

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Burrington, North Devon	<b>National Grid Reference</b> 260508.116991 & 260529.117075	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> archaeological watching brief on repositioning of a field entrance and construction of a metallised surface.		<b>Photo attached?</b> NO
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 49247 & 49248 Arch/dc/nd/15607 & 15608	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> southwes1-70724	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> NDDMS: 2010.4	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> BR10	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 22.03.10	
<p><b>Description of works.</b></p> <p>An archaeological watching brief on the repositioning of a field gateway and the construction of a metallised surface in the entrance was undertaken by South West Archaeology (SWARCH) at the request of Mr Roger Snell (the Client). The work was undertaken by L. Bray in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) approved by DCHES.</p> <p>The site was located in the south-west corner of the field immediately to the north of Burrington Radar Station and centred around the field entrance. The field was the subject of planning applications for the construction of a mobile chicken house for egg production and required improved access. Within the field this took the form of trackways constructed on the ground surface requiring no archaeological intervention. However, the movement and widening of the field entrance and the metallising of the surface within it was necessary, possibly affecting buried archaeological features or deposits and thus requiring archaeological oversight.</p> <p>The work was carried out in two stages; the repositioning of the field entranceway approximately 7 m to the north and the excavation of the area within the new entrance to provide foundations for the metallising. Both operations were undertaken with strict archaeological supervision.</p> <p>Topsoil on the site was 0.4 to 0.5m thick and consisted of two layers. The upper topsoil was c. 0.2m thick and consisted of a mid-brown silt-clay containing common sub-angular stone inclusions averaging 20-30mm in size. This overlay a lower horizon which was c. 0.2m thick and consisted of a clay-silt with a gingery, orange-brown colour and angular stone inclusions up to 80mm in size. The natural subsoil consisted of a yellow heterogeneous clay containing varying amounts of silt and angular stone inclusions up to 100mm in size.</p> <p>Movement of the hedgebank material allowed observation in section demonstrating it to be composed of two contexts (fig.1). The lower (101) was a heterogeneous deposit consisting of a mixture of loam and yellow, stony re-deposited subsoil in roughly equal proportions. This was overlain by a fairly homogenous deposit (102) of mid-brown, soily material reaching almost 1m in depth at the crest of the hedgebank and thinning down its flanks where it overlapped and concealed the edges of (101). (101) represents the initial construction of the hedgebank, while (102) consists of topsoil deposited during episodes of repair and restoration.</p> <p>Excavation for the metallising in the new field entrance uncovered a trapezoidal area measuring c. 14m north to south along the road and narrowing to c. 5m wide within the field (fig. 2). No archaeological features were observed within the field. However, a linear cut [104], running adjacent and parallel to the hedgebank, was present outside the field. This was filled with a homogenous, mid-brown silt-clay containing occasional stone inclusions up to 30mm in size (103). Disturbance from road construction obscured its southern edge, but it appeared to be c. 1 – 1.3m in width and its cut was visible in section in the topsoil, suggesting it was relatively modern in date. This, combined with its location and relationship with the hedgebank strongly suggests this feature is the source of material of which the latter is constructed. Given this fact and its location outside the area covered by the Client's planning permission, no further excavation was undertaken on [104].</p> <p>No finds were recovered during this work.</p>		
<p><b>A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.</b></p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> L. S. Bray		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 23.03.10

Please email completed form to: [archaeol@devon.gov.uk](mailto: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.

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Figure 1: BR10 - East-Facing Section Through Hedgebank

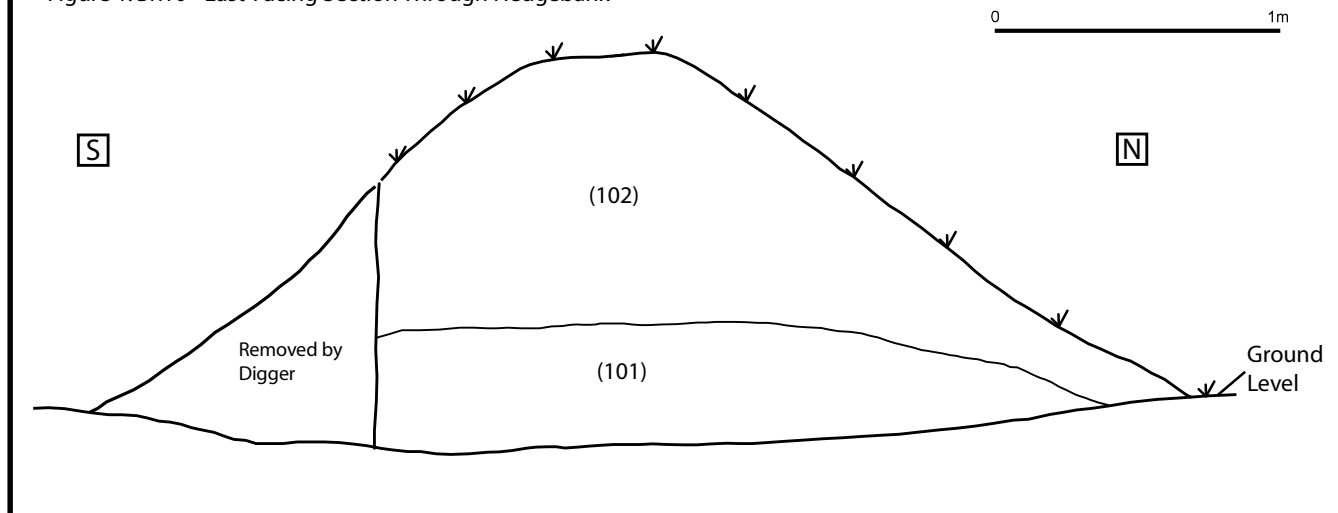


Figure 2: BR10 - Plan of the Area Excavated for Metalling.  
Scale 1:100

