

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Lifton, West Devon	National Grid Reference SX 40406 83607	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring on land at Lowley Farm, Lifton, West Devon		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 2571/18/PAT	Recipient museum: Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery	
OASIS ID: southwes1-345302	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: LFL18	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 29 th –30 th October 2018	
<p>Description of works. 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 Lowley Farm, Lifton, Devon. The monitoring was carried out by P. Webb between 29th and 30th October 2018. This work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Balmond 2018) drawn up in consultation with the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>The site is located approximately 2km south-east of the Lifton, to the immediate north of Lowley Farm on the south facing slope of a hill forming part of the Lyd River valley at a height of between approximately 175m and 185m AOD (Figure 1); on the well drained fine loamy and fine silty soils of the Denbigh 1 Association (SSEW 1983); overlying chert of the Teign Chert Formation (BGS 2018).</p> <p>The site lies in an area of archaeological potential, on land to the immediate south of a curvilinear (hillslope) enclosure of prehistoric date, a rectilinear prehistoric or Romano-British enclosure and an undated linear feature. No archaeological work appears to have been carried out in this area and there are no designated heritage assets within the vicinity of the site.</p> <p>A single trench (Area 01) measuring 0.60m wide and totalling c.180m long was excavated under archaeological supervision by machine using a toothless grading bucket to a depth of up to 0.80m, this being the maximum depth of the intrusive works. The stratigraphy of the site comprised a mid brown friable silt topsoil c.0.15m thick. At the more gently sloping northern end of the site this overlay a c.0.25m thick layer of disturbed natural (102), a mid brown friable silt with abundant angular stone. Whilst on the steeper slope the topsoil overlay a c.0.10m thick mid orange-yellow friable silt subsoil (103). These deposits both overlay the natural, an orange-yellow friable silt with abundant angular stone.</p> <p>A single feature, probable quarry pit [104], was identified mid way down the slope. It measured c.13m wide and 0.60+m deep with steep sloping sides. It contained a single fill: (105), mid yellow-brown friable-loose silt with abundant sub-angular and angular stone. The remaining features reflect modern service trenching including water pipes and electric cables associated with the farm to the south.</p> <p>Conclusions A single quarry pit was identified during the monitoring, likely to reflect post-medieval activity associated with the farm. No evidence of the prehistoric settlement activity recorded to the north was identified, though the limited nature of the excavations does not preclude it from continuing elsewhere across the field.</p> <p>Bibliography Balmond, F. 2018: <i>Land at Lowley Farm, Lifton, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH report no LFL18WSIV1. British Geological Survey 2018: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html 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: 23.11.18

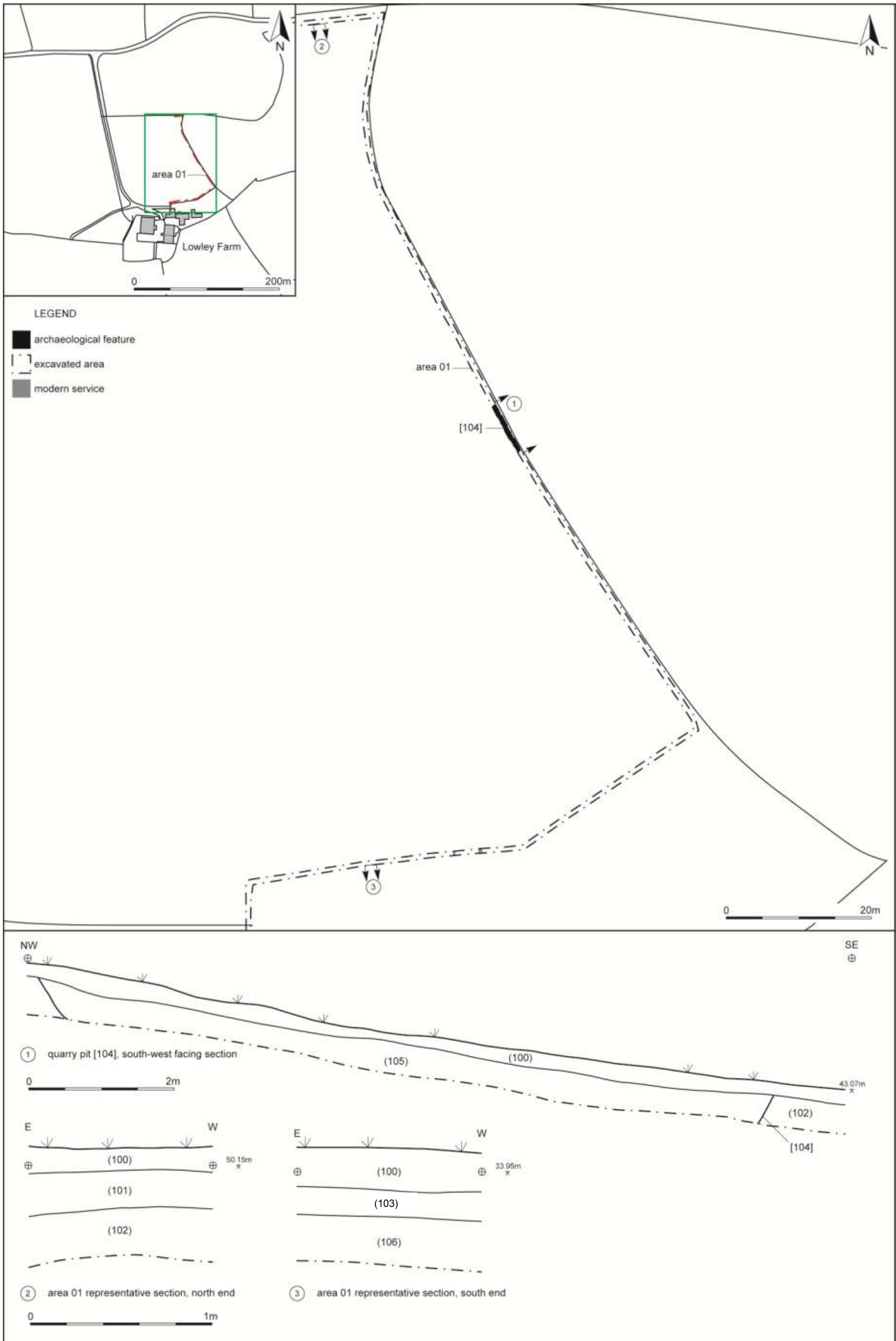


FIGURE 1: SITE PLAN SHOWING LOCATION OF EXCAVATED AREAS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES. HEIGHTS AT ARBITRARY BENCH MARK OF 50MAOD.



FIGURE 2: VIEW ALONG THE CABLE TRENCH NORTH END; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (2M SCALE).



FIGURE 3: VIEW ALONG THE CABLE TRENCH SOUTH END; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (2M SCALE).