

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Stokenham, South Hams	National Grid Reference: SX 80263 43255	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording during the construction of an agricultural storage building at Old Quarry Farm, Stokenham, Devon.		Photo attached? Yes
Planning Reference: 3018/20/FUL	Recipient museum: n/a	
OASIS ID: southwes1-433043	Museum Accession no: n/a	
Contractor's reference number/code: SOQ21	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 18 th January 2023	
Description of works: Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of a Private Client in order to fulfil a planning condition for the construction of an agricultural storage building on land at Old Quarry Farm, Stokenham, Devon. This work was carried out by Dr S.H. Walls on 18th of January 2023 in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Boyd 2021). The site is located to the north-west of Stokenham, c.500m west of Old Quarry Farm. The site lies within agricultural enclosures on a south-west facing slope. The site lies at a height of c95m AOD. The soils of the area are the well-drained fine loamy or silty soils of the Denbigh 1 Association (SSEW, 1983, which overlie the sedimentary slate, siltstone and sandstone of the Meadfoot Group. (BGS, 2018) The site lies within the parish of Stokenham, or <i>Stockingham</i>, in the historic hundred of Coleridge and the deanery of Woodleigh. The Manor of Stockenham belonged to Matthew Fitzherbert during the reign of King John. It passed through several generations of this family, with the names of Fitzmatther, Fitzherbert and Fitzjohn. The last of this line had no issue and left all his lands to Edward I. The Manor was then held by the Courtenays, before passing to Ralph de Monthermer and the families of Montacute, Poole and Hastings Earl of Huntingdon, who sold it to the Ameridiths. It was around this time that the Manor was broken up. Lysons records the Manor was also held by the Cary family and the Newmans. The Devon County HER records an almost rectangular, ditched enclosure showing on aerial photography, which the proposed location of the barn sits inside (MDV20319). The date is not specified, but it is likely of prehistoric or Romano-British origin. There are no other assets recorded on or in close proximity to the site. The heritage section of the LVIA notes that 'Old map desktop research and DCC aerial photographs reveal the field shape is unchanged from the c.1840 Tithe map, but with significant hedgerow removal and field-amalgamation occurring in the later 20th Century elsewhere nearby (termed '<i>piecemeal enclosure of open strip fields</i>'). A 0.7m wide, by c.065m deep by c.70m long trench was dug at a right angle across site and through the proposed development from North to South and East to West. (Figure 1). This was done using a toothless grading bucket under the control and supervision of an archaeologist down to the depth of the natural geology. This showed that the stratigraphy consisted of a topsoil (100) overlaying a subsoil (101), which overlay the natural (102). The topsoil (100) measured to be 0.4m thick and consisted of an homogenous dark reddish-brown clayey-silt. Subsoil (101) was over a 0.2m deep and consisted of a clean mid reddish-brown clay-silt. The natural (102) was a firm grey-red shillet-clay. (Figure 1 and 3) A single possible feature was identified from the trenching. A wide linear ran north to south across site, within the boundary of the proposed building. Ditch [103], it measured to be 1.8m wide and 0.2m deep on its west side but peters out towards the east side. This was filled by (104), a clean homogenous red silt-clay similar to the subsoil (101) but with a gritty manganese rich base interfacing with the natural (Figure 3). Due to the uneven nature of the feature and being filled by a deposit very similar to the subsoil, it is probable that this is a natural feature. Likely a natural spring line. After trenching and recording was completed the area was cleared of topsoil by a bulldozer, under archaeological supervision. No further features or deposits were noted, and no finds were recovered from the site. Conclusions The results of the trench and area strip indicated that there were no conclusive archaeological deposits present and no conclusive archaeological features were identified. Only the presence of a likely natural feature. Bibliography Boyd, N. 2021: Land at Old Quarry Farm, <i>Stokenham</i>, Devon: <i>Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH report no. SOQ21. British Geological Survey 2018: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html Lysons, 1822: <i>Magna Britannia</i>: Vol. 6, Devon. Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>.		
Recorder: Dr. S.H. Walls and M. Paine		Date sent to HER: 14 th August 2025

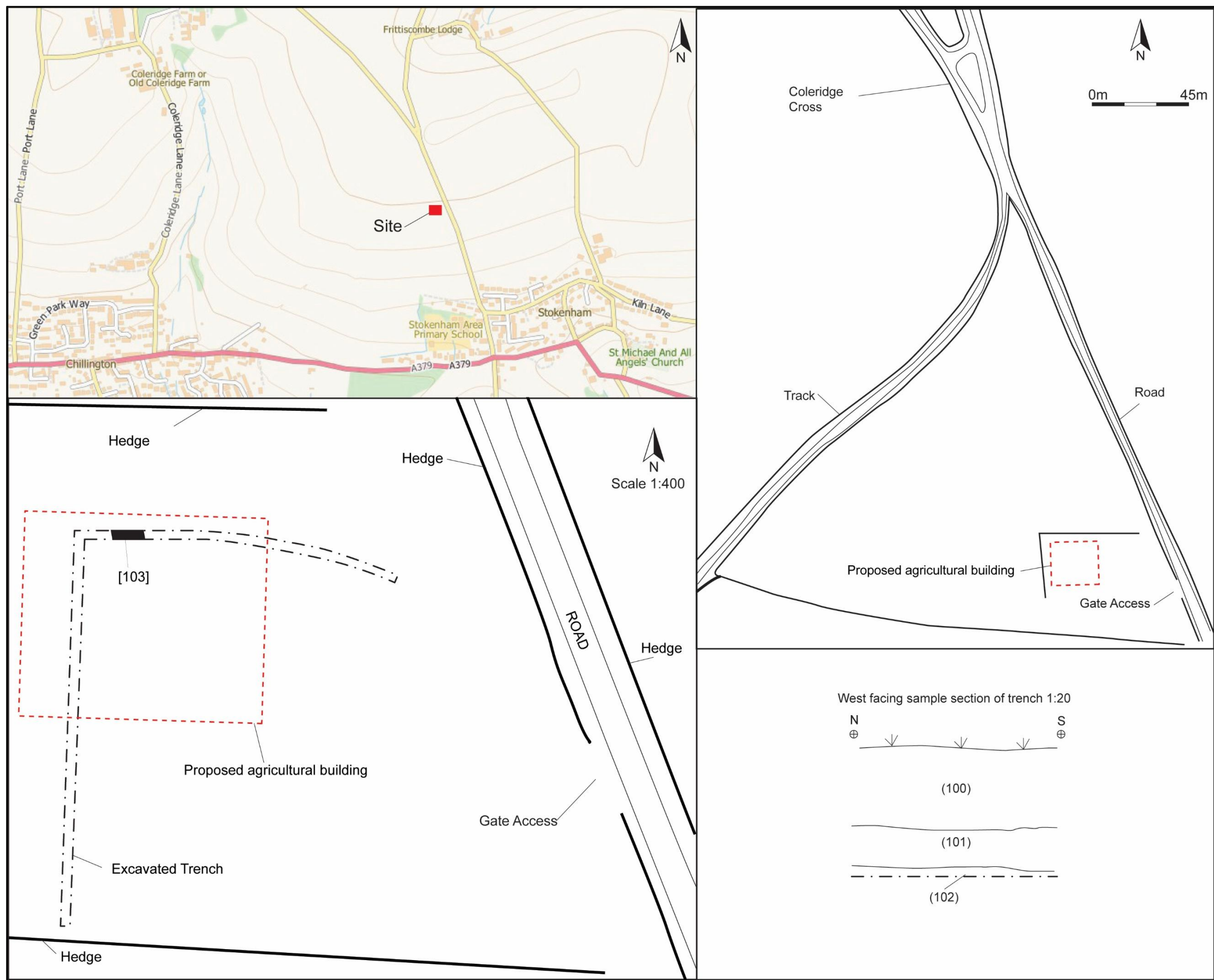


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION (TOP LEFT AND RIGHT), SITE PLAN WITH TRENCH (BOTTOM LEFT), SAMPLE SECTION (BOTTOM RIGHT).



FIGURE 2: EXCAVATED TRENCH CORNER WITH [103]; FROM THE WEST (1M SCALE).



FIGURE 3: NORTH FACING SECTION OF FEATURE [103]; FROM THE NORTH (1M SCALE).



FIGURE 4: SHOT OF AREA STRIP FROM SE CORNER LOOKING WEST (NO SCALE).