

LAND AT BARTON PITTS, NORTH MOLTON, DEVON

SS 7253 3206

Results of an archaeological trench evaluation

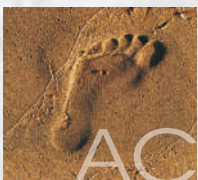
North Devon Council planning reference 59343, condition 4

Prepared by:
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On behalf of:
Mr Paul Govier

Document No: ACD1227/2/0

Date: October 2015



AC archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: South Molton, North Devon	National Grid Reference SS 7253 3206	Number: (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
Subject: Land at Barton Pitts, North Molton: Results of an archaeological trench evaluation		Photo attached? Y
Planning Application no: 59343	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS ID: 225084	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD1227	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 28 September 2015	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p><i>Introduction</i></p> <p>An archaeological trench evaluation was undertaken by AC archaeology in advance of the construction of a new agricultural building at Barton Pitts, North Molton (Fig. 1). The construction programme will also involve the breaching of an adjacent hedgebank.</p> <p>The archaeological interest in the site is twofold. Firstly, there are two Scheduled probable Bronze Age barrows located approximately 170m to the southeast of the development (National Heritage List no. 1019225). Secondly early 20th-century maps depict 'Old Iron Workings' in the near vicinity.</p> <p><i>Results</i></p> <p>The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a project design prepared by AC archaeology (Valentin 2015), and consisted of the excavation of four trenches totalling 108m long (Fig. 2). Trenches 1-3 were located within the footprint of the new building, and Trench 4 was placed across the adjacent hedgebank.</p> <p>In trenches 1-3 the following soil sequence outlined below was recorded (Plates 1-3). The sequence was shallower in western of Trench 2 due to the presence of a nearby heavily-used gateway.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topsoil, measuring up to 0.26m thick, consisting of a dark brown silty-loam with occasional gravel to cobbles of sub-angular sandstone; • Subsoil, measuring up to 0.14m thick, consisting of a dark brown clay-loam with common sub-angular sandstone; and • Natural that consisted of dark pinkish-brown silty-clay with frequent gravel to cobbles and angular sandstone. <p>No archaeological features were exposed within these trenches, and no finds were recovered.</p> <p>In Trench 4 the same soil sequence was exposed underneath the hedgebank (Plate 4). Here the natural (402) was overlain by a 0.13m thick layer of subsoil (401) and a 0.35m thick layer of topsoil (400). The boundary consisted of a bank (403) that measured 0.92m high by 2.20m wide at its base, tapering to 0.64m wide at its summit. It had been constructed of redeposited natural subsoil as described above. This material was covered with up to 0.14m of topsoil (404), again as described above.</p> <p><i>Conclusion</i></p> <p>No archaeological deposits were exposed within the three trenches within the footprint of the new building, and it is considered that this is representative of the development area as a whole.</p> <p>The hedgebank itself had no structural elements beyond the bank of material. No finds were recovered from the bank. However, the boundary dates to the mid 19th century – it is not depicted on the North Molton tithe map but is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey maps. There are no associated ditches to provide material for the bank. However, such material may have been locally available from the nearby iron mines.</p> <p>This document and the OASIS entry represent the archive for the project.</p>		

Source Consulted

Valentin, J., 2015, *Land at Barton Pitts, North Molton, Devon, (Centred on NGR SS 7253 3206), Project Design for Archaeological Investigation and Mitigation, North Devon Council Planning Reference 59343 (Condition 4)*, AC archaeology Document No. **ACD1227/1/0**

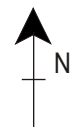
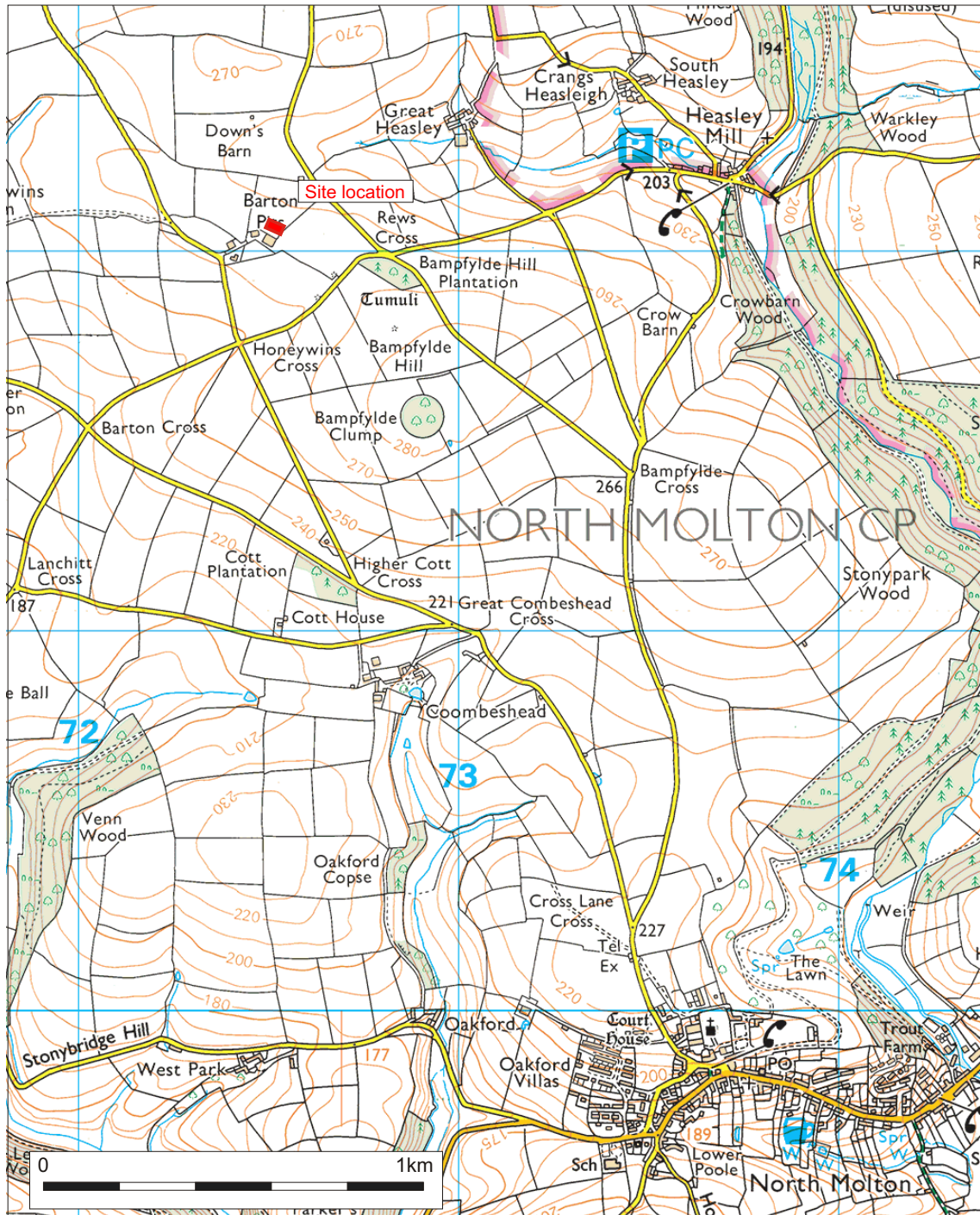
A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.

Recorder:

Chris Caine, AC archaeology

Date sent to HER:

1 October 2015

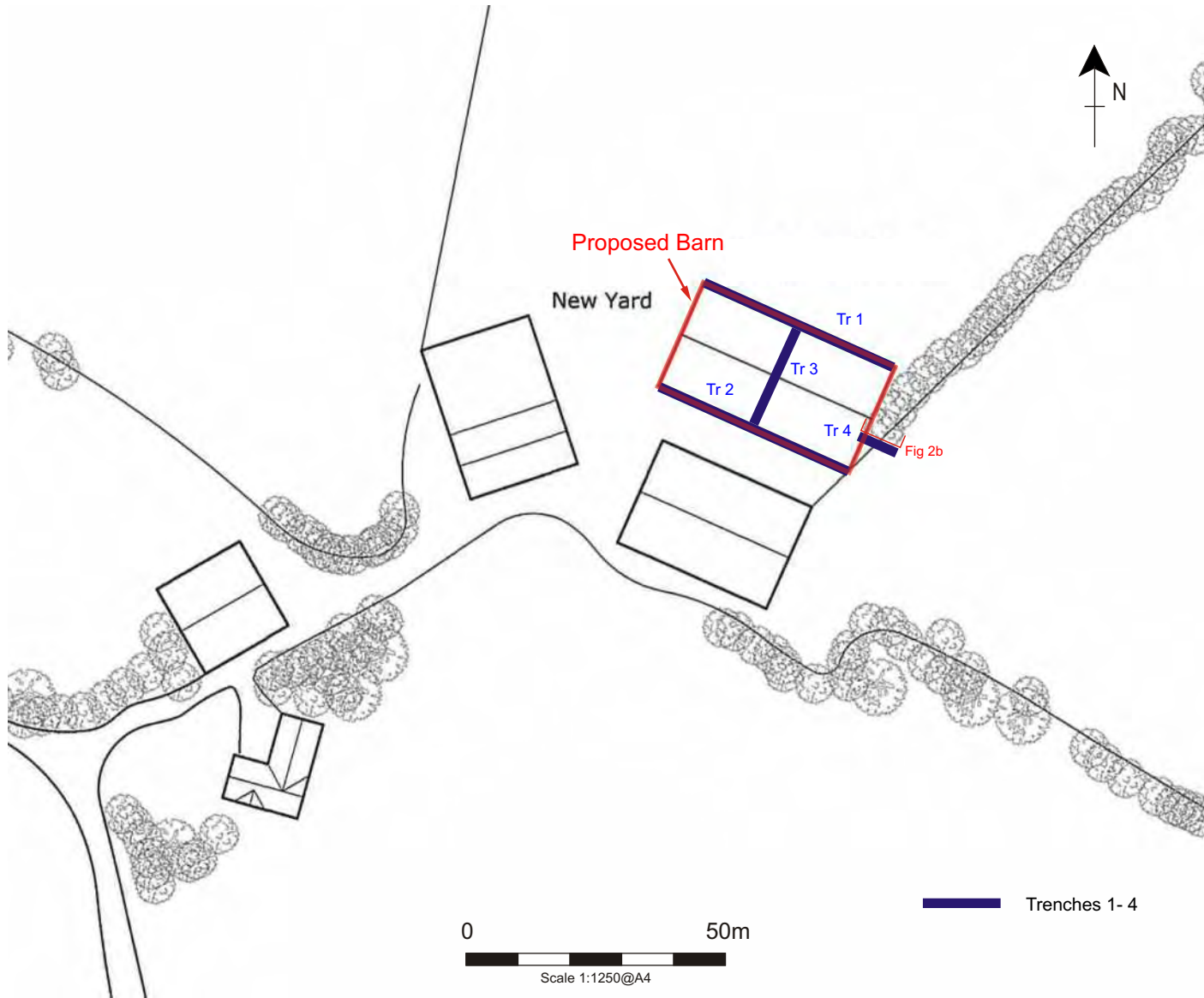


PROJECT
Barton Pitts, North Molton, Devon

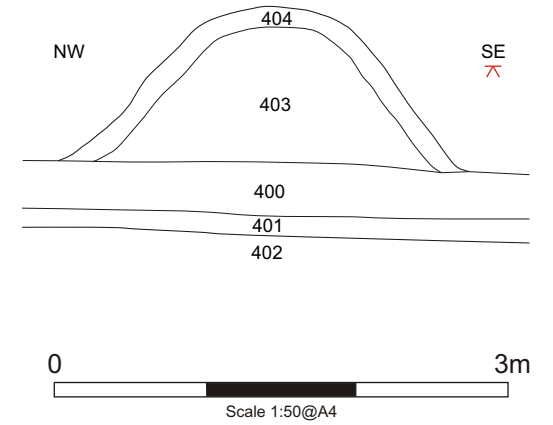
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Fig. 1: Site location



a) Plan



b) Section of hedgebank



PROJECT

Barton Pitts, North Molton, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 2: Trench location plan and section of hedgebank



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Plate 1: Trench 1 viewed from the northwest (1m scale)



Plate 2: Trench 2 viewed from the southeast (1m scale)



Plate 3: Trench 3 viewed from the southwest (1m scale)



Plate 4: Trench 4 showing hedgebank viewed from the southwest (1m scale)

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