

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Clyst St George, East Devon	National Grid Reference SX98312 87925	Number:
Subject: Land At Lower Lane, Ebford, Devon; An Archaeological Evaluation		Photo attached? Included
Planning Application no: 13/1616/FUL	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS id: slrconsu2-253209	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: 416.06396.00002	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 16-18 th May 2016	

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This record details a programme of archaeological work undertaken at land at Lower Lane, Ebford, Devon. It has been prepared by SLR Consulting Ltd (SLR) on behalf of Wainhomes Ltd (South West) Holdings Ltd.

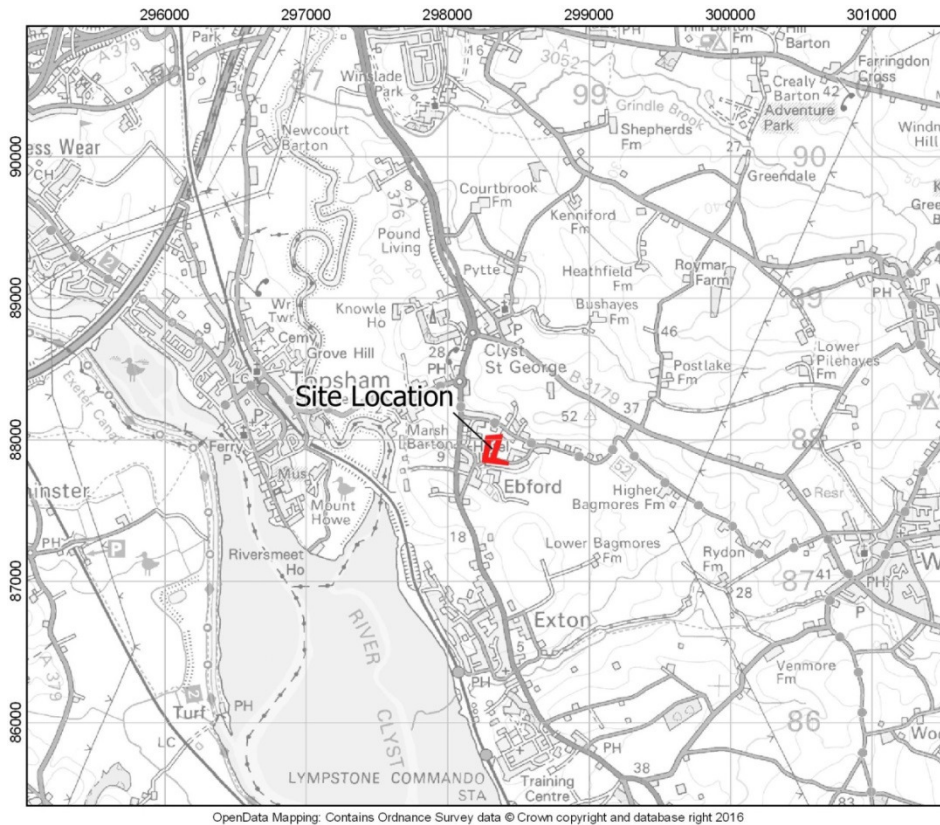
An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment carried out by CgMs Consulting previously identified no known archaeology recorded within the site although prehistoric and medieval sites are known in the greater area.

Wainhomes Ltd (South West) Holdings Ltd have been given planning permission (Planning No. 13/1616/FUL) from East Devon District Council to construct four houses with garages and an access road. This archaeological evaluation was carried out as a condition of the planning permission.

2.0 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Site is centred on approximately NGR: 298312 087925, at the centre of the hamlet of Ebford, 6km southeast of Exeter, Devon (Figure 1).

Figure 1
Site location



The Site was a green field. The solid geology of the area is Exmouth Mudstone and Sandstone. At the south of the site the superficial geology is recorded as 'Head - Sand with clay and gravel' (British Geological Survey Website).

The development site slopes from 20m Ordnance Datum (AOD) at its north end to 15m AOD at its southern end

3.0 AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aim of the programme was to undertake an archaeological evaluation and watching brief prior to development. The principal objectives were:

- to provide information on the general deposit sequence and the presence/absence, location and characteristics of any archaeological remains at the site; and
- to prepare a report on the work, including analyses of any finds or palaeoenvironmental samples retained and an assessment of the heritage significance of the results.

Excavation was undertaken using a tracked excavator with a toothless ditching bucket. The ten trenches were generally dug within the footprint of the development (Figure 2). They were approximately 1.8m wide. All works were carried out as outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (SLR, 2016).

**Figure 2
Trench Layout**



4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The site is not located within any know settlement, with the medieval settlement of Ebford located to the east. The Devon Historic Landscape Characterisation assesses the majority of the site as “Medieval Strip Enclosures” and this is supported by the field pattern of slightly curving narrow fields, dating to the later medieval period. The surviving hedgerows are depicted on the Woodbury tithe map of 1839 and can be considered important when assessed using the 1997 hedgerow regulations. These will be preserved by the development.

A desk based assessment compiled by CgMs consulting in 2013 assessed the site as having low potential for remains dating from the Prehistoric to Post-Medieval period.

5.0 RESULTS

No archaeology was recorded in any of the trenches or in the watching brief area. The natural subsoil across the site was a red brown sandy clay (Figure 3). Test pits were dug at the ends of trenches 2, 3, 6, 9 and 10 to ensure that the correct level had been reached.

Figure 3
Trench 6 looking south west



Two deposits were identified overlying the natural subsoil to the south of the site (Figure 4) while only a single deposit was recorded in the northern trenches (Figure 5). The lower deposit, a brown grey sandy clay which was absent in the northern trenches is believed to be hill wash. It also filled the plough scrapes that were identified across parts of the site. The upper deposit was a dark brown grey sandy silt plough soil. Modern pottery was observed in the upper deposit but not retained.

Trench No.	Length	Orientation	Depth of upper deposit (m)	Depth of lower deposit (m)	Plough scrapes	Height of Natural (m OD)
1	10	NNE-SSW	0.2	0.23	1	15.65
2	15	N-S	0.21	0.26	2	15.82
3	20	NNE-SSW	0.31	0.2	3	16.02
4	10	NNE-SSW	0.19	0.19	1	15.94
5	15	WNW-ESE	0.23	0.26	0	16.21
6	20	NNE-SSW	0.18	0.18	0	16.12
7	10	E-W	0.31	0.2	0	17.21
8	10	NNE-SSW	0.49	0	0	17.48
9	15	WNW-ESE	0.48	0	0	18.16
10	15	NW-SE	0.48	0	0	17.96

All of the plough scrapes were orientated roughly east - west and may represent a single phase of ploughing. No dating evidence was recovered from any of the scrapes although they were filled by the lower deposit and do not appear to be modern.

Figure 4
Section of test pit at south end of trench 2 looking WNW

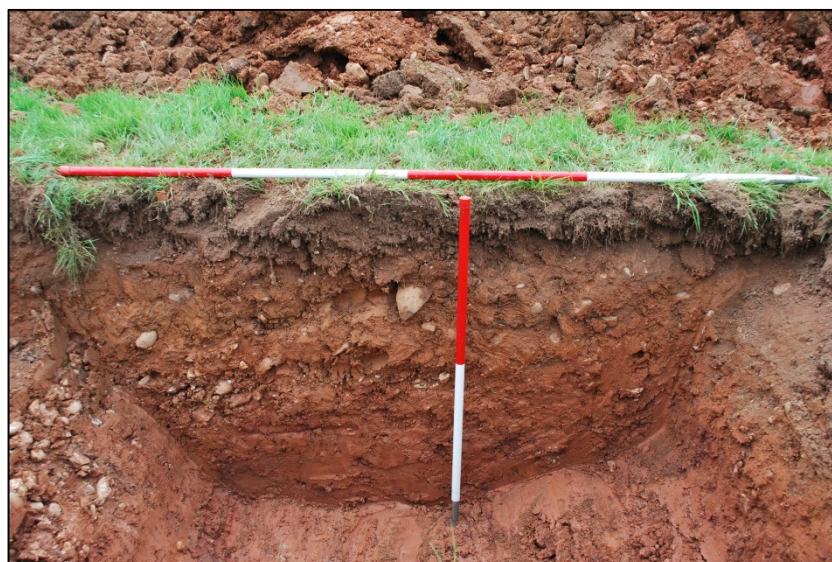


Figure 5
Section of test pit at east end of trench 9 looking south west



6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The archaeological evaluation and watching brief operation successfully identified the stratigraphy of the site with brown red sandy clay natural subsoil recorded across the site, covered at the south with hill wash, which was in turn covered by plough soil. The plough soil covered the whole site. Plough scrapes suggested a single phase of ploughing had taken place at the site. This ploughing does not appear to be modern but no artefacts were recovered to date the activity. No other features of archaeological significance were identified.

7.0 ARCHIVE

The project archive consists of this report.

An OASIS record setup prior to the commencement of the fieldwork has been completed (slrconsu2-253209) and a copy of this report has been uploaded with it.

8.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

SLR Consulting, 2016, Land at Lower Lane, Ebford, Devon; Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation

Recorder:	Date sent to HER:
John Winfer SLR Consulting Ltd	27/05/2016

Please email completed form to: archaeol@devon.gov.uk or post to Historic Environment Service, Devon County Council, Lucombe House, County Hall, Exeter EX2 4QD. Information recorded on this form will be added to the Historic Environment Record, and made available to all researchers.

Any plans or photographs embedded within or attached to this form remain the copyright © of the recorder, and must not be reproduced in any publication without the explicit consent of the copyright holder.