

Land at Higher Gidcott, Milton Damerel, Devon

NGR SS41100920

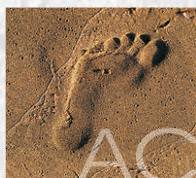
Results of archaeological trench evaluation

Prepared by:
Christopher Caine

On behalf of:
Mr and Mrs Martin

Document No: ACD189/2/0

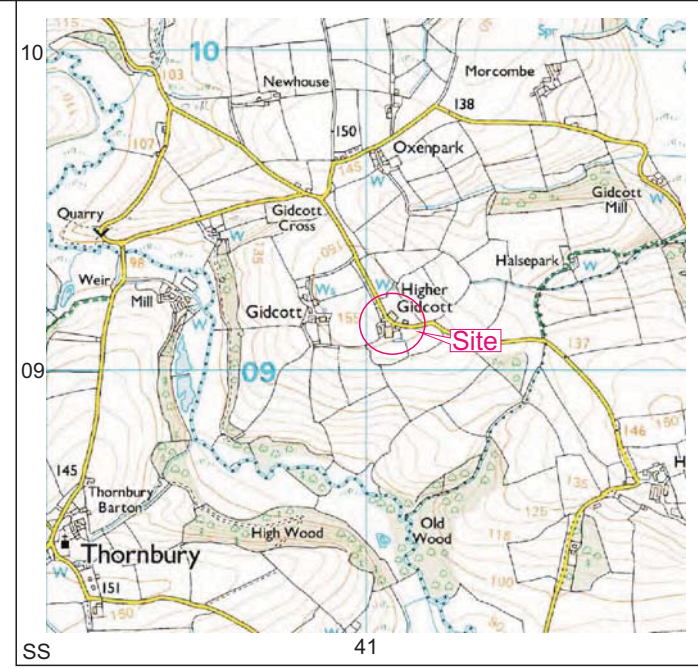
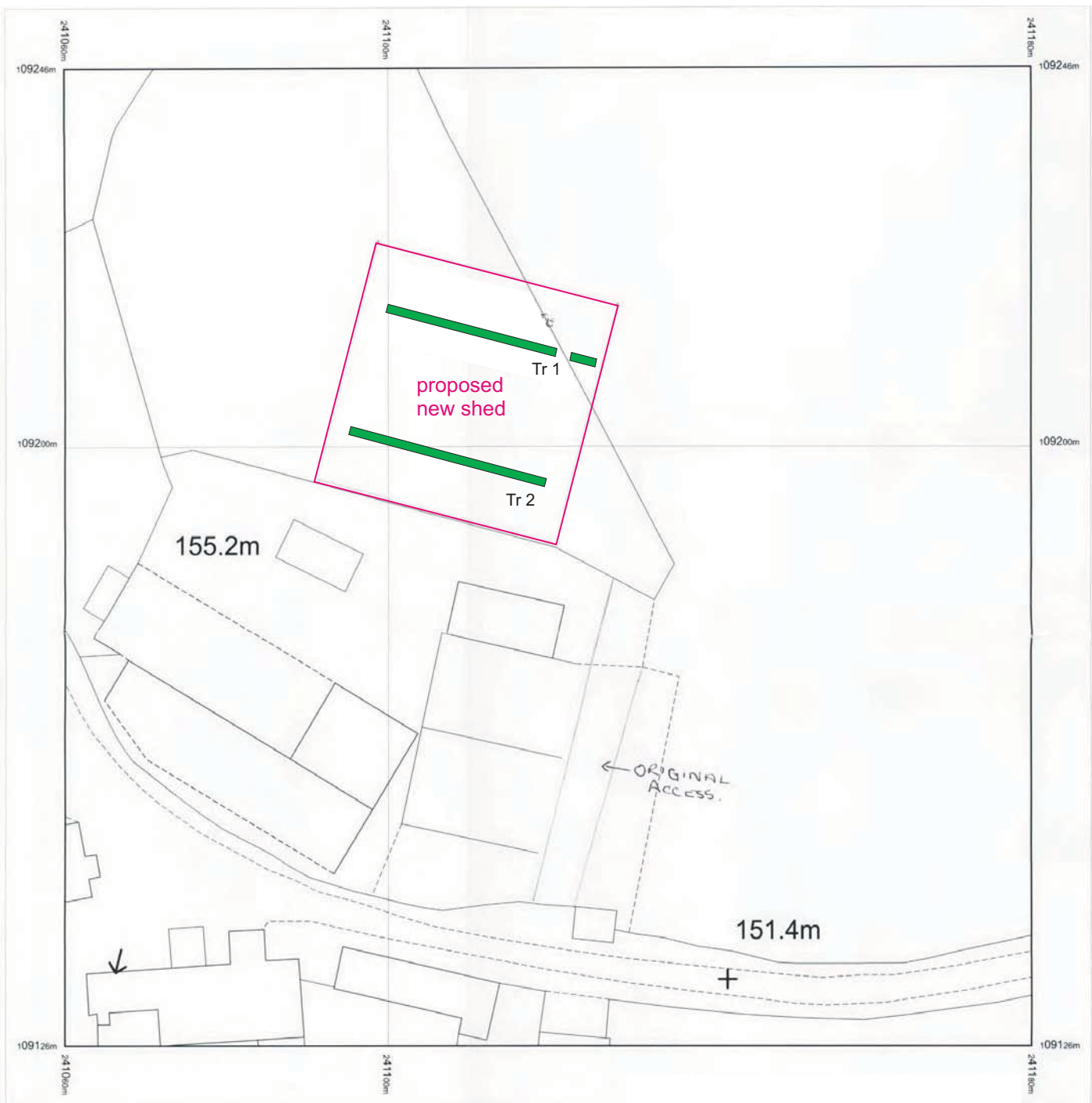
Date: July 2010



archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Milton Damerel, Torridge	National Grid Reference: SS41100920	Number:
Subject: Archaeological trench evaluation on land at Higher Gidcott, Milton Damerel, Devon		Photo attached: Plates 1 and 2
Planning Application no: 1/0428/2010/FUL	Recipient museum: Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon	
OASIS ID: 80472	Museum Accession no: NDDMS 2010.42	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD189	Date fieldwork undertaken: 29 July 2010	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>An archaeological trench evaluation was undertaken by AC archaeology on behalf of Mr and Mrs Martin as a condition of planning permission for the construction of a new agricultural shed. The new shed will be situated on the north side of the existing farm complex and it would straddle two pasture fields divided by a wire fence (Fig. 1). The farmstead is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 and it lies within a large oval enclosure which has been largely preserved within existing field boundaries. Where the new shed is proposed one of the fields is called "Old Town" on the 1840 tithe apportionment.</p> <p>Results</p> <p>The evaluation comprised the machine-excavation of two trenches totalling 50m in length, with each having a width of 1.10m. Both trenches contained an identical layer sequence, comprising between 100-160mm of topsoil (layer contexts 100/200) directly above natural subsoil (101/201). The topsoil was a dark brownish-grey clayey loam and the natural subsoil comprised a mixture of bedrock and mid grey silty clay containing common shale pieces. No archaeological features or deposits were present and, with the exception of a single hard-fired and undiagnostic fragment of ceramic building material, no finds were recovered.</p> <p>Comments</p> <p>The evaluation has demonstrated that no archaeological features and no pre-modern finds were present within either of the two trenches. There was a very shallow soil cover across the site, perhaps due to erosion by farm vehicles and animals. Based on the good trench coverage and the absence of archaeological features or finds, it is considered unlikely that the construction of the new agricultural shed will impact on any <i>in situ</i> buried remains.</p>		
Recorder: Christopher Caine, AC archaeology		Date sent to HER: 30 July 2010



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PROJECT

Higher Gidcott Farm, Milton Damerel

TITLE

Fig. 1: Site and trench locations





Plate1:
General view of Trench 1.
View to southeast (scale 1m)



Plate 2: Layer sequence southeast end of Trench 1. View to southwest (scale 1m)

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