

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Crediton Hamlets	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SS 7978 0122	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording at North Hollacombe Farm, Barnstaple Cross, Crediton Hamlets, Devon		<b>Photo attached?</b> YES
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 14/01002/ARM	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Royal Albert Memorial Museum	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> southwes1-205470	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> n/a	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> CNH14	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2015	
<p><b>Description of works.</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Simon Searle (the Client) during the erection of an agricultural worker's dwelling at North Hollacombe Farm, Barnstaple Cross, Crediton Hamlets, Devon (Figure 1). This work was undertaken by J. Bampton on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2015 in accordance with a WSI drawn up in consultation with, and in accordance with a Brief issued by Stephen Reed of the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>The site is situated immediately to the north of North Hollacombe Farm in a large rectangular field (c.135m AOD), which slopes moderately down southwards into a valley. It is 300m south of the A377 and approximately 2.25km west of Crediton (Figure 1). The soils on the site are the well-drained gritty reddish loamy soils of the Crediton Association overlying the sedimentary bedrock of the Crediton Breccia Formation.</p> <p>The modern North Hollacombe Farm is present on OS mapping from 1938, although a field barn is shown south of the extant farm on the 1839 tithe map and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps. Two possible Prehistoric funerary monuments have been identified through aerial photography c.300m to the west of the site (MDV63948). APs have also identified a Prehistoric univallate stirrup-shaped enclosure to the east (MDV54994), and a rectangular enclosure 50m across to the north (MDV29068). Priestcombe Farm (MDV16321) to the north and Hollacombe Farm (MDV16203) to the south-east are both medieval in origin.</p> <p>The topsoil was stripped by a 360° tracked excavator using a toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision. This material consisted of a topsoil (&lt;0.38m thick) comprised of turf (a soft mid reddish-brown clay-silt) and a ploughsoil (a friable mid reddish-brown clay-silt); both contained occasional small angular stones and grits. The natural was a firm mid pinkish-red brown silt-clay with frequent grit and common small-to-medium angular stones.</p> <p>No significant archaeological features or remains were encountered. A modern alkathene water pipe, a recent disused iron water pipe and a former modern fence were all encountered within 3m of, and running parallel to, the existing driveway to North Hollacombe Farm. A modern gully [102] was also identified; gully [102] was 0.15m wide, 0.08m deep and 16.5+m long, with moderately-steep even sides and a narrow pointed base. It contained a single fill (103), a friable mid reddish-brown/grey clay silt with common small angular stones. It contained no finds. Gully [102] probably relates to modern ploughing, perhaps mole-drainage perpendicular to the slope.</p> <p>All finds were recovered from the topsoil and subsequently discarded. These included: a single sherd (14g) of green bottle glass and 2 sherds (35g) of white refined earthenware, one of which had blue transfer print decoration.</p> <p>No significant archaeological features or deposits were present.</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> J. Bampton	<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 24.02.2015	

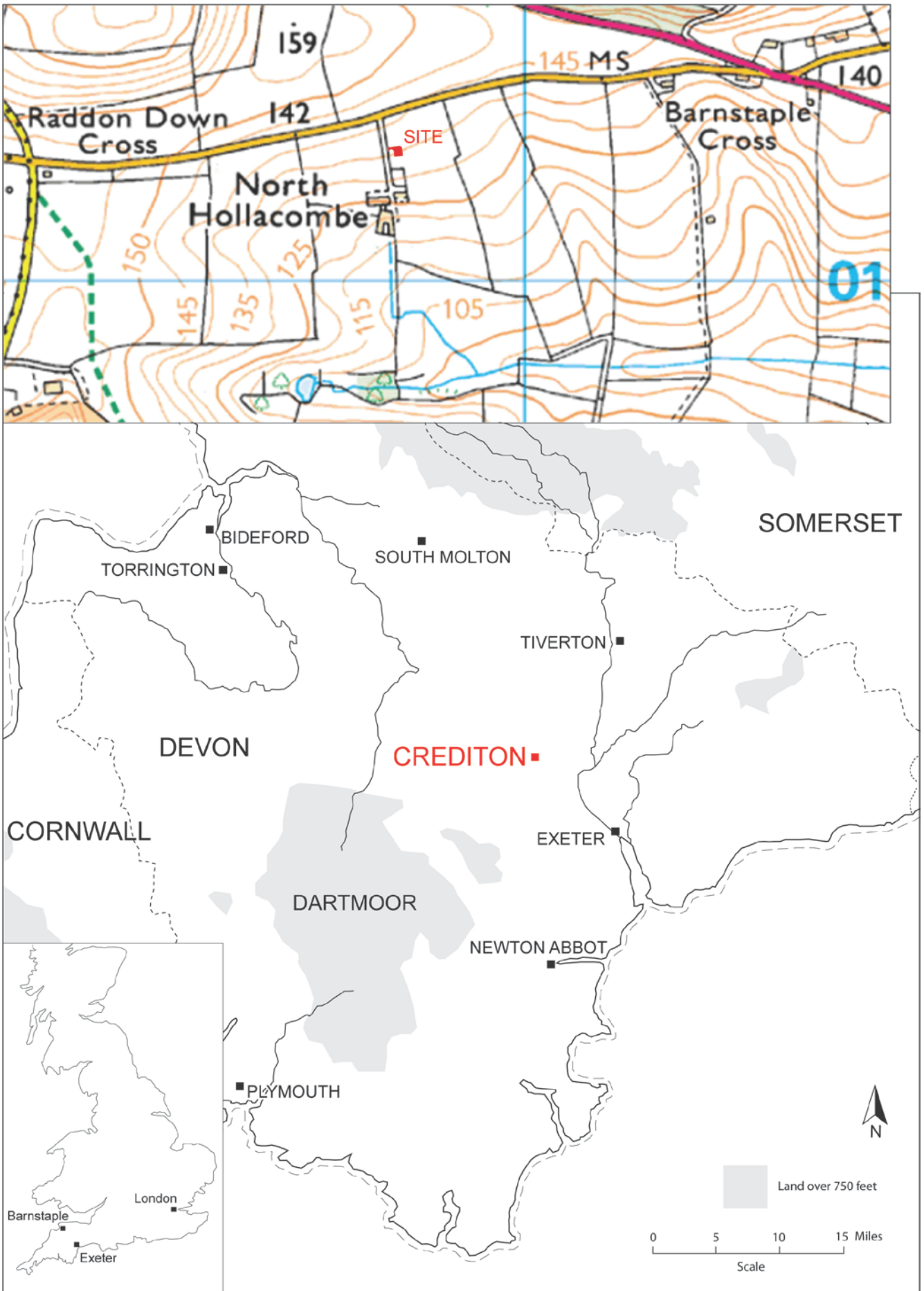


Figure 1: Site Location.

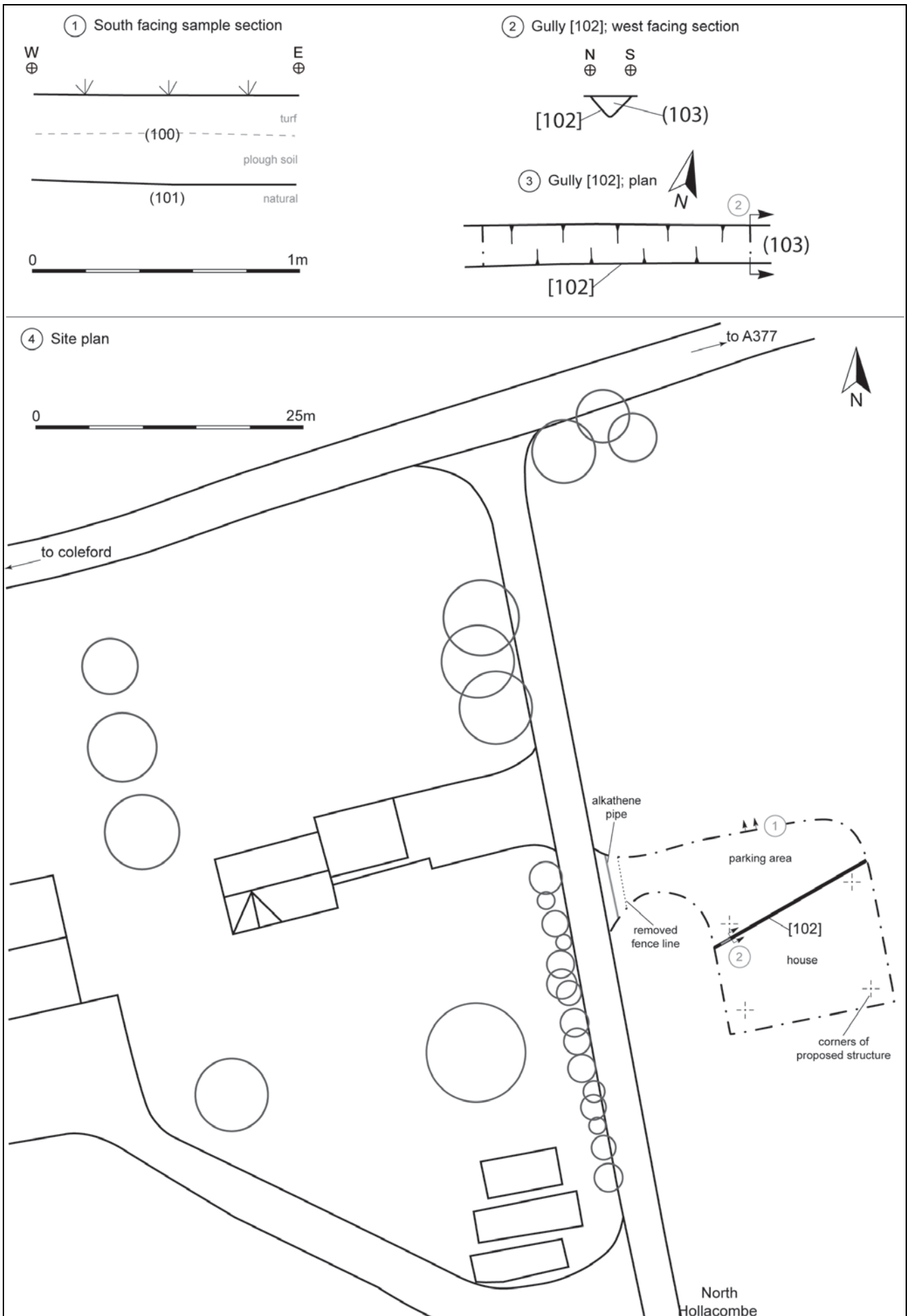


Figure 2: Site drawings; sample section, feature section and plan, and site plan.





Figure 3: Sample section, viewed from the south (1m scale).



Figure 4: Post-excavation site shot, viewed from the east (1m & 2m scale).





Figure 5: Gully [102], viewed from the west (2m scale).