

Civil Parish & District: Moretonhampstead, Dartmoor	National Grid Reference SX 7458 8880	DNP Identifier:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and Recording at The Swale, Cranbrook Linhay Farm, Moretonhampstead, Dartmoor, Devon		Photo attached? Yes
Planning Application no: 0440/20	OASIS ID: Southwes1-419882	
Contractor's reference number/code: MCB21	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 5 th May 2021	
<p>Description of works: Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) on behalf of a private client during groundworks associated with the installation of a landscape rainwater swale at a new farmstead at Cranbrook Linhay Farm, Moretonhampstead, Devon (Figure 1). The monitoring was carried out by J. Bampton on the 5th of May 2021. This work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Boyd 2021) drawn up in consultation with the Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA).</p> <p>The site is adjacent to Cranbrook farmstead; c.2.5km north of Moretonhampstead, south of the River Teign valley (c.1km south of Fingle Bridge) and north-west of Butterdon Down. The site is in a hilly landscape of farmland with rough high ground and the wooded River Teign valley to the north. Cranbrook utilizes a spring and brook to the west and south-west of the site. The site is at a height of c.285m AOD. The soils of the area are the well drained gritty loamy soils of the Moretonhampstead Association (SSEW 1983), in places these can have a humose (peaty) surface horizon. The soils overlay the metamudstone of the Ashton Mudstone Member and Crackington Formation (undifferentiated) (BGS 2021). Historically/Archaeologically the site is within a landscape of Iron Age hillforts; Cranbrook Castle c.620m to its west (MDV8221), Prestonbury Castle to its north (MDV8439), and Wooston Castle to its east (MDV8292). Cranbrook- and Prestonbury Castles also have evidence of Bronze Age settlement (MDV27959, MDV50504); and Bronze Age cairns are identified atop Butterdon Down c.580m to the south-east (MDV20070, MDV20071). Historic Landscape Characterisation places the site in 'medieval enclosures based on strip fields' and a settlement at Cranbrook was first recorded in the 14th century (MDV108467). The medieval field systems in the area may incorporate/follow patterns of prehistoric field systems, examples of both have been recorded to the south and east (MDV8333; MDV8296). Monitoring and recording in 2020 of the groundworks for the new farmstead immediately south-south-east of the swale identified an undated ditch with an approximately right-angled bend that may have defined a sub-rectangular enclosure in the north-west corner of the field (see Figure 1). This ditch contained a contained slag indicative of tin or iron working in the area.</p> <p>An area c.8.5m x c.17m was initially excavated to the top of the weathered natural. A slight elongated hollow of ostensibly natural origin contained buried topsoil and 20th century finds. It may have previously been a wet depression in the topography or location of a removed granite boulder. No significant archaeological features or deposits were present (Figures 1-4).</p> <p>Topsoil (100) was a mid-dark grey-brown, friable sandy-silt, c.0.24m thick (0.20-0.30m). It contained no finds. At the west end of the swale the topsoil overlaid a disturbed/buried topsoil, (103), a c.0.30m thick, dark brown-grey, friable sandy silt, which was set within a slight elongated hollow c.8mx7+m and contained x3 sherds (7g) of White Refined Earthenware and x1 fragment (2g) of 19th century clay pipe stem. All finds were subsequently discarded. Buried topsoil (103) directly overlaid Natural (102). Across the rest of the excavated area Topsoil (100) overlaid Natural (102) or an intermittent Subsoil (101), which was a mottled light yellow-brown, friable sandy-silt with moderate granite rocks and intrusions, generally between 0.04m and 0.15m thick. Subsoil (101) equated to an intermittent plough horizon with the natural. Natural (102) was a light yellow, compact clayey gravel, weathered 'sugar' granite, with moderate sized granite stones and boulders.</p> <p>No significant archaeological features or deposits were identified.</p>		
Recorder: J. Bampton, South West Archaeology Ltd		Date sent to DNP: 26/05/2021

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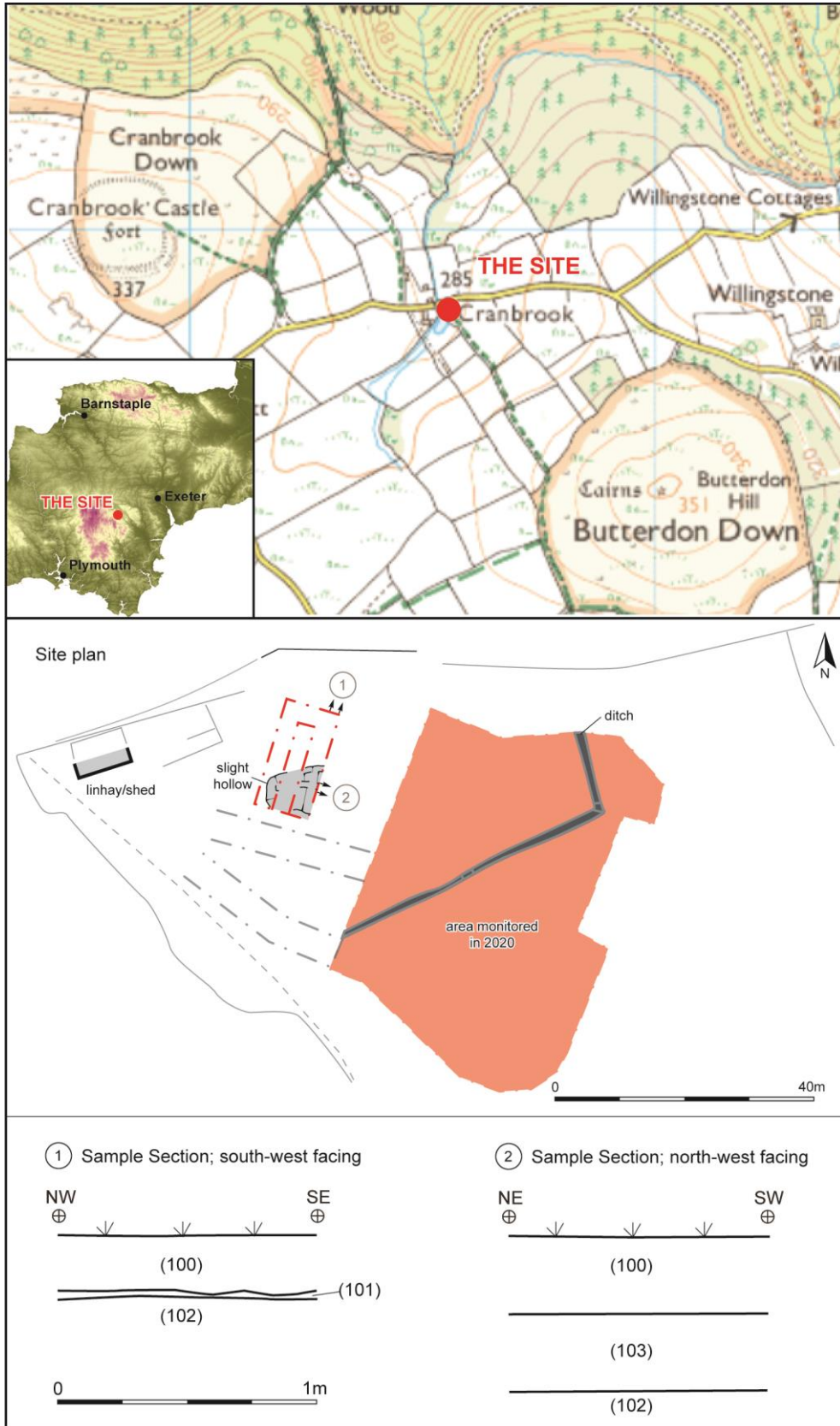


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION (TOP); SITE PLAN INCLUDING AREA OF 2020 WORKS AND DITCH (MIDDLE); SECTION DRAWINGS (BOTTOM).



FIGURE 2: EXCAVATED AREA FOR THE SWALE; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (2M SCALE).



FIGURE 3: EAST SIDE OF THE EXCAVATED AREA FOR THE SWALE; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (2M SCALE).



FIGURE 4: WEST SIDE OF THE EXCAVATED AREA FOR THE SWALE; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (2M SCALE).