

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Bratton Fleming, North Devon	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SS 6651235761	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Retrospective Application for erection of one lodge & proposed erection of two lodges & associated works at Mockham Down		<b>Photo attached?</b> YES
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 56556	<b>Recipient museum:</b> N/A	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> Southwes1-184471	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> BFMD14	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> September 2014	
<p><b>Description of Works:</b></p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Mr C. Burrige (the Client) prior to the erection of two lodges at Mockham Down Farm, Brayford, Devon (Figure 1 and Figure 2). The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) drawn up in accordance with a brief supplied by Stephen Reed of Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET). This work was undertaken by Dr. Samuel Walls.</p> <p>The additional lodges and associated works lay c.60m north-north-east of Mockham Down Camp, a Scheduled (DV 459) univallate enclosure of probable Iron Age date with surviving banks and ditches enclosing an area of c.1.6ha. To the north of the enclosure a series of holloways are visible leading up to the site (MDV56295), and these extend into the woodland around the proposal site. In addition, in the approximate location of the modern barn (to the east of the proposal site), a shaft is shown on the c.1905 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS map (Figure 3), reputedly a trial working searching for silver-lead (Claughton 1989, 12).</p> <p>The proposed development took place within the woodlands to the north of Mockham Down Camp, and on the c.1905 2<sup>nd</sup> edition map is depicted as 'rough ground'; up to c.1900 it is shown or listed as a plantation. The proposal site was part of a larger field which included the 'camp' (Figure 3) and the site of Mockham Down Farm, although the farm did not exist at this time. Mockham Down Farm is located on land that historically belonged to Mockham Barton, and presumably formed part of the extensive grazing area that once belonged to the Domesday estate of <i>Mogescoma</i>, meaning <i>Mocca's Valley</i> (EPNS 1931, 61). In c.1840 the land formed part of the Fortescue estate and was leased to an Alexander Skinner. On the Devon Historic Landscape Characterisation it is listed as land enclosed in the Post-Medieval period.</p> <p>Prior to archaeological monitoring commencing the groundworks for the service trenches, majority of the access tracks, and the western most of the two proposed lodges, had been undertaken (see Figure 2). Archaeological monitoring therefore consisted of the remaining lodge site and its access tracks. In addition an evaluation trench was excavated along the northern edge of the eastern lodge.</p> <p>The monitored groundworks were undertaken by a wheeled JCB fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless grading bucket. The monitored works revealed that the topsoil across the site was comprised of a dark yellow-grey silt loam with common sub-angular shillet fragments and rare sub-angular quartz pebbles. The topsoil was between 0.05-0.15m thick and directly overlay the natural subsoil, a light yellow-grey silt-clay. There was considerable bio-turbation primarily from roots across all of the excavated areas. The only features which were identified other than tree-roots were the recent service trenches. The un-metalled track, which ran between the two lodges, and had been stripped and metalled as part of the un-monitored works was partially re-stripped at the point at which the middle lodge's access track abutted. This revealed a clear wheel-rut, which upon excavation contained plastic bag fragments at its base, suggesting this portion of the track was not of great antiquity and that there was little point in cleaning the trackway further.</p> <p>No archaeological features or deposits were therefore encountered. The finds recovered from the topsoil comprised 4x sherds of white refined earthenware, 1x small marmite jar; 1x brown beer/cider bottle, embossed with <i>Starkey Knight and Ford Ltd. Tiverton</i> (c.1895-1962). All finds were subsequently discarded.</p> <p><b>Bibliography</b> Claughton, P.F. 1989: 'Mining in the Parishes of East Buckland and Charles, North Devon', <i>British Mining Memoirs</i> 39, 4-13. EPNS 1931: The Place-Names of Devon (2 vols.).</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> Samuel Walls, South West Archaeology Ltd.		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 17.09.2014

Please email completed form to: [archaeol@devon.gov.uk](mailto: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.

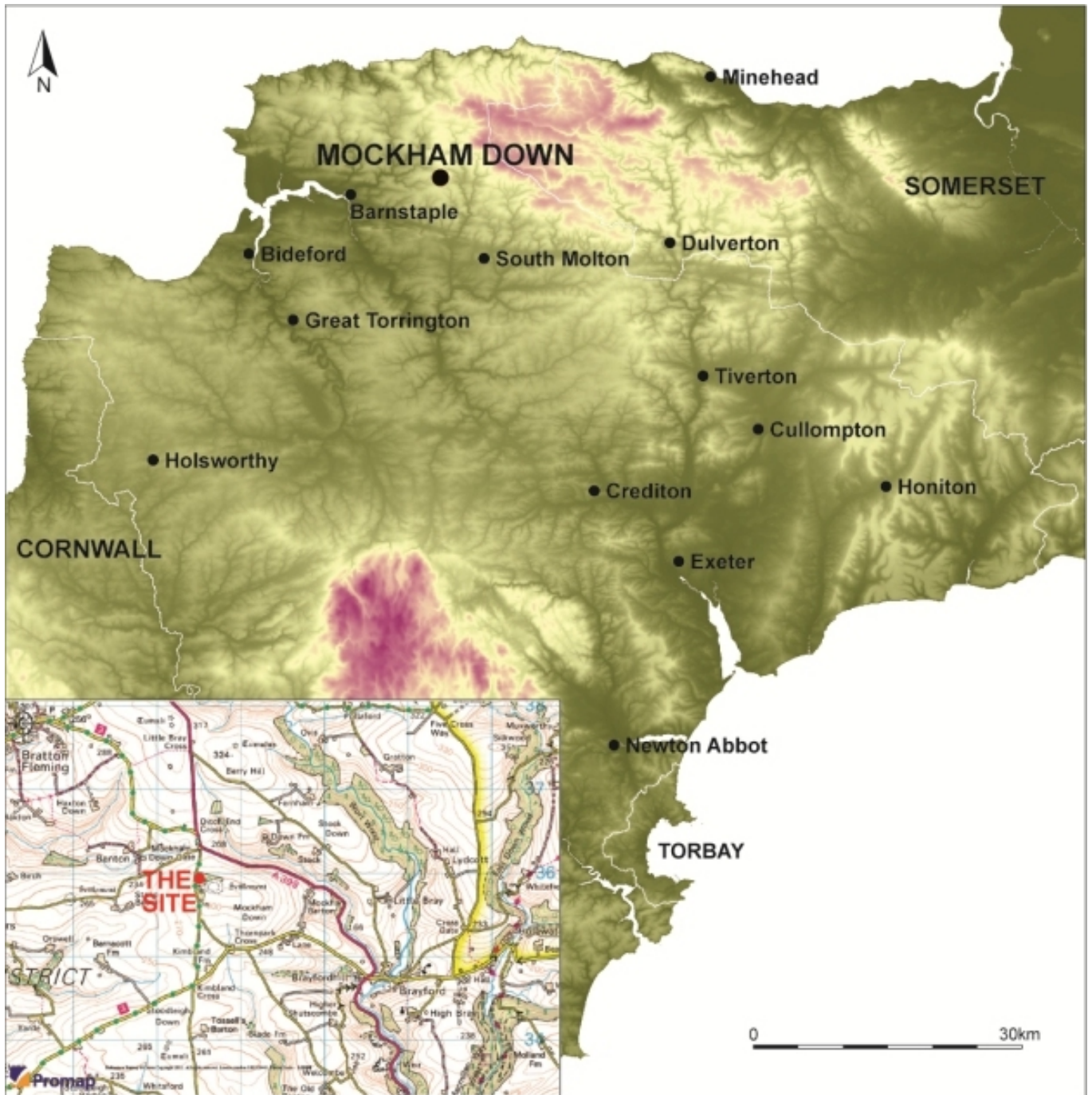


Figure 1: Location map.

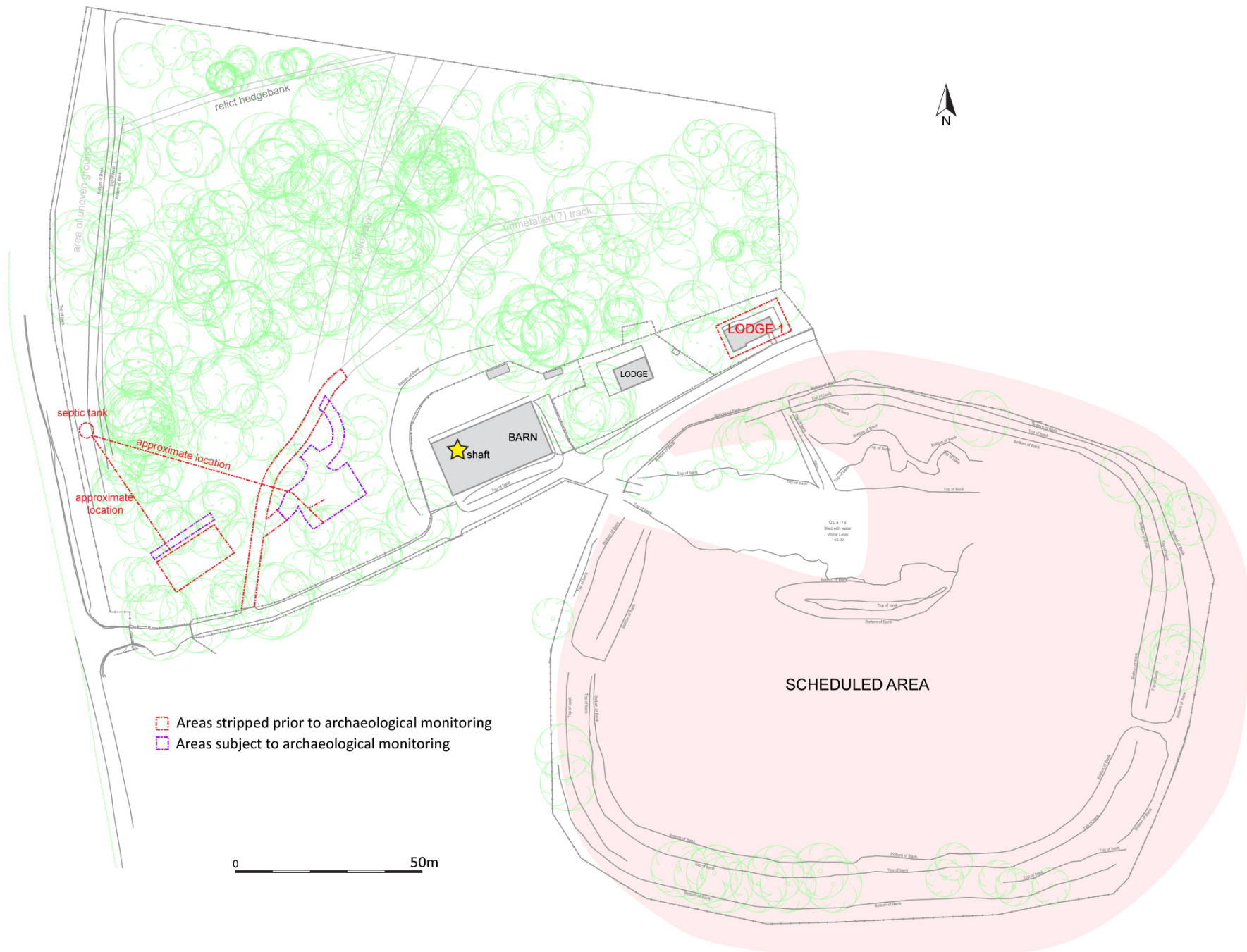


Figure 2: Site plan, showing the areas of monitored groundworks, and those already undertaken prior to archaeological monitoring.



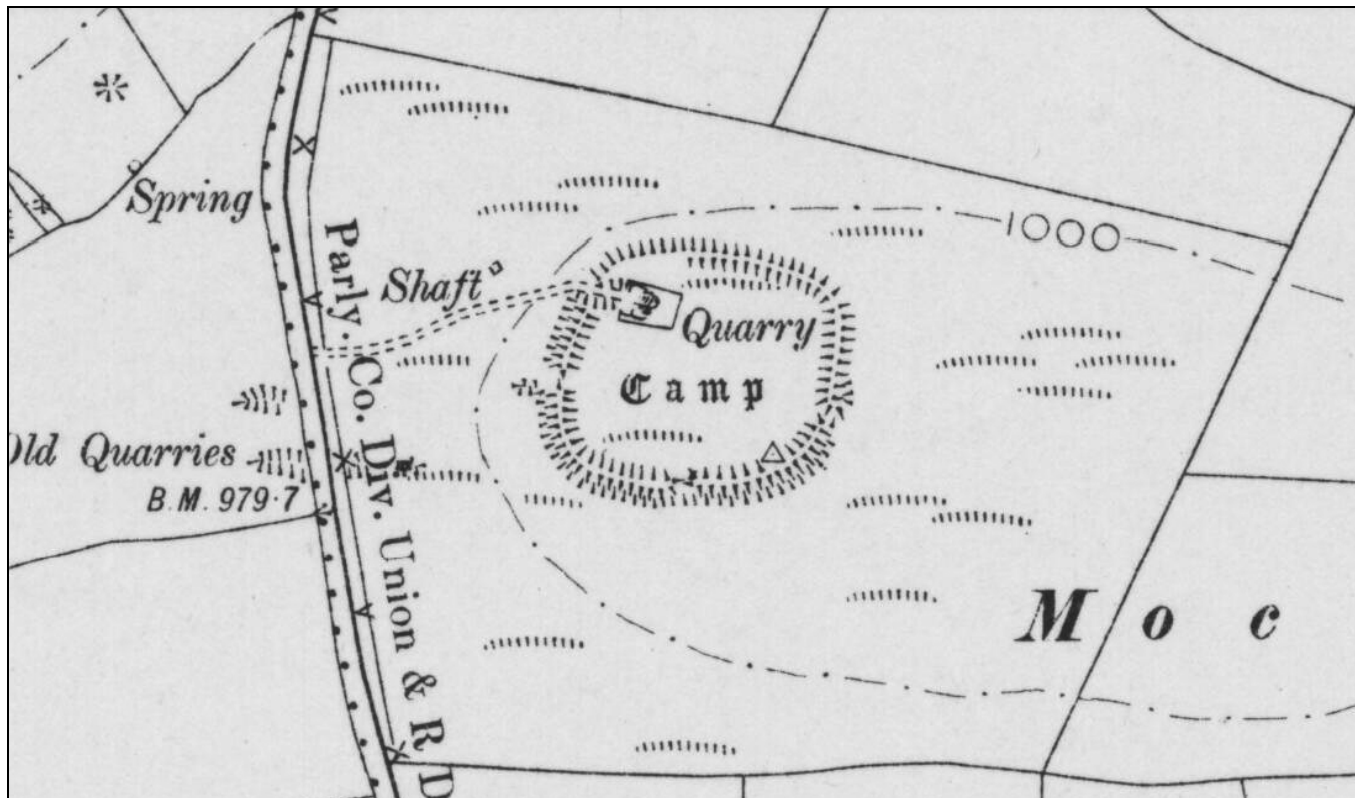


Figure 3: OS 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition map c.1905 (DHC).



Figure 4: Shot of the area stripped for the middle lodge, viewed from the north-east (2m scale).





Figure 5: Evaluation trench alongside the eastern lodge, viewed from the north-east (2m scale).