

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Modbury, South Hams	National Grid Reference SX 64757 49853	Number:
Subject: Archaeological Evaluation for Land at Butland Farm, Applications 1-4		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 1285/20/FUL, 1289/20/FUL, 1293/20/FUL & 1294/20/FUL	Recipient museum: Plymouth Box	
OASIS ID: southwes1-397029	Museum Accession no: PLYBX.2020.11	
Contractor's reference number/code: MBF20	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 28 th September 2020	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>Archaeological evaluation trenching was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of a private client in advance of groundwork associated with the start of works for the construction of a series of agricultural buildings and associated landscaping at Butland Farm, Modbury, South Hams, Devon (Figure 1). This work was undertaken on 28th September 2020 in accordance with a WSI (Boyd 2020) drawn up in consultation with the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>The site lies c.2km to the south-west of Modbury on a flat hill, on a block of upland between the Avon and Erme estuaries. The site lies at a height of approximately 130m AOD. The soils in this area are the well drained fine loamy and fine silty soils over rock of the Denbigh 1 Association (SSEW 1983), overlying the slate, siltstone and sandstone of the Dartmoor Group (BGS 2020). The site lies in an area of archaeological potential with two possible Romano-British ditched enclosures identified through aerial photography c.75m to the north-east of the proposed site on the Devon HER (MDV50169 & MDV125826), with a 19th century catch meadow a further c.100m to the north-east. Fieldwork undertaken by Peninsula Archaeology in advance of the construction of the existing farm complex and trackways at Butland Farm in 2012 did not identify any archaeological features and no finds other than modern plastics (Tingle 2013).</p> <p>Ten trenches (totalling 155m in length) and a hedgebank breach were excavated by a wheeled mechanical excavator fitted with a 2.5m wide toothless grading bucket to the depth of weathered natural (Figure 3). The ground had clearly been disturbed in the 21st century with soils cut away in the locations of and adjoining the existing farm trackways and yards, and so the proposed trench plan outlined in the WSI (Boyd 2020) was adjusted to avoid this landscaping.</p> <p>A very clean soft reddish-brown silt-clay topsoil was noted across the site, which in general was between 0.3m-0.4m deep and directly overlay the natural, a firm yellow to yellow-grey silt-clay with common to abundant shillet, to the south-west (Trench 10) the natural became reddish-grey with rare to occasional medium sized (70mm dia.) sub-angular stone and quartz fragments. The topsoil was in general finer, deeper, and contained less frequent stone in the northern field (Trenches 7-10).</p> <p>The hedgebank which was breached, was c.0.85m high and 2.5m wide earthen bank with no stone facing. The construction consisted of an upper 0.2m thick layer of reddish-brown silty topsoil with abundant roots, overlaying a 0.45m high core of firm reddish-yellow silt-clay (re-deposited natural).</p> <p>The site contained no identified archaeological features or deposits and no finds were recovered other than modern plastics.</p> <p>Bibliography</p> <p>Boyd, N. 2020: WSIv2. <i>Land at Butland Farm Apps 1-4, Modbury, South Hams, Devon</i>. SWARCH WSI No. MBF20WSIv2.1</p> <p>British Geological Survey 2020: http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html</p> <p>Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales (a brief explanation of the constituent soil associations)</i>.</p> <p>Tingle, M. 2013: <i>Topsoil stripping for roadway and milking parlour at land on Butland Farm, Modbury, South Hams</i>. HER Report.</p>		
Recorder: S. Walls		Date sent to HER: 07/10/2020

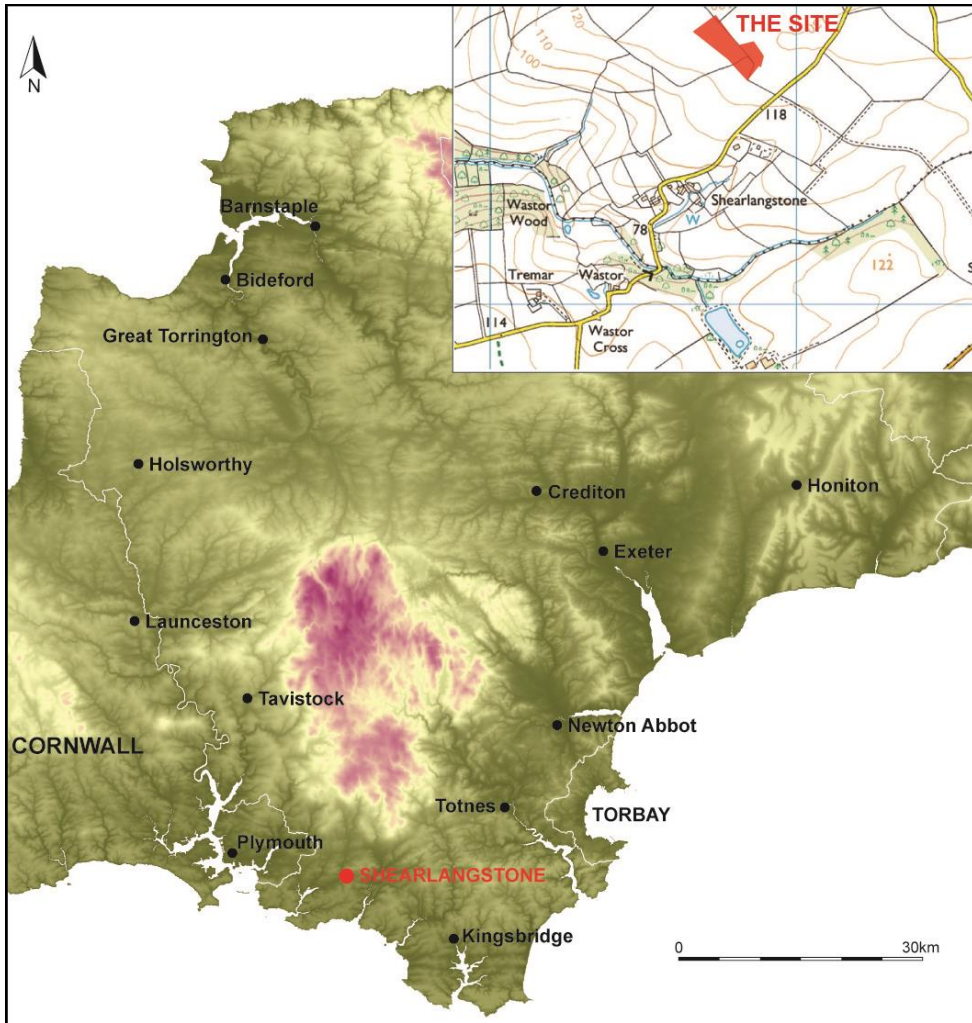


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION.



FIGURE 2: TRENCH 3, POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (1M SCALE).

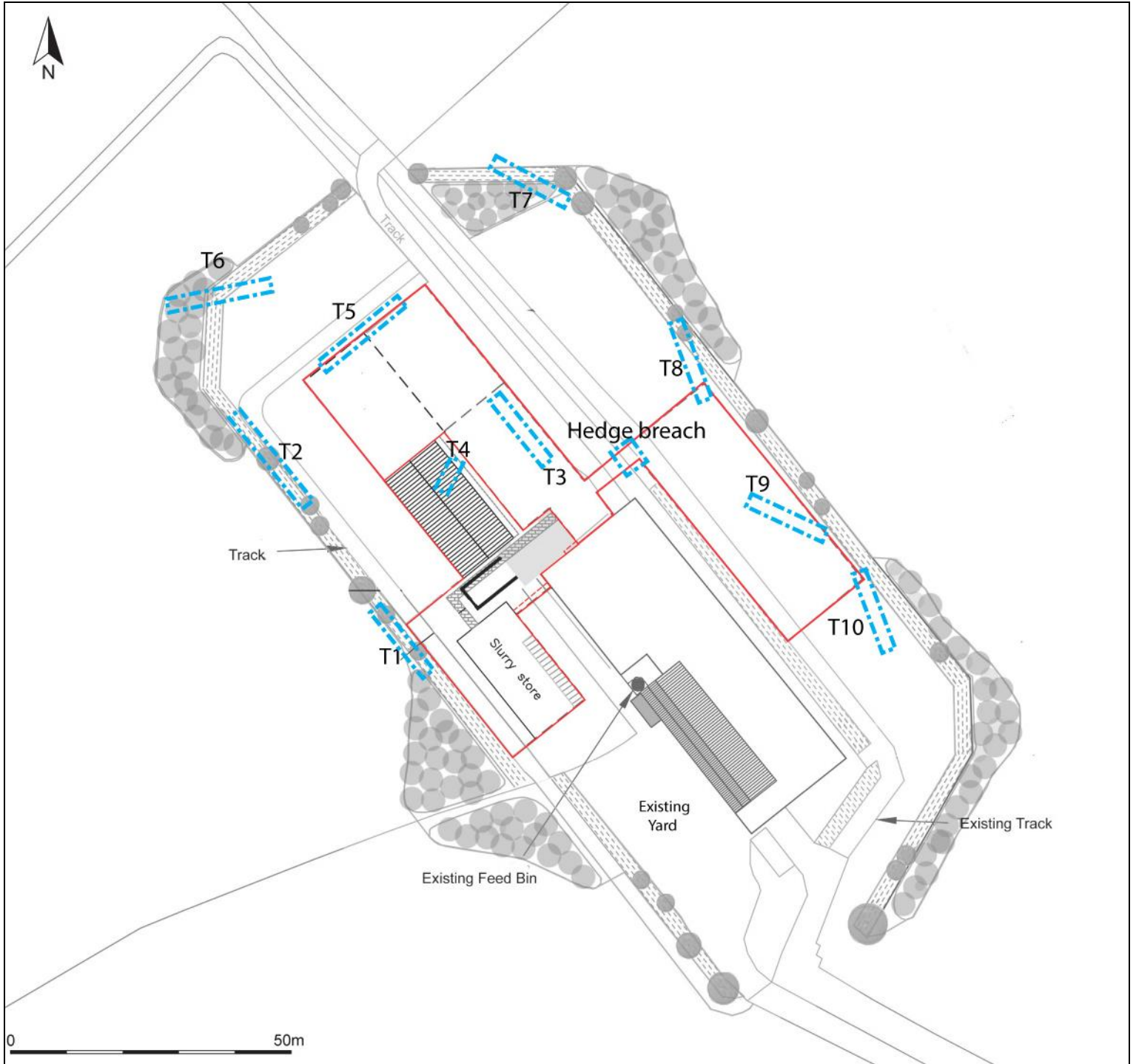


FIGURE 3: TRENCH PLAN.