

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Northam, Torridge	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SS 43537 29348	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring at Hylward, Golf Links Road, Westward Ho! Northam		<b>Photo attached?</b> YES
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 1/0020/2020/FUL	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon (MBND)	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> southwes1-389426	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> PENDING	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> WHGL20	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 27 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	
<p><b>Description of works.</b></p> <p>Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of a private client (the Client) prior to the commencement of groundworks for a residential development on land at Hylward, Golf Links Road, Westward Ho!, Northam, Devon. This work was carried out by P. Webb between 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020 in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Boyd 2020) having been agreed in consultation with Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>The site comprises the plot of the recently demolished house 'Hylward' located towards the northern edge of Westward Ho!, south of Northam Burrows and the beach. The site is bordered to the north by Golf Links Road, to the west by Avon Lane, and to the south and east by residential development. The site lies at a height of c.8m AOD. The soils here are the slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey, fine silts and fine loamy soils of the Hallsworth 2 Association (SSEW 1983), which overlie the sedimentary mudstone and siltstone of the Ashton Mudstone Member and Crackington Formation (BGS 2020). The site lies in an area of archaeological potential: peat deposits, shell middens and submerged prehistoric forests lie along the shoreline; flint tools recovered to the west demonstrating the use of this area from the prehistoric period onwards. Archaeological work in the surrounding area indicates possible late prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval settlement around Westward Ho! The line of the Bideford, Westward Ho! and Appledore railway runs along the northern edge of the development site.</p> <p>Following the demolition of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century 'Hylward', excavation comprised a full site strip to the depth of <i>in situ</i> weathered natural across a sub-rectangular area (Area 01), measuring c.33m×30m by mechanical excavator using a toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision. Exposed archaeological features were excavated by hand in accordance with the WSI and ClfA guidelines. The stratigraphy of the site comprised topsoil (100), mid-dark grey-brown friable-soft silt-clay-loam 0.20m-0.40m thick; overlying subsoils (101), mid yellow-brown friable-soft silt-sand-clay 0.20m-0.35m thick, and (102), mid yellow-brown soft clay c.0.15m thick; and the natural (103), mid yellow soft clay. Post-medieval and modern pottery and glass bottles were recovered from both topsoil (100) and subsoil (101).</p> <p>Five features were identified during the works, two drainage ditches, two pits, and one railway track bed. Railway track bed {121} was located along the northern edge of the site. It was orientated approximately east to west, measuring 5+m wide and 0.45m deep with moderately sloping sides; and had been constructed from (128), large slatestone and shillet fragments 0.30m thick; and (127), re-deposited natural clay 0.20m thick along its southern edge. A linear drainage ditch [122] ran along its southern edge, measuring 0.80m wide and 0.25m deep with moderate to steep sloping sides, clear break of slope and concave base. It contained two fills: (123), light-mid yellow-brown soft sand-clay 0.20m thick; and (124), mid grey soft clay and shillet 0.05m thick. To the south, linear drainage ditch [109] was orientated approximately east to west. It measured up to 1.30m wide and 0.40m deep with moderate to steep sides, gradual break of slope and concave base. It contained four fills: (110) re-deposited natural clay 0.20m thick; (111), mid brown soft silt-clay 0.20m thick; (112), mid grey soft clay with shillet fragments 0.05m thick; and (113), mid grey soft clay 0.05m thick. Post-medieval (probably modern) pottery was recovered from the fills of this feature. Pit [104] was located towards the south-eastern corner of the site, and was sub-rectangular in plan on an approximate north to south alignment. It measured 1.60+m×1.40m and 0.50m deep with steep to near vertical sides, sharp break of slope and flat base. It contained four fills: (105), mid grey-brown friable-soft silt-clay mixed with mid yellow-brown friable-soft silt-clay-sand re-deposited subsoil 0.40m thick; (106), and (108), mid grey-brown soft sand-silt-clays up to 0.15m thick; and (107), a lens of mid brown loose sand and soft clay. Post-medieval and modern pottery, glass and brick fragments were recovered from this feature. Pit [114] was located towards the north-western corner of the site, and was sub-square in plan. It measured 2.40m×2.40m and 0.40m deep with moderate to near vertical sloping sides, clear to sharp break of slope and flat base. It contained four fills: (115), mid yellow-grey-brown soft silt-clay 0.15m thick; (116), mid yellow-brown soft clay up to 0.20m thick; (117), mid grey-brown soft clay with brick rubble; and (119), light-mid yellow-brown soft clay up to 0.10m thick. The pit had been lined around all sides with (118), crushed white lime. Post-medieval and modern pottery, brick and glass were recovered from the fills of this feature. Modern services and land drains were also identified.</p> <p><b>Conclusions</b></p> <p>The features identified during the excavations: the track bed of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century railway, drainage ditches, and rubble filled pits all reflect the later 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century development and growth of Westward Ho!</p> <p><b>Bibliography</b></p> <p>Boyd, N. 2020: <i>Hylward, Golf Links Road, Westward Ho!, Northam, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH report no. WHGL20WSiv1.</p> <p>British Geological Survey 2020: <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> 31.07.20	

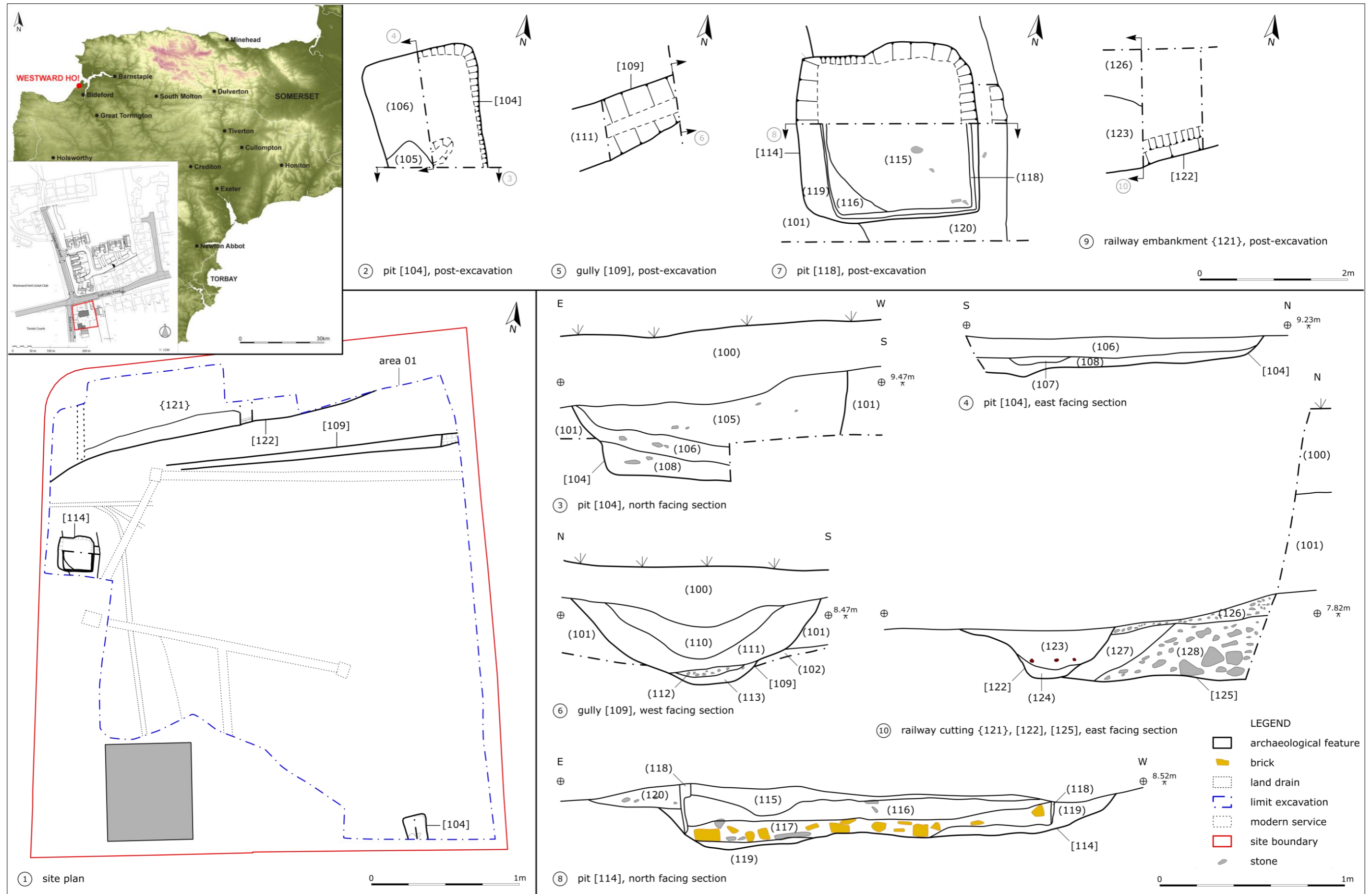


FIGURE 1: SITE PLAN SHOWING LOCATION OF EXCAVATED AREAS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES. HEIGHTS AT A.O.D.



FIGURE 2: PIT [114]; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (2M SCALE).



FIGURE 3: THE LINE OF THE FORMER BIDEFORD, WESTWARD HO! AND APPELORE RAILWAY AS REPRESENTED BY TRACK BED {121} AND ASSOCIATED DRAINAGE DITCH [122]; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M & 2M SCALES).