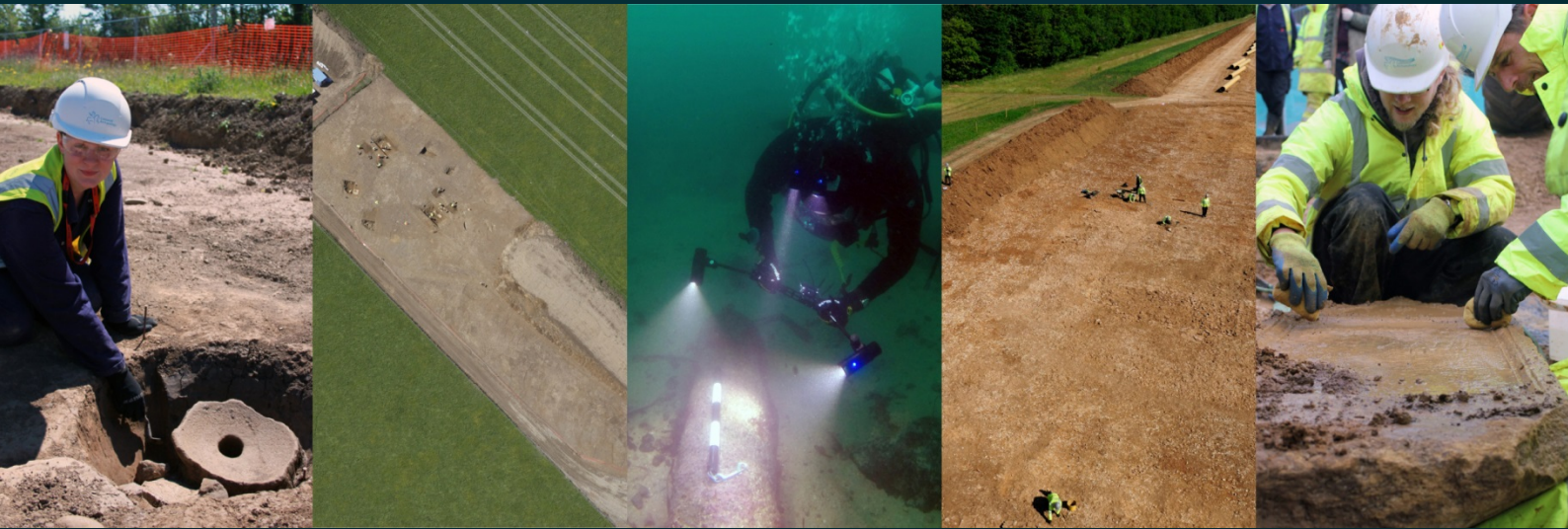


Land at Mount Pleasant, Parkham Bideford North Devon

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
OBK Land & Planning Ltd (Exeter)
on behalf of
the clients (names redacted for GDPR)

CA Project: EX0094
CA Report: EX0094_1
Oasis Ref: cotswold2-379614
February 2020



Land at Mount Pleasant, Parkham
Bideford
North Devon

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	19/02/20	Craig Jones	Oliver Good	Internal review	General Edit	Ray Kennedy
B	27/02/20	Craig Jones	Oliver Good	External Review	Client Comments	Ray Kennedy
C	30/04/20	Craig Jones	Oliver Good	External Review	Curator Comments	Richard Greatorex

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Land at Mount Pleasant, Parkham.
Location: Bideford, North Devon.
NGR: 238709 121548
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 17-18th February 2020
Planning Reference: 1/0203/2018/OUT / 1/1145/2019/FUL
Location of Archive: The Museum of Barnstaple & North Devon
Accession Number: NDDMS 2.2020a
Site Code: MPPB20

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the development of two residential buildings at Mount Pleasant, Parkham.

Only one feature of archaeological interest was observed, a ditch containing a single small sherd of post-medieval pottery.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2020 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for OBK Land & Planning Ltd on behalf of the clients (names redacted for GDPR) at Mount Pleasant, Parkham, Bideford, North Devon (centred at NGR: 238709 121548; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for residential development of the site (Planning ref: 1/0203/2018/OUT / 1/1145/2019/FUL).
- 1.3 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2020) which was approved by Stephen Reed, Senior Historic Environment Officer, Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCCHET). The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014), and the *Specification for a programme for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording* (Devon County Council 2018).

The site

- 1.4 The proposed development site is approximately 0.12ha in extent, and was previously used a garden for adjoining properties. The site lies outside of the north-eastern edge of Parkham, to the immediate west of the junction of Chapel Road (Fig. 2). It is bordered to the north and east by residential properties. The site lies at approximately 160m AOD, with a gradual downward slope to the north.
- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Bude Formation Sandstones. No overlying superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2019).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological background given below is a succinct summary of known sites within a 1km radius available on the Heritage Gateway website.

Prehistoric (4000BC – AD 43)

- 2.2 The cropmarks of a curvilinear enclosure (Monument number (MN): 1031713) are recorded c. 900m to the north-east of the site.

Medieval (1066-1539)

- 2.3 A medieval manor house (MN: 32653) is recorded within the study area as well as the 15th century Church of St James (MN: SS32 SE10).

Post Medieval (1540-1800)

- 2.4 Five Grade II listed buildings dating to the 17th and 18th centuries are recorded within the study area including a Woollen Mill (MN: SS32 SE12) and a post-medieval farmhouse (MN: 32650).

Recent archaeological Investigations

- 2.5 A geophysical survey was carried out approximately 200m to the south-east of the site, on land at Barton Road. This identified undated ridge and furrow, and possible linear archaeological anomalies which may be agricultural in nature. A subsequent archaeological evaluation uncovered a 19th century hollow way, a post-medieval ditch and a series of undated ditches forming a small sub-rectangular enclosure. This enclosure could be prehistoric in nature given its prominent location, although the name of the field (Pound Meadow) could indicate it is a medieval or post-medieval pound/pinfold used for impounding stray animals (South West Archaeology 2017).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
 - at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2020). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks associated with the levelling of ground for the residential properties. Non-archaeologically significant deposits were removed by the contractors under archaeological supervision to the natural geology. Where mechanical excavators were used, these were equipped with a toothless bucket.
- 4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Andover. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the archive will be deposited with the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon under accession number NDDMS 2.2020a, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4)

- 5.1 The natural geological substrate **1002** consisting largely of a firm mid red yellow silty clay with <10% slate fragments was revealed at an average depth of 0.32m below present ground level. An area of dark brownish red silty clay with <25% slate fragments was seen in the western corner of site (**Fig 3**). The natural was heavily bioturbated by the flower beds and hedges that were present on site. This was overlain by a firm mid brown red silty clay subsoil with <10% slate fragments **1001** averaging 0.14m in thickness, which was in turn sealed by 0.22m of friable dark reddish brown clay silt topsoil with <5% slate fragments and <25% rooting **1000**.
- 5.2 One post-medieval south-east/north-west orientated ditch **1003** was identified in the northern corner of the site, it measured 10.00m in length, 1.20m in width, and 0.41m in depth (**Fig. 4**). The ditch contained one fill **1004**, a friable light grey brown clay silt with <10% charcoal flecks from which one small sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered.

6. EX0094 THE FINDS by Katie Marsden

- 6.1 Artefactual material recovered from the evaluation is listed in Appendix B and discussed further below. All finds have been recorded directly to an MS Excel spreadsheet.

Pottery

- 6.2 A single fragment of post-medieval to modern dated pottery, a sherd of transfer-printed refined white ware of late 18th to 19th century date was recovered from ditch 1003 (fill 1004).

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 Only one feature of archaeological interest was observed on site. This was a post-medieval ditch which located in the northern edge of the site and ran parallel with the current field boundary and the road. The ditch most likely represents an earlier phase of the same boundary and may have also acted as a drainage ditch for the trackway that predated the current road.
- 7.2 The sparsity of archaeological remains within the site is not wholly unexpected given the limited amount of evidence for archaeology in the surrounding area. A post-medieval ditch, holloway and possible enclosure were uncovered during an evaluation 200m to the south-east of the site (South West Archaeology 2017). It is possible that this field boundary was in use around the same time as these features but it is unlikely that this ditch is a continuation of any of the features found during the previous evaluation.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Craig Jones. The report was written by Craig Jones. The illustrations were prepared by Amy Wright. The archive has been compiled by Richard Paxford, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Oliver Good.



9. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2020 *Geology of Britain Viewer*

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 21 February 2020

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2020 *Land at Mount Pleasant, Parkham, Bideford, North Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

CIfA, 2014, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (Reading)

Devon County Council, 2018 *Specification for a programme for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*

OM (Old Maps) 2020 www.old-maps.co.uk accessed February 2020.

South West Archaeology 2017 *Land off Barton Road, Parkham, Devon: Results of an Archaeological Evaluation*.



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

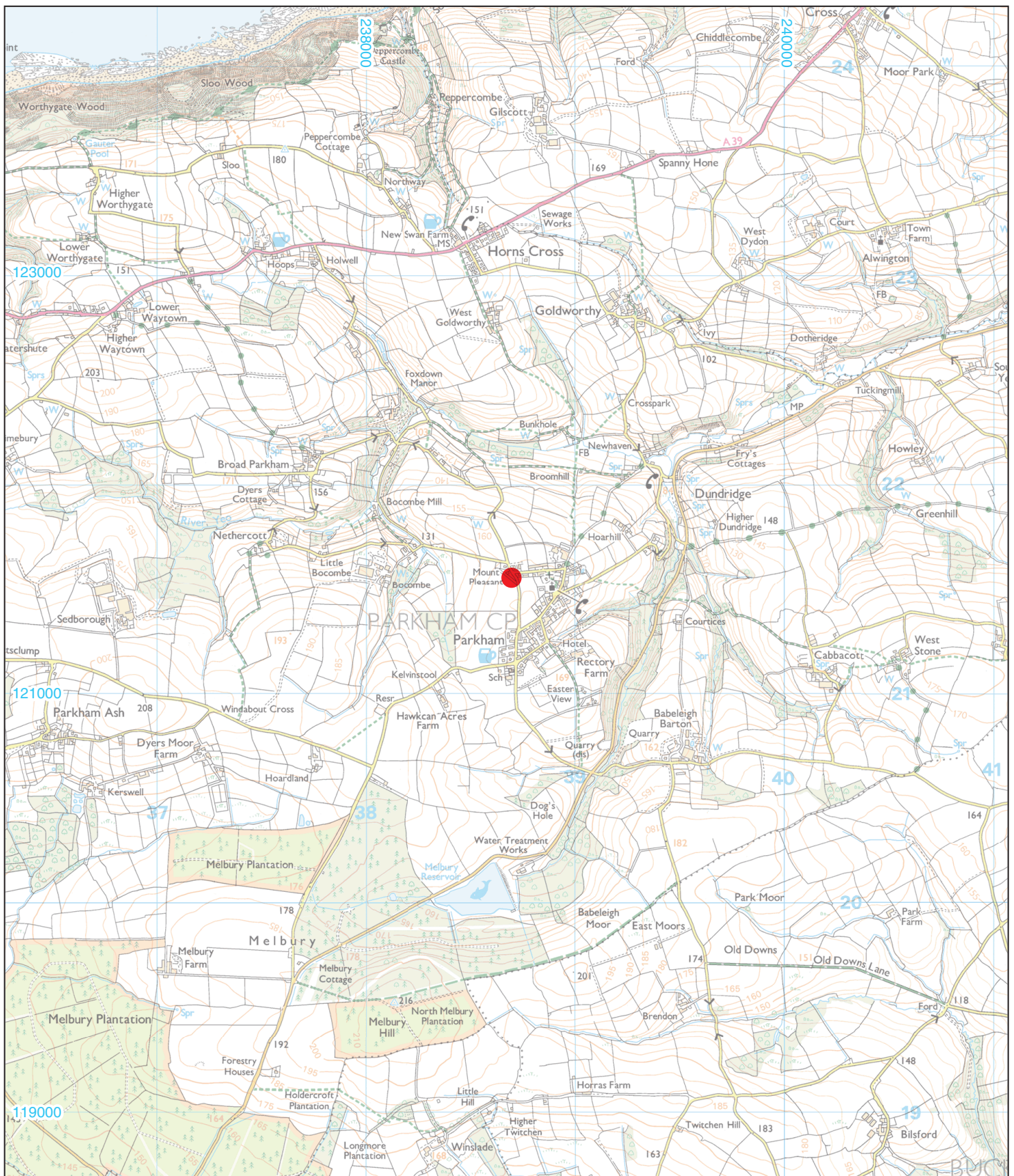
Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	1000	Layer		topsoil	Friable dark reddish brown clay silt with rare slate fragments and common rooting.	25	15	0.22	modern
1	10001	Layer		subsoil	Firm mid brown red silty clay with occasional slate fragments.	25	15	0.14	
1	1002	Layer		natural	Firm mid red yellow silty clay with occasional slate fragments and a patch of dark brown red silty clay with common slate fragments.	25	15	>0.01	
1	1003	Cut		Ditch	Linear orientated se/nw with moderate straight sides and concave base.	10	>1.20	0.42	Post med
1	1004	Fill	1003	Secondary fill	Friable light grey brown clay silt with rare charcoal flecks.	10	>1.2	0.42	Post med

APPENDIX B: FINDS CONCORDANCE

Context	Class	Description	Count	Wt. (g)	Spot-date
1004	post-medieval to modern pottery	Transfer-print Refined white ware	1	2	LC18-C19

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM - COTSWOLD2-379614

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Mount Pleasant, Parkham, Bideford, North Devon.	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the development of two residential buildings at Mount Pleasant, Parkham. Only one feature of archaeological interest was observed, a ditch containing a single small sherd of post-medieval pottery.	
Project dates	17-18 th February 2020	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land at Mount Pleasant, Parkham, Bideford, North Devon.	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.12ha	
Site co-ordinates	238709 121548	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator		
Project Manager	Oliver Good	
Project Supervisor	Craig Jones	
MONUMENT TYPE	Boundary Ditch	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content
Physical	Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon / NDDMS 2.2020a	1 Sherd of Pottery
Paper	Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon / NDDMS 2.2020a	Context sheets, trench sheets and register
Digital	Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon / NDDMS 2.2020a	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2020, <i>Land at Mount Pleasant, Parkham, Bideford, North Devon: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report EX0094_1		



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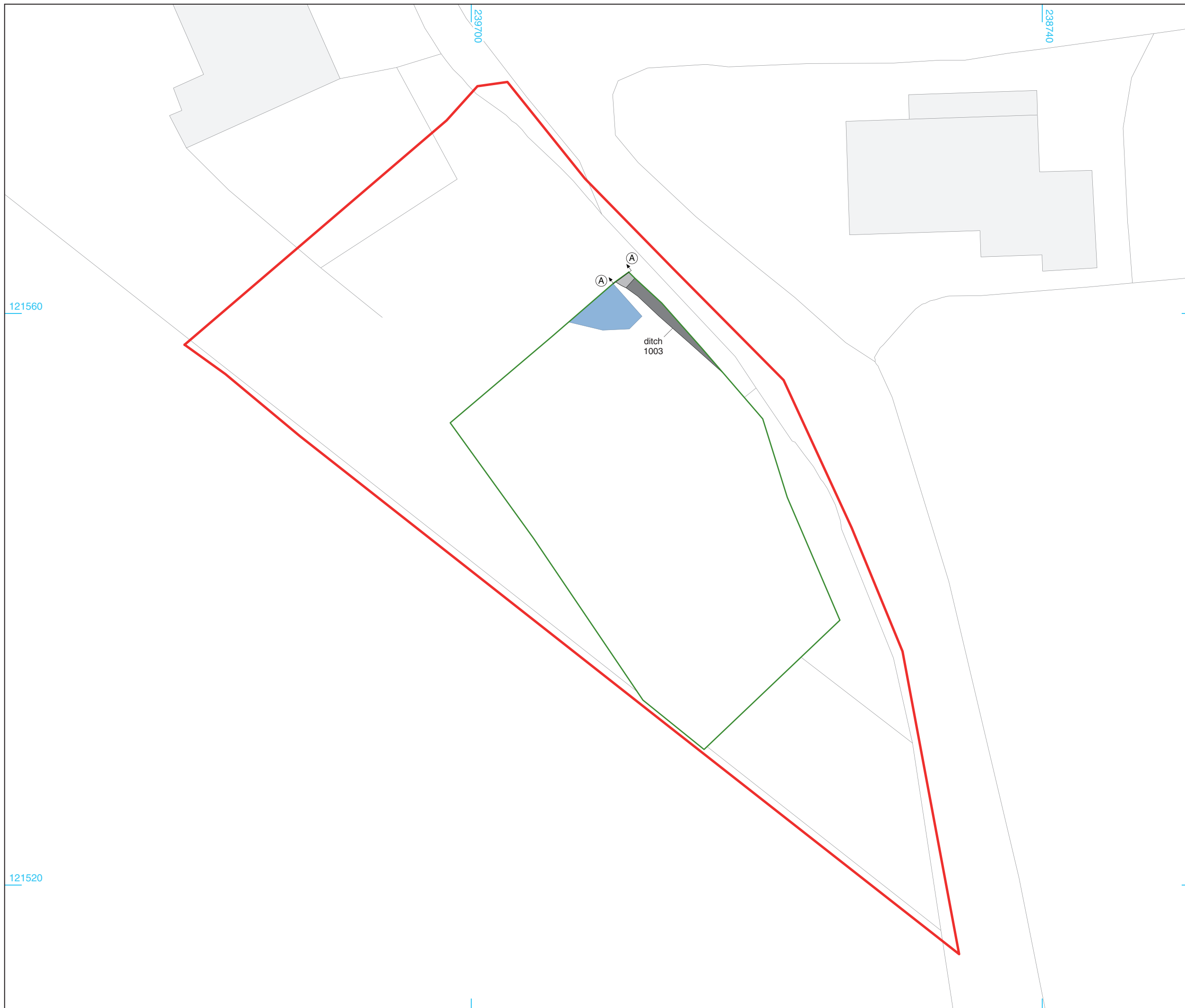
PROJECT TITLE
 Mount Pleasant, Parkham, Bideford,
 North Devon

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

0 1km

DRAWN BY	AW	PROJECT NO.	EX0094	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	20.02.20	
APPROVED BY	OG	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	1

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- Site boundary
- Area of monitored groundworks
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- Modern
- A A Section location



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PROJECT TITLE
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 North Devon

FIGURE TITLE
 The site, showing the location of the
 monitored groundworks

<small>DRAWN BY</small> AW	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> EX0094	<small>FIGURE NO.</small> 2
<small>CHECKED BY</small> DJB	<small>DATE</small> 20.02.20	
<small>APPROVED BY</small> OG	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:250	



Monitored groundworks, post-excavation, looking east (1m scales)



Monitored groundworks, post-excavation, looking west (1m scales)



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PROJECT TITLE

Mount Pleasant, Parkham, Bideford,
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FIGURE TITLE

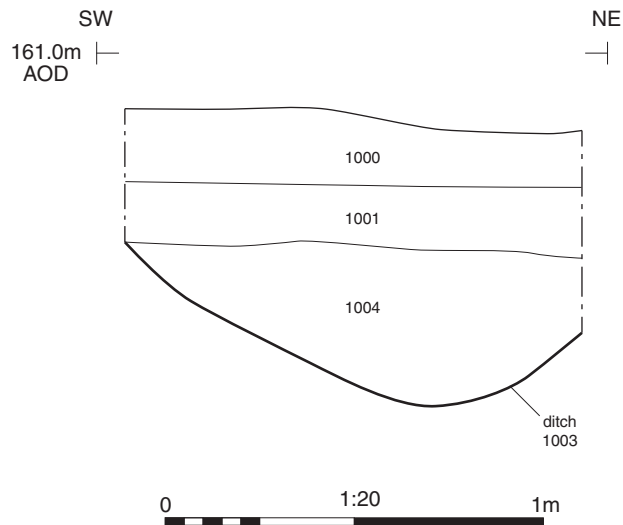
Photographs

DRAWN BY	AW	PROJECT NO.	EX0094	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	20.02.20	3
APPROVED BY	OG	SCALE@A4	NA	



Baulk section of ditch 1003, looking north-west (1m scale)

Section AA



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PROJECT TITLE

Mount Pleasant, Parkham, Bideford,
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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph and Section: Ditch 1003

DRAWN BY AW PROJECT NO. EX0094
 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 20.02.20
 APPROVED BY OG SCALE@A4 1:20

FIGURE NO.

4

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