

Park Pale, Newnham Park Estate, Sparkwell, Devon
(NGR SX 55420 58220)

Deer Park and Rabbit Warren at Newnham Park: Scheduled Monument no. 34874

Results of an archaeological watching brief

Prepared by:
Dr Paul Rainbird

On behalf of:
Western Power Distribution

Document No: ACD461/2/0

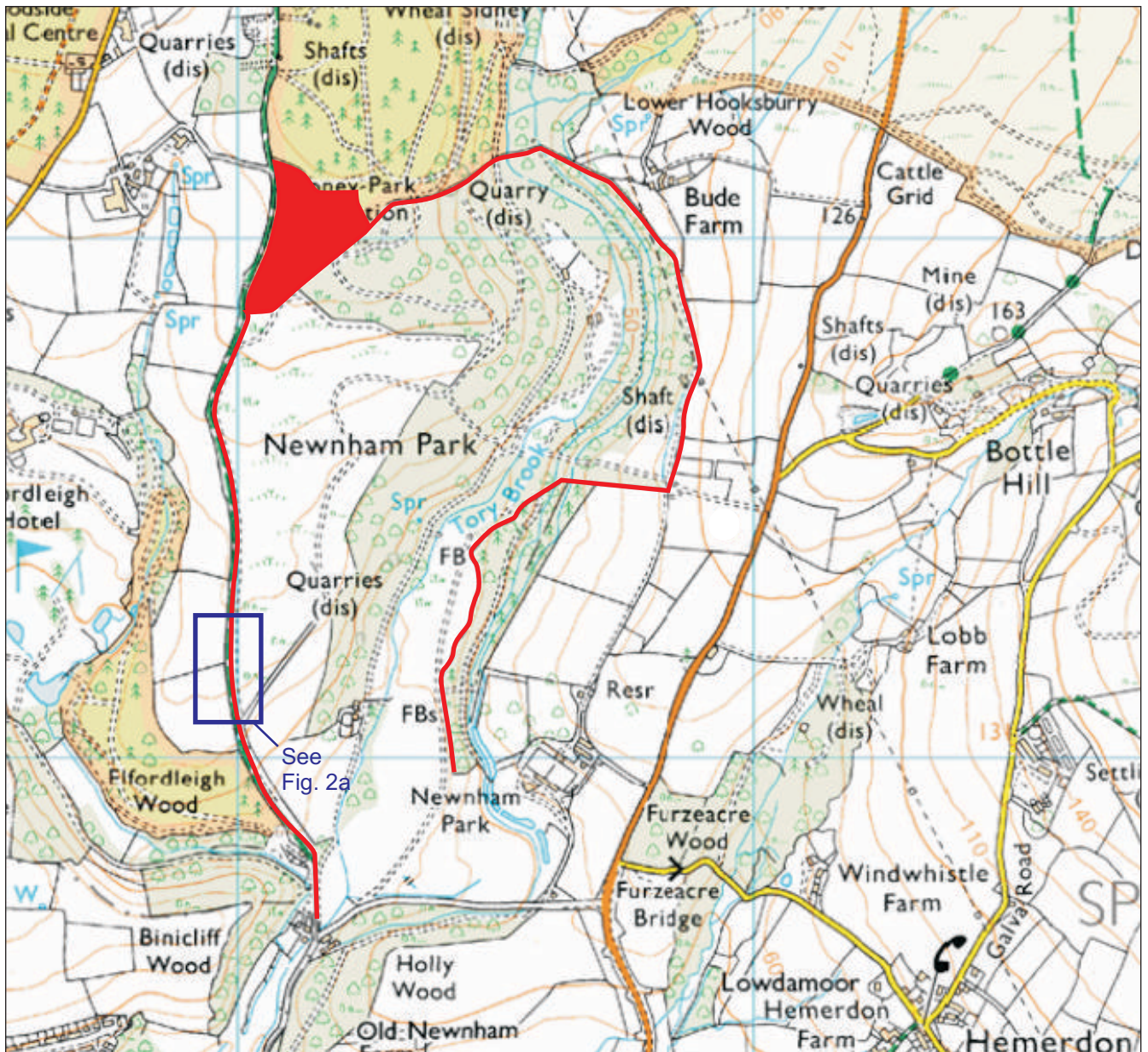
Date: November 2013



AC archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Sparkwell, South Hams	National Grid Reference SX 55000 58220	Number: (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
Subject: Park Pale, Newnham Park Estate: results of an archaeological watching Brief		Photo attached? N
Planning Application no:	Recipient museum: Plymouth City Museums	
OASIS ID: 164324	Museum Accession no: 2012.15	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD461	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 2/09/2012 to 6/11/2013	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks to replace and divert a 33kv overhead line at Newnham Park which required the passing of an underground cable beneath the park pale (Fig. 1). The park pale is a Scheduled Monument (no. 34874, National Heritage List no. 1020169) and Scheduled Monument Consent was obtained prior to the work commencing.</p> <p>Newnham Park is located to the northeast of the outskirts of Plympton and was constructed in about 1700 by the Strode family to complement their new mansion. The deer park is defined by an earthwork park pale enclosing an area of approximately 145ha. The pale takes the form of a large earth bank measuring between 2.5m and 5m wide, with a stone rubble inner face from 1.3m to 2.5m high, capped with horizontal slate slabs. The construction varies and in places ditches are present on either side of the wall these are between 2.5m and 5m wide and up to 1.5m deep.</p> <p>The groundworks within the park consisted of the excavation of a small test pit within a trackway and the subsequent excavation of a larger trench measuring 6m by 3m (Trench 1) located approximately 2m from the base on the east side of the wall (Fig. 2a). This trench was the launch pit for the directional drilling of the cable tunnel under the park pale. The existing electricity cable was exposed within a cut into the stone shale natural (context 003) at a depth of 0.60m below ground surface. The overlying deposits (shown in Fig 2a) consisted of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0-0.30m mid grey brown mixed clay and crushed rock and brick, which formed the trackway surface (context 000); • 0.30-0.40m dark brown sandy clay with common shale, which is possibly a buried agricultural soil (001); and • 0.40m-0.60m mid reddish brown sandy clay with common shale, which represents a natural subsoil (002). <p>To the west of the pale, on the opposite side of a gate next to the bridleway, a 4m by 4m trench (Trench 2) was excavated. A tunnel for the new cable was drilled between trenches 1 and 2. From Trench 2 a 0.50m wide cable trench (Trench 3) emanated and ran parallel to the pale for a distance north of approximately 120m to a trench measuring 2m by 2m (Trench 4). All of these excavations exposed a mixed topsoil of dark brown sandy clay to a depth of 0.40m where the natural shale stone (003) was exposed.</p> <p>No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the excavations, and it is clear that at this location there was no ditch on the inside of the park pale.</p>		
<p>A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.</p>		
Recorder: Gareth Holes, AC archaeology	Date sent to HER: 26 November 2013	



0 500m
Scale 1:12,500@A4

PROJECT

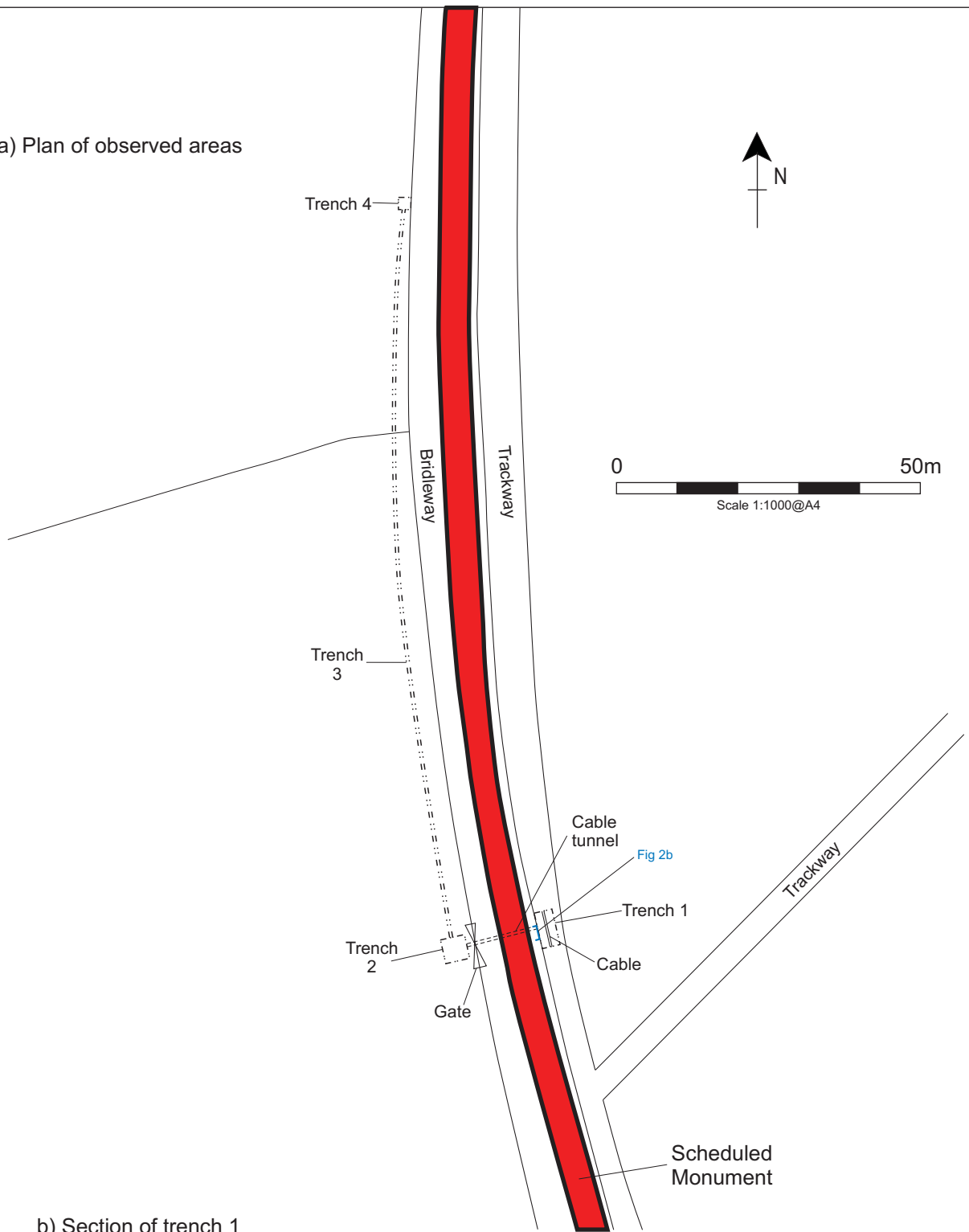
Park Pale, Newnham Park Estate

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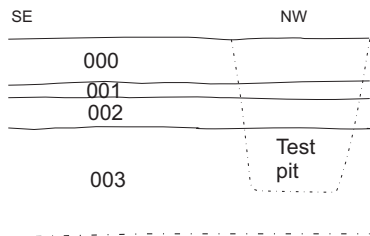
Fig. 1: Site location



a) Plan of observed areas



b) Section of trench 1



PROJECT

Park Pale, Newnham Park Estate

TITLE

Fig. 2: Plan and section

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