

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Marystow, West Devon	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SX 43873 84561	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring on land at West Raddon, Lewdown, West Devon		<b>Photo attached?</b> YES
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 2775/18/PAT	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> southwes1-331555	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> LWR18	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	
<p><b>Description of works.</b> Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Airband Community Internet Ltd (the Client) during groundworks during the installation of a communications mast and associated cable trench on land at West Raddon, Lewdown, Devon. The monitoring was carried out by P. Webb between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018. This work was undertaken in accordance with a Project Design (Balmond 2018) drawn up in consultation with the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>The site is located approximately 2.2km south-west of Lewdown, within fields to the south-west of West Raddon Farm on the summit and north facing slope of a hill at the confluence of the Lyd and Lew Rivers at a height of between approximately 177m and 170m AOD (Figure 1); on the reddish very acid permeable loamy upland soils of the Larkbarrow Association (SSEW 1983); overlying chert of the Teign Chert Formation; and slate and siltstone of the Liddaton Formation (BGS 2018).</p> <p>The site lies in an area of archaeological potential, on land to the east of a possible rectangular enclosure of prehistoric date; and within an area characterised as based on medieval enclosures. West Raddon farmhouse and several of its associated outbuildings are Grade II Listed and range in date from the early 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century. No archaeological works appear to have been carried out in this area.</p> <p>A single trench (Area 01) measuring 0.60m wide and totalling c.160m long was excavated under archaeological supervision by machine using a toothless grading bucket to a depth of up to 0.85m, this being the maximum depth of the intrusive works. The stratigraphy of the site comprised a mid grey-brown soft friable clay-silt topsoil c.0.35m thick. At the sloping southern end of the site this overlay a c.0.15m thick layer of subsoil (111), a mid orange-brown friable-soft silt-clay. Along the western edge of the site the topsoil had previously been stripped and replaced with a layer c.0.55m thick of angular slatestone within yellow-grey-brown friable-soft silt-clay (101) to form an access track, and overlaid with a thin layer of turf. The subsoil (110), mid orange-brown friable-soft silt-clay, beneath these layers was intermittent, probably having been partially stripped with the topsoil. These overlay the natural which varied from mid yellow soft clay to solid slatestone bedrock.</p> <p>Two Ditches [104] and [106] were identified towards the southern end of the site, on the plateau. Ditch [104] was orientated approximately north-north-west to south-south-east and measured 2.10m wide and 0.53m deep with moderate sloping sides and flattish base. It contained a single fill: (105), mid-light slightly grey-brown soft silt-clay. To the immediate north of this, ditch [106] followed the same alignment, measuring 1m wide and 0.28m deep with steep to near vertical sides and flattish base. It contained two fills: (107), mid-light brown soft silt-clay 0.22m thick, and basal silting fill (108), light yellow-brown soft silt-clay up to 0.06m thick. There were no finds.</p> <p><b>Conclusions</b> Two ditches were identified during the monitoring, the position and alignment of which suggest that they are likely to have been associated with the medieval or post-medieval field systems surviving in the existing landscape, aligning with boundaries that still exist. However, they remain undated and it is possible that they may be associated with the prehistoric settlement activity recorded to the south-west of the site.</p> <p><b>Bibliography</b> <b>Balmond, F.</b> 2018: <i>Land at West Raddon, Marystow, West Devon: Project Design</i>. SWARCH report no LWR18PDv1. <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> <b>Soil Survey of England and Wales</b> 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> P. Webb		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 06.12.18

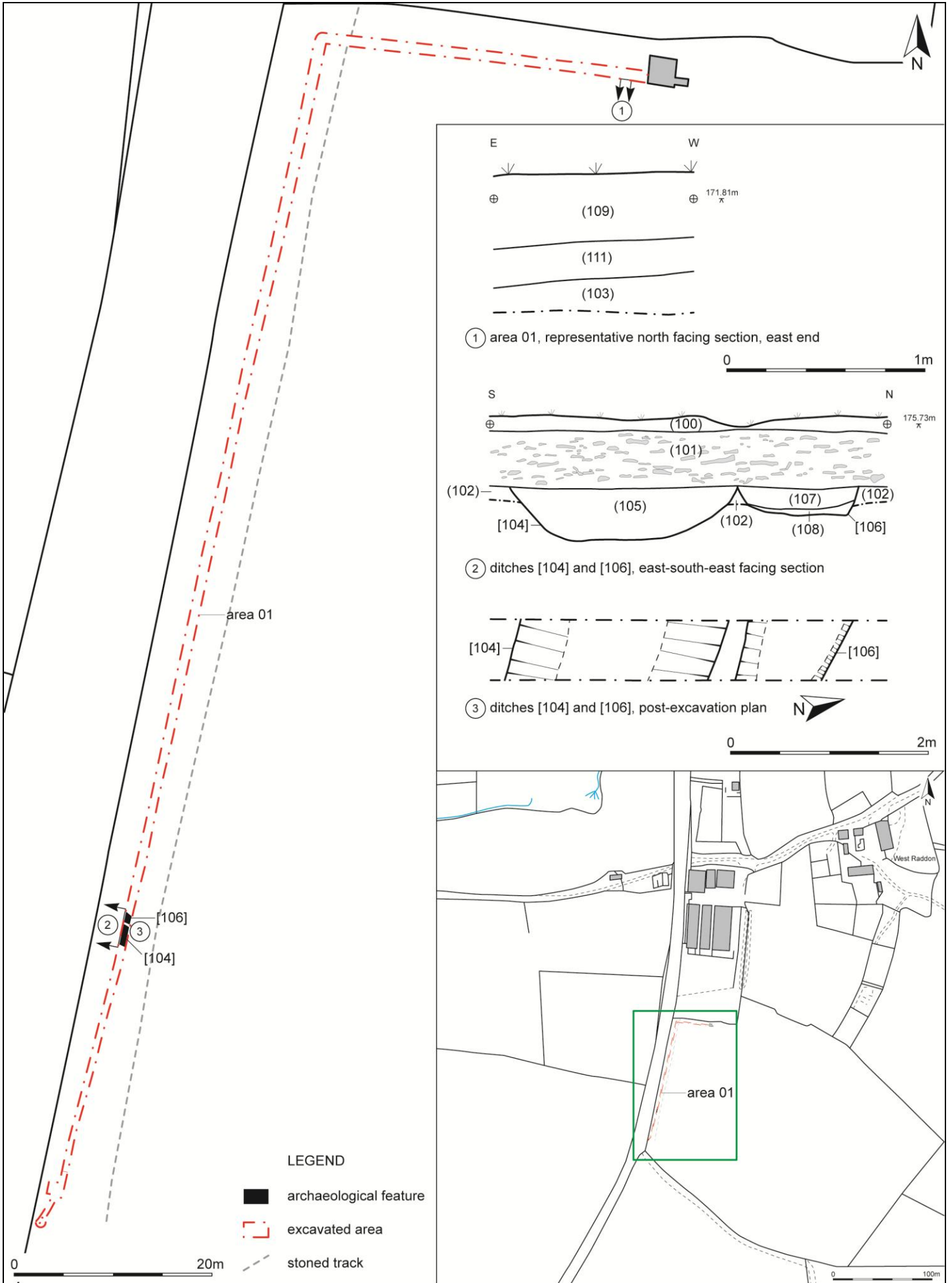


FIGURE 1: SITE PLAN SHOWING LOCATION OF EXCAVATED AREAS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES. HEIGHTS AT AOD.



FIGURE 2: DITCHES [104] AND [106], EAST-SOUTH-EAST FACING SECTION, OBLIQUE; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (2M SCALE).



FIGURE 3: VIEW ALONG THE EAST-WEST ARM OF THE CABLE TRENCH; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (2M SCALE).