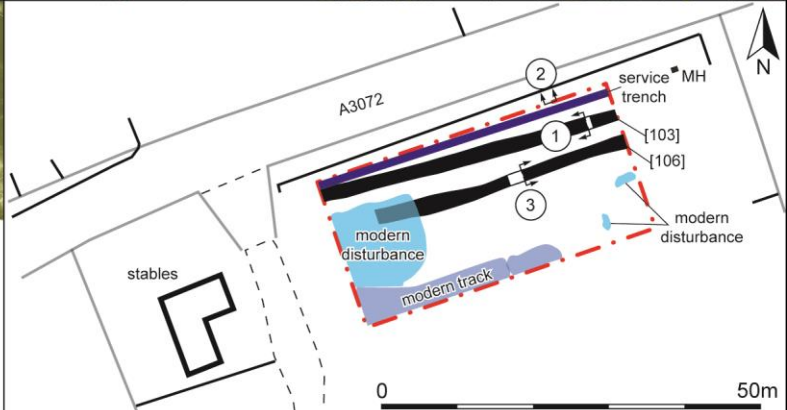
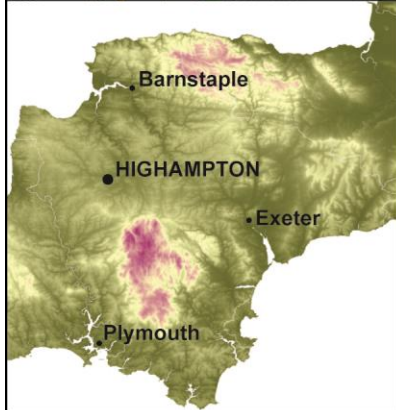
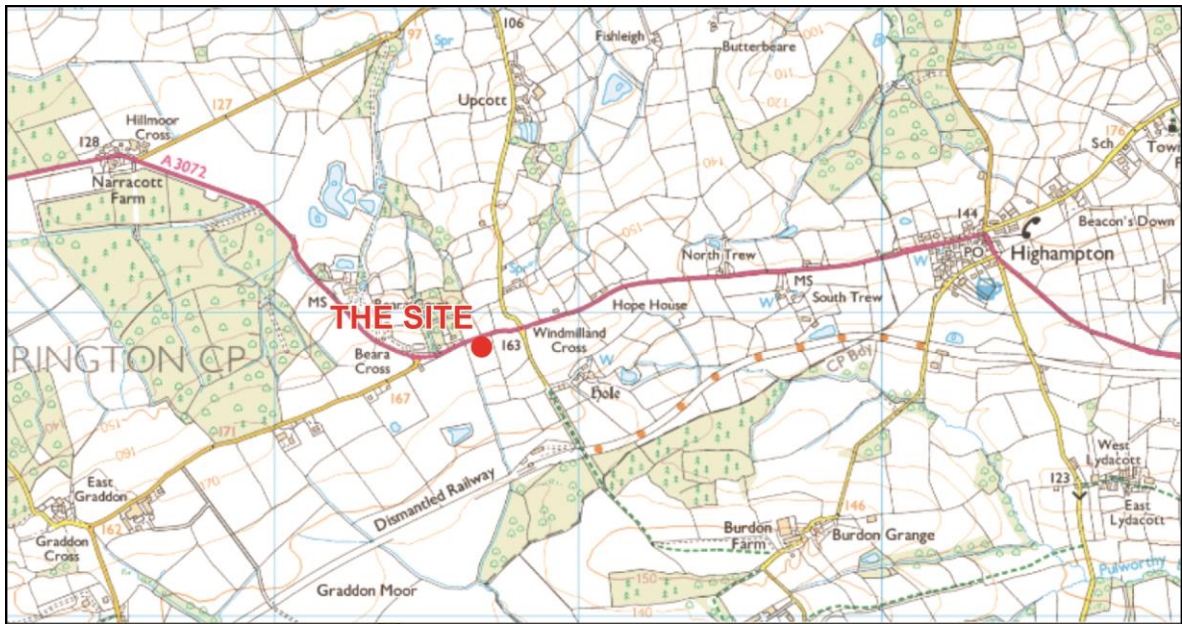
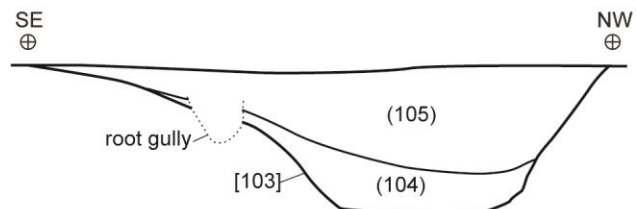


# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

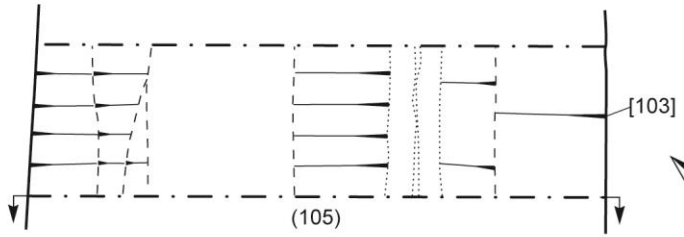
<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Black Torrington, Torridge	<b>National Grid Reference:</b> SS 46672 03907	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording on land off the A3072, at The Retreat, Highampton, Devon		<b>Photo attached?</b> YES
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 1/0183/2020/FUL	<b>Recipient museum:</b> N/A	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> Southwes1-393695	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> HTR20	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	
<p><b>Description of works.</b></p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of a private client at The Retreat, Highampton, Torridge, Devon (Figure 1) during the creation of an equestrian arena. The monitoring was carried out by SWARCH personnel on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July 2020. This work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Boyd 2020) drawn up in consultation with the Devon County Historic Environment Team.</p> <p>The Site is at the north end of a rectangular field off/south of the A3072, c.1.6km west of Highampton and c.1.7km south of Black Torrington, in an area with a number of water-courses and pools and predominantly post-medieval enclosure. It is at a height of c164m AOD. The soils of the site are the slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey soils of the Hallsworth 1 Association (SSEW 1983), which overlie the sedimentary mudstone and siltstone of the Crackington Formation (BGS 2020). The Site lies 65m south-west of a mound; speculatively Scheduled (1018528) as a barrow and the former location of a possible mill structure. The c.1843 tithe apportionment describes The Site as only occasionally arable and 1880s Ordnance Survey mapping depicts it as marshy/scrub field. The field's northern boundary appears to shifted or straightened sometime between these 19<sup>th</sup> century maps, presumably in association with changes to the road (A3072) layout . 21<sup>st</sup> century activity on the site includes gravel tracks, and temporary fence lines and structures that have been erected and cleared over the years prior to its current ownership.</p> <p>An area 20mx40m was excavated under archaeological supervision by a machine using a toothless grading bucket to the depth of formation, which corresponded to the depth of <i>in-situ</i> weathered natural, 0.22-0.38m (Figures 1, 3). The parallel ditches of a former post-medieval boundary and modern disturbance including a pipe trench and gravel deposits were identified. The stratigraphy of the site was comprised of Topsoil (100), a dark grey-brown, friable clay-silt loam, 0.10-0.22m thick; which overlaid occasional modern gravel spreads, &lt;0.10m thick, associated with tracks/gate-ways, and modern service trenches. These overlaid and cut Subsoil (101), a mid yellow/grey-brown with rusty mottling, friable-soft silt clay, 0.12-0.18m thick. Subsoil (101) overlaid and was similar to the fills of Ditches [103] and [106]. These ditches cut Natural (102), a light brown-yellow compact clay with moderate angular stone. A deeper shillet rich clay strata was shown to underlay this clay at a greater depth. The natural appeared heavily disturbed by waterlogging and root disturbance.</p> <p>Ditch [103], c.1.92m wide and 0.48m deep, was a linear ditch aligned north-east by south-west with very steep sides, a sharp break of slope and a flat base (Figures 1, 2). It contained two fills; lower fill (104) was a mottled light grey-yellow, soft silt-clay, c.0.16m thick; Upper fill (105) was a mid yellow-brown with occasional rusty mottling, friable clay-silt, c.0.36m thick. Approximately 2m away and parallel to Ditch [103] was Ditch [106] with a more moderate amount of natural angular stone between the ditches. Ditch [106], &lt;2.50m wide and c.0.16m deep, had very gentle sides a gentle flattish base/profile. It contained a single fill, (107), a light mottled yellow/grey-brown with rusty flecks. It contained 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century finds and mineralisation indicative of waterlogging.</p> <p>Very few finds were present on the site: Topsoil (100) contained x2 sherds (3g) of White Refined Earthenware and very occasional fragments of ceramic land drain. Fill (107) contained a single shard (&lt;1g) of thin panel glass and occasional fragments of abraded CBM (brick/tile in 1-3g fragments) and anthracite coal in &lt;2g fragments. All finds were discarded.</p> <p><b>Conclusions</b></p> <p>Ditches [103] and [106] correspond to the sites field boundary on the 1843 tithe map, which appears to have shifted to its extant boundary by c.1884. Modern ground clearance, services and activity account for some shallow ground disturbance, but no significant archaeological features or deposits were present on the site.</p> <p><b>Bibliography</b></p> <p>Boyd, N. 2020: <i>Land at The Retreat, Highampton, Torridge, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH report no. HTR20WSiv2</p> <p>British Geological Survey 2019: <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> J. Bampton	<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> August 2020	



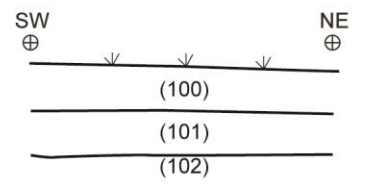
① Ditch [103]; north-east facing section



Ditch [103]; plan



② Sample Section; south-east facing



③ Ditch [106]; south-west facing section

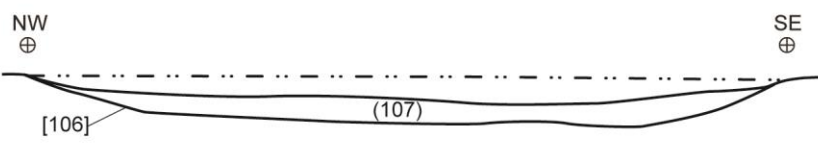


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION AND PLAN; AND FEATURE SECTION DRAWINGS AND PLAN.



FIGURE 2: DITCH [103], VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (1M SCALE).



FIGURE 3: SITE SHOT, MID-EXCAVATION, SHOWING DITCHES [103] (RIGHT) AND [106], VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (NO SCALE).