

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Salcombe Regis, East Devon	National Grid Reference SY14003 88078	Number:
Subject: Erection of cattle building on land near Southdown on Salcombe Hill, Salcombe Regis, Sidmouth, EX10 0JN		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 12/1637/FUL	Recipient museum: The National Trust, Killerton	
OASIS ID: southwes1-135417	Museum Accession no: KAW/SCF/12/01	
Contractor's reference number/code: SPL12	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 1 st March 2013	
<p>Description of Works:</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Ian Rice of C & R Construction (SW) Ltd (the Agent) on behalf of Mr. Westlake (the Client) prior to the construction of a cattle building adjacent to a range of existing Agricultural Buildings near Southdown on Salcombe Hill, Salcombe Regis, East Devon (Figure 1). The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) drawn up in accordance to a brief supplied by Stephen Reed of Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET). This work was undertaken by Dr. Samuel Walls.</p> <p>The development lay c.40m to the south of a possible Bronze Age Barrow and in an area of extensive prehistoric activity - given the number of flint tool findspots (e.g. MDV14755 and MDV11059). The groundworks for the proposed development were therefore likely to expose and destroy deposits as well as artefactual material associated with this known prehistoric activity.</p> <p>The proposed development took place within a sub-rectangular field, which on an 1802 estate map is shown as part of a larger enclosure which included the field to its east, known as Marthill, and part of the holdings of Miltown (Figure 2). By the time of the 1839 tithe map the field remained the same, but was known as <i>Marble Hill</i> and was described as pasture in the accompanying tithe apportionment. The field's name presumably emphasises the common chert and flint pebbles which were noted within the topsoil during the excavation. The Historic Landscape Characterisation suggests the field is a medieval enclosure, although it appears more likely that it is actually a post-medieval enclosure of former medieval common.</p> <p>The topsoil strip was undertaken by a 9 tonne machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket. The majority of the western part of the site had been heavily disturbed by turning machinery and, during stripping, it became clear that almost the entire development area had been covered by a 0.05-0.15m thick layer of hardcore, formed from broken fragments of tarmac and concrete. This rubble had been intermixed with some topsoil, and had been largely covered in grass. This deposit of rubble had led to considerable compaction of the soil below, and the formation levels for most of the site were set within this rubble deposit (see Figure 3). Below the rubble was a buried topsoil deposit of very compact dark greyish-brown slightly clay-silt with common chert and flint pebbles. The topsoil was only exposed over the eastern part of the site and the formation level was set 0.1m into this deposit. No archaeological features or deposits were therefore encountered.</p> <p>The finds recovered from the topsoil were 13x dark grey flint flakes (173g), at least six of which appear worked, 3x creamy yellow chert flakes (94g), 3x fragments of modern ceramic drain (78g), 1x brick fragment (21g). The drain and brick fragments 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: Samuel Walls, South West Archaeology Ltd		Date sent to HER: 15.03.2013

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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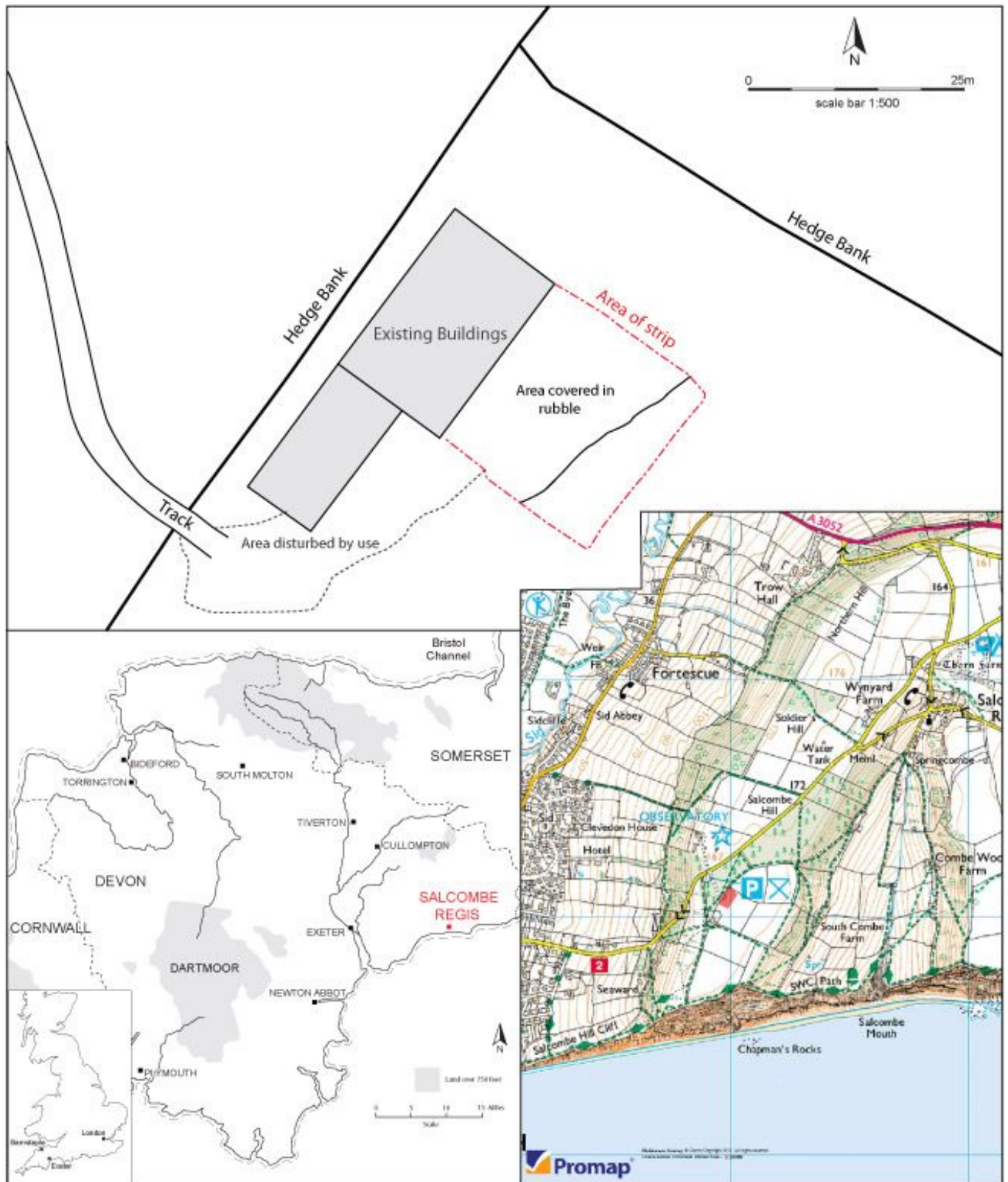


Figure 1: Site plan and location maps.



Figure 2: Extract from the 1802 Map of the Manor of Salcombe Regis (DRO 337 add3/3/22). The field in which the development is situated is highlighted.



Figure 2: Shot of the site towards the end of the strip, viewed from the south-west (2m scale).