

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: East Anstey, North Devon	National Grid Reference SS 84416 25278	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording during the creation of a manège at Highaton, West Anstey, East Anstey, Devon		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 57619	Recipient museum: Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon (MBND)	
OASIS ID: southwes1-190350	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: EAH14	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 15 th August 2016	
<p>Description of works. Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of David Sinclair (the Client) during groundworks associated with the creation of a manège at Highaton, West Anstey, East Anstey, Devon. The monitoring was carried out by P. Webb on 15th August 2016. This work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Boyd 2014) drawn up in consultation with Stephen Reed of the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>Highaton is located approximately 12.5km east of South Molton, to the north of the B3227, and south of the River Yeo, immediately to the west of Smallacombe Farm (Figure 1). The site lies on the slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey, fine loamy and fine silty soils of the Hallsworth 2 Association (SSEW 1983) overlying mudstone and siltstone of the Crackington Formation (BGS 2016).</p> <p>The site lies in an area of high archaeological potential in a landscape known to contain evidence of prehistoric activity. Several Scheduled Ancient Monuments are located in the immediate vicinity, a group of five barrows to the south-west (SAM 1017135 and SAM 1017136) and a single barrow (SAM 1017142) c.200m to the east of the development site. Historic mapping indicates that at the time of the Tithe survey in the 1840s the site belonged to Bussels Moor (now Jubilee Cottage), and is within a field recorded as <i>Quarry Close</i> on the Tithe apportionment, indicating proximity to a known quarry site. During the 20th century the south-west corner of the field was subdivided and Jubilee House/Highaton constructed. The development area remaining an open field.</p> <p>A rectangular area orientated north-east to south-west and measuring 40m × 25m was excavated under archaeological supervision by machine using a toothless grading bucket to a depth of up to 0.25m, this being the depth of formation. The stratigraphy of the site comprised topsoil (001); mid grey-brown soft-friable loam-silt up to 0.17m thick. This overlay subsoil (002); mid brown-grey soft-friable loam-silt up to 0.08m thick, which overlies the natural (003); brown-yellow clay with frequent angular stone.</p> <p>No features were identified during the groundworks. Two sherds (5g) of 19th century tin-glazed stoneware were recovered from the topsoil and subsequently discarded.</p> <p>Conclusions Despite the proximity to known prehistoric monuments, no features or notable artefacts were identified during the monitoring, perhaps reflecting the lack of alteration in the field system and long-term use of the field as pasture.</p> <p>Bibliography Boyd, N. 2014: Written Scheme of Investigation for Desk Base Appraisal and Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at Highaton, West Anstey, East Anstey, Devon. British Geological Survey 2016: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html [accessed 22.08.2016]. Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>.</p>		
Recorder: P. Webb	Date sent to HER: 22.08.15	



Figure 1: Site location and plan.

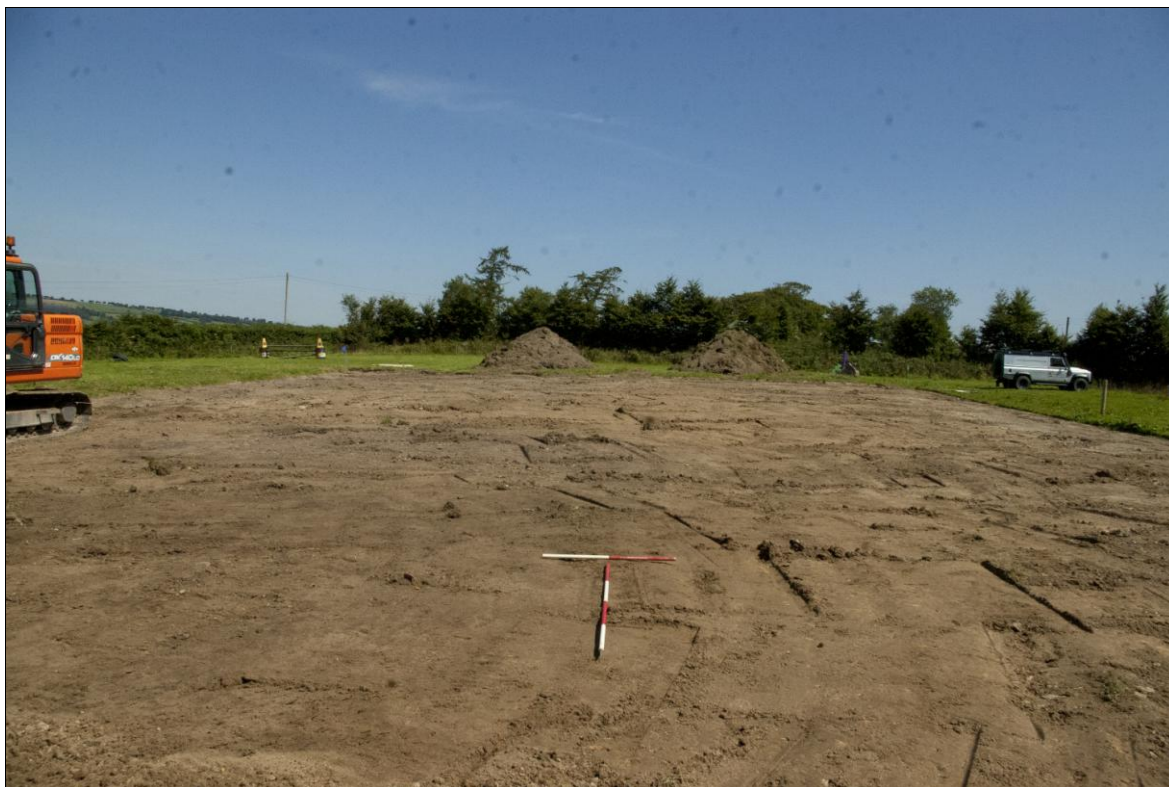


Figure 2: Area 01 post-excavation; viewed from the south-west (scales 1m and 2m).