

# LAND AT HIGHER MOOR , PANCRASWEEK, DEVON

NGR SS 2944 0689

## Results of an archaeological watching brief

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Prepared by  
Peter Stead

On behalf of:  
Sean Rolston and  
Veronica Hatcher

Report No: ACD440/2/0

Date: 11th June 2012

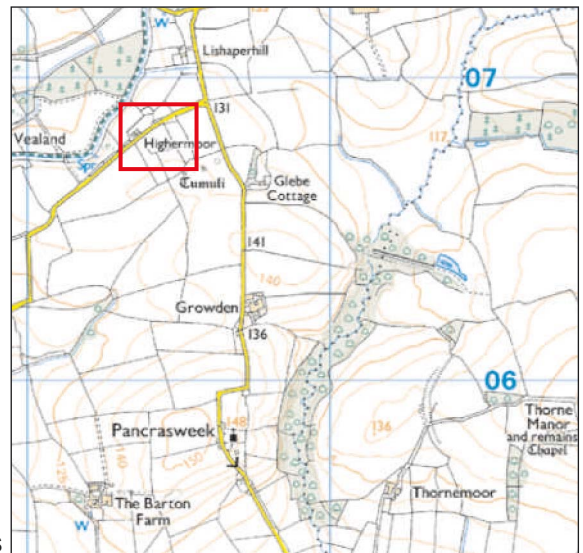


archaeology

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# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Pancrasweek, Torridge	<b>National Grid Reference:</b> SS 2944 0689	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Land at Higher Moor, Pancrasweek, Devon: Results of an archaeological watching brief		<b>Photo attached:</b> Plates 1-2
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 1/0768/2010/FUL	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> 127012	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> NDDMS 2012.05	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> ACD440	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 11th May 2012	
<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was carried out by AC archaeology on behalf of Sean Rolston and Veronica Hatcher, during groundworks associated with the construction of a single dwelling and garage. The work was required by Torridge District Council under a condition (no. 8) attached to the grant of planning permission for the development.</p> <p>The site lies within a poorly-draining north-facing field at a height of 132m aOD (Figs 1 &amp; 2a). It is situated approximately 140m to the northwest of three probable Bronze Age bowl barrows (Scheduled Monument no. 34273), and a further two barrows lie to the southwest of these. There are also three barrows approximately 350m to the northeast of the site. Worked flint scatters have been recorded to the west.</p> <p>Monitored groundworks consisted of topsoil stripping across the footprint of the new building and access drive; an area measuring approximately 22m x 20m (Fig. 2a). Also monitored was the removal of a section of hedgebank flanking the road to the north, and localised topsoil removal on the site of a new electricity pole (two small areas each approximately 2m x 1m and marked A and B on Fig. 1). All operations were carried out using a tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket.</p> <p><b>Results</b></p> <p>A simple deposit sequence was exposed throughout the stripped areas consisting of a 30-40cm thick brown clay loam topsoil (100) over buff brown clay natural subsoil (101). Three 19th-or early 20th-century pottery sherds were recovered from the topsoil; a sherd of blue and white transfer-printed ware and two sherds of brown-glazed red earthenware. This material was not retained.</p> <p>No significant archaeological features or deposits were present; frequent plough scarring was visible within the natural subsoil (Plate 1), but in all cases this respected the alignment of the current field boundaries.</p> <p>The hedgebank (Fig. 2b &amp; Plate 2) was found to contain a layer of former clay loam topsoil (102) up to 8cm thick, overlying the natural subsoil (101). It had been heavily disturbed by root and worm action and was not considered suitable for palaeo-environmental sampling. Overlying deposits consisted of redeposited natural clay subsoil (103) beneath a light brown clay loam (104), which was sealed by humic loam topsoil (105). Extensive root disturbance was evident throughout. There was no associated ditch on the upslope (north) side of the bank.</p> <p><b>Comments</b></p> <p>Evidence for past human activity within the site is very limited. The pottery sherds are all relatively modern and are likely to have been either casually discarded or brought into the site during episodes of manuring. Although the field within which the site lies is currently prone to waterlogging, it has clearly been ploughed in the past but this ploughing post-dates the establishment of the current field boundaries.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> Peter Stead, AC archaeology		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 11 June 2012



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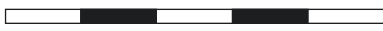
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0 100m



Scale 1:2000@A4



Application area ■ New electricity poles

PROJECT

Higher Moor, Pancrasweek, Torridge, Devon

TITLE

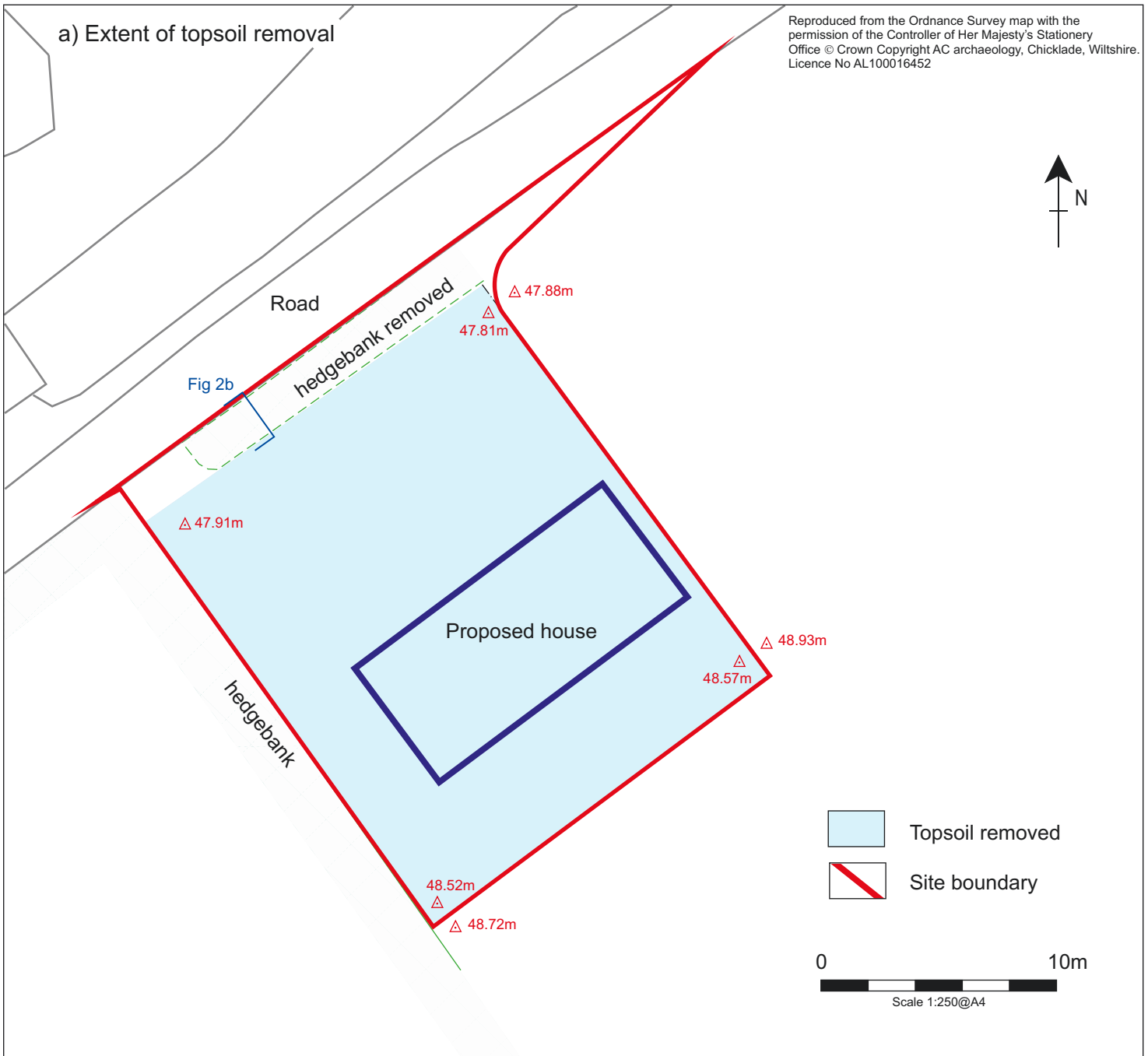
Fig. 1: Location of site



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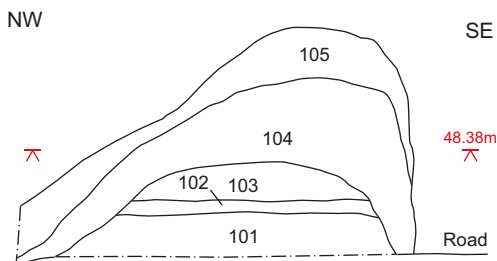
a) Extent of topsoil removal

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b) Section across removed hedgebank

All levels relate to a temporary bench mark allocated a nominal value of 50m



PROJECT

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Fig. 2: Plan and section





Plate 1: General view of site, showing plough scarring parallel to hedgebank. View to southwest



Plate 2: Removal of roadside hedgebank. View to northeast

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