

# LAND WEST OF PARSONAGE WOOD, PYWORTHY, DEVON

NGR SS 3103 0173

Results of archaeological monitoring and recording

Torrige District Council planning ref. 1/0754/2015/FULM

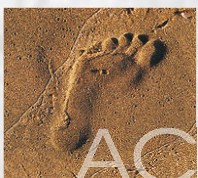
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Prepared by:  
Paul Cooke

On behalf of:  
Orion Heritage Ltd.

Report No: ACD1489/1/0

Date: January 2017

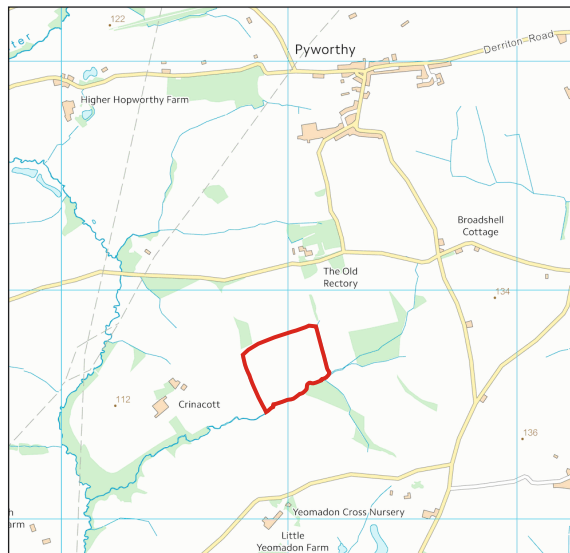


archaeology

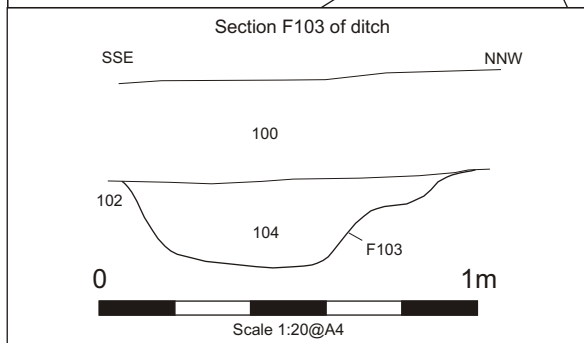
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# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Pyworthy, Torridge	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SS 3103 0173	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Land west of Parsonage Wood, Pyworthy, Devon: Results of archaeological monitoring and recording		<b>Photo attached</b> Plates 1-3
<b>Planning permission no:</b> 1/0754/2015/FULM	<b>Recipient museum:</b> N/A	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> 273213	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> ACD1489	<b>Date fieldwork undertaken:</b> 19th December 2016.	
<p><b>Introduction</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out by AC archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a solar farm on land west of Parsonage Wood, Pyworthy, Devon (centred on SS 3103 0173) (Fig.1).</p> <p>The site was located on agricultural land positioned on ground that sloped gradually towards a watercourse that formed its southern boundary (Plate 1). Previous archaeological work comprising desk-based assessment and geophysical survey had been carried out on the site, the latter of which had identified a small number of anomalies including a sub-circular feature that was considered to represent the potential for prehistoric activity. This previous work formed the basis for a targeted area that required the monitoring of groundworks during construction.</p> <p><b>Results (Fig. 1; Plates 2-3)</b> Monitored groundworks comprised the machine-excavation of multiple cable trenches, which each measured 0.3m wide and approximately 0.7m deep. Natural subsoil (context 102), which consisted of a light brownish-yellow clay, was exposed at a depth of around 0.3m below existing levels. This was overlain by an intermittent light grey silty-clay loam subsoil. This, where present, was sealed by a 0.2-0.3m thick mid brownish-grey clayey-loam topsoil.</p> <p>The groundworks exposed a single ENE to WSW aligned probable ditch (F103) that was located towards the northern extent of the monitored area. Ditch F103 measured 0.89m wide and 0.30m deep, with moderately-steep sloping sides that were stepped on the NNW side and a flattish base. It contained a single mid brownish-grey clayey-loam fill (104) that was undated.</p> <p><b>Comments</b> The monitoring of groundworks did not expose the possible curvilinear feature interpreted from the previous geophysical survey. Furthermore, no finds were recovered from the topsoil that would suggest that there was prehistoric activity on the site.</p> <p>The position and alignment of ditch F103 corresponds with the location of a former field boundary depicted on the 1885 First-Edition Ordnance Survey Map of the site. This boundary is not depicted on the 1838 Pyworthy parish tithe map suggesting that the feature was mid-19th century in origin.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> Paul Cooke, AC archaeology		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> January 2017



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PROJECT

Parsonage Wood Solar Farm, Pyworthy, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of site with monitored area and ditch F103 shown







Plate 1: General working view of monitored area looking south-southeast



Plate 2: View of cable trench with ditch F103 visible in section. View to north-northwest (scale 1m)



Plate 3: Ditch F103, view to west-southwest (scale 1m)

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