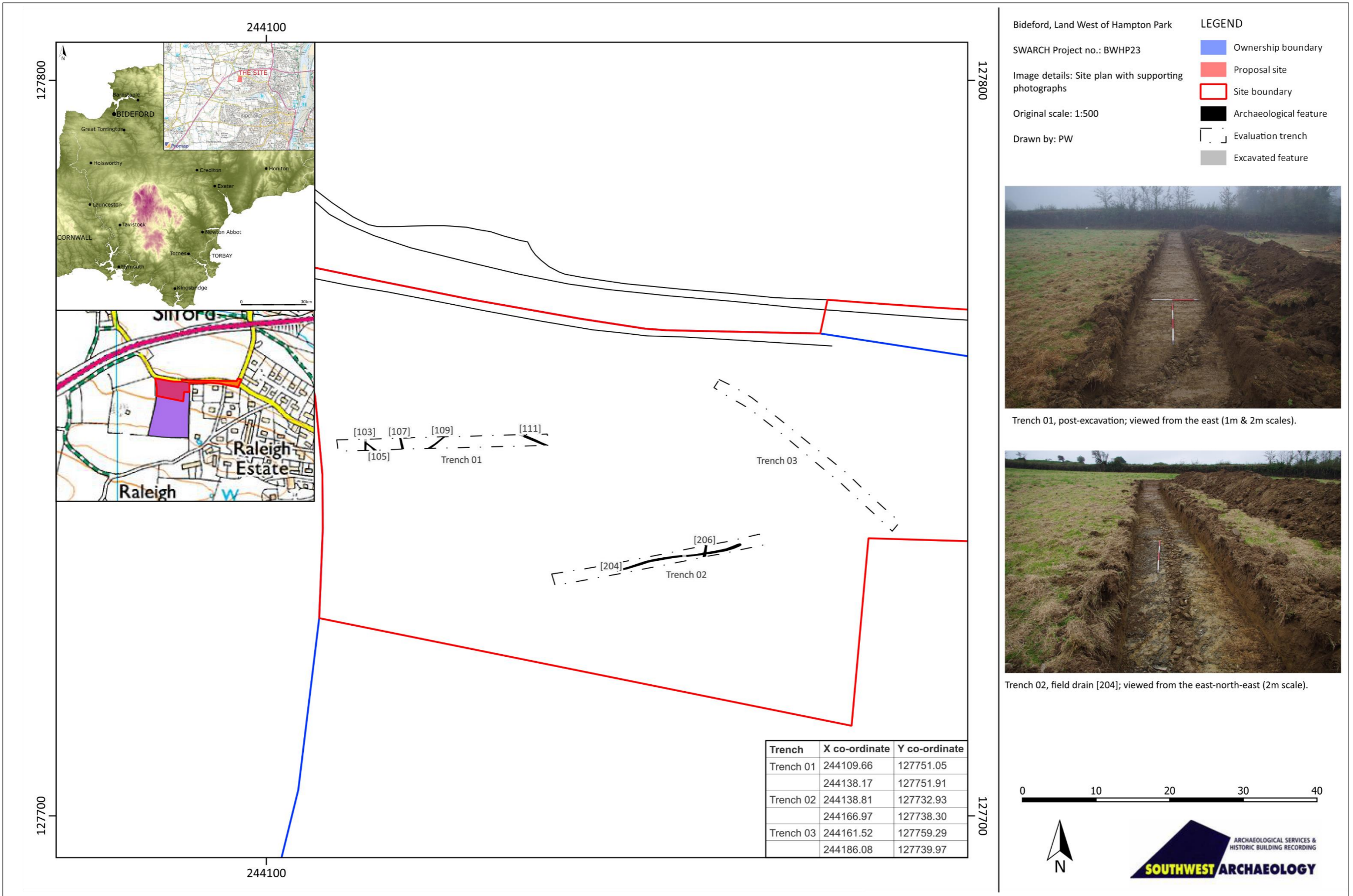


# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Bideford, Torridge	<b>National Grid Reference:</b> SS 244142 127744	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological evaluation trenching on land west of Hampton Park, Bideford		<b>Photo attached?</b> Yes
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 1/0460/2020/FUL; former appeals APP/W1145/W/17/3180735 & APP/W1145/W/18/3206556	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon (MBND)	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> southwes1-512736	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> n/a	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> BWHP23	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 9 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	
<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) as part of planning application 1/0460/2020/FUL associated with the residential development of three dwellings and associated works on land west of Hampton Park, Raleigh Hill, Bideford, Devon. This work was carried out by P. Webb on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023 in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Boyd 2023).</p> <p>The site is located at the northern end of a larger agricultural field to the west of Hampton Park, immediately south of Raleigh Hill. To the south-east are the residential properties of the Raleigh Estate, with agricultural fields in all other directions. The land slopes down to the north between heights of c.42m to 47m AOD. The soils here are recorded as Urban, bordering the well-drained fine loamy soils often over rock of the Neath Association (SSEW 1983); which overlie the sedimentary mudstone and siltstone of the Bideford Formation (BGS 2023).</p> <p>The site lies in an area of archaeological potential, c.350m to the south of the site of a barrow (1016212), c.500m to the north-east of Godborough Castle (1002640) and c.900m to the north-east of Kenwith Castle (1002639); the wider prehistoric landscape reflected in the identification of possible settlement features to the south-west of the development site (MDV67667, MDV120216).</p> <p>A total of three evaluation trenches (Trenches 01-03), each 1.60m wide and measuring c.30m in length, were excavated by mechanical excavator to the depth of <i>in situ</i> weathered natural using a toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision. Exposed archaeological deposits were excavated by hand in accordance with the WSI and ClfA guidelines. The stratigraphy of the site comprised topsoil, mid grey-brown friable-soft silt-clay c.0.10-0.20m thick; overlying lower topsoil, mid yellow-grey-brown friable-soft silt-clay up to 0.20m thick; subsoil, mid yellow-brown friable silt up to 0.40m thick; and the natural, mid yellow firm-soft clay and shillet bedrock.</p> <p>A total of seven archaeological features were identified during the evaluation, all land- and field-drains. Where excavated these were identified as measuring 0.35m wide and 0.20-0.30m deep with near vertical sloping sides, clear break of slope and concave to flat bases. All but one example comprised sub-angular stone set within mid brown-grey soft clay; drain [206] measuring 0.50m wide and comprising a ceramic land-drain within mid grey-yellow-brown soft-friable clay-silt.</p> <p>Only a small scattering of finds was noted, all white refined earthenware pottery sherds. These were subsequently discarded.</p> <p><b>Conclusions</b></p> <p>Despite the proximity of prehistoric funerary monuments and settlement activity, the only archaeological features identified during the evaluation were land- and field-drains associated with the drainage of the land for agricultural purposes.</p> <p><b>Bibliography</b></p> <p><b>Boyd, N.</b> 2023: <i>Land West of Hampton Park, Raleigh Hill, Bideford, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH report no. BWHP23WSIv2.</p> <p><b>British Geological Survey</b> 2022: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. <a href="http://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk">http://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk</a></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, South West Archaeology Ltd.		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 19.10.23



Trench 01, post-excitation; viewed from the east (1m & 2m scales).



Trench 02, field drain [204]; viewed from the east-north-east (2m scale).

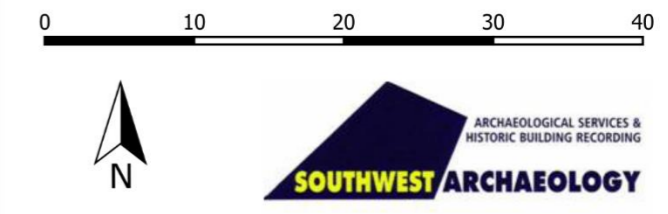


FIGURE 1: SUPPORTING IMAGES; SITE PLAN SHOWING LOCATION OF EXCAVATED TRENCHES AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES, WITH REPRESENTATIVE PHOTOGRAPHS (CONTAINS ORDNANCE SURVEY DATA © CROWN COPYRIGHT).