

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Halwell, South Hams	National Grid Reference SX 77966 52000	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks on Land at Higher Ritson, Halwell, Totnes, Devon		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 0099/23/FUL	Recipient museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum	
OASIS ID: southwes1-517954	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: HLHR23	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 08/01/24	
<p>Description of works. Archaeological monitoring and recording associated with the installation of a mobile home as an agricultural workers dwelling on land at Higher Ritson, Halwell, Totnes, Devon (Figure 2) were undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Luscombe Maye (the Agent), on behalf of a private client. This work was undertaken in accordance with a WSI drawn up in consultation with the Devon County Historic Environment Team (Boyd 2023).</p> <p>The proposed site lies in an area recorded on the Devon Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) as Medieval enclosures based on strip fields. Approximately 400m west of the site is a Scheduled barrow cemetery containing at least eleven barrows, known as Ritson Barrows (MDV60366, SM1020036). Approximately 500m to the south-west, is a Scheduled Saxon ring-work and Early Medieval motte (MDV7629, 1019242) lying just to the north-east of Stanborough Camp, which is a univallate Iron Age hillfort incorporating an earlier barrow (MDV7622, 1019314) Stanborough Camp is also just north of a possible prehistoric earthwork and standing stone (MDV64417). Geophysical survey carried out on land c.400m south-south-west of the site and to the east of Stanborough Camp, at Gara Barton, identified possible field boundaries and ridge and furrow (MDV113701) as well as a weak curvilinear feature that may represent a former enclosure (MDV113702, EDV6861). Aerial photography and LiDAR imagery of the site does not appear to show any obvious archaeological features. Recent groundworks for agricultural buildings immediately north of the site, formerly within the same field, apparently contained no archaeological features or deposits (pers. Comms. with landowner).</p> <p>An area approximately 14.50m x 24m with additional lines of access c.16.50m x c.3m, and c.23m x c.5m wide were excavated to the depth of weathered natural prior to deeper groundworks being undertaken. No archaeological features or deposits were present.</p> <p>Topsoil (100), 0.26-0.34m thick, was a mid-dark yellow-brown, friable clay-silt loam with occasional small-medium angular stones (Figure 1). It overlaid Natural (101), a compact clay with frequent small weathered shillet fragments. Plough-scars were occasionally visible cutting Natural (101). Notably, no finds were present on the site.</p> <p>The site contained no significant archaeological features or deposits. No further archaeological works are recommended.</p> <p>Boyd, N. 2023: <i>Ground Investigations on Land at Higher Ritson, Halwell, Totnes, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation.</i> SWARCH WSI no.HLHR23WSIv1.1. Devon Historic Environment (HER) and Historic England Listing 2023: http://map.devon.gov.uk/dccViewer/; https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/</p>		
Recorder: J. Bampton, MCIfA, South West Archaeology Ltd.		Date sent to HER: 10/01/2024



FIGURE 1: SAMPLE SECTION; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (1M SCALE).



FIGURE 2: SITE LOCATION, PLAN AND SAMPLE SECTION; INCLUDING EASTINGS AND NORTHINGS OF THE EXCAVATED AREA. THE MONITORED EXCAVATED AREA IS SHOWN IN RED.