

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Shobrooke, Mid Devon	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SX 88966 99869	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological strip, map, and record on land at Shute Cross, Shobrooke		<b>Photo attached?</b> Yes
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 18/01184/FULL & 18/01183/MFUL	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM)	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> southwes1-329929	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> RAMM 18/54	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> SSC18	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	
<p><b>Description of works.</b></p> <p>An archaeological strip-map-sample excavation was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) prior to the development of land at Shute Cross, Shobrooke, Devon. The work was carried out on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019 in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Boyd 2019) drawn up in consultation with the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET). This phase of work follows on from a geophysical survey (Bonvoisin 2018) and evaluation trenching (Webb 2018) previously carried out as part of pre-commencement works.</p> <p>The site is located c.5.4km east of Crediton and c.2.1km north-east of Newton St Cyres and the A377 within a sloping south-east facing field. The excavated area was located towards the south-western corner of the field at a height of c.43m AOD. The soils of this area are the well drained gritty reddish loamy soils of the Crediton Association (SSEW 1983); overlying sandstone of the Shute Sandstone Formation (BGS 2018).</p> <p>Whilst no archaeological works appear to have been carried out in the surrounding area prior to the works associated with this development, a number of local features, including cropmarks showing possible enclosures and ring ditches (MDV50143, MDV29074, MDV121904, MDV56055, and MDV56056); and a barrow (MDV42786) demonstrate high archaeological potential from the Prehistoric period. Further cropmarks representing field boundaries and enclosure associated with Shute Farm (MDV121931) demonstrate Medieval to Post-medieval activity. Previous archaeological works on the site identified a small number of features reflecting the prehistoric and later history of the site, including: an Iron Age pit; and shallow linear ditches which may form evidence of medieval or post-medieval agricultural and boundary features.</p> <p>A rectangular area (Area 06) measuring c.20m×17m targeting the Iron Age pit identified during evaluation trenching was excavated under archaeological supervision by machine using a toothless grading bucket to the depth of <i>in situ</i> archaeological deposits (c.0.70m). The stratigraphy of the site comprised: ploughsoil (600), red-brown sand-clay-silt c.0.25m thick; overlying lower ploughsoil (601), red-brown soft clay-silt c.0.25m thick; subsoil (602), yellow-red-brown silt-clay up to 0.20m thick; and the natural, brown-red compacted sand-silt and clay.</p> <p>A single feature, ditch [604], was identified running approximately east to west across the southern end of the area. It measured 1m-1.30m wide and 0.15m deep with shallow to moderate sloping sides and concave base. It contained two fills: (605) and (606), red-brown soft gritty clays. A single flint flake (5g) was recovered from the ditch fill (605). A modern water pipe was also identified along the southern edge of the excavated area.</p> <p><b>Conclusions</b></p> <p>The recovery of flint from the ditch may indicate that it is of a likely Prehistoric date, though its alignment, parallel with the current southern boundary to the field probably suggests that it is a later Medieval or Post-medieval field boundary ditch containing residual artefacts. If prehistoric the feature is likely to be associated with the pit identified during the evaluation and the settlement and funerary activity to the south. The results of the excavation would appear to confirm the results of the geophysical survey (the proximity of modern features masking the identification of the ditch) and evaluation trenching in that the prehistoric activity appears likely to be largely contained to the fields to the south.</p> <p><b>Bibliography</b></p> <p><b>Bonvoisin, P.</b> 2018: <i>Land at Shute Cross, Shobrooke, Mid Devon, Devon: Results of a Geophysical Survey</i>. SWARCH report no.: 180920.</p> <p><b>Boyd, N.</b> 2019: <i>Land at Shute Cross, Shobrooke, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH WSI no SSC18WSIv1.</p> <p><b>British Geological Survey</b> 2018: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. <a href="http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html">http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html</a></p> <p><b>Soil Survey of England and Wales</b> 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>.</p> <p><b>Webb, P.</b> 2018: <i>Land at Shute Cross, Shobrooke, Mid Devon, Devon: Results of an Archaeological Evaluation</i>. SWARCH report no.: 181105.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> P. Webb	<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 18.02.19	

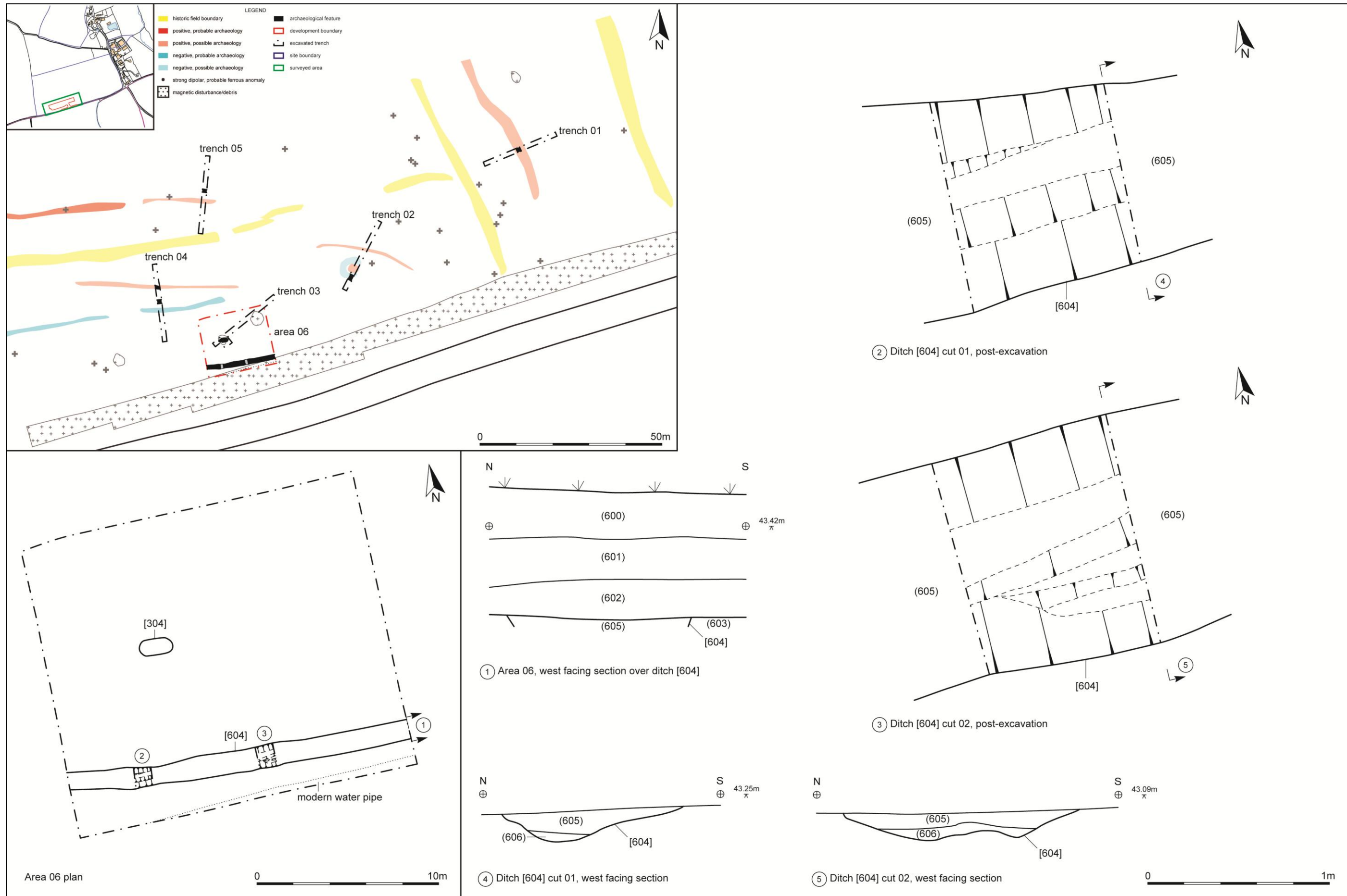


FIGURE 1: SITE PLAN SHOWING LOCATION OF EXCAVATED AREAS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES. HEIGHTS AT AOD.

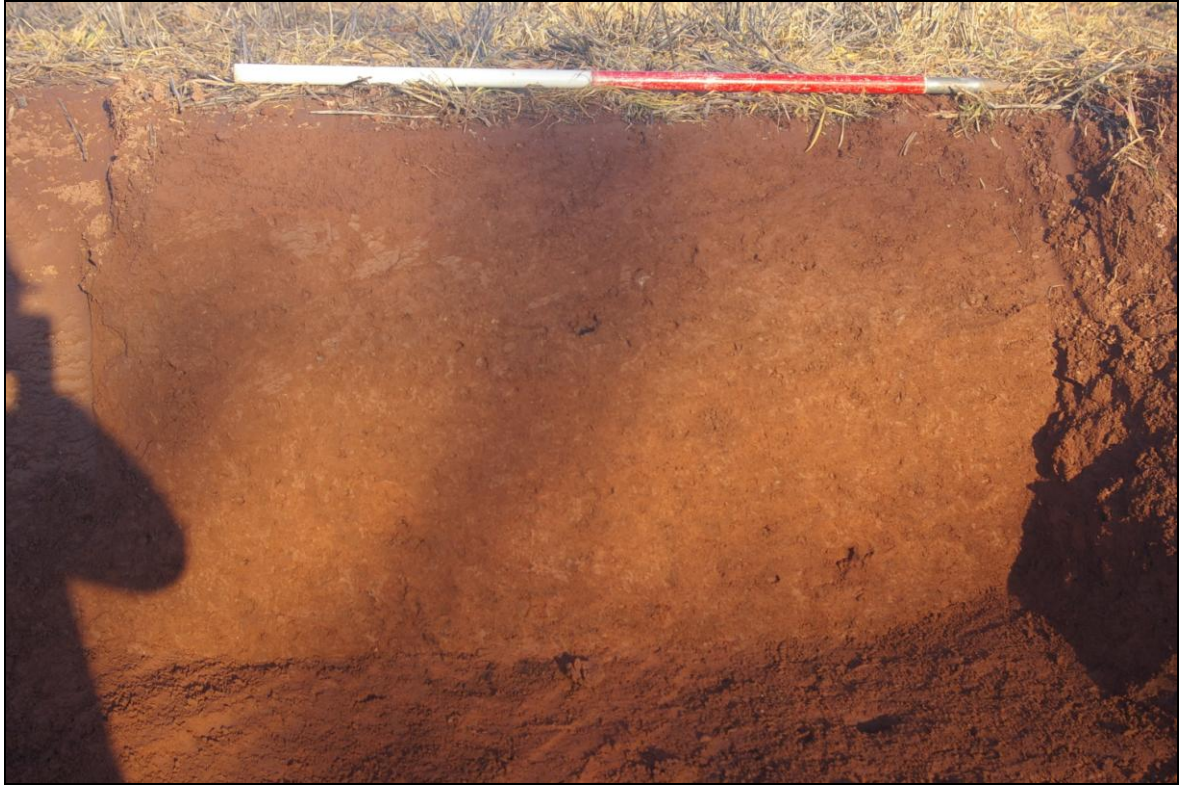


FIGURE 2: REPRESENTATIVE SITE SECTION; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (1M SCALE).



FIGURE 3: DITCH [604], POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM EAST (1M & 2M SCALES).