

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Parkham, Torridge	<b>National Grid Ref:</b> SS 38775 21363	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological evaluation off Barton Road, Parkham, Torridge, Devon		<b>Photo attached?</b> YES
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 1/0413/2019/FUL	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon (MBND)	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> southwes1-404706	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> PLB20	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2020	
<p><b>Description of works.</b></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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 &amp; Bampton 2017) with subsequent evaluation trenching (Bampton &amp; Morris 2017) identified a post-medieval platform with ditch; holloway that went out of use in the 19<sup>th</sup> 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) 19<sup>th</sup> century English stoneware; 1 sherd (77g) of 19<sup>th</sup> 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><b>Conclusions</b></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><b>Bibliography</b></p> <p><b>Bampton, J., &amp; Morris, B.</b> 2017: <i>Land off Barton Road, Parkham, Devon: Results of an Archaeological Evaluation</i>. SWARCH report no.: 171020.</p> <p><b>Boyd, N., &amp; Bampton, J.</b> 2017: <i>Land off Barton Road, Parkham, Devon: Desk-Based Assessment, Geophysical Survey &amp; Heritage Impact Assessment</i>. SWARCH report no.: 170616.</p> <p><b>Boyd, N.</b> 2020: <i>Land off Barton Road, Parkham, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH WSI report no.: PBL20WSlv2.</p> <p><b>British Geological Survey</b> 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><b>Gover, J., Mawer, A., &amp; Stenton, F.</b> 1931: <i>The Place-Names of Devon: Part One</i>. Cambridge.</p> <p><b>Lyson, D., &amp; Lysons, S.</b> 1822: <i>Magna Britannia: Volume 6, Devon</i>. T.Cadell &amp; W. Davies, London.</p> <p><b>Soil Survey of England and Wales</b> 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> 22.10.2020	

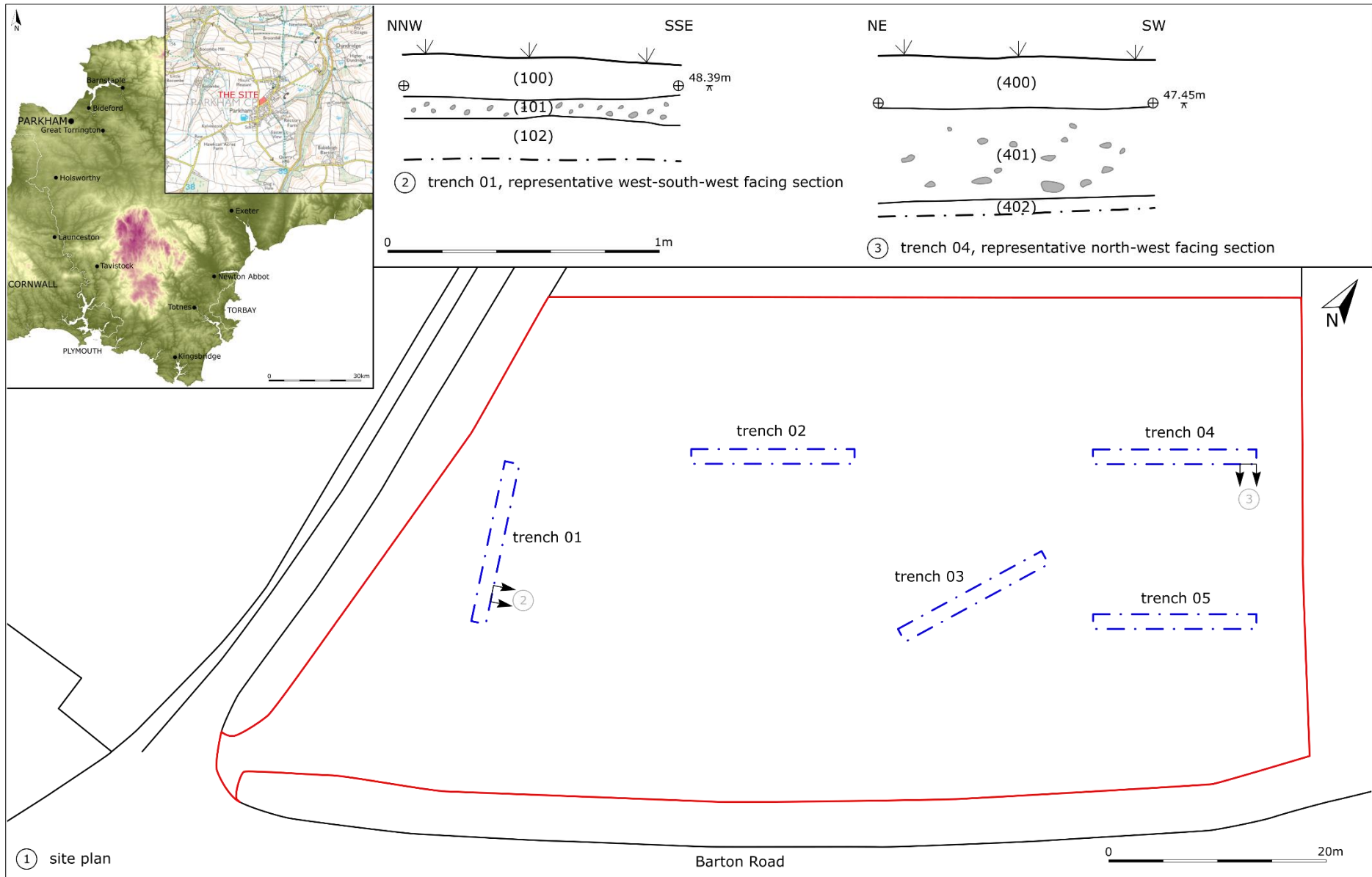


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION, PLAN, AND SECTIONS. HEIGHTS BASED ON AN ARBITRARY TBM OF 50MAOD.



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).