

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Parkham, Torridge	National Grid Ref: SS 38775 21363	Number:
Subject: Archaeological evaluation off Barton Road, Parkham, Torridge, Devon		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 1/0413/2019/FUL	Recipient museum: Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon (MBND)	
OASIS ID: southwes1-404706	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: PLB20	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 21 st October 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 (the Client) prior to residential development on land off Barton Road, Parkham, Torridge, Devon. The evaluations was carried out by SWARCH personnel on 21st October 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 (DCHET; ref ARCH/DM/TO/34291B).</p> <p>Parkham is located c.2.8km inland of the North Devon coast on a hill spur above a deeply-incised tributary of the River Yeo (Figure 1). The site is situated at the southern end of a relatively flat field located between Barton Road and Chapel Road, immediately to the west of the church of St James and its churchyard, at a height of approximately 150m 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 mudstones, siltstones and sandstones of the Holsworthy Group (BGS 2020). Parkham is a village and parish in the Hundred of Shebbear and the Deanery of Hartland (Lysons 1822). It is recorded in 1086 as <i>Percheham</i> from the Old English 'pearroc(a) hām' meaning paddock homestead or a farmholding with small enclosures (Gover et al 1931). The Devon HER lists relatively few heritage assets in the immediate area – the largely 15th century (with Norman origins) church to the east (MDV182); Barton Farm (MDV11688), smithy (MDV50887) and Bell Inn (MDV99301) to the south; and a quarry (MDV34764) to the north-west of the site. The site lies within a block of fields identified as medieval enclosures based on strip fields by the Devon HLC. Previous stages of desk-based assessment, geophysical survey, and heritage impact assessment (Boyd & Bampton 2017) with subsequent evaluation trenching (Bampton & Morris 2017) identified a post-medieval platform with ditch; holloway that went out of use in the 19th century; relict field boundary; and an undated rectangular enclosure.</p> <p>A total of five trenches, each 1.40m wide and totalling c.75m were excavated under archaeological supervision by machine using a toothless grading bucket to the depth of weathered natural. The stratigraphy of the site comprised active topsoil, mid brown soft-friable clay-silt-loam c.0.15-0.22m thick; overlying lower topsoil, mid slightly grey-brown soft-friable silt-clay with common stone inclusions 0.15-0.40m thick; intermittent subsoil, reddish-brown soft slightly silt-clay up to 0.05m thick; and the natural, stone within pale brown-yellow soft clay. This only differed towards the south-western corner of the site, where layer (101), mid grey-brown soft silt-clay with gravel was present beneath the topsoil, created a more compacted stoned area along the line of the route between access points to the field.</p> <p>No archaeological features were identified during the evaluation. Finds recovered from the topsoil included: 7 sherds (72.3g) of post-medieval North Devon gravel tempered pottery; 1 sherd (7.5g) 19th century English stoneware; 1 sherd (77g) of 19th century redware pottery; and 9 sherds (74.3g) of white refined earthenwares. A single clay pipe fragment (2g) was recovered from the lower topsoil of Trench 04. All finds were subsequently discarded.</p> <p>Conclusions</p> <p>The archaeological monitoring identified that the site has remained undeveloped, forming part of a larger agricultural field on the edge of the development of the settlement. Finds recovered demonstrate post-medieval activity in the vicinity.</p> <p>Bibliography</p> <p>Bampton, J., & Morris, B. 2017: <i>Land off Barton Road, Parkham, Devon: Results of an Archaeological Evaluation</i>. SWARCH report no.: 171020.</p> <p>Boyd, N., & Bampton, J. 2017: <i>Land off Barton Road, Parkham, Devon: Desk-Based Assessment, Geophysical Survey & Heritage Impact Assessment</i>. SWARCH report no.: 170616.</p> <p>Boyd, N. 2020: <i>Land off Barton Road, Parkham, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH WSI report no.: PBL20WSlv2.</p> <p>British Geological Survey 2020: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html.</p> <p>Gover, J., Mawer, A., & Stenton, F. 1931: <i>The Place-Names of Devon: Part One</i>. Cambridge.</p> <p>Lyson, D., & Lysons, S 1822: <i>Magna Britannia: Volume 6, Devon</i>. T.Cadell & W. Davies, London.</p> <p>Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>.</p>		
Recorder: P. Webb	Date sent to HER: 22.10.2020	

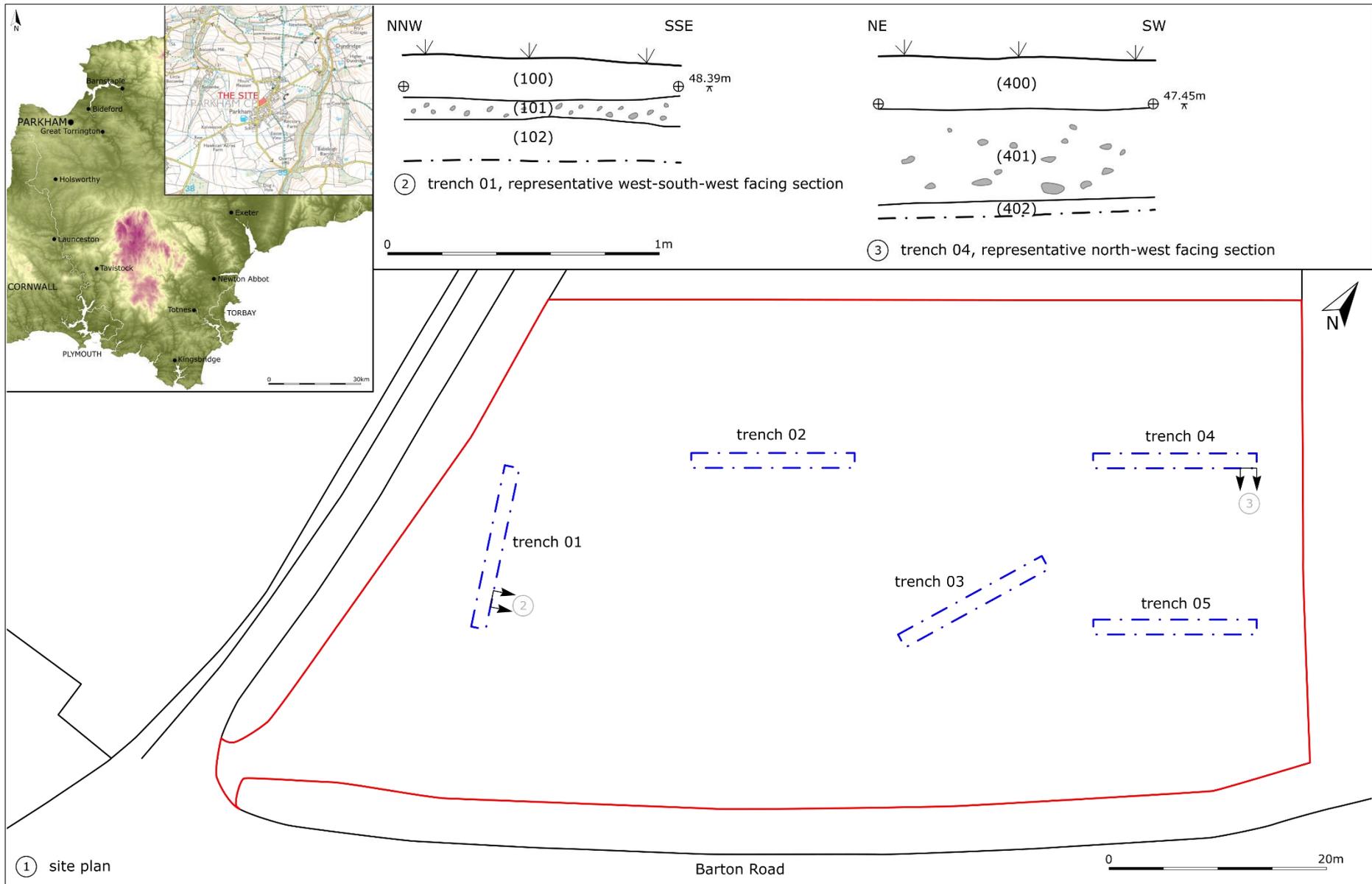


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION, PLAN, AND SECTIONS. HEIGHTS BASED ON AN ARBITRARY TBM OF 50MAOD.



FIGURE 2: TRENCH 01, REPRESENTATIVE WEST-NORTH-WEST FACING SECTION SHOWING THE MORE COMPACTED STONED LAYER BENEATH THE TOPSOIL; VIEWED FROM THE WEST-NORTH-WEST (1M SCALE).



FIGURE 3: TRENCH 02 POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (1M & 2M SCALES).