

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Morchard Bishop, Mid Devon	<b>National Grid Reference:</b> SS 77716 07798	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological trenching in advance of ground works for a proposed slurry store at Wood Barton, Morchard Bishop, Devon.		<b>Photo attached?</b> Yes
<b>Planning Reference:</b> 25/00506/FULL	<b>Recipient museum:</b> n/a	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> Southwes1-534579	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> n/a	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> MBWB25	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> August 2025	
<p><b>Description of works.</b></p> <p>Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of a Private Client as part of archaeological work before ground works associated with the installation of a slurry store at Wood Barton, Morchard Bishop, Devon. This work was carried out by S. Stevens on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2025 in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Boyd 2025) having been agreed during consultation with the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>The proposed site lies in the parish of Morchard Bishop, in the historic hundred of Crediton and deanery of Cadbury (Lysons, 1822). Lysons records that in ancient times, the manor of Morchard Bishop belonged to the bishops of Exeter. It would seem to have been transferred following the Dissolution either during the reign of Henry VIII or his son, Edward VI. During the reign of Elizabeth I, Sir Peter Carew sold the manor to the Southcotes. Risdon (1580-1640) recorded it as the property of the Bouchers of London. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, Lysons records it as the possession of R. H. Tuckfield, Esq.</p> <p>The site lies within a small cluster of fields recorded on the Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) as Barton fields: <i>These relatively large, regular enclosures seem likely to have been laid out between C15th-C18th. Some curving boundaries may be following earlier divisions in the pre-existing Medieval fields. In Cornwall these are sometimes called Barton fields.</i></p> <p>The site lies within an irregular plot to the immediate south of the farm buildings at Wood Barton. The wider landscape is agricultural. The site lies at a height of c.153m AOD. The soils of this area are recorded as the well drained fine loamy soils often over rock of the Neath Association (SSEW 1983). These soils overlay the sedimentary mudstone and siltstone of the Bude Formation (BGS 2025).</p> <p>Given the small size of the machine, two c.25m long trenches, orientated 90 degrees from each other to represent a 'T' (Figure 1), were excavated through the proposed site area, using a toothless grading bucket and under archaeological supervision. Both trenches were excavated to the level of natural, up to c.0.35m deep and were 1m wide.</p> <p>The stratigraphy of the site comprised topsoil (100), a light-mid brown loose friable silt, up to c.0.35m thick; overlying natural (101), a mid-light yellow-grey clay, with bands of shillet.</p> <p>No features were identified within the trenches, with the exception of a small number of plough scars, all orientated north-west to south-east. No finds were recovered during the works.</p> <p><b>Conclusions</b></p> <p>The results of the trench works indicated that there were no archaeological deposits present and no archaeological features were identified.</p> <p><b>Bibliography</b></p> <p>Boyd, N. 2025: <i>Proposed Slurry Lagoon at Wood Barton, Morchard Bishop, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH report no. MBWB25.</p> <p>British Geological Survey 2025: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. <a href="http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html">http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html</a></p> <p>Lysons, 1822: <i>Magna Britannia: Vol. 6: Devon</i>.</p> <p>Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> S. Stevens	<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 11.09.2025	

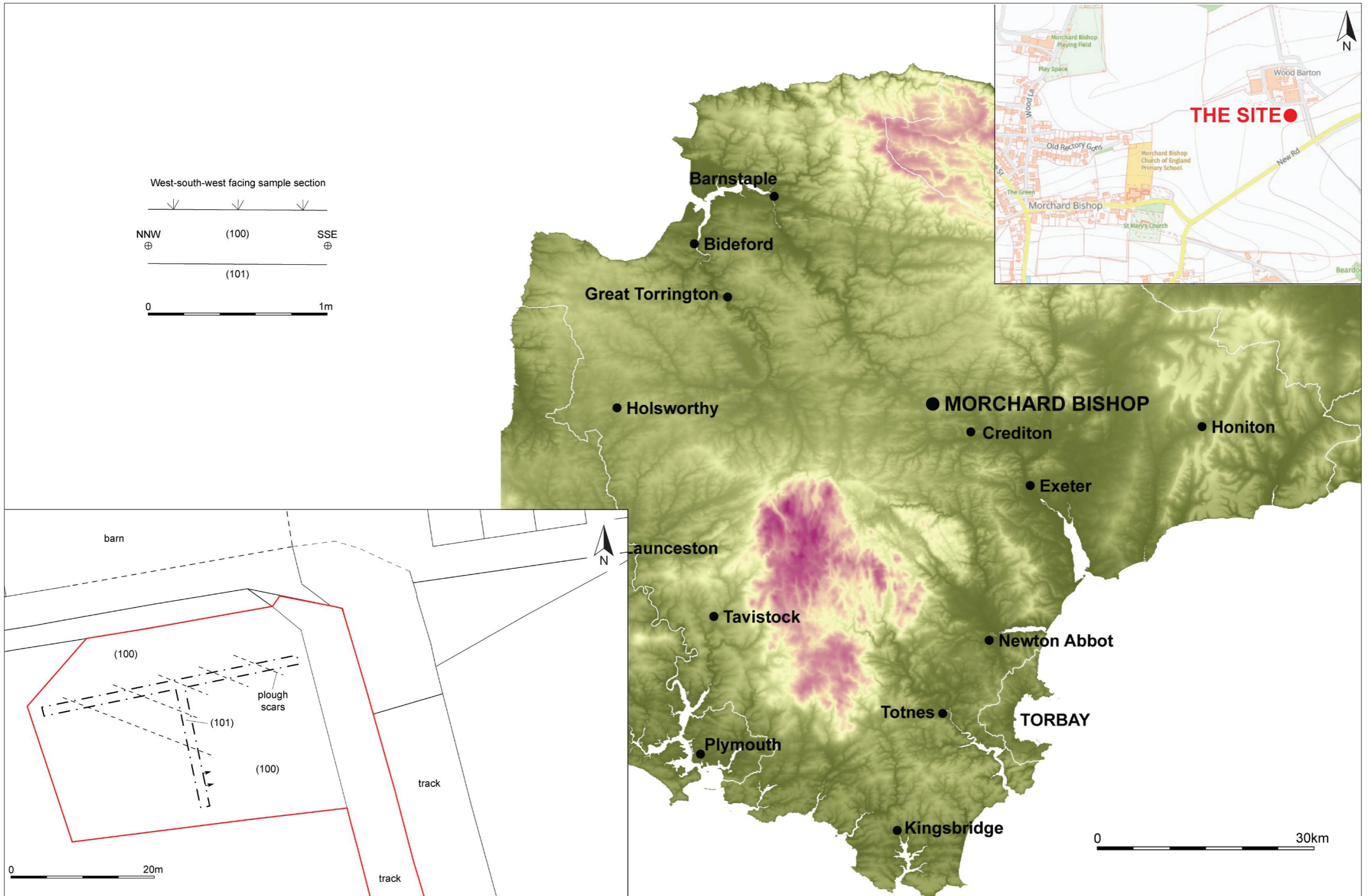


FIGURE 1: SAMPLE SECTION AND SITE PLAN SHOWING LOCATION OF TRENCHES AND SURROUNDING AREA.



FIGURE 2: WEST-SOUTH-WEST FACING SAMPLE SECTION; FROM THE WEST-SOUTH-WEST (1M SCALE).



FIGURE 3: EAST-WEST TRENCH POST-EXCAVATION; FROM THE WEST-SOUTH-WEST (1M + 1M SCALE).



FIGURE 4: NORTH-SOUTH TRENCH POST-EXCAVATION; FROM THE SOUTH-SOUTH-EAST (1M + 1M SCALE).



THE OLD DAIRY  
HACCHE LANE BUSINESS PARK  
PATHFIELDS BUSINESS PARK  
SOUTH MOLTON  
DEVON  
EX36 3LH

01769 573555

01872 223164

[MAIL@SWARCH.NET](mailto:MAIL@SWARCH.NET)