

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

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|---|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>Civil Parish:</b> Kentisbeare  | <b>National Grid Reference</b><br>SX 11229 11913                                  | <b>Number:</b> (Leave blank)  |
| <b>Subject:</b> Land at Haydon End, Blackborough, Devon   |   | <b>Plan/Photo attached?</b> Y |
| <b>Planning Application no:</b> 16/00817/FULL Condition 3   | <b>Recipient museum:</b> Royal Albert Memorial Museum                             |                               |
| <b>OASIS ID:</b> contexto1-280864   | <b>Museum Accession no:</b> RAMM: 17/20   |                               |
| <b>Contractor's reference code:</b> C1/AMR/17/HED   | <b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2017 |                               |
| <p><b>Description of works.</b></p> <p>Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Haydon End, Blackborough (<b>Figure 1</b>), in advance of the construction of an all-weather riding arena. The project was commissioned by Mr Richard Bentley. The monitoring programme was requested by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Mid-Devon District Council (MDDC) on the advice of the county Historic Environment Service (HES). In a reply to an email consultation request from Ms Tina Maryan (Planning Officer, MDDC) on 13 June 2016, Mr Stephen Reed, Senior Historic Environment Officer, Devon County Council (DCC)) stated:</p> <p>“The proposed development lies in an area where iron ore extraction pits were noted in the late 18th century. This industry has its origins in the early Roman period and was active on the plateaux of the Blackdown Hills until the medieval period. The construction of the proposed all-weather riding arena involves cut and fill to create a level area for the arena’s surface. As such, these groundworks have the potential to expose and destroy archaeological and artefactual deposits associated with the known iron extractive industry here.”</p> <p>A topsoil strip was carried out followed by further ground reduction of approximately 0.10-0.15m using a 13 ton slew machine equipped with a 1.6m grading bucket (<b>Plate 1</b>).</p> <p>Development excavations varied from 0.55-0.60m in depth and demonstrated a single deposition sequence recorded in a single profile in the northern corner of the Site. The stratigraphic sequence consisted of:</p> <p><b>Trench 1 (Plate 2)</b></p> <p>0 – 0.30m Topsoil (3-100) - Reddish brown (2.5YR 5/3) soft loamy clay with rare chert fragments</p> <p>0.30-0.50m Subsoil (3-101) – Brownish yellow (10YR 6/8) firm clay sand gravel with frequent pebble-sized stones and pockets of clay</p> <p>0.50m – &gt;0.60m Natural (3-102) – Yellow (2.5Y 8/8) soft sandy clay with regular pockets of cobbles/ boulder-sized chert nodules</p> |   |                               |

Two very shallow possible features were recorded. A small sub-circular feature F1 [3-103] appeared to cut the subsoil (3-101) (**Plate 2**). Measuring 0.86m in diameter and 0.22m deep, with irregular sides and base, the fill (3-104) was an olive brown (2.5YR 4/3) friable silty clay. A further very shallow sub-circular feature F2 [3-105] had straight vertical sides and an irregular base, measuring 0.66m in diameter and 0.14m deep. The fill (3-106) was also an olive brown (2.5YR 4/3) soft silty clay and was covered by the subsoil (3-101).

Finds were limited to four fragments of iron slag recovered from the topsoil, providing the only link with the iron ore extraction pits noted in the area in the late 18th century. The irregular character and the sterile fills of the two small features suggests they may be natural features as opposed to archaeological.

**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:**

Dr Cheryl Green FSA MCIfA,  
Context One Archaeological Services Ltd.

**Date sent to HER**

23/05/2017

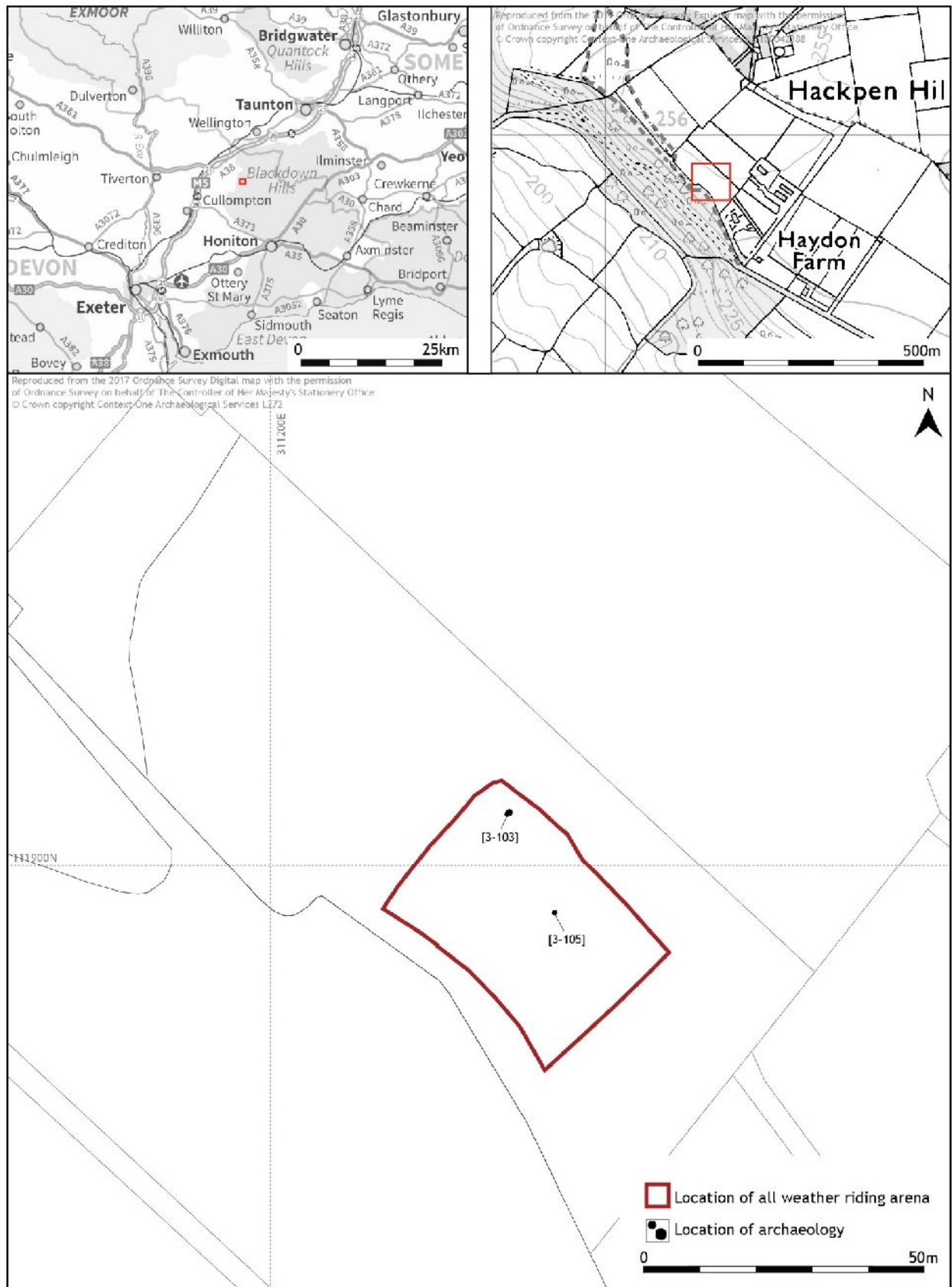


Figure 1. Site setting with feature locations





Plate 1. Working shot during removal of topsoil



Plate 2. Feature [3-103] (from SSW; 0.50m scale)

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