

Historic Environment Record

Input Form

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| Subject: Archaeological evaluation of a potential standing stone at Hoar Moor | | |
| National Grid Reference: SS 85969 40550 | Civil Parish: Exford | Monument Number: N/A |
| Planning Application Number: N/A | Event Number: N/A | Recorder and Organisation: J Bampton, SWARCH |
| Date of Site Visit(s) or Fieldwork: 05.02.19 | | Date of Report: 05.02.19 |
| Description of Works, Monitoring and Results: | | |
| <p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of the Exmoor Mires Partnership (EMP) (the Agent) on behalf of Exmoor National Park Authority (the Client). This evaluation was intended to investigate a potential standing stone recorded during a walkover survey of Hoar Moor in 2009 (Morris 2009). Hoar Moor is located c.2km north of Exford and is within the Codsens and Dunkery Principal Archaeological Landscape (PAL No 16) which contains preserved prehistoric field systems (e.g. MSO9193 to the east of the site) with high palaeoenvironmental potential, along with evidence of post-medieval enclosure and 19th century enclosure (Riley and Wilson-North 2001). The stone under investigation was located on the western edge of a leat (MMO2243) running off the River Quarme, c.600m south of Porlock Post; at a height of c.410m AOD (Figure 1). The soils at the site are the slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged loamy upland soils with a peaty surface horizon of the Wilcocks 2 Association (SSEW 1983); which overlie the sandstones of the Hangman Sandstone Formation and the slate stones of the Ilfracombe Slates Formation (BGS 2019). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation drawn up in accordance with a brief supplied by the EMP Historic Environment Officer (SWARCH 2019).</p> <p>The stone under investigation protruded slightly from the bank of a leat. A section, 1.60m long, was excavated across the stone along the banks edge in order to identify any discernible cut socket for the stone and establish its depth and dimensions. Subsequently, an area approximately 3.50m×3m around the stone was excavated by a tracked mechanical excavator using a toothless grading bucket to the depth of <i>in-situ</i> weathered natural (c.0.20-0.28m in depth). Topsoil (100), c.0.10-0.20m deep, was a dark blackish-brown, soft peat that overlaid Subsoil (101). Subsoil (101), was a dark yellow-grey, soft peaty silt with occasional sand and moderate angular and sub-rounded stones at its horizon with Natural (102). Natural (102) was a light mottled brown-orange yellow soft sandy clay with moderate-frequent sandstone. No finds were recovered during the evaluation. The stone itself was c.1.10m×0.97m×0.70m, set into the natural, with a relatively narrow tip that curved to a wider end. It had curving striations presumably associated with its formation and then its erosion (see Figures 2-14).</p> <p>No archaeological features or deposits were present and there were no discernible archaeological aspects to the stone.</p> | | |
| Conclusions | | |
| <p>While partially buried and covered with foliage the stone had appeared as a potential standing stone; however, once investigated the stones form and size were not typical of Exmoor standing stones and it transpired to be a natural stone in the landscape.</p> | | |
| Bibliography | | |
| <p>Morris, B. 2009: <i>Exmoor National Park Authority Mire Restoration Project: Archaeological Walkover Surveys. Results of Archaeological Walkover surveys at Homer/Challacombe Moor, Acklands/Squallacombe Moor, Hoar Moor and Codsens Moor and Hydrological survey at Codsens Moor.</i> South West Archaeology Report No 090417.</p> <p>Riley, H. and Wilson-North, R. 2001: <i>The Field Archaeology of Exmoor.</i> English Heritage</p> <p>Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales (a brief explanation of the constituent soil associations).</i></p> <p>SWARCH 2019: <i>Excavation of Standing Stone, Hoar Moor, Exford, Exmoor Written Scheme of Investigation</i></p> <p>British Geological Survey 2019: http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html</p> | | |

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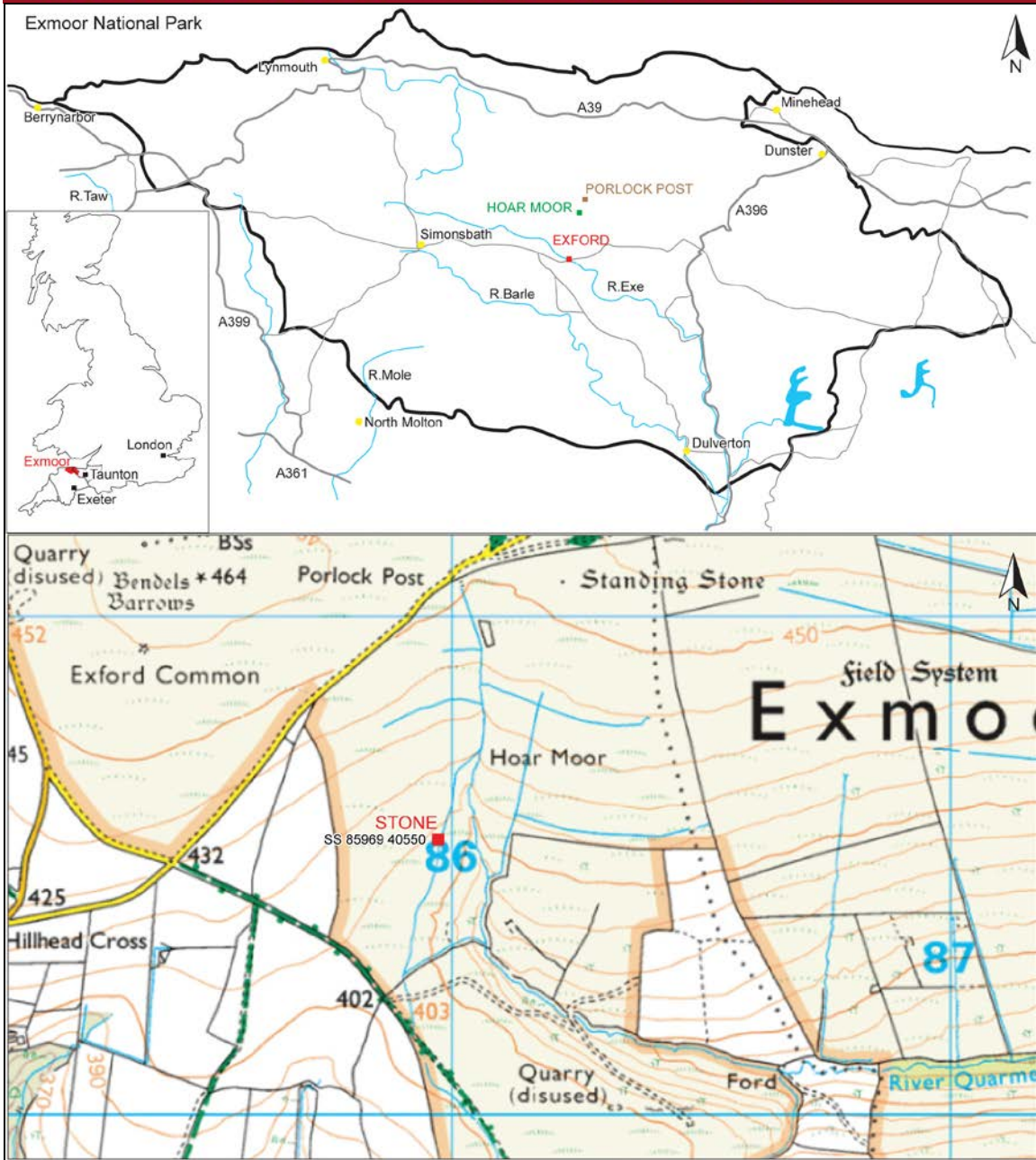


Figure 1: Site location.

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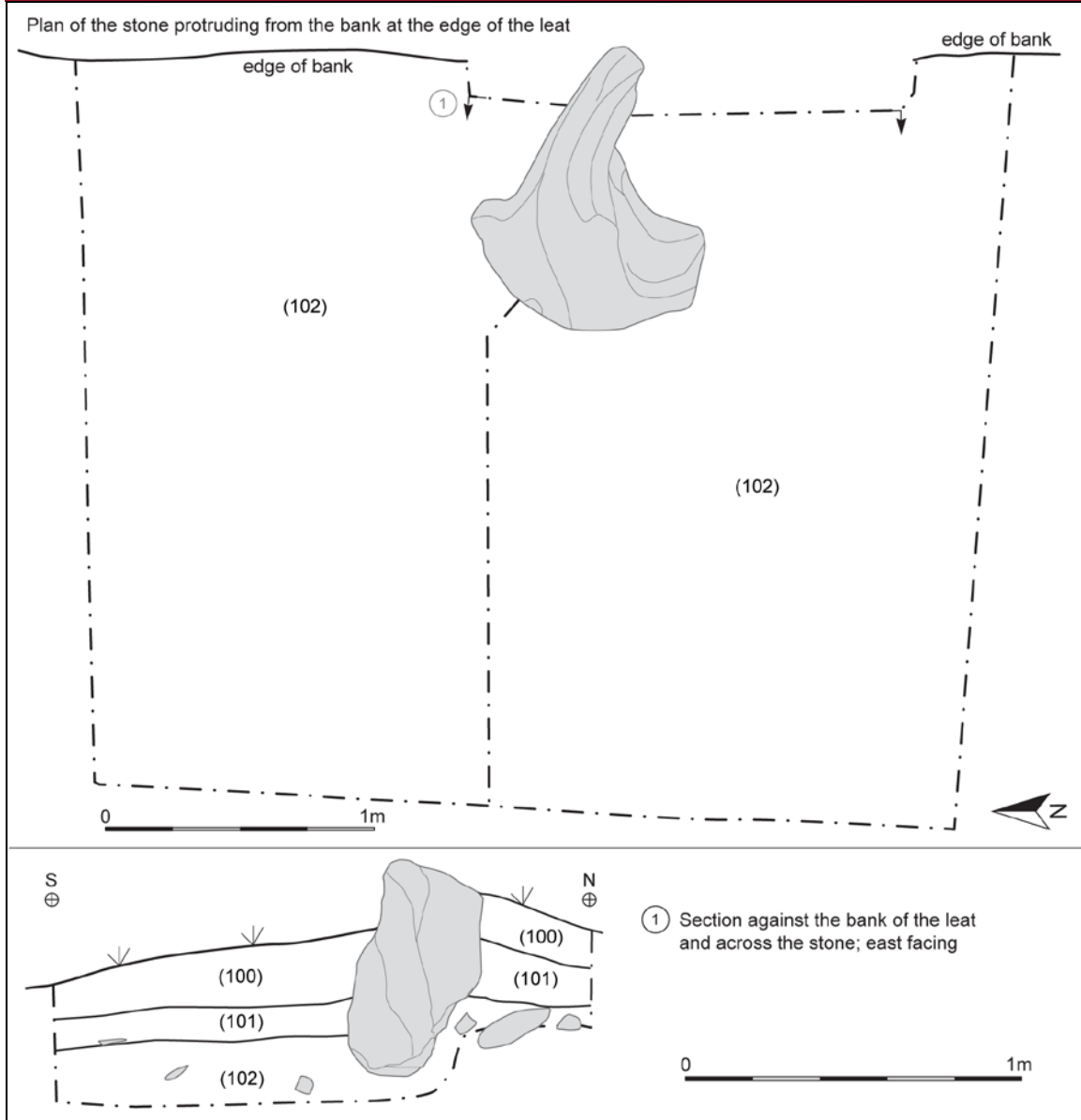


Figure 2: Site plan and section drawing.

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Figure 3: Section across stone; viewed from the east (1m scale).



Figure 4: Section across stone; viewed from the east (1m scale).



Figure 5: Stone pre-excitation of area; viewed from the above and the west (1m scale).



Figure 6: Stone and excavated area, post-excitation; viewed from the east (no scale).



Figure 7: Stone, post-excitation; viewed from the east (1m scale).



Figure 8: Stone, post-excitation; viewed from the north (1m scale).

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Figure 9: Stone, post-excitation; viewed from the south (1m scale).



Figure 10: Stone and excavated area, post-excitation; viewed from the south (1m scale).



Figure 31: Stone and excavated area, post-excitation; viewed from the east (1m scale).

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Figure 42: The site and the leat within the moor; viewed from the south-east (1m scale).



Figure 53: Stone and excavated area, post-excitation; viewed from the north-east (1m scale).



Figure 64: Stone, post-excitation; viewed from the above and the south (1m scale).