

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Parkham, Torridge	National Grid Reference: SS 38606 21605	Number:
Subject: Archaeological evaluation trenches in advance of creation of riding arena on Land Adjacent Long Close Cottage, Parkham,		Photo attached? Yes
Planning Reference: 1/0242/2020/FUL	Recipient museum: Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon	
OASIS ID: southwes1-415043	Museum Accession no: NDDMS:3.2021A	
Contractor's reference number/code: PLC21	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 26.04.2021	
<p>Description of works. Archaeological trenching was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of a Private Client before the creation of a riding arena on land adjacent to Long Close Cottage, Parkham, Devon. This work was carried out by S. Walls on 24th April 2021 in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Boyd 2021) having been agreed in consultation with the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>The site lies to the north-west of Parkham on the edge of the village height of c.159m AOD (see Figure 1). 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 2021). The site lies within an area of archaeological potential as geophysical survey and evaluation trenching to the south-west identified potential prehistoric and other archaeological features and remains (EDV7488). Longclose Cottage is a 20th century building, although a building is shown on the 1887 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map (but not 1907 second edition) in a similar location.</p> <p>A total of 34.2m length of trenching was excavated by machine with a 1.25m wide grading bucket, under archaeological supervision. The trenches demonstrated a 0.25m deep topsoil (100) of mid reddish-brown silt-clay with occasional to rare sub-angular shillet stone, this directly overlay the natural (101) a red to reddish-grey silt-clay with shillet (Figure 1). A single ditch [102] with gently concaved profile was noted at the western end of the Trench (see Figure 2). This undated feature was 0.8m wide and up to 0.25m deep with a single fill of reddish-brown silt-clay (103), remarkably similar in nature to the topsoil. No finds were recovered from this feature. The remains of a broken east-west orientated ceramic pipe were the only other noted feature.</p> <p>Finds from the topsoil of the evaluation consisted of 1x sherd of white refined earthenware (2g), 1x fragment of roof tile (79g), 1x pyrite (fools gold) (10g). A small assemblage of finds was also recovered from a modern earth bund created for the site access to the north-east of the site. These finds included 2x sherd of white refined earthenware (8g), 2x fragment of white tile (24g), 1x frag of mortar (33g), 2x sheds of clear glass (4g); 1x: clay-pipe bowl fragment (6g); 1x flint blade fragment (2g). The finds have been offered to the Museum of Barnstaple for deposition.</p> <p>Conclusions The single ditch appears to be of later origin given the nature of the fill, its location also approximately corresponds with an historic field boundary shown on the tithe map (c.1840) and still visible on the Ordnance Survey 1st and 2nd edition maps. The ceramic drain fragments also align closely with a further removed historic field boundary (see Figure 1).</p> <p>Bibliography Boyd, N. 2020: <i>Land adjacent to Longclose Cottage, Parkham, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH report no. PLC21WSI British Geological Survey 2020: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>.</p>		
Recorder: S. Walls		Date sent to HER: 28.04.2021

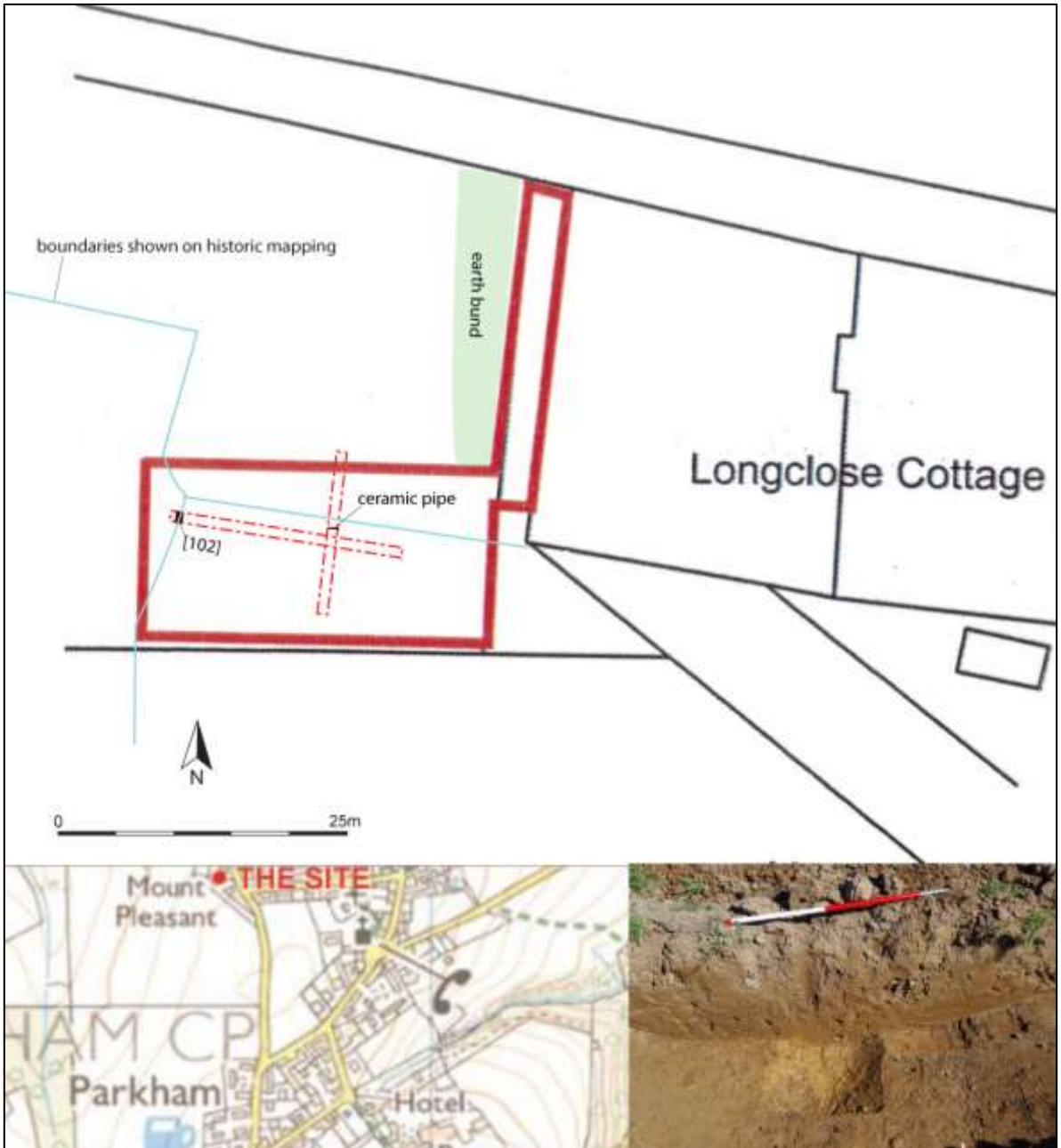


FIGURE 1: SITE PLAN SHOWING THE TRENCH LOCATIONS, PHOTO INSERT OF DITCH [102], VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).



FIGURE 2: TRENCHES VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).