

LAND AT SMALLACOMBE FARM, WEST ANSTEY, SOUTH MOLTON, DEVON

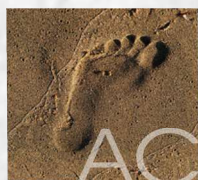
(NGR SS 8455 2534)

Results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation

Prepared by:
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Report No: ACD2885/1/0

Date: May 2023

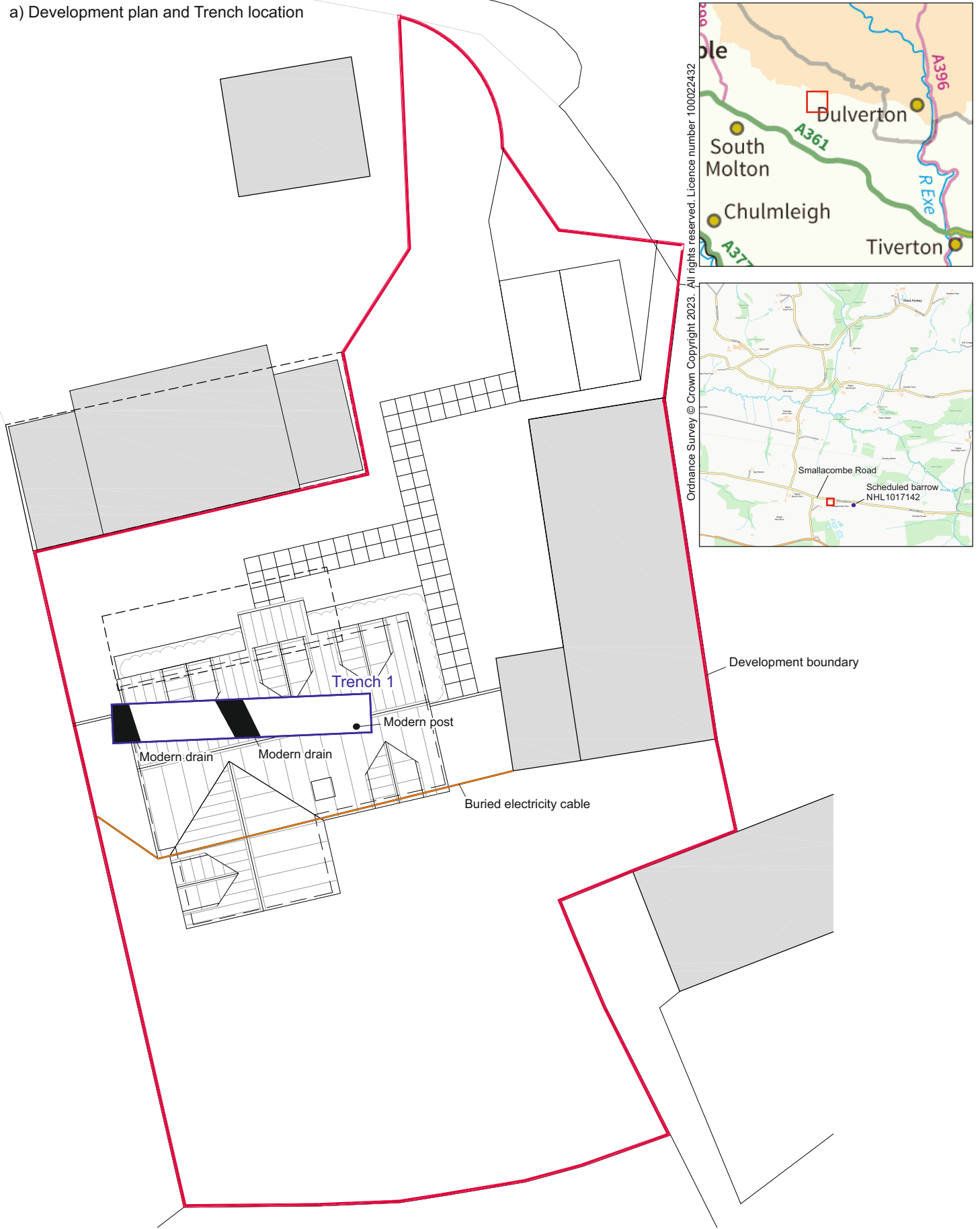


archaeology

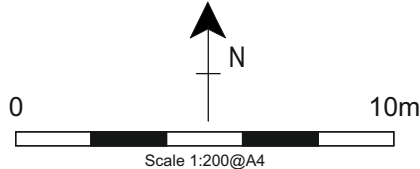
Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: South Molton, North Devon	National Grid Reference SS 8455 2534	Number:
Subject: Land at Smallacombe Farm, West Anstey, South Molton, Devon: Results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation		Photo attached: Plates 1-3
Planning Application no: 71445	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS ID: 513514	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD2885	Date fieldwork undertaken: 19 April 2023	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by AC archaeology ahead of the development of a new dwelling on land at Smallacombe Farm, West Anstey, South Molton, Devon (SS 8455 2534). The site is situated some 2km to the southwest of West Anstey and comprises a small farm complex on the south side of Smallacombe Hill. Prior to development the site comprised a mixed grass and hard-standing covered plot.</p> <p>The site lies close to a scheduled prehistoric barrow (National Heritage List for England reference 1017142). This lies approximately 120m to the east and comprises a bowl barrow of probable Bronze Age date that measures around 35m in diameter and 1m high.</p> <p>Results</p> <p>The evaluation comprised the machine-excavation of a trench measuring 10m length and 1.5m wide. This was positioned to target the footprint of the proposed new dwelling while avoiding existing services.</p> <p>Natural subsoil, which consisted of a mottled yellow clay was exposed at depth that ranged between 0.3m and 0.45m below existing levels. It was overlain by a 0.25m thick mid-greyish brown silty clay subsoil, which was sealed by a 0.2m thick mid greyish brown loam topsoil. A layer of textile membrane was present at a depth of 0.20m on the southern edge of the trench but this did not extend along its full length. The trench contained two modern drainage trenches as well as a modern post. No pre-modern finds were recovered.</p> <p>Comments:</p> <p>The trial trench evaluation did not expose any pre-modern archaeological features or deposits. A simple sequence of soils overlying the natural subsoil were revealed, as well as modern drainage features. No evidence was exposed or finds recovered from the overlying soils were associated with the nearby known prehistoric activity.</p> <p>This report represents the archive for the project.</p>		
Recorder: Rohan Ramoutar, AC archaeology	Date sent to HER: 22 May 2023	

a) Development plan and Trench location



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Based on drawing prepared by Sworders

PROJECT
Land at Smallacombe Farm, West Anstey,
South Molton, Devon

TITLE
Fig. 1: Location of site,
development plan and plan of
trial trench with archaeological
features shown





Plate 1: General view of site looking north



Plate 2: Trench 1, view to west (scale 1m)



Plate 3: Trench 1, representative section. View to south (scale 0.3m)

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