

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

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| Civil Parish & District: Dunkeswell, East Devon | National Grid Reference ST14414 06649 | Number: |
| Subject: Archaeological monitoring on land south of Powells Way, Dunkeswell, East Devon | | Photo attached? Yes |
| Planning Application no: 14/2141/FUL appeal number APP/U1105/W/14/3001024 | | Recipient museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM) |
| OASIS ID: Southwes1-236685 | | Museum Accession no: N/A |
| Contractor's reference number/code: DPW15 | | Dates fieldwork undertaken: 18 th -19 th and 27 th April 2017 |
| <p>Description of works.</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) on behalf of a Private Client (the Client) during groundworks associated with the construction of 8 affordable dwellings and associated external works with public amenity space, on land south of Powells Way, Dunkeswell, East Devon. The monitoring was carried out by S. Walls and J. Bampton over several visits in April 2017, although the excavations for two of the plots (5-6) were not monitored. This work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Boyd 2016) drawn up in consultation with Stephen Reed of the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>The site is located at the far southern edge of Dunkerswell, c.1.2km from the church in the heart of the village. It is on a broadly flat spur of land at a height of c.243m AOD. Although, the site is on a gentle east facing slope of the spur that eventually falls away to <i>Madford River</i> to the east. On the well-drained reddish coarse loamy soils of the Bromsgrove Association (SSEW 1983); which overlie sandstone of the Upper Greensand Formation (BGS 2019). The proposed development lies in an area of archaeological potential with regard to the iron extractive industry that operated on the Blackdown Hill from the early Roman through to the medieval periods. Recent archaeological investigations to the west on the aerodrome site have confirmed the presence of ore extraction pits. Groundworks associated with the construction of the new dwellings had the potential to expose/destroy archaeological deposits associated with the historic iron industry.</p> <p>Three areas, each c.12m² and each encompassing two housing plots were stripped of topsoil and appropriate footing trenches were then excavated under archaeological supervision (Figures 1 and 2). In plot 3 and 4 (Figure 5), Topsoil (100) was a mid yellow-brown friable clay-silt 0.24m thick that overlaid an intermittent Made-ground/Subsoil (101). Made-ground (101) was a mottled mid-dark yellow-brown firm clay-silt 0.06m thick that filled slight divots and contained occasional building debris and which overlaid Natural (102), a light brown-yellow compact clay with moderate angular-rounded stones (0.03-0.30m diameter). Across housing plots 1 and 2 (Figures 3 and 4), Made-ground (101) survived up to 0.30m thick and overlaid a relict Subsoil (103), a mid grey-yellow friable clay-silt 0.08m thick, which overlaid Natural (102). Across housing plots 7 and 8, a greater depth of made-ground overlaid Natural (102), represented by Made-grounds (104), a redeposited mixture of topsoil and subsoil up to 0.32m thick; and Made-Ground (105), a redeposited natural up to 0.20m thick. Plot 7 and 8 was also overlaid by rubbly Made-ground (106) and a mix of disturbed topsoil and Made-ground (101), associated with the current development/groundworks. A modern ceramic drain was aligned north-east by south-west across plots 1 and 2.</p> <p>Finds from the topsoil from across the site contained 9 unworked pieces (75g) of flint/chert, which were subsequently discarded.</p> <p>Conclusions</p> <p>A modern drain and a relatively large amount of recently made ground that was comprised of redeposited topsoil, subsoil and occasional lenses of redeposited natural and contained occasional building debris and rubble, were present on site. The site may have once undulated or sloped down towards the east-south-east and appears in recent history to have been made more level or even. Flint/chert does occur naturally in the area and that the topsoil had been reinstated across much of the site thereby making the finds recovered largely irrelevant.</p> <p>No significant archaeological features or deposits were identified on site.</p> <p>Bibliography</p> <p>Boyd, N. 2016: <i>Land south of Powells Way, Dunkeswell, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH WSI no. PW15.v1</p> <p>British Geological Survey 2018: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html</p> <p>Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>.</p> | | |
| Recorder: S. Walls & J. Bampton (South West Archaeology Ltd.) | | Date sent to HER: 18 th July 2019 |

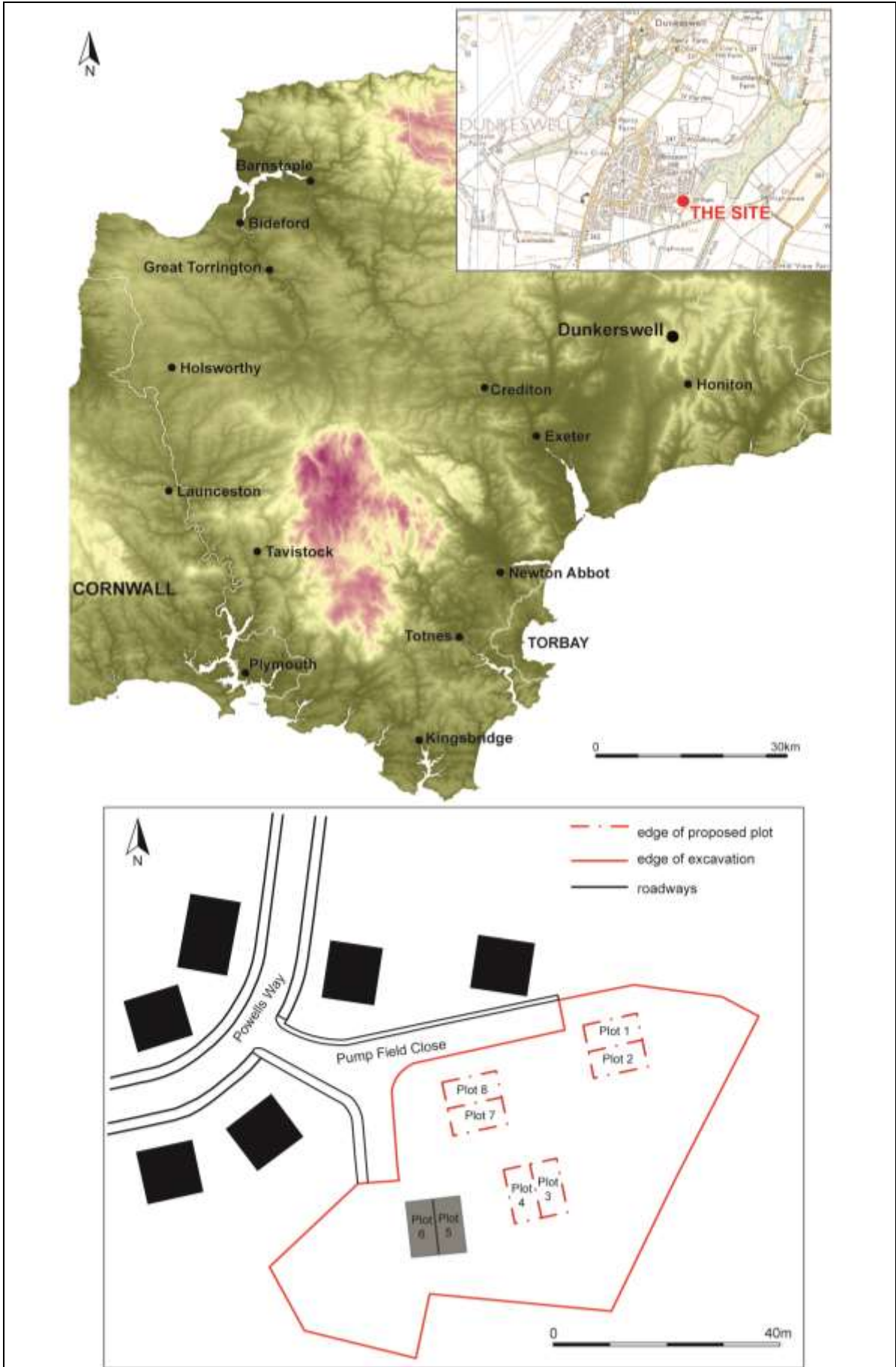


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION AND PLAN.

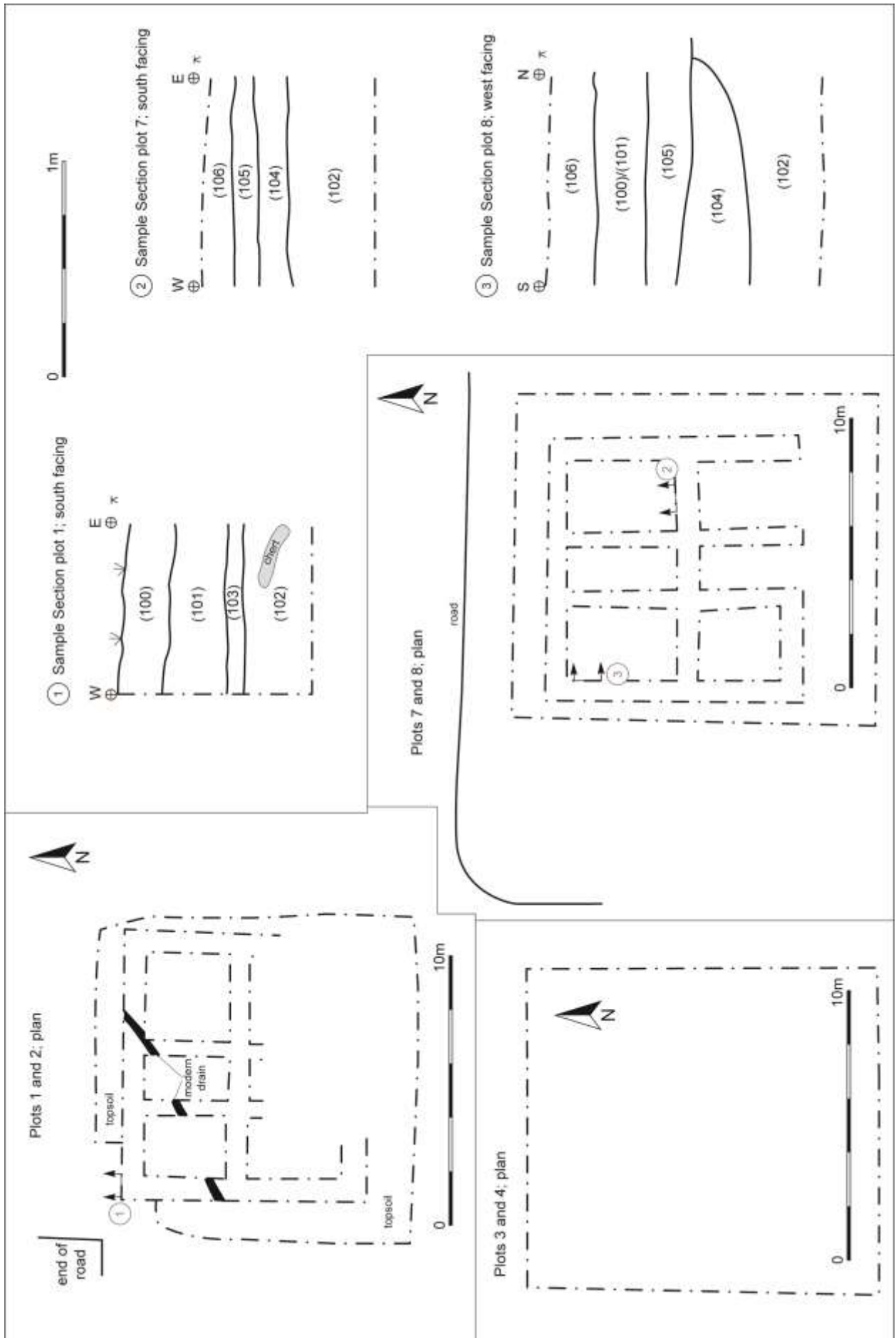


FIGURE 2: PLANS OF INDIVIDUAL HOUSING PLOTS AND SAMPLE SECTIONS.



FIGURE 3: PLOTS 1 AND 2; MID EXCAVATION , PRE-FOOTINGS.



FIGURE 4: PLOT 1 AND 2 FOOTINGS; MID EXCAVATION.



FIGURE 5: PLOT 3 AND 4; MID EXCAVATION, PRE-FOOTINGS.