

Four Bowl Barrows on Bursdon Moor, 270m north west of Summerville Cross, Hartland, Torrridge, Devon

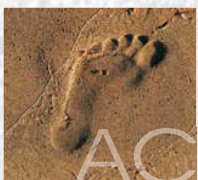
Results of an archaeological watching brief

Prepared by:
Andrew Passmore BSc MIfA

On behalf of:
The Devon Wildlife Trust

Document No: ACD466/1/2

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archaeology

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

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Hartland, Torridge	National Grid Reference SS 26196 20285	Number: (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
Subject: Four Bowl Barrows on Bursdon Moor, 270m North west of Summerville Cross, Hartland, Torridge, Devon: Results of a watching brief		Photo attached? Y
Planning Application no: N/A	Recipient museum: Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon	
OASIS ID: 127406	Museum Accession no: NDDMS 2012.9	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD466	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 18 April 2012	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>Introduction (Fig. 1) A programme of archaeological monitoring was carried out by AC archaeology during the resiting of a water trough from a barrow (no. 110 that forms part of a group of four barrows that are designated as Scheduled Monument no. 34246), and the turfing of bare patches on the barrow. The work was undertaken as a condition of the grant of Scheduled Monument Consent for the works, and in accordance with a brief prepared by the Devon County Historic Environment Service (Knight 2009), and a method statement prepared by Exeter Archaeology (Leverett and Manning 2010).</p> <p>Results (Figs 2-3) Existing trough: this measured 2m long by 0.80m wide (Plate 1) and was set into a concrete base that had been laid on a sub-base layer of large angular stones. This deposit was observed in the sections of the trench below the turf (Plate 2), and continued beyond the area of excavation. The turf was generally 0.20m thick, and the sub-base was exposed for a depth of 0.30m. The base of the trench was flooded. The stone sub-base was not removed. Erosion scars caused by cattle covered an area of approximately 5m by 4m on the south and west side of the barrow (see Plate 1).</p> <p>Excavation for relocated trough: the new position of the trough was 225m to the northeast of Scheduled Monument. An area measuring 4m by 3m was stripped of turf, and a smaller area of 0.50m topsoil, measuring 2m by 1m, was removed onto yellow clay natural subsoil at the exact location of the new trough (Plate 3). The subsoil was not removed. No archaeological features were exposed and no finds were recovered.</p> <p>Second trough: an area to the southwest of the barrow group, measuring 4m by 3m, was stripped of topsoil to facilitate the positioning of a second trough and to provide a source of turf for reinstating erosion scars (Plate 4). The topsoil was 0.30m thick and overlaid a natural subsoil of sandstone in grey sandy clay. The subsoil was not removed. No archaeological features were exposed and no finds were recovered.</p> <p>Laying of water pipes: the new water pipes were moled beneath the ground and no trenches were excavated. The existing pipe to the removed trough was left <i>in situ</i>.</p> <p>Other observations: On Barrow 109 two areas of erosion scars were recorded. On the south side of the barrow a roughly rectangular area measuring c. 1m by 0.80m had developed, with erosion of the turf and the upper part of the topsoil occurring (Plate 5). On the south side of the barrow turf covering an area of c.1.5m diameter has been lost, exposing the topsoil (Plate 6). On the top of Barrow 12410 a small erosion scar, measuring no more than 1m by 0.50m was noted, where the turf had been lost (Plate 7). Vehicle tracks were also observed just outside the scheduled area to the west of Barrow 111 (Plate 8), although no damage to the barrow itself was noted.</p> <p>Summary The trough in Barrow 110 had been constructed onto a stone sub-base that was not removed; consequently no archaeological deposits were observed. Elsewhere, during the topsoil stripping for the new troughs no archaeological features or deposits were observed, and no finds recovered.</p>		

A record was prepared of erosion scars on the barrows. One new area of erosion was noted, along with some vehicle tracks.

Sources Consulted

Knight, S., Brief for an archaeological project at Bursdon Moor, Bursdon Moor, Hartland, Torridge, Devon, DCHES ref. **Arch/AE/TO 13559**

Leverett, M., and Manning, P., 2010 'Appendix 1: Method statement for works at Bursdon Moor', in Leverett, M., and Manning, P., *Management Plan for the Archaeological Resource at Bursdon Moor, Devon*, Exeter Archaeology report no. **10.11**

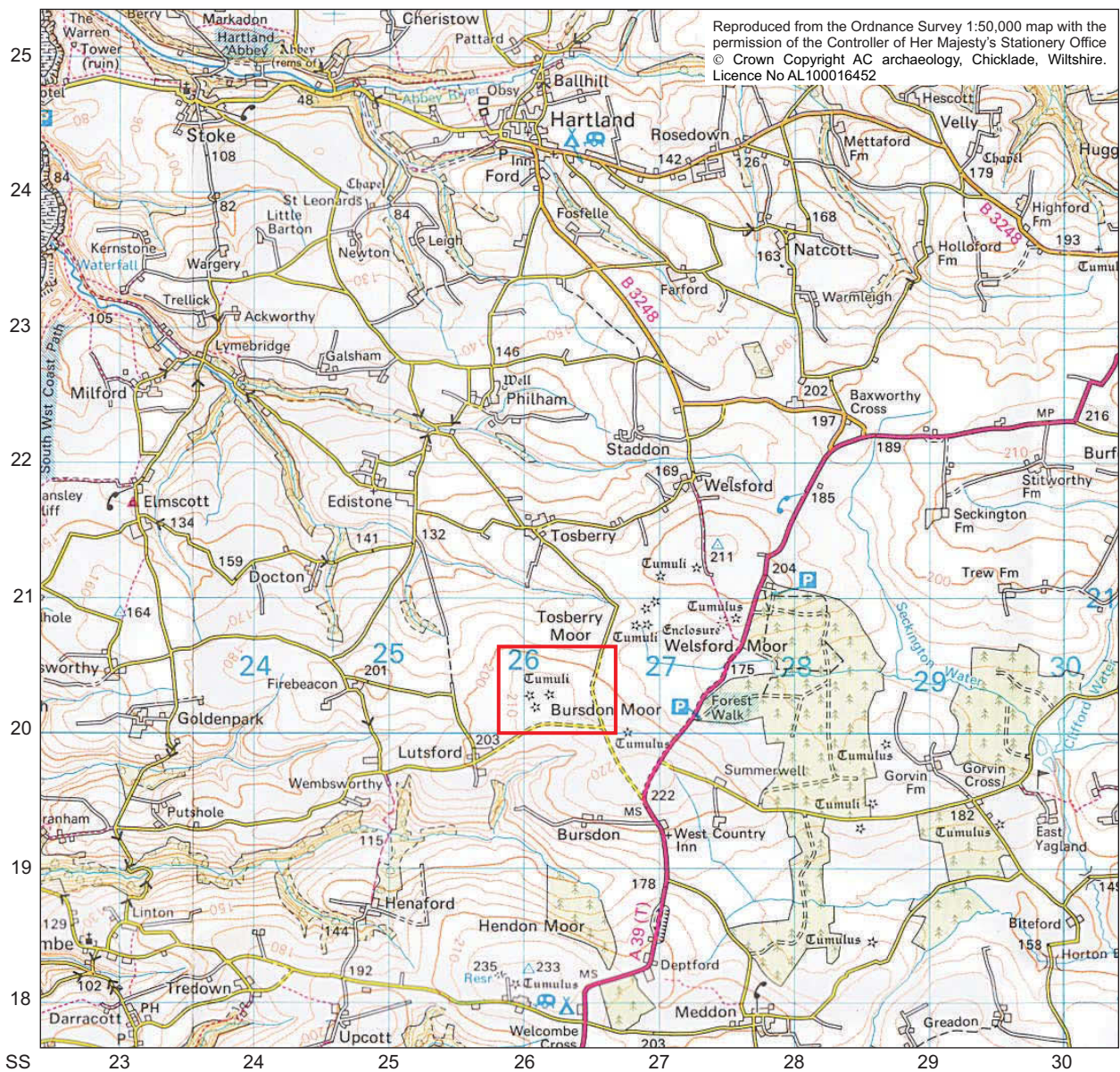
A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.

Recorder:

Andrew Passmore, AC archaeology

Date sent to HER:

18 October 2012



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PROJECT
Bursdon Moor, Hartland, Devon

TITLE
Fig.1: Location of site

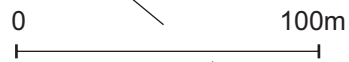
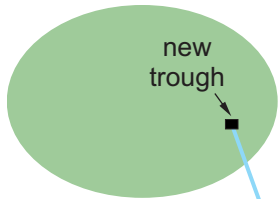
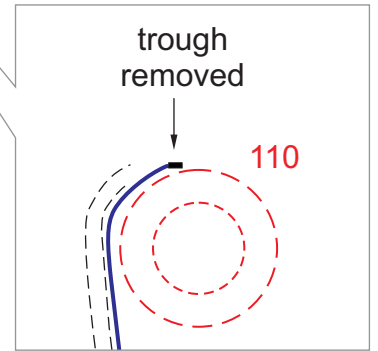
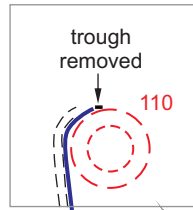




Bursdon Moor



SM34246



Barrows



Approx line of existing water pipe



New moled water pipe



Area of raised ground

PROJECT

Bursdon Moor, Hartland, Devon

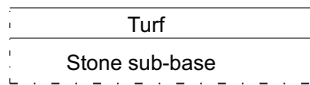
TITLE

Fig.2: Location of new water troughs

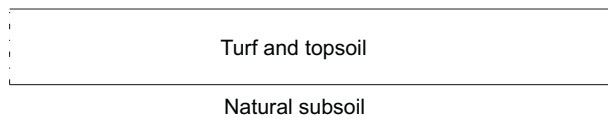


AC archaeology

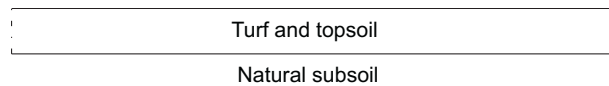
a) North facing section of trench
following removal of existing trough



b) South east facing section of
relocated trough trench



c) East facing section of second trough trench



PROJECT

Bursdon Moor, Hartland, Devon

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Fig. 3: Sections of trenches



Plate 1: The existing trough on Barrow 110 showing erosion scars. View to the south (2m scale).



Plate 2: Barrow 110, the exposed stone sub-base under the trough. View to the north (2m scale).



Plate 3: The excavation for the resited trough. View to the northeast (2m scale).



Plate 4: The excavation for the second trough.
View to the south (2m scale).



Plate 5: Barrow 109, southern erosion scar.
View to the north (2m scale).



Plate 6: Barrow 109, northern erosion scar.
View to the north (2m scale).



Plate 7: Barrow 12410, erosion scar. View to the west (2m scale).



Plate 8: Barrow 111, vehicle tracks. View to the east (2m scale).