

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Monkton, Devon	National Grid Reference: ST 19578 02825	Number:
Subject: Proposed Slurry Lagoon on Land at Barnfield Farm, Monkton, East Devon		Photo attached? Yes
Planning Application no: 23/1960/FUL	Recipient museum: n/a	
OASIS ID: southwes1-522993	Museum Accession no: n/a	
Contractor's reference number/code: MBFS24	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 15 th July 2024	
<p>Results:</p> <p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of a private client (the Client) as part of archaeological work associated with a proposed slurry lagoon on land at Barnfield Farm, Monkton, Devon. This work was carried out by Dr S.H. Walls on 15th of July 2024 in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Boyd 2024).</p> <p>The site lies within an almost rectangular plot, immediately to the north of Barnfield Farm and to the west of Vinery Lane. To the west is a band of woodland. The landscape is agricultural. The site lies at a height of c.219m AOD. The soils of this area are recorded as the fine silty over clayey and fine loamy over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging of the Batcombe Association (SSEW 1983). These soils overlay the sedimentary sandstone of the Upper Greensand Formation (BGS 2024).</p> <p>The proposed development lies in an area of archaeological potential in a landscape containing the Roman Road Viney Lane to the west, as well as multiple post-medieval extraction pits, a flint scatter and a Bronze age bowl barrow to the north-west.</p> <p>An area measuring c.100m x 25m was stripped by 20 tonne tracked mechanical excavator. A small portion of the area was stripped prior to attendance using a toothed bucket, this was switched to a toothless grading bucket at request and excavation continued under the control and supervision of an archaeologist. The stratigraphy on the site consisted of a mid brown silt-clay topsoil (100), up to 0.32m thick. This directly overlaid the natural (101), a firm slightly reddish-yellow clay with occasional to common yellow grey patches with flint gravel inclusions. Banding of flint gravels were noted to be in line with existing field boundaries running broadly east-south-east to west-north-west.</p> <p>Running north to south across the excavated area a land drain (or removed service trench measuring c.0.5m to 0.2m wide and deep. It had steep sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a mid brown fill with large sub angular flint stones and had some charcoal inclusions along its length. To the east of the land drain is a modern backfilled water pipe trench measuring 0.35m wide with vertical sides. It is filled by a mixed firm to soft topsoil with common red-yellow clay inclusions. This was not fully excavated as it was confirmed to be a modern feature with alkathene pipe.</p> <p>The single archaeological feature found was ditch [102] running NW to SE, in line with the current field boundary pattern. It measured 1.4m wide and 0.34m deep with steep sloping sides and a concaved base. Its fill (103) was a firm mid grey-brown silt-clay with occasional flint inclusions. Ditch [102] was cut by the field drain and water pipe trench. The only finds recovered from this feature was two fragments of clay pipe stem. Therefore this feature is likely to be a previous field boundary dating from the 19th century.</p> <p>Other than the clay pipe fragments from [102] all other finds were recovered from the topsoil (100). These included a small fragment of white industrial pottery (7g), a bone fragment (2g), three small glass fragments (3g), three fragments of brick (173g), a clay tobacco pipe (2g), ten pieces of unworked natural chert (250g), and a single piece of iron slag (19g). The assemblage was of low research value/potential and has been discarded.</p> <p>Bibliography Boyd, N. 2024: Proposed Slurry Lagoon at Barnfield Farm, Monkton, Devon; Written Scheme of Investigation. SWARCH report no.: MBFS24WSiv1 British Geological Survey 2025: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/ Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>.</p>		
Recorder: M. Paine	Date sent to HER: 23 rd July 2025	

PROPOSED SLURRY LAGOON ON LAND AT BARNFIELD FARM, MONKTON, EAST DEVON, DEVON



FIGURE 1: SITE PLAN SHOWING LOCATION OF SITE (INSET SUPPLIED BY THE CLIENT)

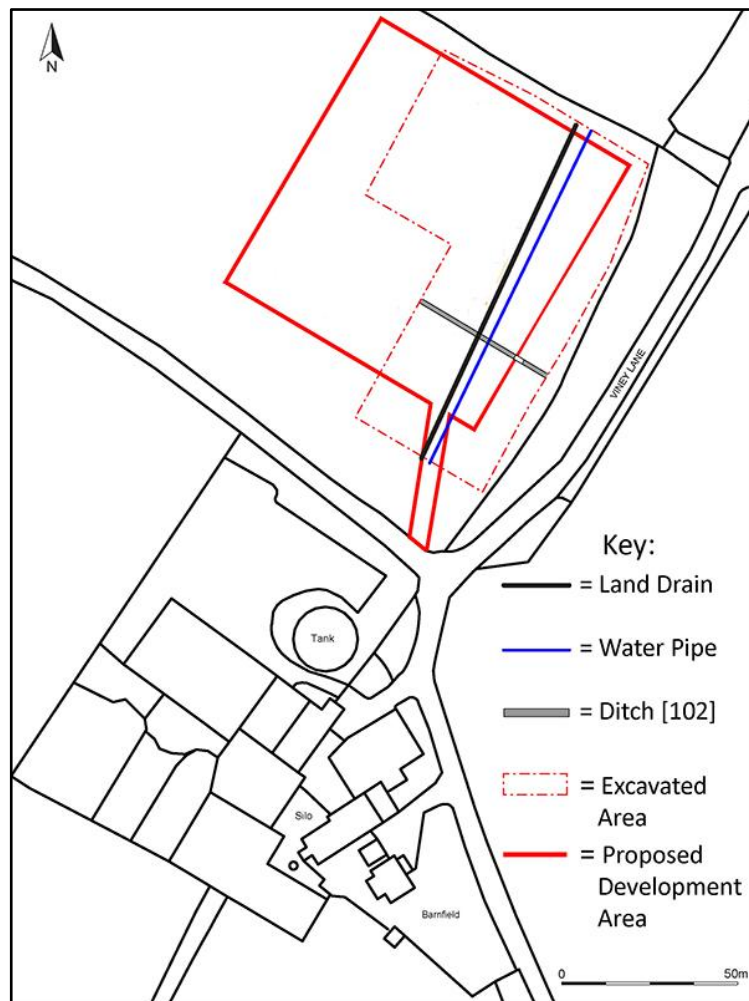


FIGURE 2: SITE PLAN SHOWING LOCATION OF EXCAVATED AREA AND FEATURES.

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FIGURE 3: EXCAVATED AREA, VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (NO SCALE).



FIGURE 5: SOUTH-EAST FACING SECTION OF DITCH [102], FROM SOUTH-EAST (0.4M SCALE).



FIGURE 4: SAMPLE SECTION, VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (SCALE 0.4M).



FIGURE 6: PLAN SHOT OF DITCH [102] FROM SOUTH-EAST (0.4M SCALE).