

LAND AT WOODHOUSE HILL, BRANSCOMBE, DEVON

(Centred on NGR SY 1952 8975)

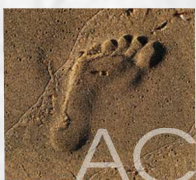
Results of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

East Devon District Council Planning Reference:
20/2454/FUL (condition 5)

Prepared by:
Fiona Pink

Document No: ACD2430/2/0

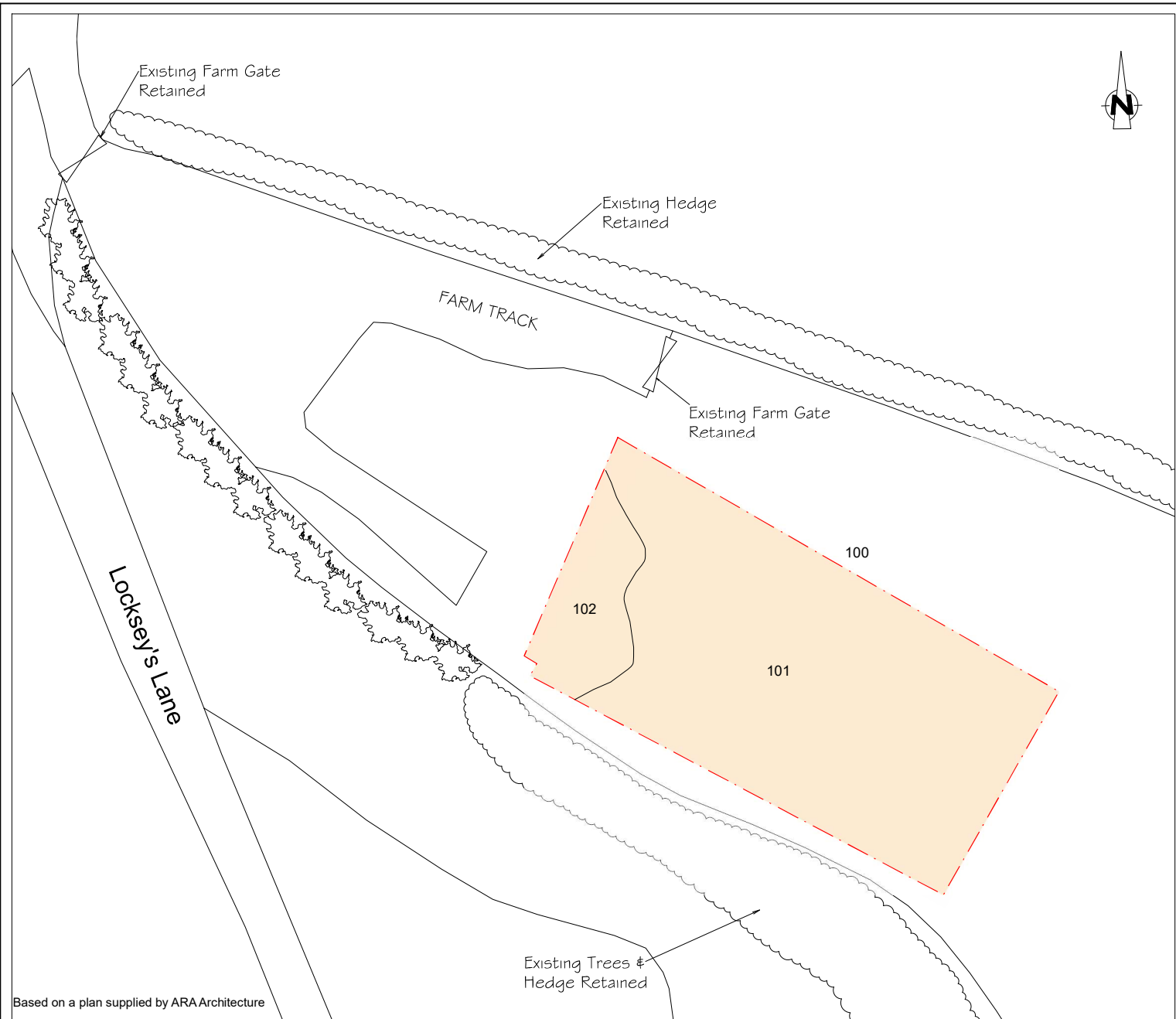
Date: November 2021



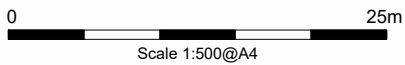
archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

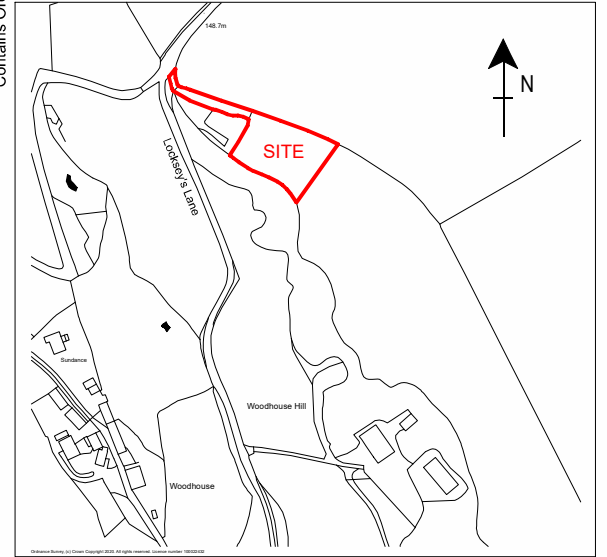
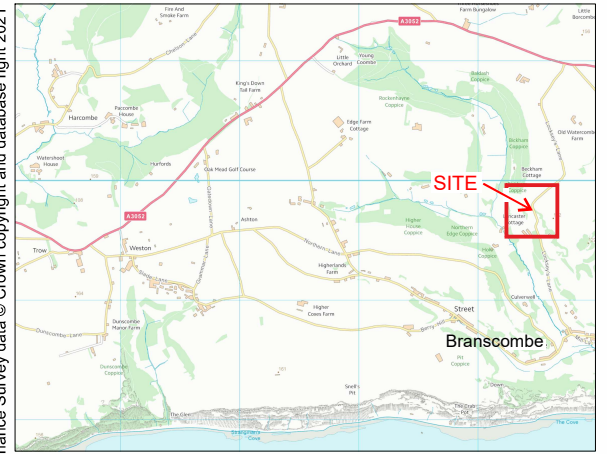
Civil Parish & District: Branscombe, East Devon	National Grid Reference: SY 1952 8975	Number:
Subject: Land at Woodhouse Hill, Branscombe, Devon: Results of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording		Photo attached: Plates 1-2
Planning Application no: 20/2454/FUL (Condition 5)	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS ID: 412893	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD2430	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 15th March 2021	
Description of works <u>Introduction</u> Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of a new menage on land at Woodhouse Hill, Branscombe, Devon. The archaeological work was required as a condition (5) of planning consent following consultation with the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team and was commissioned by the site owner. The site is situated at the northern end of a larger pasture field and on elevated ground at around 150m aOD (above Ordnance Datum) that has a general trend of sloping down to the west. The underlying solid geology comprises chalk of the Chalk Group and this is overlain by a superficial deposit of Clay-with-flints Formation comprising clay, silt, sand and gravel (British Geological Survey online viewer 2021). <u>Archaeological background</u> The main archaeological interest in this site is that the new menage was situated approximately 100m to the south of a ring ditch cropmark recorded via aerial reconnaissance (Devon Historic Environment Record [HER] ref. MDV60792). This is likely to represent a ring ditch from a ploughed-out barrow of Bronze Age date. In addition, approximately 40m to the south is the site of a 'cairn containing a burial' which was apparently removed by quarrying in the mid-19th century (MDV28862). Some 300m to the south of the new menage the field name 'Castle Close' is recorded on the apportionment for the c. 1840 parish tithe map (MDV106451). The field name is suggestive of an earthwork potentially of prehistoric date. <u>Results and comment</u> (Fig. 1 and Plates 1-2) The site archaeologist was present for the groundworks which were carried out by a 14-tonne tracked 360° machine fitted with a toothless bucket. The area stripped measured approximately 21m x 43m and the deposit sequence comprised turf and topsoil (100) overlying the superficial deposit of clay-with-flints (101). Ground reduction was monitored onto the top of this clay-with-flints deposit and comprised a maximum depth of 0.27m on the northeast side and 0.35m on the southwest side where the topsoil was slightly deeper due to the topography of the site on a west-facing slope. A modern deposit (102) comprising a mid-greyish brown firm clayey silt was exposed at the far northwest end of the site and contained common inclusions of chalk, brick and fragments of glazed white pottery. This deposit was recorded in plan but was not removed as the ground level for the new menage is to be built-up in this part of the site. No further archaeological features, deposits or finds were exposed. This report comprises the archive for the project. <u>References</u> British Geological Survey online viewer 2021: http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html Devon County Council Environment Viewer: www.http://map.devon.gov.uk/dccviewer/		
Recorder: Fiona Pink, AC archaeology	Date sent to HER: November 2021	



Key
 Site
 Area monitored



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2021



Based on a plan supplied by ARA Architecture

PROJECT
Land at Woodhouse Hill, Branscombe, Devon

TITLE
Fig. 1: Location of site and area monitored





Plate 1: Southwest-facing section (scale 1m)



Plate 2: View to the southeast showing the area monitored

Devon Office

AC archaeology Ltd
Unit 4, Halthaies Workshops
Bradninch
Nr Exeter
Devon
EX5 4LQ

Telephone/Fax: 01392 882410

Wiltshire Office

AC archaeology Ltd
Manor Farm Stables
Chicklade
Hindon
Nr Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP3 5SU

Telephone: 01747 820581

Fax: 01747 820440

www.acarchaeology.co.uk