

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Staverton, South Hams	National Grid Reference SX 76170 64555	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording in advance of the construction of a manure store, Staverton, South Hams, Devon		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 2394/17/FUL	Recipient museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum	
OASIS ID: Southwes1-296016	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: SSF17	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 25 th September 2017	
<p>Description of works Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Amanda Burden (Luscombe Maye) on behalf of James Shinner (the Client) during the construction of a manure store at Stretchford Farm, Staverton, South Hams, Devon. The monitoring work was carried out by B. Morris on 25th September 2017; the weather was fine and dry. This work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Boyd 2017) drawn up in consultation with Stephen Reed of the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>Stretchford Farm is located adjacent to the A384 between Buckfastleigh and Totnes, towards the base of a shallow valley dropping down to the River Dart at an altitude of c.35m AOD. The soils of this area are the slowly-permeable and seasonally-waterlogged clayey loams of the Denbigh 1 Association (SSEW 1983), overlying the slates of the Upper Devonian Slate series (BGS 2017). The site lies in an area of some archaeological potential, with cropmark enclosures to the north (MDV28875) and west (MDV28876) of the site. The farm itself dates to the 1860s; two smaller farms were amalgamated by the landowner (the Dean and Chapter of Exeter Cathedral) and a new and more convenient farmstead built. The current owners (the Shinners) have leased the land since c.1850. The farm house and buildings are of grey slatestone with dressed squared grey limestone quoins and segmental arches to the windows and doors. The pitched roofs are of equal-sized slate with dark blue ridge tiles. The cartshed has a simple queen-strut roof structure.</p> <p>The site of the manure store lies to the north of the historic farmstead, adjacent to a set of new farm buildings (steel portal framed shed; shuttered concrete walls with Yorkshire boarding above; 'big 6' corrugated sheet roof). An area c.18x15m across was stripped of topsoil and subsoil to reveal a mottled bluish-grey fine shillet natural (104) with bands of light brown or yellow clayey material. The soils on the site consisted of a friable moist grey clay-silt loam 250mm thick (101); this overlay a firm mid-brown clay-silt loam 200mm thick (102), which in turn sealed a very firm yellowish-brown clay-silt 130mm thick (103). The thickness of the soils decreased to the east, where they had been churned by vehicles into a stolid grey clay-silt loam (105). No finds or features were observed.</p> <p>Conclusions The monitoring work did not identify any archaeological features, deposits or finds.</p> <p>Bibliography Boyd, N. 2017: Land at Stretchford Farm, Staverton, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation. British Geological Survey 2014: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html [accessed 25.09.2017]. Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>.</p>		
Recorder: B. Morris		Date sent to HER: 29/09/2017

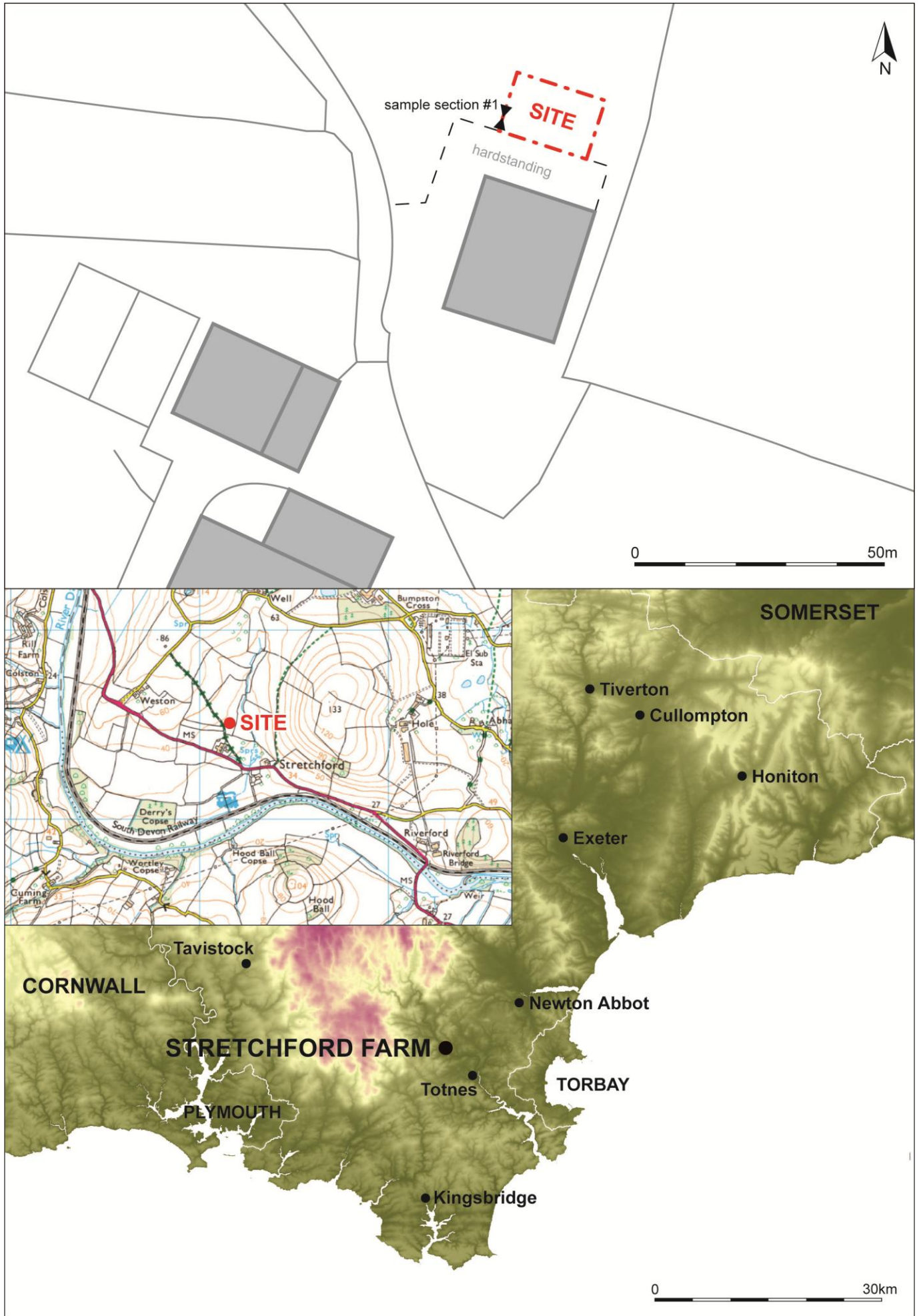


Figure 1: Site location.



Figure 2: The footprint of the manure store, stripped to the natural (104); viewed from the west (scales 2m).

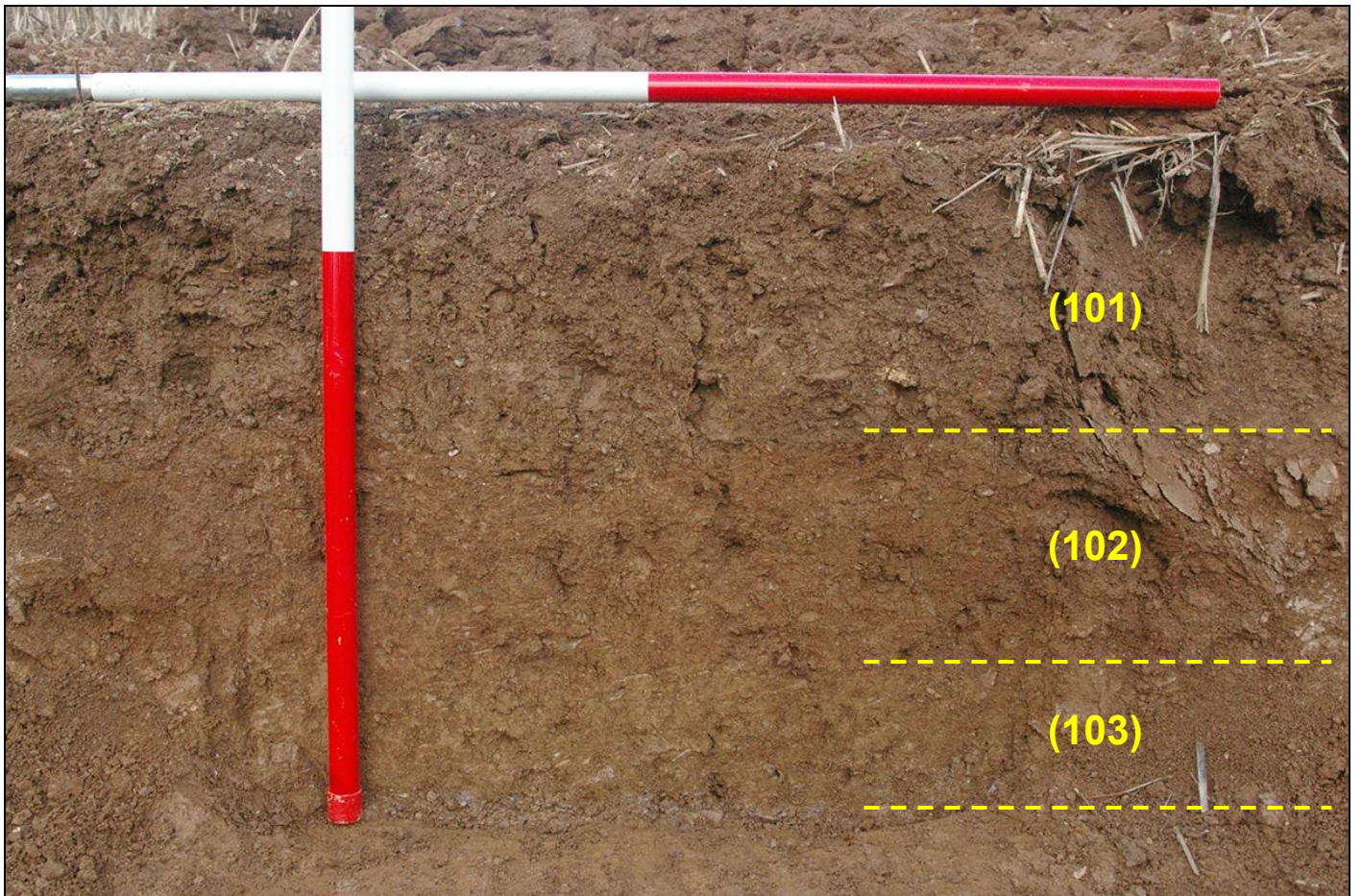


Figure 3: Sample section #1; viewed from the south (scales 1m).