Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Holsworthy, Torridge	**National Grid Reference:** SS 34662 04615	**Number:**
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks at Land at Twiney Park, Holsworthy, Devon.		**Photo attached?** Yes
Planning Reference: 1/0476/2019/OUT	**Recipient museum:** n/a	
OASIS ID: southwes1-397512	**Museum Accession no:** n/a	
Contractor's reference number/code: HTP20	**Dates fieldwork undertaken:** 27th October & 6th November 2020	

Description of works.

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of a private client. as part of archaeological work before building works associated with a single house plot at Twiney Park, Holsworthy, Torridge, Devon. This work was carried out by S. Stevens on 27th October and 6th November 2020 in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Boyd 2020) having been agreed during consultation with the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCHET).

The site lies adjacent to North Road, at the northern edge of Holsworthy. The ground here is fairly level, sloping to the east across the road, down to a tributary of the River Deer. The site lies at a height of c.143m AOD. The soils of this area are the well-drained fine loamy soils over rock of the Neath Association (SSEW 1983), which overlie the sedimentary sandstone of the Bude Formation (BGS 2020).

The site is located in an area of high archaeological potential, with a possible prehistoric or Romano-British enclosure cropmark located c.300 metres to the northeast. The site is also located in an area of former medieval enclosures based on strip fields and a Second World War Prisoner of War camp was located to the southwest of the proposed development.

The first stage of monitoring involved the digging by machine of two service trenches either side of the newly created access to the plot and located adjacent to the road. These measured 0.4m wide and both approximately 9m long, to a depth of c.0.8m. The stratigraphy of this section of the site comprised (100) topsoil c.0.10m thick, a very dark grey-brown friable silt; overlying subsoil (101) c.1.5m thick, a dark grey-brown friable silt-clay; over clay layer (102) c.0.20m thick, a mid yellow-brown soft-friable silt clay. Deposit (102) overlay clean. firm natural clay layers (103) c.0.30m thick and (104) c.0.5m thick, both mid grey-brown clay-silts, with (104) being a slightly darker variation/band. These natural clays overlay a compact to firm natural of yellow clay-silt with abundant shillet (105).

The second stage of monitoring was for the foundation footings for the single house plot, which comprised a series of trenches connected by corners, which started in the north corner of the site. These footings were all machined to approximately 0.9m deep and were 0.6m wide and measuring more than c.24m in length. The stratigraphy of this section of the site comprised clayey subsoil layer (102); which overlay natural clay (103/104); which overlay the natural shillet (105). Given the paucity of finds and results, the full foundations were not monitored.

No features were identified and no finds were recovered from the monitoring.

Conclusions

The results of the strip indicated that there were no archaeological deposits present and no archaeological features were identified.

Bibliography

Boyd, N. 2020: Land at Twiney Park, Holsworthy, *Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation.* SWARCH report no. HTP20.
British Geological Survey 2020: *Geology of Britain Viewer*. http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html
Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales*.

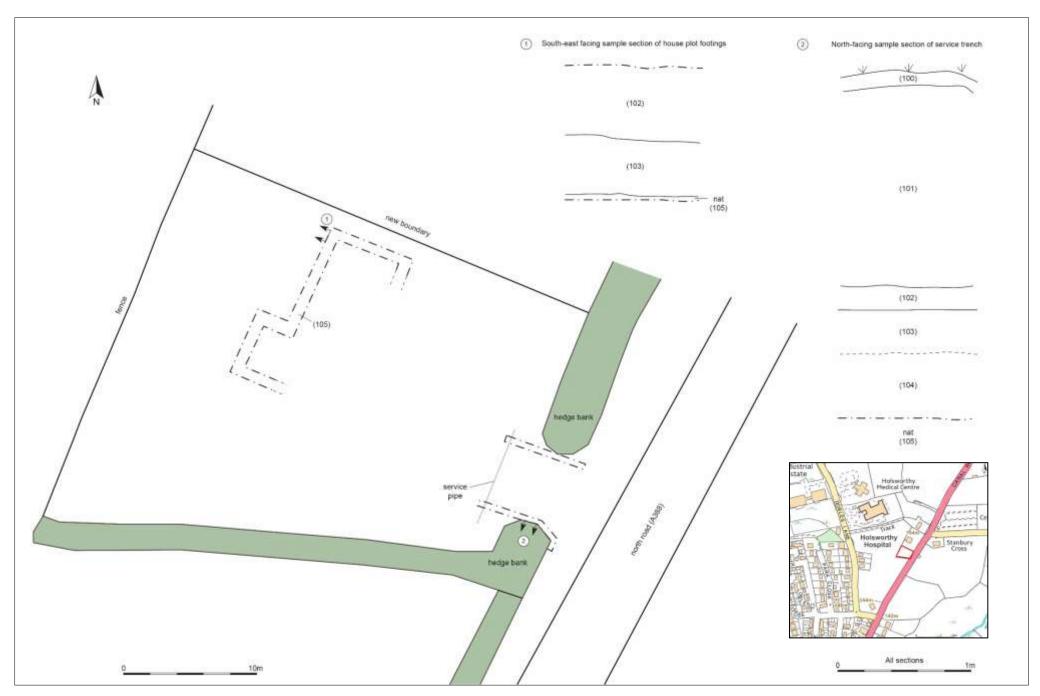| **Recorder:** S. Stevens	**Date sent to HER:** 13.11.19

FIGURE 1: SITE PLAN AND SAMPLE SECTIONS.

FIGURE 3: SAMPLE SECTION IN SERVICE TRENCH; FROM THE NORTH-EAST (1M SCALE).

FIGURE 3: AREA STRIP FOR HOUSE PLOT FOOTINGS; FROM THE NORTH-EAST (1M SCALE).