hedge bank and ditch produced no pre-20th century finds.</p> <p>The groundworks revealed no archaeologically remains or features and all finds were subsequently discarded.</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: Joe Bampton, South West Archaeology Ltd		Date sent to HER: 02/11/2012

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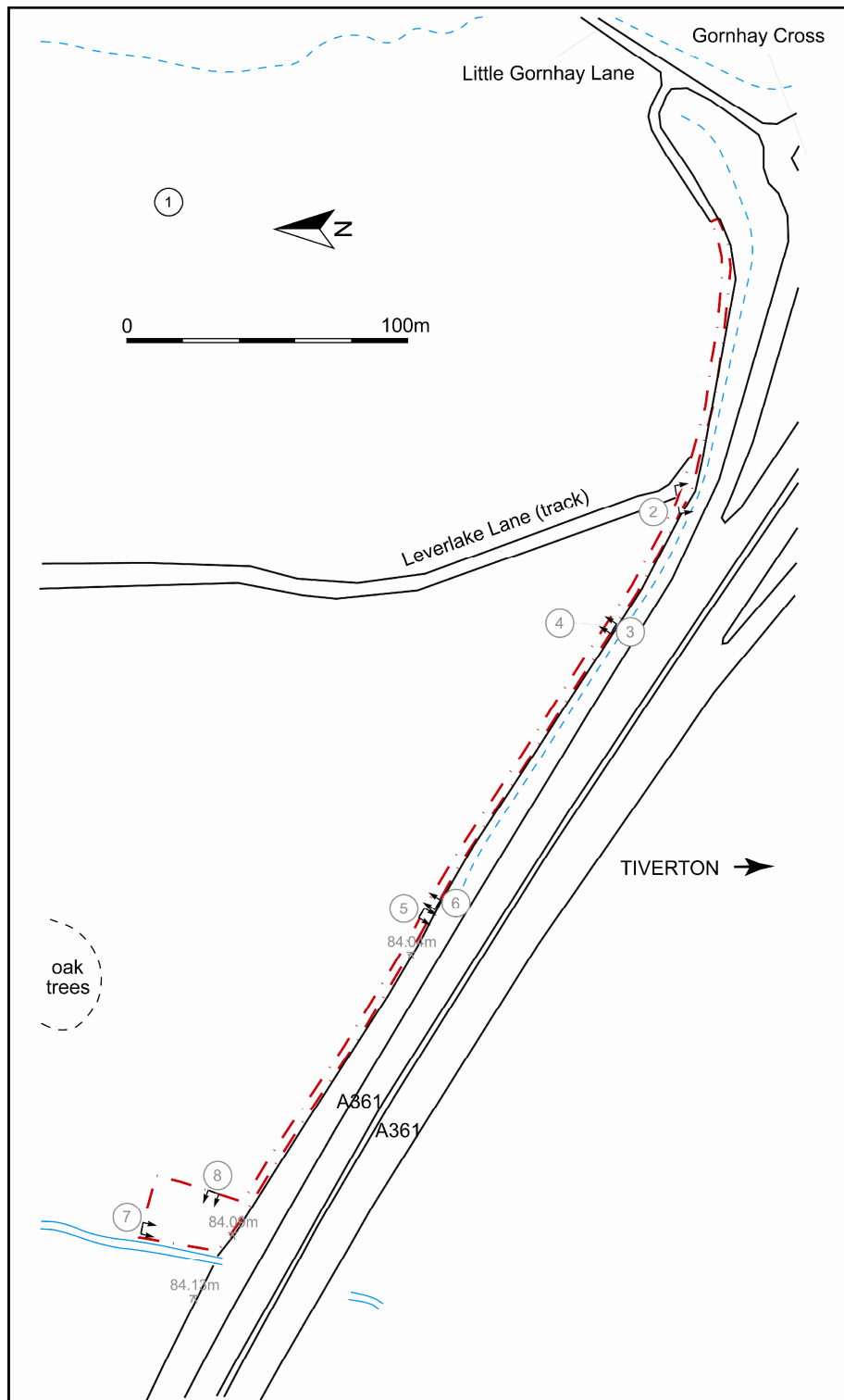
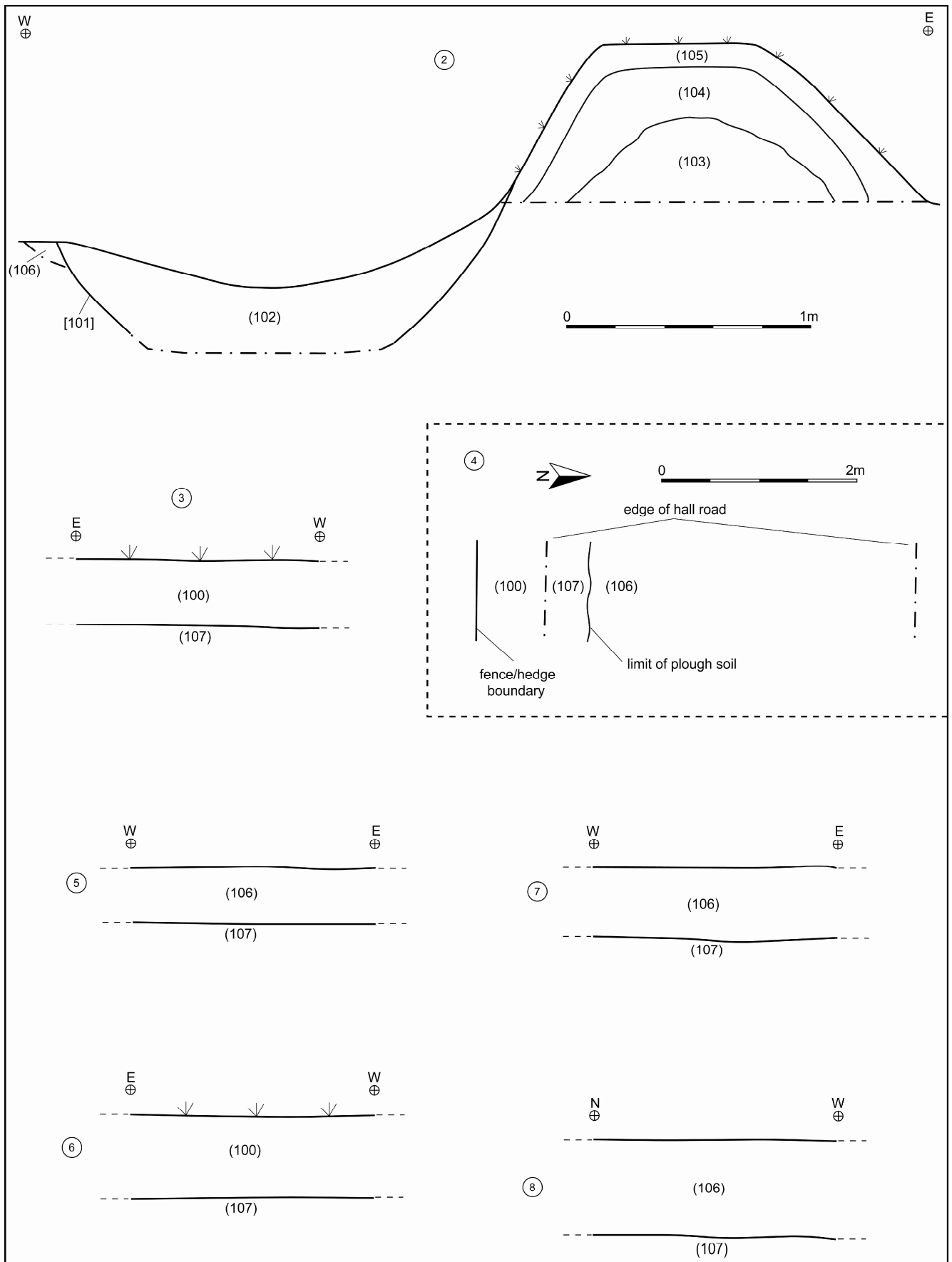


Figure 1: Location, area of excavation outlined in red dot-dash line, and location of site drawings (see Figure 2).



Figures 2-8: Site drawings, sections: 2, 3, 5-8 and plan: 4.



Figure 7: Modern map of the site overlaid with the 1840's tithe map, including the tithe apportionment numbers for relevant field names.



Photo1: Medieval boundary post-excavation, looking North (scale 2m).



Photo 2: Stone reinforced southern end to bank of Medieval boundary, looking West (scale 1m).



Photo 3: Haul Road Post-Excavation shot 2. East end, looking East.



Photo 4: South facing sample section in middle of haul road, looking North (scale 1m).



Photo 5: Compound post-excavation, NE corner, looking East (scale 2m).



Photo 6: Compound sample section, south facing, NW corner, looking North (scale 1m).