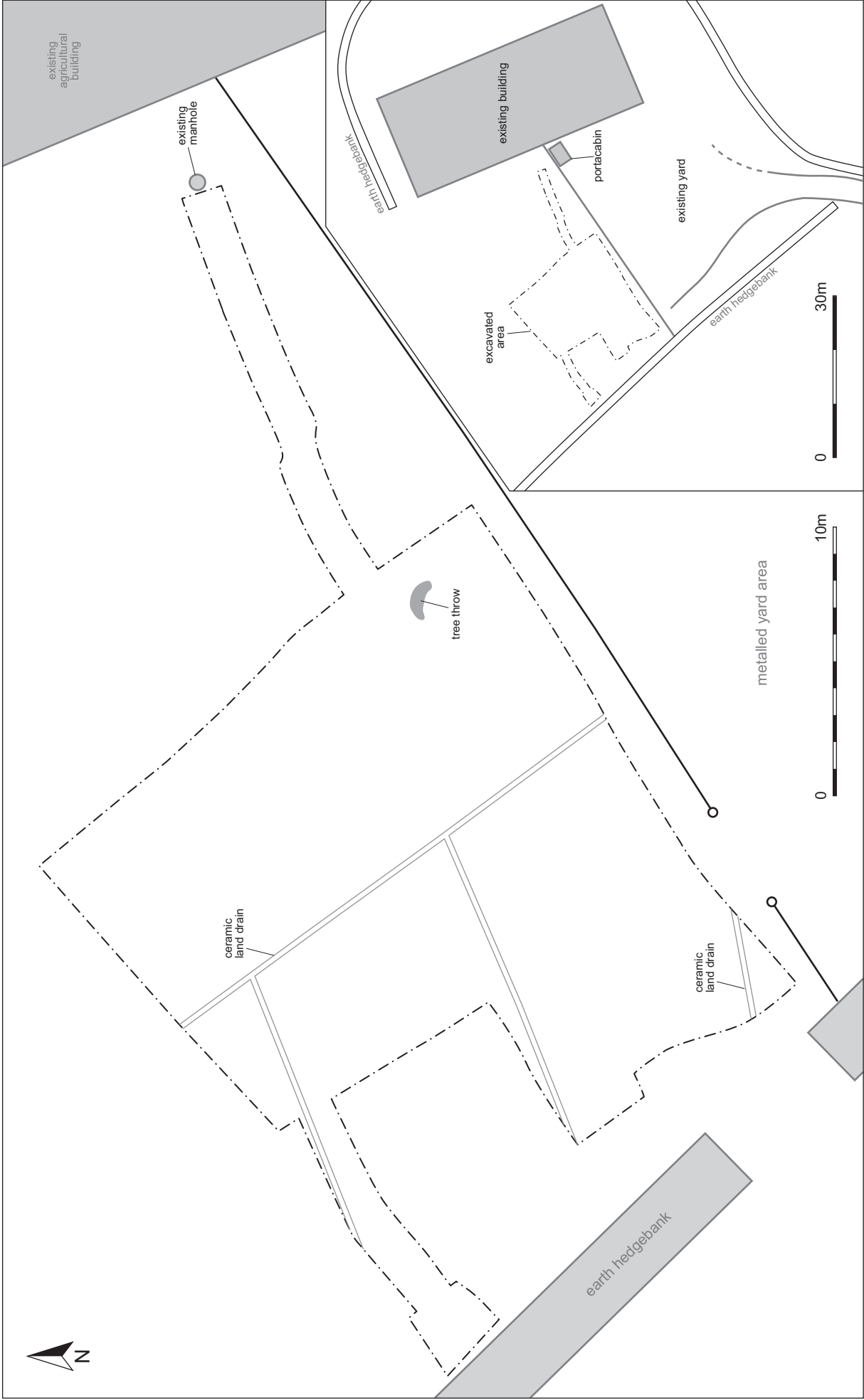


Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Upton Pyne, East Devon	National Grid Reference SX 91009856	Number:
Subject: archaeological monitoring of site strip in advance of the construction of an agricultural dwelling with associated service trenching and access.		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 07/1227/OUT & 09/0863/RES	Recipient museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter	
OASIS ID: Southwes1-37138	Museum Accession no: 14/2008	
Contractor's reference number/code: UPHF09	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 14/15 July 2009	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>A programme archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology (SWARCH) at the request of Amanda Burden of Luscombe Maye on behalf of Mr. Tim Leach (the landowner) prior to the construction of an agricultural dwelling with associated service trenching and access on land at Hurdles Farm, Upton Pyne, immediately to the west of the existing agricultural building. The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) approved by DCHES.</p> <p>An area approximately 400m² in extent (see attached figure) was stripped by a mechanical excavator using a 1.6m wide toothless grading bucket under strict archaeological supervision.</p> <p>Up to 0.36m of reddish-brown sandy-clay topsoil was removed to reveal the banded and variable subsoil beneath. The subsoil was composed of interleaved deposits of clean stiff red sandy-clay (largely confined to the western half of the excavated area) and soft yellowish-orange clayey-sand (eastern half), with occasional patches of sub-rounded to sub-angular stone up to 50mm across. In places the junction between the two deposits was marked by a discrete narrow (<50mm thick) band of sub-angular platy stones that were up to 30mm thick and 120mm wide. Manganese mineralisation was present throughout.</p> <p>The only features to be identified were a series of 19th or 20th century ceramic land drains and a single tree-throw. The land drains were confined to the western half of the excavated area. Modern ploughmarks running north-south and parallel to the field boundary were visible in the top of the subsoil across the whole area, and clear bands of subsoil were observed higher up in the topsoil where it had been deposited when the base of the furrow had been turned over by the plough. In places it was clear the last ploughing cut >50mm into the surface of the subsoil.</p> <p>Very few finds were recovered – 3 sherds of modern pottery (same vessel) from the topsoil and 1 abraded sherd of refined white earthenware (post 1720) from the cut of the NW-SE land drain. The tree-throw produced 1 small fragment of coal. A few small lumps of abraded lime/stone were observed in the topsoil, most probably derived from agricultural improvement.</p> <p>The spoil heaps were examined after stripping, but no finds were recovered.</p>		
<p>A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.</p>		
Recorder: B.W.Morris		Date sent to HER: 16.07.09

Please email completed form to: archaeol@devon.gov.uk or post to County Archaeology Service, Environment Directorate, Matford Lane Offices, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QW. Information recorded on this form will be added to the Historic Environment Record, and made available to all researchers. Any plans or photographs embedded within or attached to this form remain the copyright © of the recorder, and must not be reproduced in any publication without the explicit consent of the copyright holder.



Hurdles Farm, Upton Pyne: excavated area, 14th-15th July 2009



Plate 1: Hurdles Farm, Upton Pyne: the excavated area from the north-west.