

EASTON, BIGBURY, DEVON

(NGR SX 66811 47118)

Results of an archaeological watching brief

South Hams District Council planning reference

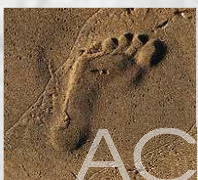
0763/16/FUL

Prepared by
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On behalf of
Luscombe Maye

Document No: ACD1322/2/0

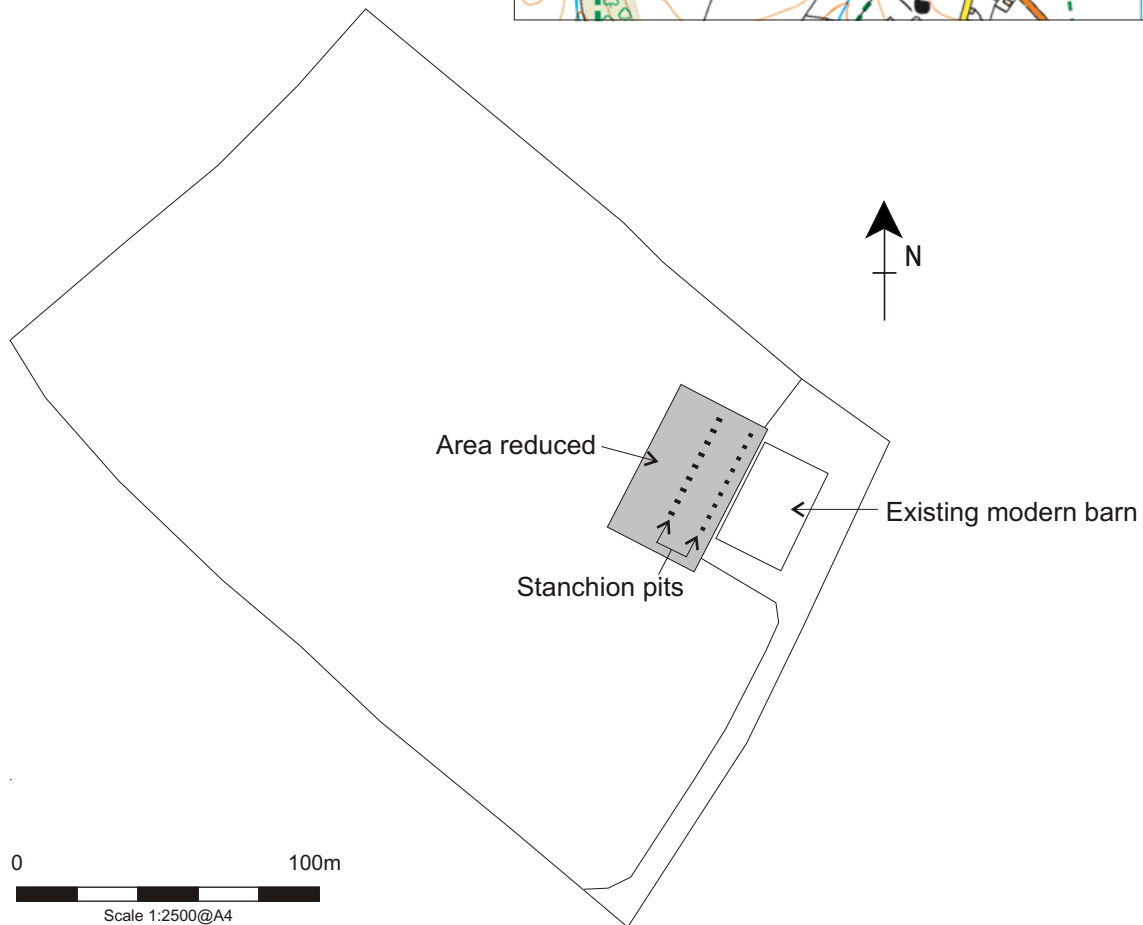
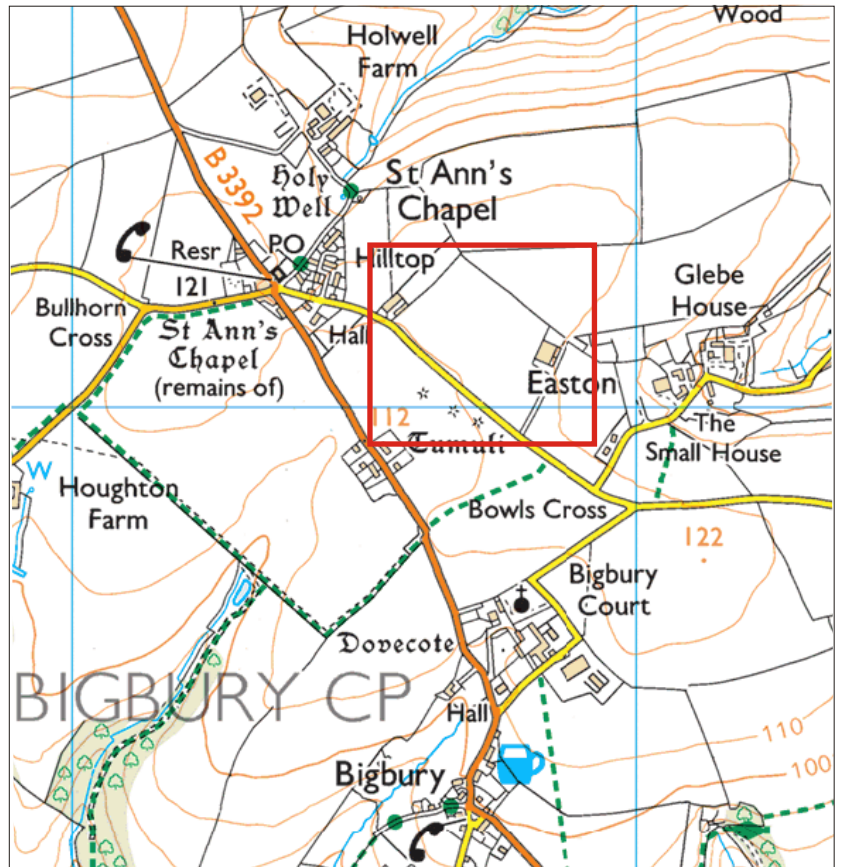
Date: February 2017



AC archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Bigbury, South Hams	National Grid Reference SX 66811 47118	Number: (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
Subject: Easton, Bigbury, Devon: Results of an archaeological watching brief		Photo attached? Y
Planning Application no: 0763/16/FUL	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS ID: 275508	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD1322	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 26 January 2017	
<p>Description of works</p> <p><i>Introduction and archaeological background</i></p> <p>A watching brief was carried out during the construction of a new agricultural building at Easton, Bigbury (Fig. 1). The site is located in a field adjacent to an existing modern barn. It is situated towards the top of a hill on a northeast-facing promontory at a height of approximately 120m aOD. The underlying solid geology comprises Devonian slate, siltstone and sandstone of the Dartmouth Group.</p> <p>The main archaeological interest in the area is a group of three barrows situated 200m to the southwest of the development area. These are designated as a Scheduled Monument (National Heritage List no 1019239). The earliest is a Neolithic long barrow (DCC HER MDV36059), with no evidence for flanking ditches, but with evidence for an internal chamber. The other two barrows are bowl barrows of Neolithic or Bronze Age date. There is no evidence for ditches around the mounds, but these are likely to be present (MDVs 16575 and 36060). Further to the southwest there is cropmark evidence for an enclosure and adjacent linear ditches of probable prehistoric date (MDV50110), whilst archaeological fieldwork around St Anne's Chapel, to the northwest of the development site, has identified further evidence for early activity, including evidence for field systems or enclosure along with smaller discrete features (MDV113766), as well as an enclosure and possible associated field system of probable Middle Bronze Age date, along with a curvilinear feature that may represent another (Bronze Age) barrow (Smith and Valentin 2014).</p> <p><i>Results</i></p> <p>The new barn is a steel-frame portal building measuring 36m long x 12m wide. The bays of the building are at 4.5m intervals, divided by 18 steel stanchions (Fig. 1). The construction methodology involved the removal of the turf only, with the exposed topsoil covered by a layer of Terram, then rolled stone. The individual pits for the stanchions were excavated with a toothless bucket.</p> <p>An area measuring 52m by 32m around the barn was reduced by 0.25m (Plate 1). This removed, but was still within, the topsoil that consisted of mid reddish-brown clay-loam. The 18 stanchion pits measured 1.5m by 0.7m by 0.85m deep on the west side of the structure and 1m by 0.70m by 0.7m deep on the east side. The deposit sequence consisted of the topsoil measuring 0.28m deep, overlying a 0.57m thick mid yellow-brown silty clay subsoil over natural, which consisted of pale blue-grey shale in a mid yellow-brown clay (Plates 2 and 3). No archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered.</p> <p><i>Comments</i></p> <p>The ground reduction was too shallow to expose any archaeological deposits. No features or deposits were encountered during the excavation of the stanchion pits. No finds were recovered from any of the deposits.</p> <p>This report and the associated OASIS entry represent the archive for this project.</p> <p><i>Source consulted</i></p> <p>Smith, W. and Valentin, J., 2014, <i>Land at St Ann's Chapel, Bigbury, Devon, Centred on SX 6633 4710, Results of an Archaeological Trench Evaluation</i>, AC archaeology report no. ACD959/2/1</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: Liz Govier, AC Archaeology	Date sent to HER: 7 February 2017	



PROJECT

Easton, Bigbury, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Site location and location of observations





Plate 1: General view of site and area reduced, looking northeast



Plate 2: General view of stanchion pits on the west side of the structure, looking southwest. 1m scale



Plate 3: Example of soil profile seen within the stanchion pits. 1m scale

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