

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Brayford, North Devon	National Grid Reference: SS 6699 3295	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring on land at Middlecott Farm, Brayford, Devon		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 66329	Recipient museum: Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon (MBND)	
OASIS ID: southwes1-350060	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: EBM19	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 13 th May 2019	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of a private client during groundworks associated with the creation of a slurry lagoon on land at Middlecott Farm, Brayford, Devon. The monitoring was carried out by P. Webb on 13th May 2019. This work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Boyd 2019) drawn up in consultation with the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>The site is located off Middlecott Hill, to the north-west of Middlecott Farm, in the south-west corner of a rectangular field on a south-east facing slope overlooking a stream and wooded west banks below. The site lies at a height of approximately 245m AOD (Figure 1); on the well drained fine loamy and fine silty soils of the Denbigh 1 Association (SSEW 1983); overlying the sedimentary mudstone of the Pilton Mudstone Formation (BGS 2019).</p> <p>The site lies in an area of archaeological potential: a prehistoric ditched enclosure (MDV12085), identified through aerial photography and LiDAR imagery, having been located c.150m to the north of the development site; and prehistoric funerary monuments situated further to the north-west (MDV12080). It is possible that the area subject to groundworks may contain archaeological and artefactual deposits associated with the known prehistoric activity of the wider landscape. Middlecott itself existed as a farmstead at the time of Domesday (Williams & Martin 1992), though the existing Grade II Listed farm building dates to the later 16th century (List No. 1310205). No archaeological work is recorded in this area.</p> <p>A rectangular area (Area 01) orientated approximately north-west to south-east and measuring c.55m×25m was excavated under archaeological supervision by machine using a toothless grading bucket to a depth of c.0.35m, this being the depth of weathered natural. The stratigraphy of the site comprised a dark yellow-grey friable loam-silt topsoil (100) c.0.12m thick; overlying a mid-dark yellow-brown friable silt subsoil (101) up to 0.20m thick; and the weathered natural (102), comprising angular and sub-angular stone fragments within a matrix of mid brown-yellow friable silt.</p> <p>No archaeological features were identified during the excavations, the only feature being a modern service trench [103] orientated north-west to south-east and measuring 0.50m wide at the northern end of the site.</p> <p>Finds recovered included: a single sherd (2g) of blue transfer print pottery from topsoil (100). This was subsequently discarded.</p> <p>Conclusions</p> <p>The archaeological monitoring identified that the site appears to have been largely agricultural, the prehistoric activity identified to the north not appearing to continue into the development area; the only activity being service trenching associated with the modern use of the land.</p> <p>Bibliography</p> <p>Boyd, N. 2019: <i>Slurry Lagoon, Middlecott Farm, Brayford, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH WSI report no. EBM19v1.</p> <p>British Geological Survey 2019: <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> <p>Williams, A., & Martin, G.H. 1992: <i>Domesday Book: A complete translation</i>. London.</p>		
Recorder: P. Webb	Date sent to HER: 16.05.19	

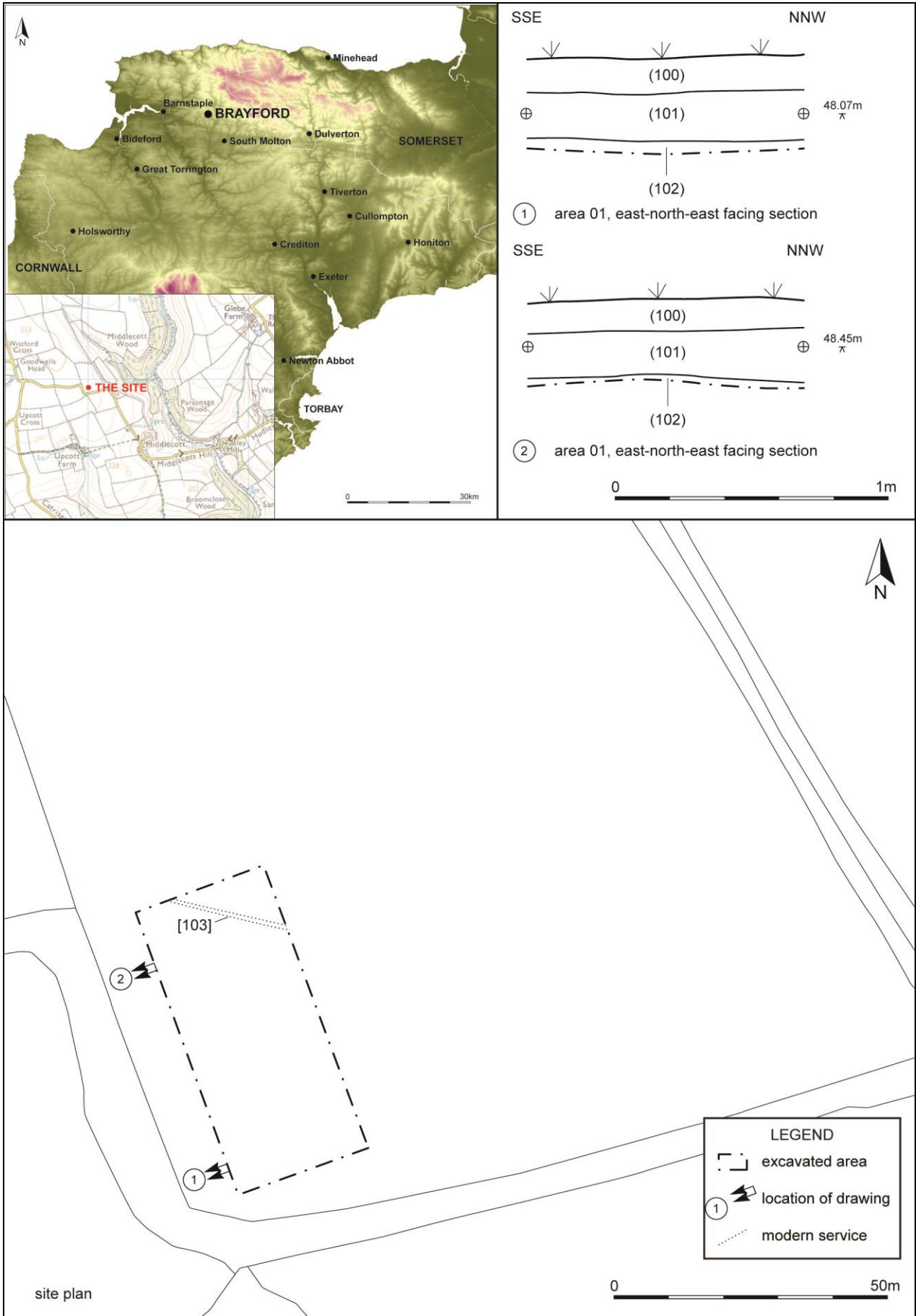


FIGURE 1: SITE PLAN AND SECTIONS SHOWING LOCATION OF EXCAVATED AREAS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES. HEIGHTS AT AN ARBITRARY BENCH MARK OF 50M AOD.



FIGURE 2: AREA 01 POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M & 2M SCALES).



FIGURE 3: AREA 01, REPRESENTATIVE SECTION; VIEWED FROM THE EAST-NORTH-EAST (1M SCALE).