

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Northam, Torridge	<b>National Grid Reference:</b> SS 45886 30368	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological evaluation trenching off Staddon Road, Appledore, Devon		<b>Photo attached?</b> YES
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 1/0753/2019/FUL	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon (MBND)	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> southwes1-375509	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> Pending (TBC)	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> ASR19	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	
<p><b>Description of works.</b></p> <p>Archaeological evaluation trenching was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of a private client (the Client) as part of a planning condition prior to the construction of a single residential dwelling off Staddon Road, Appledore, Northam, Devon. This work was carried out by P. Webb on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019 in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Boyd 2019) drawn up in consultation with Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>The proposed development is located in the north-eastern corner of an agricultural field currently under pasture on the western edge of Appledore, north of the A386; and sits at the plateau of a gentle west facing slope overlooking Northam Burrows and Bideford Bay beyond. The site lies at a height of c.38m AOD. The soils of this area are the well-drained fine loamy soils of the Neath Association where it borders the slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey, fine loamy and fine silty soils of the Hallsworth 2 Association (SSEW 1983); and overlying the mudstone and siltstone of the Ashon Mudstone Member and Crackington Formation (BGS 2019).</p> <p>The site lies in an area where little previous archaeological investigation has taken place. The Historic Landscape Characterisation shows it to be in an area of medieval enclosures based on strip fields. The Devon Historic Environment Record (HER) recording the existence of a possible medieval barrow to the west of the site. The field to the north was named 'Gun Field' at the time of the 1838 Tithe Survey and may indicate an association with the Civil War earthworks on Staddon Hill to the north; a field to the north-east named 'Burying Ground' (now under residential development) is suggested as being further indication of Civil War military activity in the vicinity of the development site. On a wider scale, the site is situated to the north-east of significant multi-period prehistoric activity surrounding Westward Ho!</p> <p>A total of three evaluation trenches (Trenches 01-03), each 1.20m wide and measuring between 20m and 30m in length were excavated by mechanical excavator to the depth of <i>in situ</i> weathered natural using a toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision. Exposed archaeological deposits were excavated by hand in accordance with the WSI and ClfA guidelines. The stratigraphy of the site comprised topsoil (100; 200; 300), mid-dark grey-brown soft silt-clay-loam 0.25m-0.40m thick; overlying subsoil (101; 201; 301), mid grey-yellow-brown soft clay up to 0.34m thick; and the natural (102; 202; 302), mid yellow to ginger soft clay and shillet bedrock.</p> <p>Finds recovered from the topsoil included: 3 sherds (107g) of glazed post-medieval North-Devon coarsewares; 2 sherds (8g) of post-medieval North Devon Gravel free wares; 19 sherds (75g) white-refined earthenwares; 1 sherd (23g) of Bristol &amp; Staffordshire yellow-glazed slipware; 2 fragments (9g) of clay pipe stem; 1 fragment (18g) of CBM; 1 fragment (2g) of glass; and 1 (25g) flint core fragment.</p> <p>A single feature was identified during the works, a field drain. Drain [103] was a slightly curvilinear feature identified towards the centre of trench 01, measuring 0.80m wide and 0.72m deep on an approximate north to south orientation with moderate to near vertical sides, gradual break of slope and concave base. It contained two fills: (104) yellow-brown soft clay 0.37m thick; and (105), mid brown soft silt-clay with common stone inclusions. Finds identified from this feature included a fragment of coarse ceramic drain.</p> <p><b>Conclusions</b></p> <p>A single archaeological feature was identified during the excavations, a possible post-medieval/modern drain and likely reflecting the agricultural use of the land during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The finds broadly support this post-medieval and modern use of the site, though the presence of a flint core fragment demonstrates the presence of prehistoric activity in the general area. The results of the archaeological trenching indicate that the site is of limited archaeological potential.</p> <p><b>Bibliography</b></p> <p>Boyd, N. 2019: <i>Land off Staddon Road, Appledore, Torridge, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH report no. ASR19WSIv2.</p> <p>British Geological Survey 2018: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. <a href="http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html">http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html</a></p> <p>Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> P. Webb		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 20.12.19



FIGURE 1: SITE PLAN SHOWING LOCATION OF EXCAVATED AREAS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES. HEIGHTS AT AOD.



FIGURE 2: DRAIN [103]; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).



FIGURE 3: TRENCH 03, POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M & 2M SCALES).