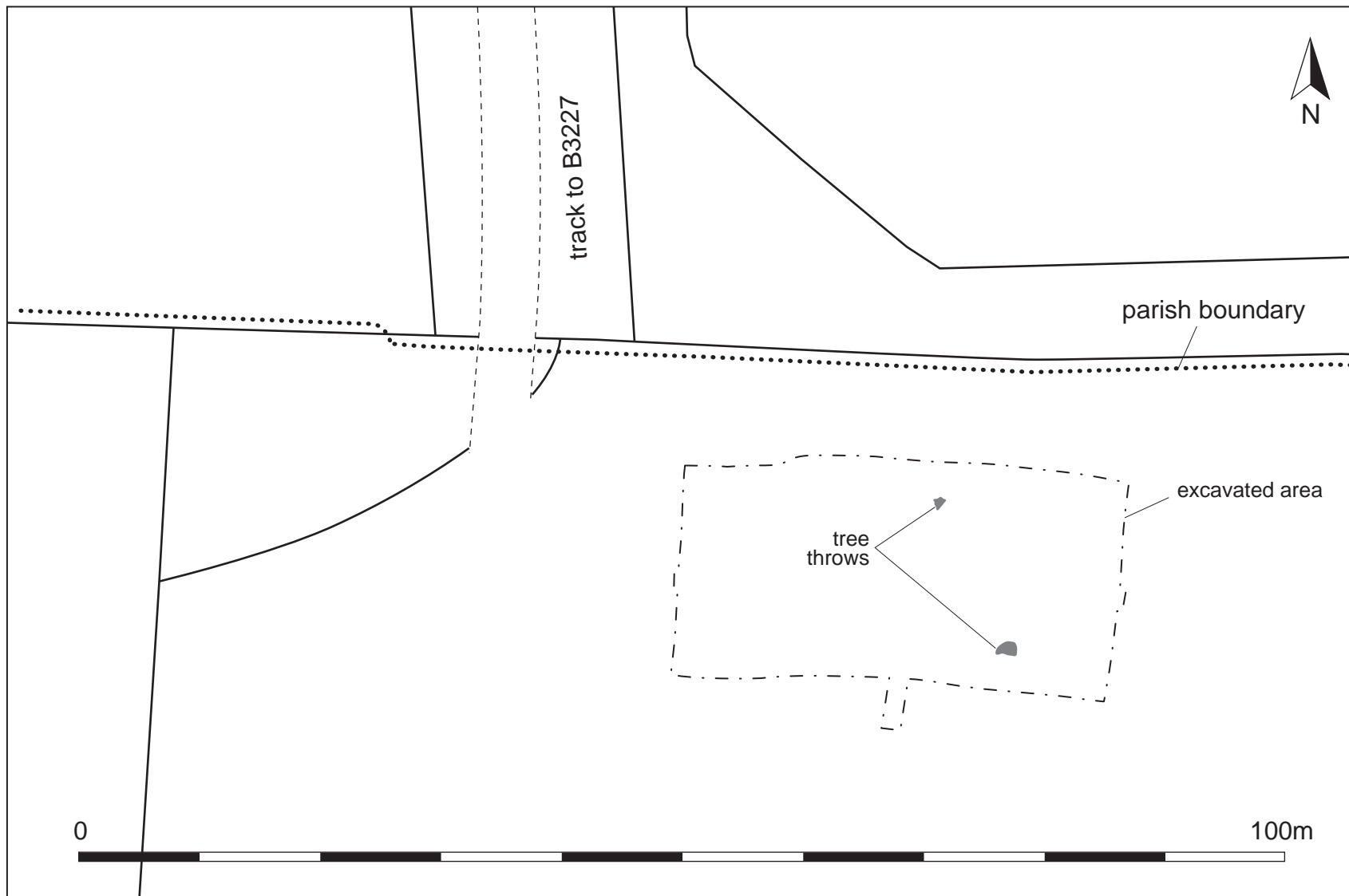


Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Knowstone, N. Devon	National Grid Reference SS 56139 33336	Number:
Subject: archaeological monitoring and recording undertaken during the construction of a slurry pit on land at Owlaborough Moor.		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 47121	Recipient museum: Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon	
OASIS ID: Southwes1-61831	Museum Accession no: NDDMS:2009.48	
Contractor's reference number/code: KOM09	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 08/09 July 2009	
<p>Description of works. A programme archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology (SWARCH) at the request of Mr Andrew Bavin prior to the construction of a slurry pit on land at Owlaborough Moor where it abuts New Moor Plantation. The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) approved by DCHES.</p> <p>Two initial evaluation trenches were laid out across the length and breadth of the site, and when these revealed no significant or complex archaeology, the entire site – an area 37m E-W by 18m N-S – was stripped.</p> <p>All trenching and stripping was carried out by a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless grading bucket under the supervision of the site archaeologist to the depth of the surface of <i>in situ</i> geological subsoil.</p> <p>The stratigraphy revealed consisted of up to 0.2m of very dark brown to black, friable humic clayey-silt topsoil (originally derived from shallow peaty deposits?), overlying a 0.1m thick layer of denser subsoil of variable stony clay, overlying natural. The depth of the topsoil decreased to the north where the site had been used as an agricultural muck heap and the topsoil consequently churned up by farm traffic and removed.</p> <p>The moor changed ownership during the 1990s, was improved (land drainage – visible on APs) and then ploughed for arable. Modern ploughmarks were visible in the surface of the natural, running parallel to the north-south field boundaries. The natural geological subsoil revealed was variable, and banded. The primary type in the eastern half of the excavated area was a dense, yellow-brown sandy-clay with orange streaks and frequent chunks of degraded bedrock. At the western end of the site it predominantly consisted of hard brittle gritty clays containing abundant small angular bedrock fragments, with occasional bands of softer light grey to white gritty clays. These western subsoils were very variable in colour, with frequent bands or seams of black, red and brown mineralization.</p> <p>Only two small features were observed. These were cleaned and excavated in accordance with the WSI. On excavation these features were determined to be recent tree-throws (see plate 2).</p> <p>No finds were recovered during the soil stripping or during the excavation of the features. The spoil heaps were examined after stripping, but no finds were recovered.</p>		
<p>A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.</p>		
Recorder: B.W.Morris	Date sent to HER: 16.07.09	

Please email completed form to: archaeol@devon.gov.uk or post to County Archaeology Service, Environment Directorate, Matford Lane Offices, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QW. Information recorded on this form will be added to the Historic Environment Record, and made available to all researchers. Any plans or photographs embedded within or attached to this form remain the copyright © of the recorder, and must not be reproduced in any publication without the explicit consent of the copyright holder.



Owlaborough Moor: excavated area, 8th-9th July 2009



Plate 1: Owlaborough Moor site, looking west.



Plate 2: Owlaborough Moor, one of the tree-throws revealed by the topsoil strip.