

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

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| Civil Parish & District: Sampford Peverell, Mid Devon | National Grid Reference: ST 02784 13824 | Number: |
| Subject: Archaeological Evaluation Trenching and Metal Detecting Survey on Land off Chains Road, Sampford Peverell, Mid Devon, Devon | | Photo Attached?: Yes |
| Planning Reference: 21/01685/FULL | Recipient Museum: N/A | |
| OASIS ID: southwes1-502752 | Museum Accession Number: N/A | |
| Contractor's Reference: SPLC21 | Dates Fieldwork Undertaken: 21.12.21 | |
| <p>Description of Works</p> <p>An archaeological evaluation and metal detecting survey was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of a private client (the Client). as part of pre-commencement works before construction of an agricultural building, on land off Chains Road, Sampford Peverell, Mid Devon, Devon. This work was carried out by S. Walls on 21st December 2021 in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Boyd 2021) having been agreed with the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>The site lies within a landscape where prehistoric and Romano-British activity is recorded and there was therefore potential for this Site to contain archaeological and artefactual deposits associated with this activity. A Roman settlement has been recorded to the southwest, at Battens Farm, which includes a Roman artefact scatter including tesserae, slate, tile fragments, coins and (MDV124260) and a prehistoric artefact scatter, including flint blades and awls (MDV71451) and a findspot of an Iron Age brooch (MDV131033).</p> <p>The site that was subject to this evaluation now forms part of a single large arable field, although historic mapping from the 1840 tithe map until the 1946 RAF aerial photograph show the field (and site) formerly divided in two, with a boundary running south-west to north-east.</p> <p>The archaeological works consisted of initially undertaking a metal detector survey across the proposed (Barn 1) footprint. The results of this were to be used to help inform the positioning of the evaluation trenches. The metal detecting survey recovered 14 iron nails, 2 fragments of an iron strap, some barbed wire and 1 iron bolt, all of likely 19th century of later date. Two trenches were therefore positioned along the approximate axis' of the proposed barn.</p> <p>The trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision by a machine fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless grading bucket and totalled 46.5m in length. The site demonstrated a relatively simple stratigraphy with an active red silt-clay loam topsoil of c.0.32m deep, shallowing slightly to the east (and across a removed field boundary) to 0.2m deep. The topsoil directly overlay the natural, a firm to compact slightly grey-red silt loam with rare shillet fragments.</p> <p>Three archaeological features were noted cutting the natural. Ditches [102] and [106], were parallel with each other and orientated east to west. Both were filled with soft grey-red sandy-silt loams. Both ditches were 0.3m wide and up to 0.2m deep with steep sloping sides to steep concaved bases. These two features likely form part of a drainage system. The only other feature noted was a 8.2m spread of brick and concrete rubble and reddish-brown soil which represented the remains of the removed boundary; this was partially excavated, which demonstrated a surviving ditch to the western side, of 0.5m depth and 2m width; no such ditch was apparent to the east (downslope) side, although it could potentially have been completely obscured by the demolition material.</p> <p>No archaeological works occurred in the area of the proposed Barn 2, as this is a modern concrete yard and was in use for bale storage at the time of the visit. The archaeological potential of this area appears low, and given that the proposed build will simply raise the levels, it is not thought that any further archaeological works will be required for this.</p> <p>A small assemblage of finds were recovered from the site which included 3x sherds of white refined earthenware, and 1x 20th century tile fragment. From the metal detecting 14x iron nails, 2x fragments of an iron strap, some barbed wire and 1x iron bolt were recovered. The assemblage was subsequently discarded.</p> <p>Conclusions</p> <p>The results of the metal detecting and evaluation trenching demonstrate that the site is bisected by a field boundary of pre-1840 origin removed in the 20th century, and a series of agricultural drains. The archaeological potential of the site is considered to be low, despite the high potential in the wider landscape.</p> <p>Bibliography</p> <p>Boyd, N. 2021: <i>Land Off Chains Road, Sampford Peverell, Devon: WSIv2 Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH report no. SPLC21WSIv2.</p> <p>British Geological Survey 2022: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html</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: S. H. Walls | | Date Sent to HER: 02.02.22 |

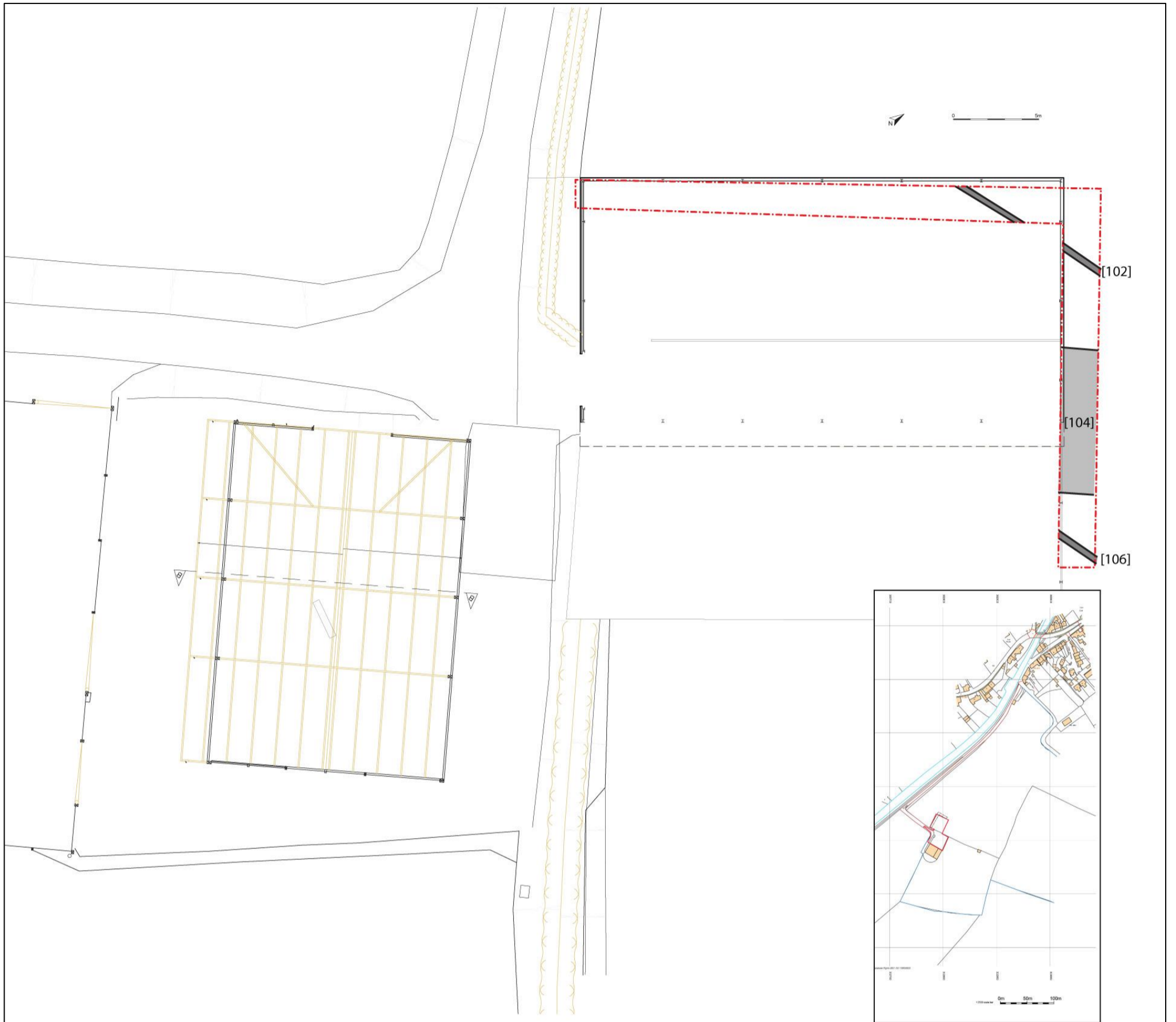


FIGURE 1: PLAN OF THE EXCAVATED TRENCHES OVERLAID ON THE PROPOSED BARNs, INSET LOCATION PLAN TO THE BOTTOM RIGHT.



FIGURE 2: SPREAD OF BOUNDARY [104], EXCAVATED PARTIAL DITCH SECTION VISIBLE, VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (1M SCALE).



FIGURE 3: DRAINAGE GULLY [102], VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).



FIGURE 4: SITE OF PROPOSED BARN 2 (UNDER BALES AND ROLLERS) AND WORKING CONCRETE YARD, VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (1M SCALE).