Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Bishopsteignton, Teignbridge	National Grid Reference SX 915 776		Number:		
Subject: Installation of a 20kw wind turbine on a 27m monopole tower with a rotor width of 13.1m and the excavation of over 100m of cable trench on land at Higher Rixdale Farm, Newton Abbot, Devon. Photo attached? YES					
Planning Application no: 12/01102/FUL		Recipient museum: RAMM			
OASIS ID: southwes1-134524		Museum Accession no: Ref in lieu of an accession no. RAMM: 12/77			
Contractor's reference number/code: BHR12		Dates fieldwork undertaken: 3 rd of October, 2012			

Description of Works:

South West Archaeology Limited monitored the excavation of a 5.50x5.50m, 1m deep footing for a wind turbine and a 0.23m wide cable trench on Land at Higher Rixdale Farm, Bishopsteignton, Devon (see Figures 1 & 7; Photos 2, 3, 4). A single undated pit was recorded, although it was most likely the result of plough disturbance on a particularly stony patch of natural. A stony land drain was also recorded in plan, although it cut the subsoil and was most probably modern.

Site Stratigraphy: (see Figures 2-4; Photos 5, 6)

0.24-0.30m of Topsoil (100). Dark red-brown, friable clay-silt with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones (mudstones) otherwise very clean. Finds included a fragment of 19th century tin-glazed stone ware pottery and 2 fragments of hand-made brick.

0.11-0.20m of Subsoil (101). Mid red-brown, soft-friable silt-clay with frequent small-medium sub-angular stones and grit.

At a depth of c.0.30-0.50m, Natural (102). Mid pink-red compact gravel and clay; becomes more orange-red and clayey down slope with occasional large angular stones. Occurs below a depth of c.0.30-0.50m

The groundworks revealed Pit [103]; an ovoid pit with gentle concave sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill and was flanked by 2 large stones that left voids when machined. It is likely that this feature was a result of these stones, as well as stones within the fill, being dragged and disturbed by ploughing over the years; its seemingly circular shape may be coincidental. The fill (104), a mid red-brown friable clay-silt with frequent small-medium sub-angular stones and no finds, was very similar to Subsoil (101). Although this was probably not an archaeological feature it was noted in case any further excavation within the field produce more conclusive evidence to which this could be associated.

In the cable trench a single stony land drain was revealed. This was 0.45m wide, it cut Subsoil (101), was aligned NW-SE and located near the level of a locally known sub-terrain and water course, which had previously been tapped, in an adjacent property. The drain may relate to this modern endeavour.

The relevance of local flint scatters, despite a relatively nearby source, required that any flint was noted during the groundworks and 3 small flint pebbles, neither struck nor burnt were recovered in Topsoil (100).

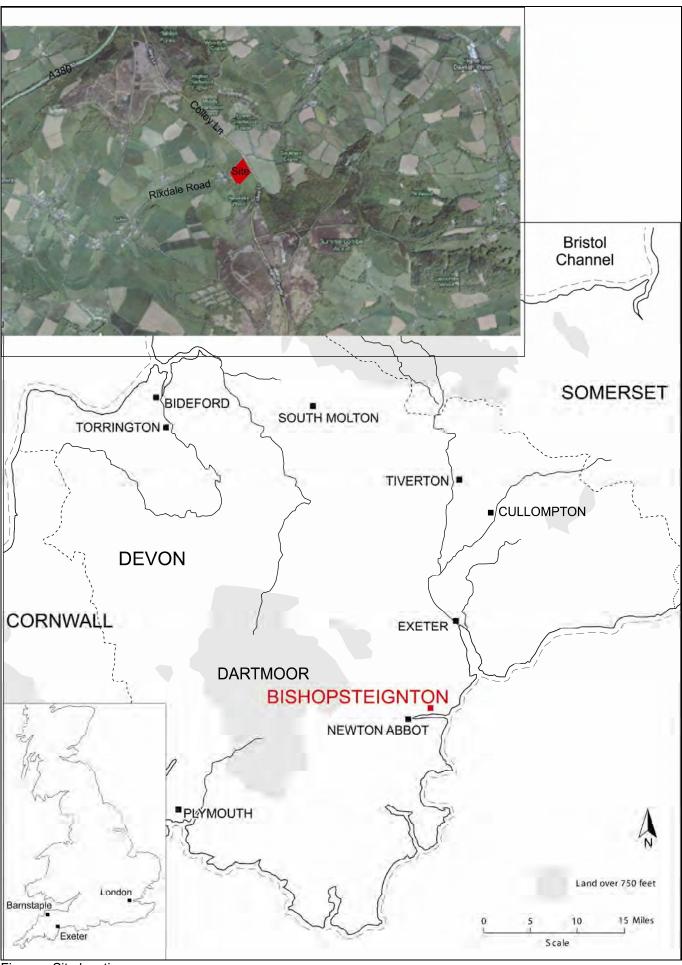
No significant or definitively archaeological features were revealed and all finds were discarded.

A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.

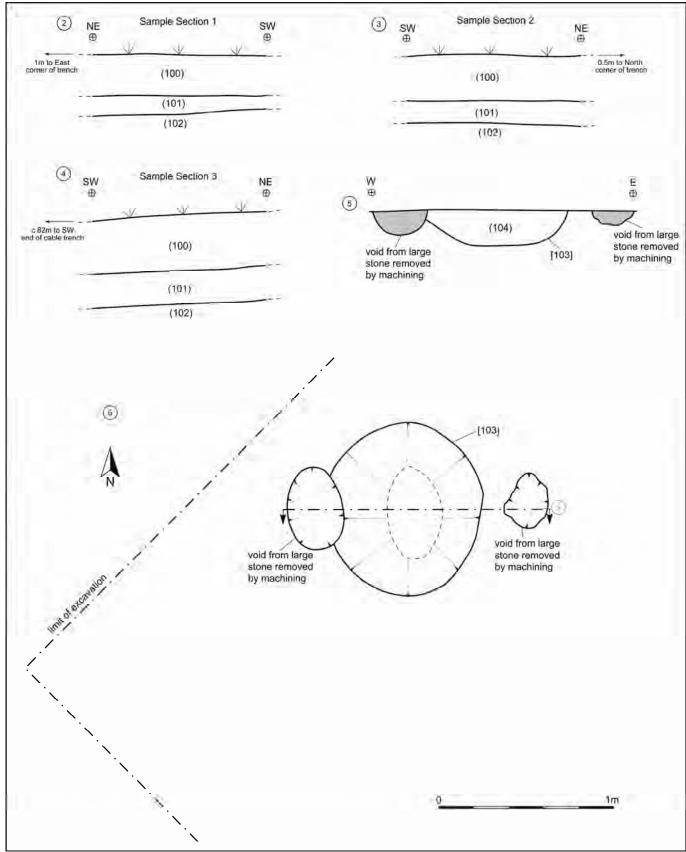
Recorder: Joe Bampton, South West Archaeology Ltd	Date sent to HER:

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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Figures: Site location map.



Figures 2-6: Site drawings: sample sections and feature [103] section and plan.

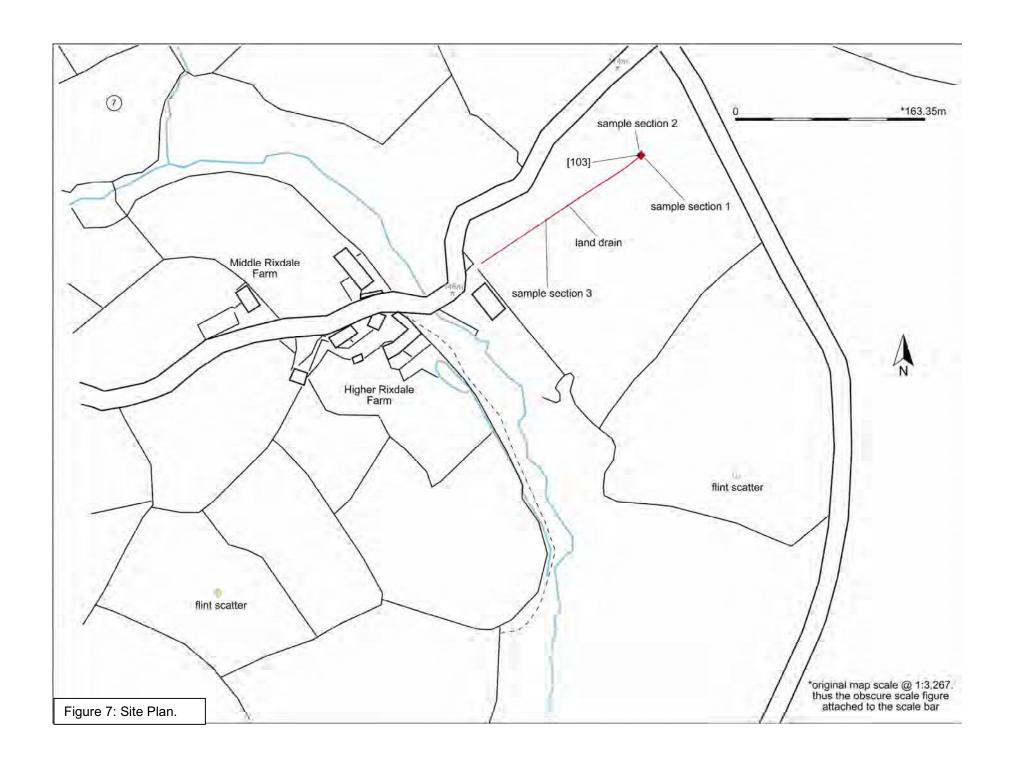




Photo1: [103] post-excavation, looking North (scale 1m).



Photo 2: Turbine location post-excavation, looking North (scale 1m+2m).



Photo 3: Cable Trench NE end, Post-Excavation, looking SW (scale 2m).



Photo 4: N Cable Trench SW end, Post-Excavation, looking NE (scale 2m).



Photo 5: Sample section 1 (SS1), looking SE (scale 1m).



Photo 6: Sample section 3 (SS3), looking NW (scales 1m).