

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Eggesford, Mid Devon	National Grid Reference SS 68785 09299	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring on land at Trenchard Farm, Eggesford. Mid-Devon		Photo attached? Yes
Planning Application no: 18/00922/FULL	Recipient museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM)	
OASIS ID: southwes1-337276	Museum Accession no: Museum Reference no.: 18/64	
Contractor's reference number/code: ETF18	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 9 th January 2019	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) on behalf of a private client during groundworks associated with the construction of an agricultural barn on land south of Trenchard Farm, Eggesford, Devon. The monitoring was carried out by P. Webb on 9th January 2019. This work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Balmond 2018) drawn up in consultation with Stephen Reed of the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>Trenchard Farm is situated to the south of the dispersed settlement of Eggesford, the site being located approximately 125m south of Trenchard Farm at Eggesford Airfield. It sits on a broadly flat spur of land on the north-east facing slopes on the southern bank of the Taw valley at a height of approximately 153m AOD (Figure 1); on the well drained fine loamy soils of the Neath Association (SSEW 1983); which overlie sandstones of the Bude Formation (BGS 2018).</p> <p>The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, features ranging in date from prehistory to the post-medieval and modern periods having been identified in the surrounding landscape, including: a prehistoric barrow (MDV121370) c.300m to the west; a possible prehistoric or Romano-British ditched enclosure (MDV121322) c.400m to the south-east; and a number of historic field boundaries (MDV121373) in fields to the west of the site. Trenchard Farm itself was rebuilt in the 19th century on the site of earlier buildings; and a forestry track was historically located along the eastern edge of the proposed development area. This was re-located to its present location to the west of the site in the late 20th century. No archaeological work is recorded in this area.</p> <p>A broadly rectangular area measuring up to 37m×20m on an approximate north to south alignment was excavated under archaeological supervision by machine using a toothless grading bucket to the depth of natural (up to 0.50m deep). The stratigraphy of the site comprised a mid brown friable clay-silt topsoil 0.24m-0.30m thick overlying a mid brown soft silt-clay subsoil up to 0.22m thick, below which was a natural of yellow-grey-brown compacted clay and angular stone.</p> <p>Only a single archaeological feature, road [110], was identified. This was orientated north-north-east to south-south-west and measured c.7.50+m wide, extending to the south from the existing road at the entrance to the field; its location indicating that it formed the former forestry track. It was constructed of loose tarmac chippings (112) and had been sealed by a layer of red-brown soft silt-clay (112). The remaining features were all natural tree throws. No finds were recovered during the excavations.</p> <p>Conclusions</p> <p>A single archaeological feature, road [110] was identified during the excavation, representing the former forestry track providing access to Burrowcleave Wood to the south of the site.</p> <p>Bibliography</p> <p>Balmond, F. 2018: <i>Trenchard Farm, Eggesford, Mid Devon, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH WSI no. ETF18.</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: P. Webb		Date sent to HER: 02.02.19

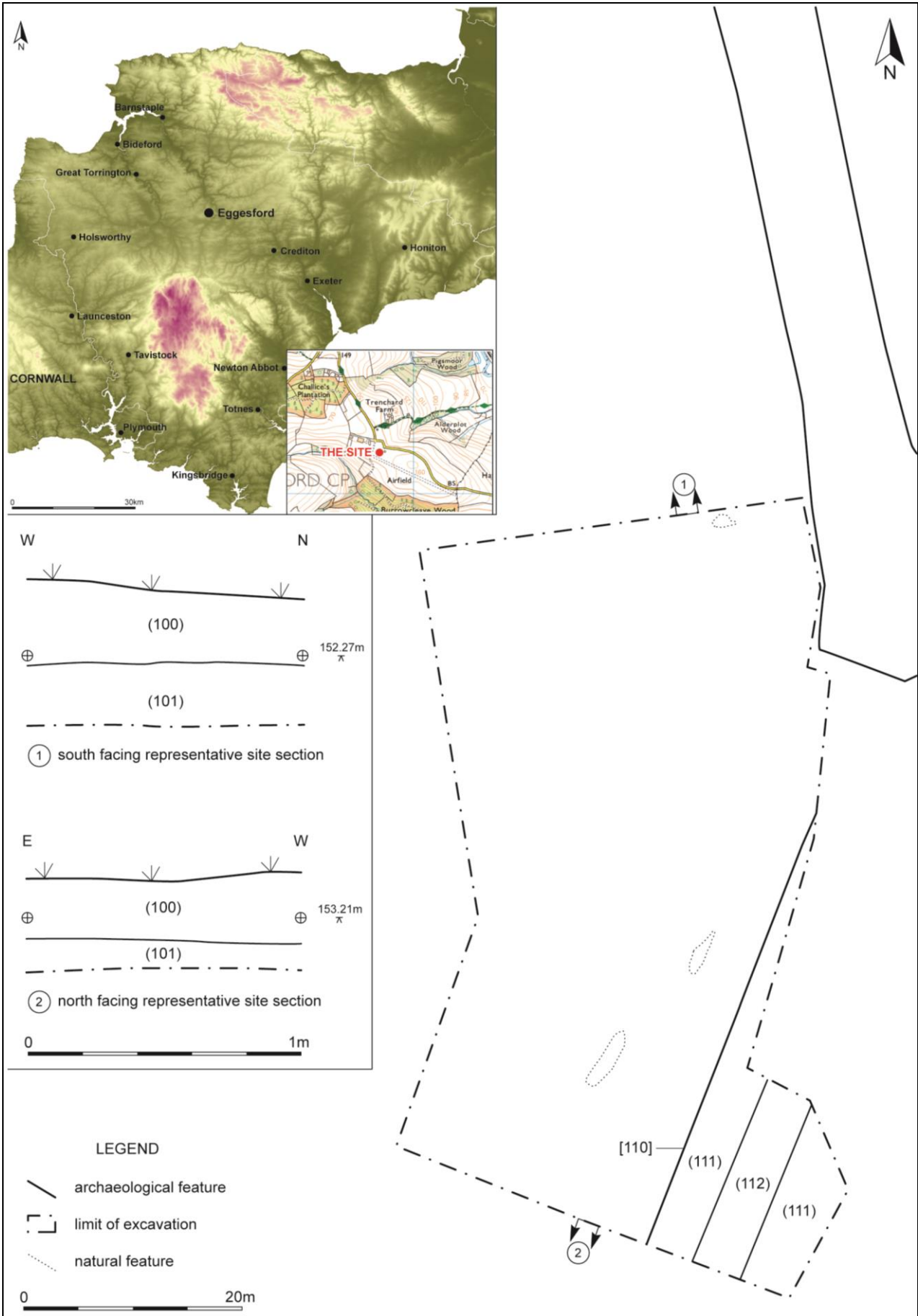


FIGURE 1: SITE PLAN SHOWING LOCATION OF EXCAVATED AREAS. HEIGHTS AT AOD.



FIGURE 2: ROAD [110]; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-NORTH-EAST (1M & 2M SCALES).



FIGURE 3: GENERAL SITE SHOT, MID-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (1M & 2M SCALES).