

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Stoke Fleming, South Hams	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SX 8463 5139	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring during the provision of an agricultural track at Woodbury Farm, Stoke Fleming		<b>Photo attached?</b> YES
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 51/0587/14/F	<b>Recipient museum:</b> RAMM	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> Southwes1-187806	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> SWF14	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 8-9 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	
<p><b>Description of works.</b></p> <p>Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Claire Hoyte of Luscombe May (the Agent), on behalf of Mr and Mrs J Pritchard (the Client) during works for the provision of a farm track on land at Woodbury Farm, Stoke Fleming (Figure 1). This work was undertaken by E. Wapshott in accordance with a WSI drawn up in consultation with Graham Tait of the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>The site lies within close vicinity (less than three hundred metres) of Woodbury Camp, a Scheduled Iron Age hillfort (UID: 33769). The proposed works may disturb remains associated with the hillfort or environmental evidence relating to the historic landscape. The farm track may have an impact on the landscape setting of the monument at Woodbury Camp.</p> <p>The track crosses two large open pasture fields, bounded by mature hedgebanks, which are located on the opposing north and south-facing slopes of a curving valley. The two fields appear the same in plan today as on the 1843 tithe map of Stoke Fleming; in the accompanying apportionment the northern field is named as Bramble Park, and the southern field Well Park. As can be seen on the plans submitted with the planning application (Figure 2), the track runs down the eastern side of the first field into the base of the valley, where it curves and then runs south, uphill through the existing gateway and across the adjacent field.</p> <p>The depth of the topsoil makeup differs between the fields. At the northern end of the track, the topsoil is a rich grey-brown friable clay loam. This overlies the natural, yellowish-red clay, with bands of pale yellow-grey rotted shale visible on the steep mid-slopes. In the base of the valley the topsoil depth increases with a richer darker red-brown clay loam. Some additional stone packing has been previously laid within the field in the base of the valley to counteract the wet ground near the spring which rises just east of the track. On the north-facing slope the depth of soil becomes shallower, with the natural bedrock, pale blue-grey rotted shale/shillet rising to the surface at the far southern end of the track.</p> <p>The track was excavated using a tracked machine, with a 2m wide grading bucket, over two days, the 8th and 9th of December 2014. The track was excavated to a width of 3.3 to 4m, to a depth of between 0.2-0.3m. Turning places/loading bays were made at each end of the track, both measuring approximately 6m by 10m.</p> <p>At the northern end of the track were several known service trenches, which were visible during monitoring, all of which ran roughly parallel to the A3122 to the north. Passing through the existing gateway between the two fields some remaining blocks of stone, from the removed hedgebank were visible. No features of archaeological interest or potential were viewed along the entire length of the track.</p> <p>Three sherds of plain white refined earthenware were recovered, two cream-glazed stoneware sherds, two pieces of hand-painted blue and white china and several pieces of modern dark green glass, all of which were of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century date and were recovered from the topsoil as it was removed or from the spoil heaps. All finds were subsequently discarded. The proximity to the farmyard, the spreading of manure, from the muckheap/rubbish tip and also some movement of stone within the farm, to pack the wet ground in the valley, makes this small assemblage fairly typical waste from a farmstead.</p>		
<b>A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.</b>		
<b>Recorder:</b> E. Wapshott		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 05.01.2014

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.

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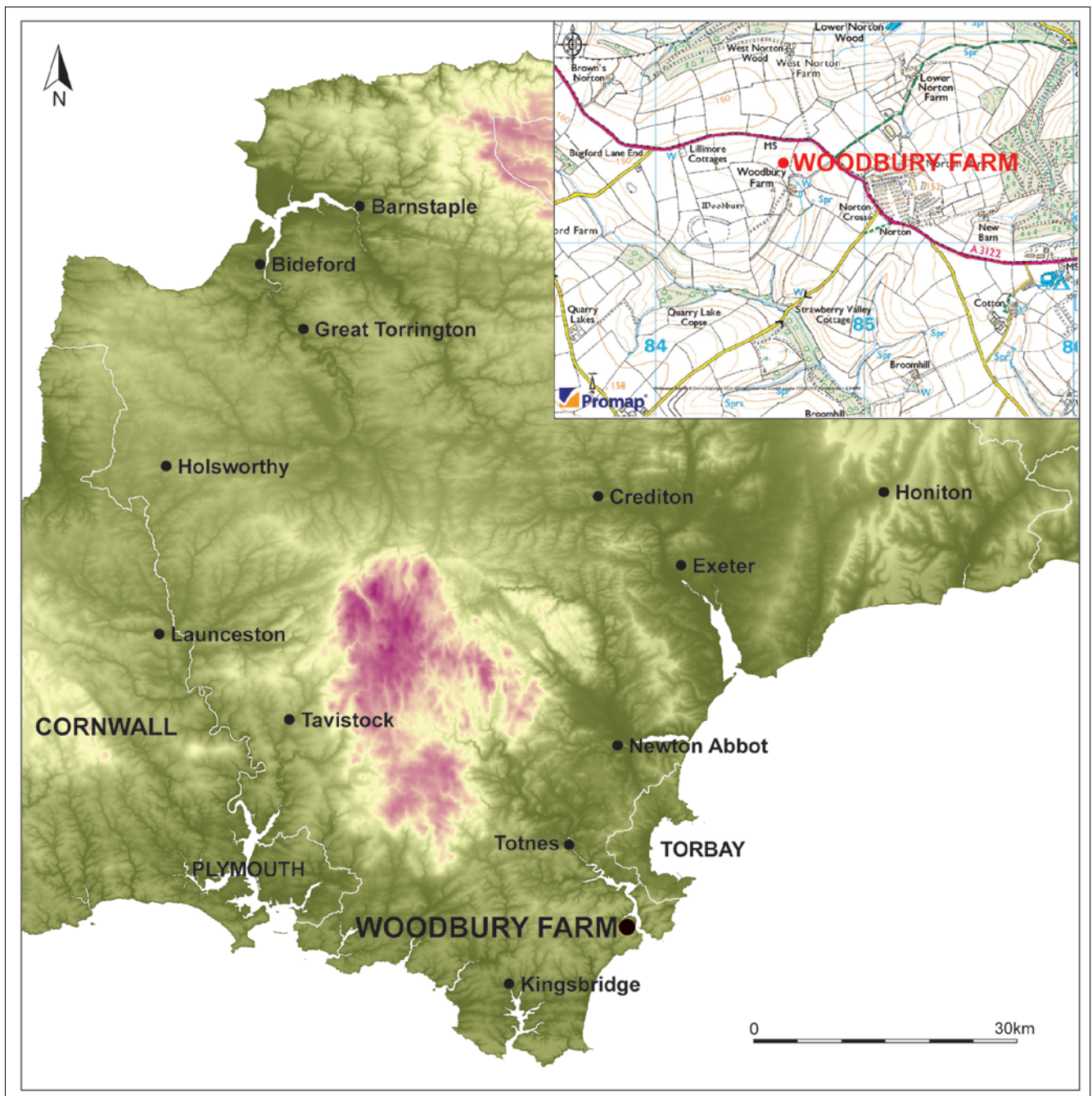


Figure 1: Site location map; site location in red.

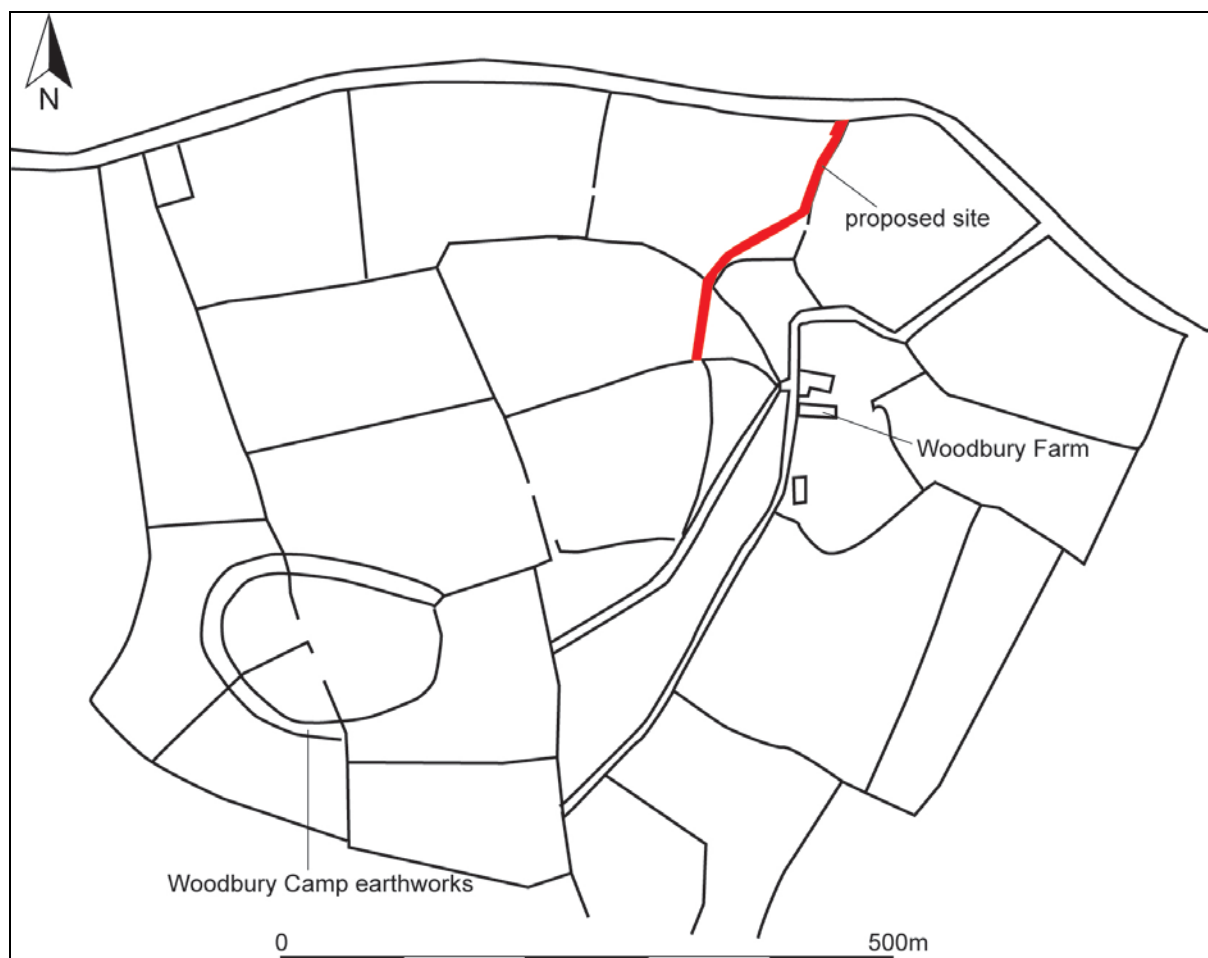


Figure 2: Site location; the trackway is marked in red.



Figure 3: Post excavation view of site; viewed from the south (no scale).