

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Halberton, Mid Devon	National Grid Reference ST 04751 12209	Number:
Subject: Evaluation trenching at Hitchcock's Business Park		Photo attached? Yes
Planning Application no: 19/00928/MFUL	Recipient museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM)	
OASIS ID: SOUTHWES1- 358460	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: UHB19	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 7 th August 2019	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>Evaluation trenching was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) on behalf of a private client prior to development, following on from a geophysical survey on land at Hitchcock's Business Park, Halberton, Devon. The evaluation trenching was carried out by P. Bonvoisin on the 7th of August 2019. This work was undertaken in accordance following the standard Devon County HET brief for Evaluation and followed on from works previously carried out, the location of the evaluation trench was drawn up in consultation with Stephen Reed of the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>Hitchcock's Business Park is located approximately 1.5km south-west of Uffculme, south-east of the M5 and B3181, and north of River Culm. The site comprises a single field, field A from the earlier geophysical survey of the site (Bonvoisin 2019). The soils of this area are reddish fine loamy or fine silty over clayey permeable soils of the Whimble 3 Association bordering the permeable fine and coarse loamy permeable soils of the Wigton Moor Association (SSEW 1983). Superficial deposits of head gravel from subaerial slopes are present within Field A; these overlie the mudstone of the Aylesbeare Mudstone Group (BGS 2019). Hitchcock's Business Park (formerly Hitchcock's Farm) is located at the southern edge of the parish of Halberton, in the hundred of Halberton and deanery of Tiverton. The site lies within a landscape of known prehistoric and Romano-British activity. Neolithic and Bronze Age flint has been recovered from fields to the west of the site, geophysical survey identifying evidence for a prehistoric ring ditch (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2012); prehistoric and Romano-British activity were also identified during archaeological investigations to the west (Steinmetzer 2008). Bridwell registered park and garden (DDV22975) is located to the east of the business park; the route of the former Culm Valley Light Railway (MDV1507) lies south of Uffculme Road.</p> <p>The earlier geophysical survey of this site revealed few features of interest within the planning area (Bonvoisin 2019); with earlier phases of geophysical survey and evaluation at Hitchcocks Business Park revealing predominantly drainage ditches of post-medieval or modern date (Bonvoisin & Webb 2017).</p> <p>A single evaluation trench measuring 40m x 1.5m 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 0.30m deep). The stratigraphy of the site comprised a light brown friable sand-silt topsoil (100) 0.12m-0.18m thick overlying the light orange-brown slightly sand-silt packed disturbed natural (101) up to c.0.15m thick; the natural lay below a thin gravel lens which was present across much of the site, with occasional to common sub-rounded to rounded stone present within the layer. There were several stony variations within the natural (102, 103, 104), broadly light to mid orange-red-brown sand-silt mixed size rounded gravel and stone up to 200mm. These variations were all hand-excavated, but proved to be natural and no archaeological features were present. The geophysical anomaly visible in the survey data likely corresponding to a natural feature and probable echo response.</p> <p>Conclusions</p> <p>No archaeological features were identified during the excavation, the only finds present were from the topsoil and included modern plastic, no finds were retained.</p> <p>Bibliography</p> <p>Bonvoisin, P. 2019: <i>Hitchcock's Business Park, Halberton, Mid Devon, Devon: Geophysical Survey</i>. SWARCH report no. 190730</p> <p>Bonvoisin, P & Webb, P. 2017: <i>Land at Hitchcock's Business Park, Uffculme, Devon: Results of a Geophysical Survey & Archaeological Evaluation</i>. SWARCH: Report No. 171002</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>		
Recorder: P. Bonvoisin		Date sent to HER: 03.09.19

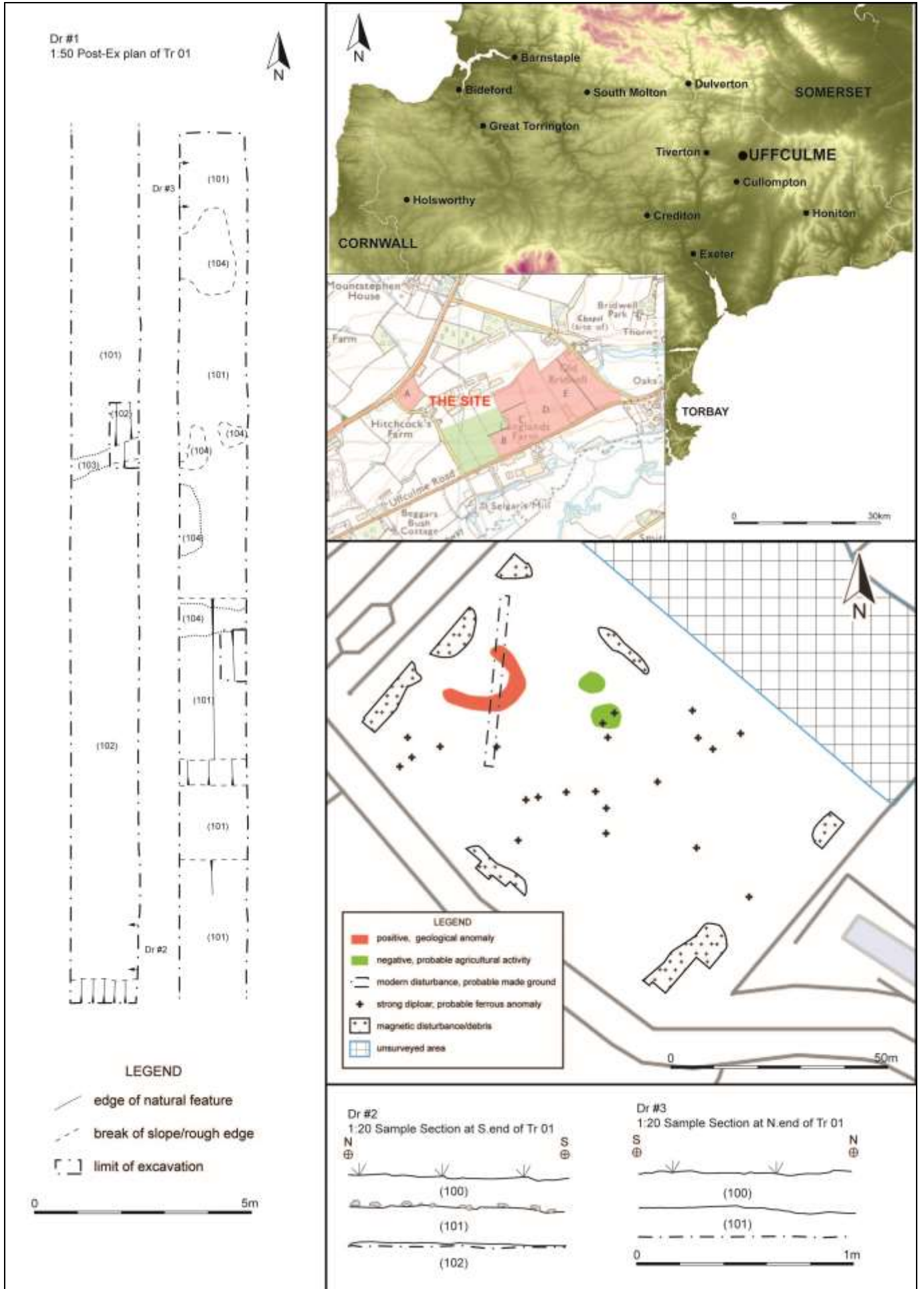


FIGURE 1: SITE PLAN SHOWING LOCATION OF EXCAVATED AREAS.



FIGURE 2: VIEW OF THE WHOLE TRENCH, FACING NORTH (1M & 2M SCALES).



FIGURE 3: SAMPLE SECTION AT NORTH END OF TRENCH (1M SCALE).