

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Monkleigh, Torridge	National Grid Reference SS 4566 2079	Number:
Subject: Archaeological evaluation on land at Monkleigh Barton Meadow, Monkleigh, Devon in advance of a proposed residential development		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: pre-planning	Recipient museum: Museum of Barnstaple & North Devon	
OASIS ID: southwes1-152826	Museum Accession no: NDDMS2013.28	
Contractor's reference number/code: MBM13	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 17 th June 2013	

Description of works.

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Alan Gordon-Lee (The Client), prior to a residential development on land at Barton Meadow, Monkleigh, Devon (Figure 1). This work was undertaken by Dr. S. Walls and J. Bampton on 17th June 2013 in accordance with a Project Design (PD) drawn up in consultation with Ann-Marie Dick of the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET). No significant archaeological features or remains were encountered.

The proposed development lies in a field to the north of Monkleigh Barton Farm, which has existed on the site from the medieval period, with many of the buildings on the current site extant by the time of the 1809 Ordnance Survey Surveyors Draft. Monkleigh itself has been a settlement from the Saxon period. The evaluation trenches targeted areas chosen using a geophysical survey conducted as part of an assessment of Barton Farm in 2006 by Exeter Archaeology (Report No. 06.81). This geophysical survey identified a number of weak anomalies and encountered strong readings and disturbance from modern services and surface structures (see Figure 1).

Four evaluation trenches, each 1.6m wide and with a combined length of 128.5m (see Figure 1 and 4) were excavated by a JCB using a toothless grading bucket under strict archaeological supervision. The trenches were positioned in relation to the previously identified geophysical anomalies and to sample non-responsive areas in accordance with the PD. The topsoil around trench 1 consisted of turf and a dark grey-brown, friable clay-silt with occasional stones (0.30m in depth). In the field containing the other three trenches the topsoil was comprised of a mid-dark grey-brown friable clay-silt with occasional sub-rounded stones (0.45m in depth). The topsoil overlaid the natural subsoil in both fields; which consisted of a light orange and whitish-blue, firm-compact clay-shillet with occasional angular stones, very occasionally with patches of stone. A degree of banding in the geology, trending ESE-WNW, was noted which may have accounted for some of the weak geophysical anomalies on this alignment.

Trench 1 revealed no archaeological features or significant remains. Both a modern plastic and iron water pipe were encountered in the evaluation in trenches 3 and 4; and between them account for both a strong and weak geophysical anomaly. Trench 4 also revealed a modern pit (located in plan), evident beneath the turf and Natural Feature [401]. Feature [401] was a gentle sloping feature with irregular base (1.20+m wide and 0.15m deep) located at the far west end of Trench 4. It contained a single fill, (402), a mid brown-orange soft slightly silty clay, nearly identical to the natural orange-clay. Trench 2 contained the only genuine archaeological feature, Ditch [201] (see Figures 2 & 3). It had a moderate curved slope with flat base and contained Fill (202), a mid grey-brown, soft clay-silt with common sub-angular stones and rare sub-rounded pebbles (0.1m across). It produced 13th-18th century pottery. Ditch [201] represents the remnant of an earlier field boundary, made redundant in the late 18th-19th century, contiguous with the existing field boundary. The geophysical anomalies in Trench 2 and running north from it seem to represent areas in the natural geology (stonier patches), which retain a greater amount of more silt from disturbance and subsidence than the surrounding natural.

All finds were recovered from the topsoil layers and a representative sample retained. The topsoil finds included: ×5 fragments of ceramic land drain (129g); ×1 shard of 19th century glass vessel (12g); ×1 sherd of flowerpot (2g); ×2 19th century clay pipe stems (4g); ×1 slate fragment (11g); ×1 fe object (squared spike) (147g); ×1 19th century porcelain teacup handle (4g); ×20 sherds of 17th century post-Medieval North Devon gravel tempered ware, 4 Type 3b heavy bowl rims, 1 Type 3h (341g); ×4 18th-19th century North Devon gravel tempered ware (61g); ×2 abraded sherds of North Devon Medieval coarseware (9g); ×2 abraded sherds of 14th-15th century North Devon calcareous ware (18g).

All the finds from Ditch [202] were recovered and a representative sample retained. They included: ×2 fragments animal bone (14g); ×3 sherds of post-1770 White refined Earthen Ware (WRE) (7g); ×3 (1 vessel) sherds of Jackfield-type ware with applied slip decoration (5g); ×2 abraded sherds of 13th-14th century North Devon Medieval

coarseware (7g); ×1 sherd of 15th century North Devon Medieval coarseware with glaze (6g); ×6 sherds of 17th century North Devon post-Medieval gravel tempered ware (279g), 232g of which was a single rim of a Type 3k heavy bowl with unusual decoration.

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: J. Bampton

Date sent to HER: 28th June 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: Location of Monkleigh & location of trenches and features overlaying results of geophysical survey.

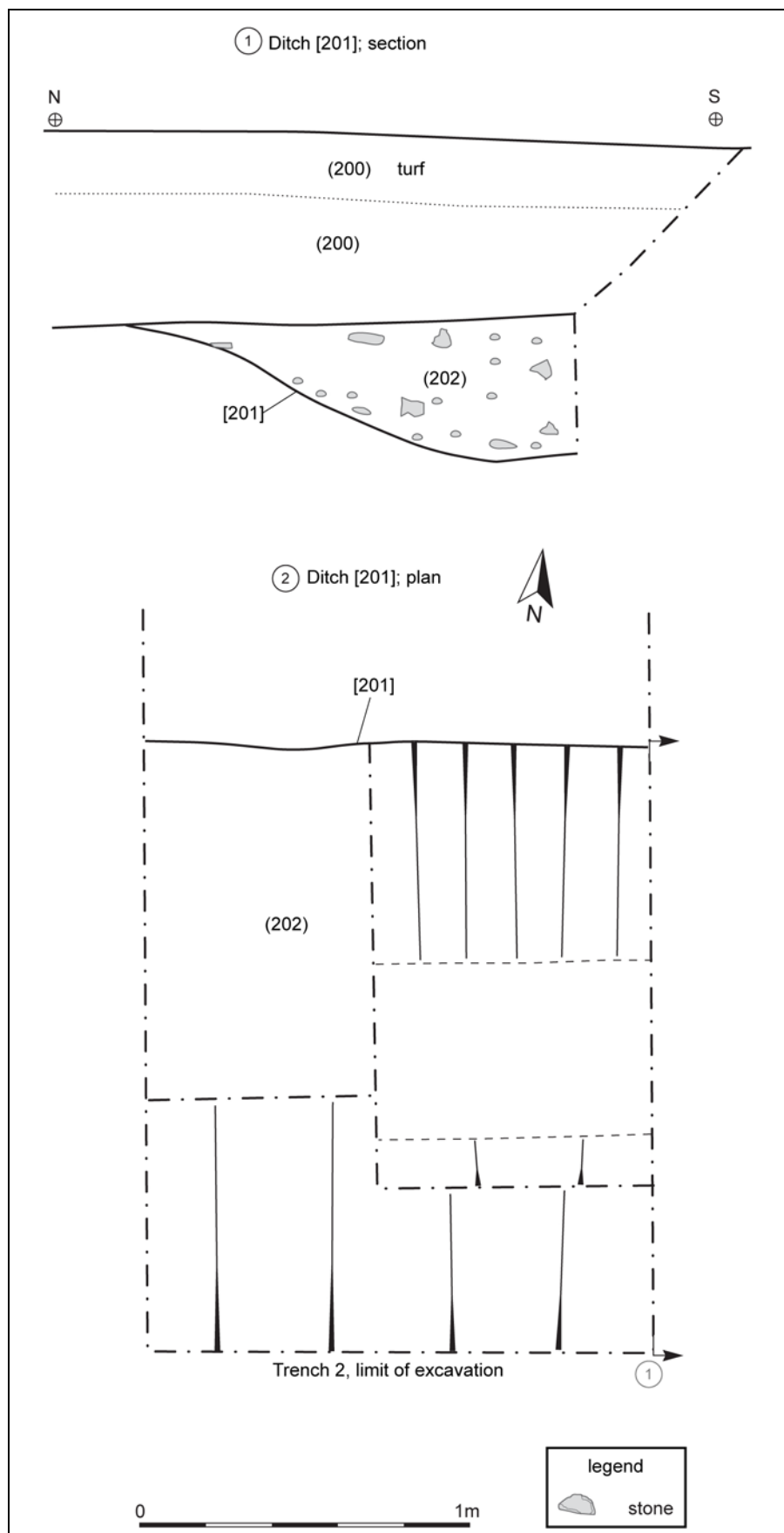


Figure 2: Ditch [201], drawn in section and in plan.



Figure 3: Ditch [201], viewed from the west (2m scale).



Figure 4: Trench 1, viewed from the south (no scale) & Trench 2, viewed from the north (2m scale).