

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Newton St Cyres, Mid Devon	National Grid Reference SS 660 016	Number:
Subject: Erection of a free range poultry shed		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 12/01311/FULL	Recipient museum: RAMM	
OASIS ID: southwes1-139849	Museum Accession no: RAMM: 13/01 in lieu of an accession number	
Contractor's reference number/code: NCS12	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 5 th of February, 2013	
<p>Description of Works: South West Archaeology Ltd monitored the excavation of topsoil to reveal weathered natural across the proposed development site on land at Smallbrook Farm, Newton St Cyres, Devon (Figures 1; Photo 6). The excavation was conducted with a toothless grading bucket. The area excavated encompassed the footprint of the proposed poultry shed; circa 11.5m by 65m.</p> <p>Site Stratigraphy: (Figure 2.4) c.0.39-0.50m of active plough-/topsoil (100), dark grey-brown, friable clay-silt with occasional small sub-angular stones and containing 3 sherds of white-refined-earthen ware and a single cortical piece of flint (not struck). Occurring below a depth of c.0.39-0.50m, the natural (101) was a mid red clay-gravel, loose in areas and compact rock in others across most of the site; but a light yellow-red, soft sandy clay with occasional gravel at the north end of the site.</p> <p>Site Results: The excavation revealed three linear features within the northern third of the site. All ran parallel to one another aligned east-west (Figure 1; Photo 5). All had been truncated by ploughing, were undated and produced no finds.</p> <p>Gully [102] had a moderate slope and slightly concave profile (0.52m wide, 0.18m deep). It contained a single fill; (103), a mid red-brown friable clay silt with occasional gravel inclusions (Figures 2.1, 2.5; Photos 1, 2).</p> <p>Gully [104] had a slightly irregular profile and a kink along its length. It had a moderate, becoming vertical, northern slope and a very gentle, becoming vertical, southern slope, and a flat base of varying width (0.82m wide, 0.43m deep). It contained a single fill (105), a mid brown-red loose gravelly silt (Figures 2.2, 2.6; Photo 3).</p> <p>Gully [106] had a moderate slope and flat base (0.45m wide, 0.14m deep). It contained a single fill (107), a mid red-brown friable clay silt with moderate gravel inclusions (Figures 2.3, 2.7; Photo 4).</p> <p>These linear features may represent the remnants of a Medieval strip field system, running roughly parallel to the existing track-way on the northern boundary of the site. If so this would have been enclosed prior to the production of the 1840's Tithe map. Alternatively the central gully, with its form more irregular than the two that flank it, may represent an old hedge line, formerly flanked by gullies approximately six meters to either side. Again, this would have been enclosed prior to the 1840's.</p> <p>No significant archaeological features were revealed and all finds were 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: 06.02.2013

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.

Any plans or photographs embedded within or attached to this form remain the copyright © of the recorder, and must not be reproduced in any publication without the explicit consent of the copyright holder.

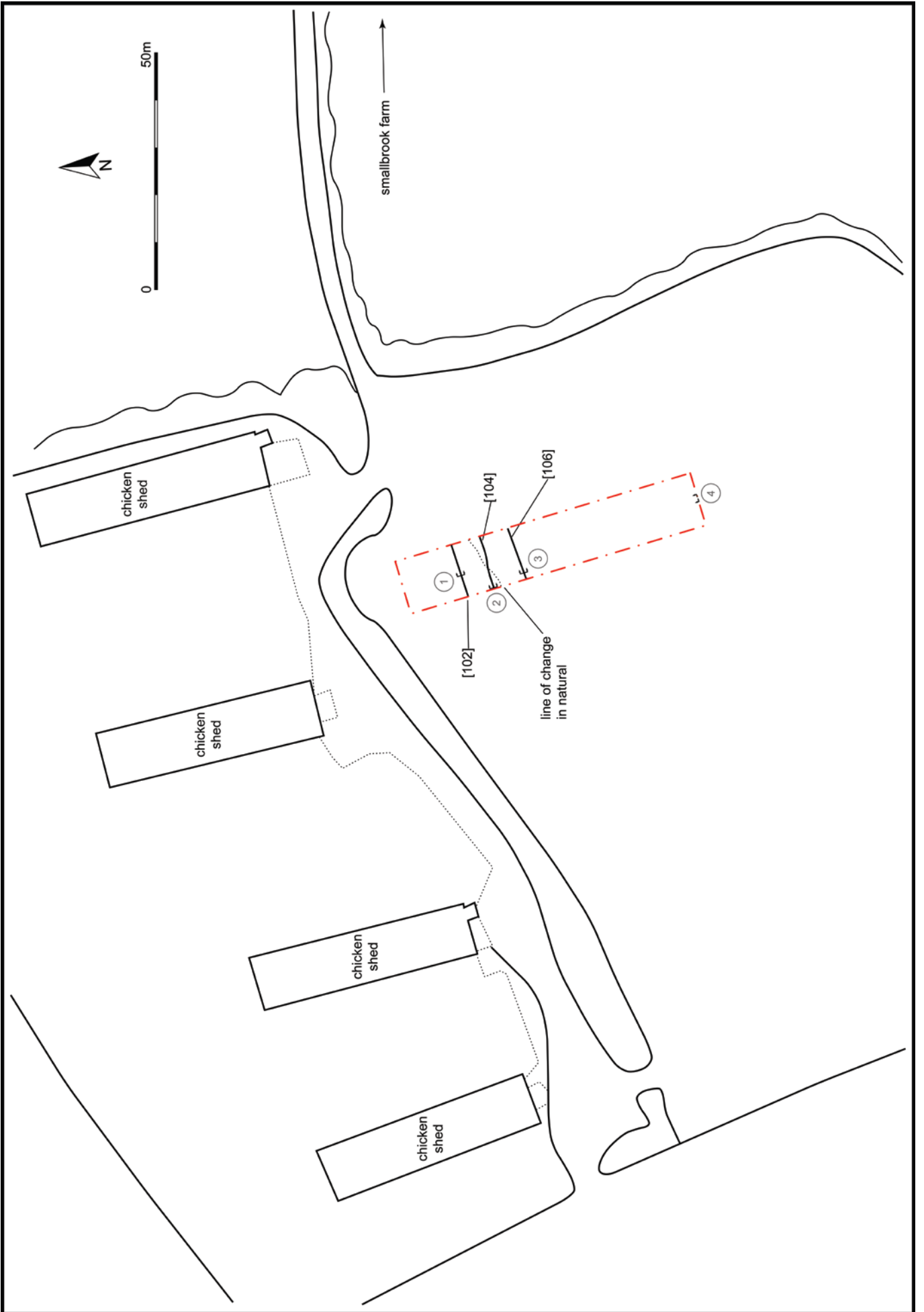


Figure 1: Site plan including the location of drawn sections.

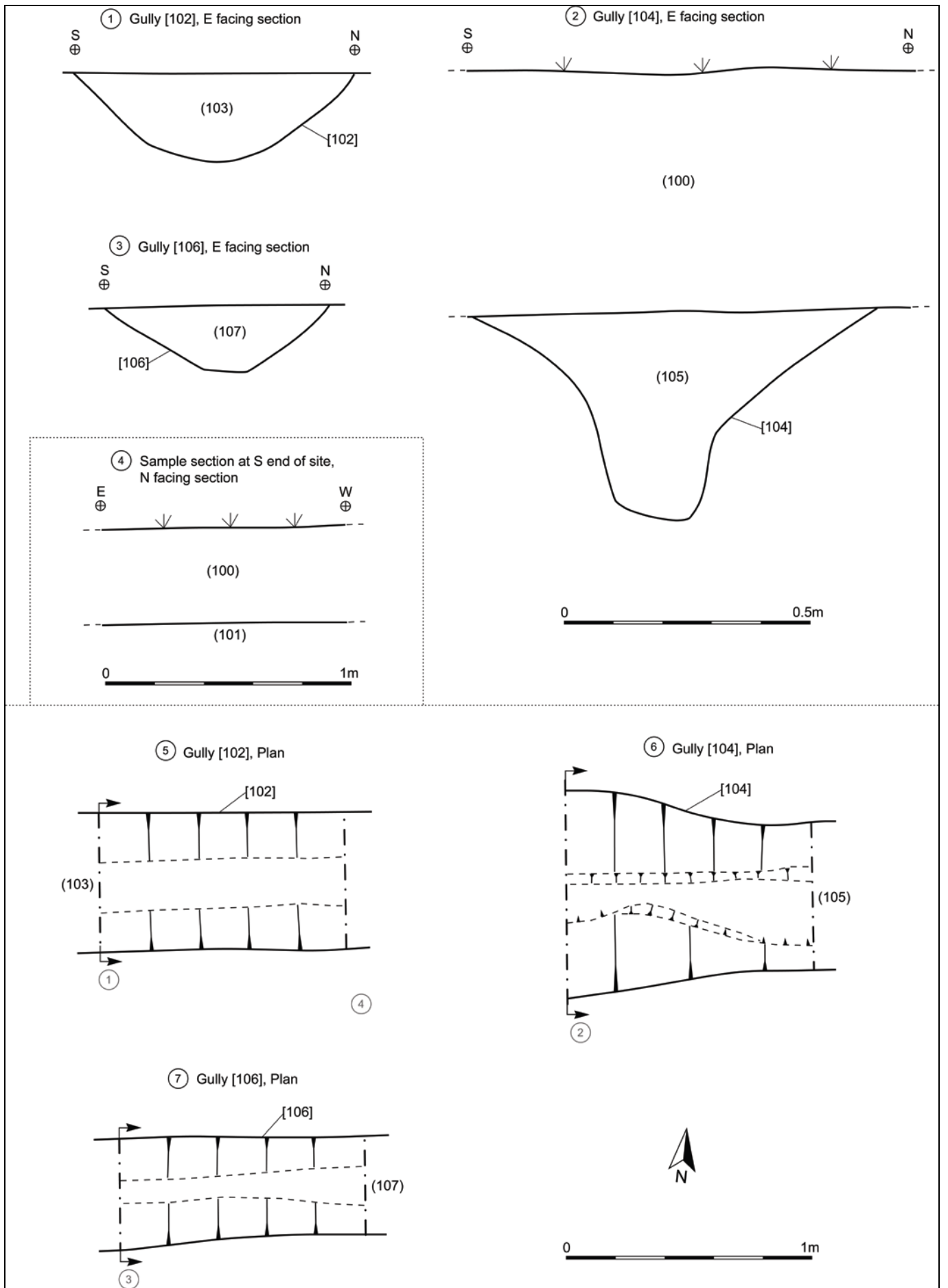


Figure 2: Sections and plans of excavated segments.



Photo1: Gully [102] - section, looking west (scale 1m).

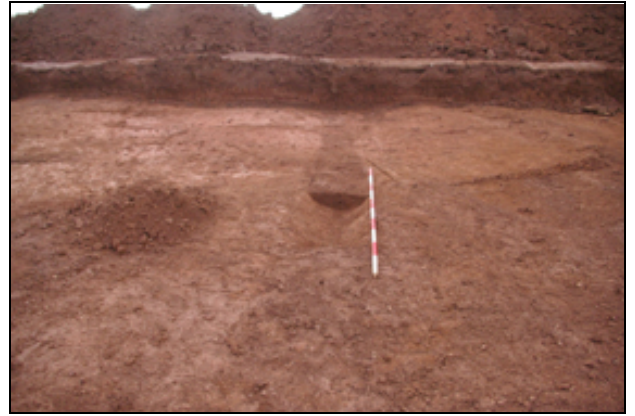


Photo 2: Gully [102], looking west (scale 1m).



Photo 3: Gully [104] - section, looking west (scale 1m).



Photo 4: Gully [106] - section, looking west (scale 1m).



Photo 5: Area of gullies at the north end of the site, looking north-west (scales 1 & 2m).



Photo 6: The site, post excavation, looking north-east.