

HAZARD FARM, HARBERTON, DEVON

(NGR SX 75025 59598)

Results of an archaeological watching brief

Planning reference: South Hams District Council 23/0216/14/F
(condition 5)

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Document No: ACD896/2/0

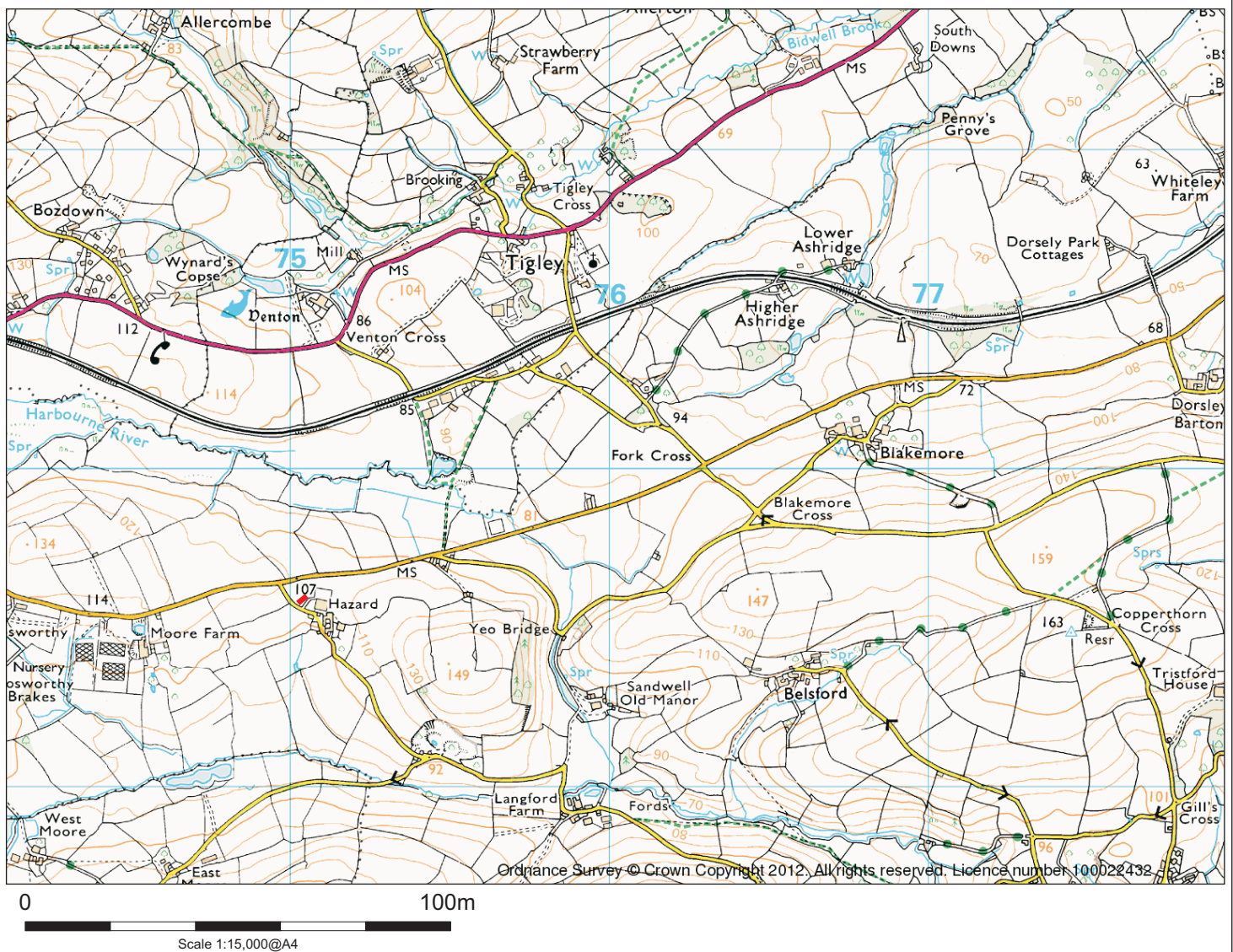
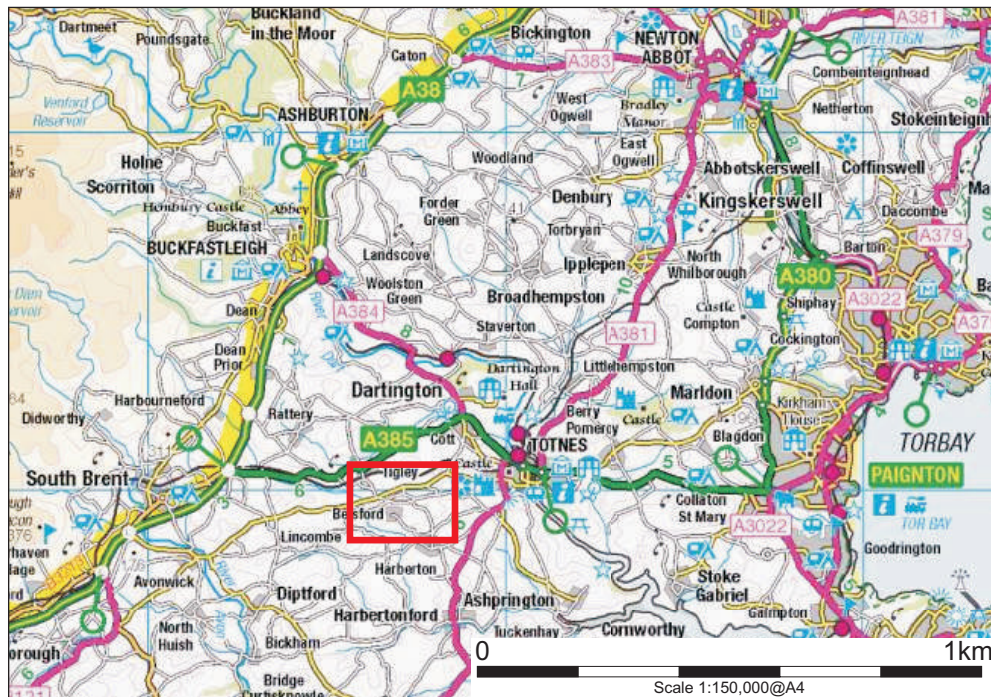
Date: June 2014



AC archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: South Hams	National Grid Reference SX 75025 59598	Number:
Subject: Hazard Farm, Harberton, Devon; Results of an archaeological watching brief		Photo attached? Yes
Planning Ref no: 23/0216/14/F	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS ID: 182657	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD896	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 15 May 2014	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was carried out by AC archaeology during groundworks for the construction of a new agricultural building at Hazard Farm. The site of the new building is located to the northwest of the farm and covers an area of 0.335ha (Fig. 1). It lies within a col between two hills at a height of approximately 105m aOD. The underlying geology comprises Middle Devonian Slates. The site falls within the study area of an historic environment assessment for a solar farm, located immediately to the southwest of Hazard Farm (James 2012).</p> <p>Hazard Farm can be identified with a medieval manor, probably the Domesday estate of Haroldesore. To the southeast of the farm is Hazard Hill where a Neolithic settlement was excavated in 1951-52. Mesolithic and Bronze Age artefacts have also been found on the hill. The placename "the berries" in a field southwest of the farm has also been identified from a documentary source. In advance of the construction of the solar farm a geophysical survey was carried out (Dean 2012) followed up by an archaeological trench evaluation (Pears 2013). In the field with the placename "the berries" these identified a pair of massive double ditches of late Iron Age date. These were within a larger enclosure adapting a natural break of slope below a plateau. To the east and southeast of this enclosure ditches of agricultural origin were encountered, whilst in the southeast part of the site a small group of features may be indicative of settlement activity.</p> <p>Results</p> <p>The watching brief consisted of the monitoring and recording of the bulk reduction of the footprint of the building prior to excavation of footings (Plate 1). The groundworks consisted of the removal of 0.35m of topsoil and subsoil down to the natural deposits, consisting of clay and shale.</p> <p>The excavations exposed a layer sequence (Plate 2) consisting of a mid brown clayey silt topsoil (100) up to 0.30m thick overlying a 0.05m thick subsoil horizon of mid yellowish-brown silty clay (101). Although quite varied the deposits generally contained small to medium sub-angular shale (>35mm to 100mm). Finds recovered from the topsoil (but not retained) were a fragment of C19th/C20th drainage pipe and one sherd of modern industrial china. The natural deposits comprised a dark reddish yellow clay with slate inclusions intermixed with layers and bands of slate and clay.</p> <p>The only features that were identified were modern. One was a machine-dug slot approximately 1.5m long by 0.40m wide, whose backfill contained slag, charcoal and lumps of melted plastic. Teeth marks of a bucket were clearly visible in the end of the slot and it was not excavated. The second feature that was identified was a linear service trench, which the farmer identified as the water main.</p> <p>Comments</p> <p>No archaeological features or deposits were exposed, and only modern material was present in the topsoil. It is likely that any medieval activity is located closer to the historic farm buildings, and any Neolithic or Iron Age activity is present nearby in topographical locations such as hilltops and plateaus, as previously identified.</p> <p>References</p> <p>Dean, R., 2012, <i>An Archaeological Gradiometer Survey: Land at Hazard Farm, Harberton, South Hams</i>, Unpublished Substrata report for client, ref. 121220</p> <p>James, T., 2012, <i>Land at Hazard Farm, Harberton, South Hams, Devon, Historic Environment Assessment</i>, AC archaeology document no. ACD554/1/0</p> <p>Pears, B., 2013, <i>Hazard Farm, Harberton, Devon, (SX 7503 5923), Results of an archaeological trench evaluation, Planning ref. South Hams District Council 23/2485/12/F</i>, AC archaeology document no. ACD554/3/1</p>		
Recorder: Chris Caine (AC archaeology)		Date sent to HER: 27 June 2014



Location of watching brief

PROJECT

Hazard Farm, Harberton, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Site location



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Plate 1: General view of site following stripping, looking west. 1m scale



Plate 2: Exposed soil profile, looking north. 1m scale

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