

making sense of heritage

Puddavine, Dartington Totnes, Devon

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Planning Ref: 14_56/2246/13/F Ref: 104600.01 June 2014

archaeology



Archaeological Evaluation Report

Prepared for:

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On behalf of:

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June 2014

WA Reference: 104600.02 South Hams District Council Planning Ref: 14_56/2246/13/F



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* I = Internal Draft; E = External Draft; F = Final

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

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|---------|--|---------|
| | rienen e representative section lesting her | |

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Bloor Homes South West, to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on a parcel of land which is proposed for residential development between Dartington and Totnes, Devon, TQ9 6EU (hereafter 'the Site'), centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 279653 061450.

The archaeological evaluation consisted of six trenches; each approximately 30m by 1.8m in size. The excavated trenches did not reveal any archaeological remains.

A number of possible features were investigated. **Trench 3** identified a possible mudstone path which on investigation was proved to be a natural outcrop. **Trench 4** contained a layer of dumped quarrying waste derived from the area of irregular topography in the north-eastern part of the Site. A small patch of *in situ* burning in **Trench 5** was found to contained late post-medieval pottery.

A small quantity of post-medieval artefacts were recovered from the subsoils during machining but these were not associated with any features.

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Bloor Homes South West and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Nick Shepherd (Director CgMs) in this regard. The archaeological evaluation was monitored by Graham Tait (Devon CC Archaeological Officer), on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.

The evaluation was undertaken by Mike Dinwiddy, Michael Fleming, and Frances Ward. This report was written and compiled by Mike Dinwiddy, with the finds assessment undertaken by Erica Macy-Bracken and Lorraine Mepham (pottery). The report illustrations were prepared by S.E. James. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Andy Manning.



Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Bloor Homes South West to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) to support an initial archaeological assessment of a parcel of land which is proposed for residential development between Dartington and Totness, Devon, TQ9 6EU (hereafter 'the Site', **Figure 1**), centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 279653 061450.

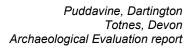
A planning application (14_56/2246/13/F) was submitted for construction of 50 residential units and 0.3ha of land reserved for economic development and associated works. This application was approved in April 2014 with an attached archaeological condition (Condition 23)

Condition 23

No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out at all times in strict accordance with the approved scheme, or such other details as may be subsequently agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that an appropriate record is made of archaeological evidence that may be affected by the development.

- 1.1.2 During the initial consultation, the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (HET) advised the Local Planning Authority, that a programme of archaeological evaluation should be undertaken to assess the archaeological potential within the Site and that the evaluation should focus, in particular, on an area of irregular topography along the in the north-eastern and north-western edge of the Site.
- 1.1.3 A full detailed methodology of the archaeological work was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (WA 2014). This WSI set out in detail the trial trench evaluation to be undertaken by Wessex Archaeology, and was submitted to, and approved by, the Devon County Council Archaeological Officer prior to the commencement of the work, which was undertaken between the 9th and 11th June 2014.
- 1.1.4 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008).



1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site lies immediately adjacent to the A385 Dartington to Totnes road. To the northeast of the Site, lies low-lying land containing part of a possible water meadow, which is fed by the River Dart, which is situated to the east of the Site. Undeveloped farmland lies to the south and east, with residential developments to the west and a hotel to the southwest on the opposite side of the A385. The land parcel comprises two cultivated fields, which are divided by a narrow hedge bank.
- 1.2.2 The south-western corner of the Site is occupied by a small meeting house and parking area, which is accessed by a small narrow hardstanding road from the A385.
- 1.2.3 The south-western area of the Site lies at a height of approximately 11.50m aOD which gradually slope down to the west, north and east to approximately 10m aOD before sloping more steeply at the Site boundary. The Site contains a number of irregular topographic features, especially along the north-eastern and north-western edge, which were thought to have the potential to be former earthworks, such as a possible mill site.
- 1.2.4 The underlying geology belongs to the Nordon Formation middle Devonian mudstone, siltstone, limestone and sandstone (BGS website).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Archaeological potential

- 2.1.1 A desk-based assessment and walkover was undertaken in 2007. The report was revised and updated in 2012 (South West Archaeology 2012) and contains a detailed discussion, which is not repeated here.
- 2.1.2 The desk-based assessment concluded that the Site formed part of the medieval manor of Dartington and lies in close proximity to a number of known medieval and post-medieval water features: including a mill, salmon hutch, weir and possible water meadows. A possible 19th century building was also noted in the desk-based assessment as located on or close to the southern area of the Site.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 **Project aim and objectives**

- With due regard to the IfA *Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation* (IfA 2008), the generic aims of the project were to:
 - To locate, identify and to investigate and record the presence/absence of archaeological features or deposits;
 - The evaluation, where possible, would confirm the extent, date, character, relationship, condition and significance of archaeological features, artefacts and deposits within the proposed development area;
 - To investigate and confirm the nature of the irregular 'features' along the northeastern edge of the site;
 - To inform the scope and nature of any requirements for any potential further fieldwork, whether additional watching brief, excavation or post-excavation work;



- To enable the preservation by record of any archaeological features or deposits uncovered;
- To place any identified archaeological remains within their historical context.
- Produce a report which will present the results of the evaluation in sufficient detail to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the Site's archaeological potential.

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.2.1 The full detailed methodology of the archaeological works was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WA 2014), and is summarised below.
- 3.2.2 The evaluation originally comprised the machine excavation of seven trenches; each approximately 30m by 1.8m in size. The location of these trenches was altered slightly due to the presence of live services and topographical limitations; **Trench 1** was abandoned as access was not possible (**Figure 1**).
- 3.2.3 The excavation of the evaluation trenches was carried out by JCB mechanical excavator in discrete 0.20m spits to the upper surface of the archaeology or the *in situ* natural geology, whichever was encountered first.
- 3.2.4 Once the level of archaeology or natural geology had been exposed by machine, cleaning of the trench base were undertaken by hand and potential features were investigated by the manual excavation of an appropriate sample.
- 3.2.5 The feature was recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. The archaeological features were hand-drawn at either 1:10 or 1:20, including both plans and sections; these were referred to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels were calculated. A representative section of each trench was recorded showing the depth of the overburden deposits.
- 3.2.6 Topsoil and subsoil/overburden deposits were stored separately and scanned by metal detector for artefacts.
- 3.2.7 A digital photographic record was compiled showing the trenches and their location within the general context of the Site. Digital images have been subject to a managed quality control and curation process which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure the long term accessibility of the image set
- 3.2.8 A unique site code **104600** was allocated to the Site, and was used on all records and finds

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 **Trench 1** was abandoned due to access and topographic limitations. Six evaluation trenches were excavated during the course of the evaluation. The location of these trenches is indicated in **Figures 1** and **2**. The positioning of the trenches was altered slightly during the course of the fieldwork due to services and topographical constraints.



- 4.1.2 Two main features/deposits were identified during the work, including Post-medieval quarrying waste found in in **Trench 4** and a shallow post-medieval feature in Trench 5. Further post-medieval archaeological finds were collected from subsoil contexts.
- 4.1.3 Details of the individual excavated contexts and features are retained in the project archive. Summaries of the excavated sequences can be found in **Appendix 1: Table 2**.

4.2 Natural soil sequence

- 4.2.1 The general stratigraphic sequence encountered was generally uniform across the Site, and comprised approximately 0.22m of mid grey brown clay loam topsoil, overlying 0.10m of light-brown grey clay subsoil (**Plate 1**).
- 4.2.2 The underlying natural geology varied from a yellow orange silty clay deposit, and banding of compact slate horizons present between 6.69m aOD at the western edge of the Site and at approximately 8.57m aOD towards the eastern edge of the Site. (**Plate 2**).

4.3 Results by trench

Trenches 2, 6 and 7

4.3.1 Only the natural geological sequence was recorded within **Trenches 2**, **6** and **7**, with grey alluvial clays observed at the lowest point of **Trench 2**.

Trench 3

4.3.2 At the northern edge of **Trench 3**, an outcrop of mudstone boulders protruding from the natural (**Plate 5**) was further investigated by 'boxing out' both sides of the trench a further approximately 2m x1.5m. Excavation proved this to be natural geology.

Trench 4

4.3.3 At the eastern most end of **Trench 4** a layer of dumped quarry waste and post-medieval finds ware uncovered within layer **403** (**Plate 3**), most likely derived to have from the area of irregular topography in the north-eastern part of the Site immediately adjacent to this trench.

Trench 5

4.3.4 A patch of burnt clay and carbonised material were identified within **Trench 5** at the northeastern end of the Site (**Plate 5**) which also contained post-medieval pottery and a clay pipe stem.

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The evaluation produced a very small quantity of finds, mainly comprising pottery (see **Table 1**); this derived from contexts in four of the six trenches excavated (no finds were recovered from **Trenches 6** or **7**).

5.2 Pottery

5.2.1 Pottery provides most of the chronological information for the Site. All sherds are postmedieval. These include two sherds granite-derived glazed coarseware which can almost certainly be identified as local Totnes-type ware; both sherds come from internally glazed bowls with stubby external flanges. A possible source for this ware lies on the opposite bank of the river Dart to Totnes, at Bridgetown Pomeroy, where a kiln is known to have



been operating in the 18th century, and may well have been in production continuously since the medieval period (Allan 1984, 79-80). These bowls match examples previously found in Totnes in a pit group dated *c*.1600. (*ibid.*, fig. 4). There is also one sherd of a finer, red-firing coarseware of uncertain source, and one sherd of imported German (Frechen) stoneware. Alongside these coarsewares are later factory-produced finewares: creamware, pearlware and refined whiteware.

5.2.2 The majority of the pottery came from topsoil and subsoil contexts, and cannot therefore be regarded as *in situ*. Sherds from **403** and **504**, however, provide a late 18th to 19th century date for the backfilling of these features.

5.3 Other finds

5.3.1 Other finds comprise very small quantities of ceramic building material (brick fragment), clay tobacco pipe (plain stem), vessel glass (17th/18th century green wine bottle), worked flint (waste flake) and iron (nail).

5.4 Recommendations for curation

5.4.1 Given the date range of the finds, their provenance and the quantities involved, there is no recommendation for retention for long-term curation.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 No archaeologically significant deposits were identified and accordingly no samples were taken.

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Discussion

- 7.1.1 The evaluation found no evidence of significant archaeological features or deposits.
- 7.1.2 The irregular topography appears to be related to the natural geology or isolated dumped up-cast deposits, which may relate to small scale post-medieval date quarrying of natural stone.
- 7.1.3 In addition, no evidence was found for a possible 19th century building which may have been located to the southern area of the Site.

8 ARCHIVE

8.1 **Preparation of Archive**

8.1.1 The Royal Albert Memorial Museum has confirmed that no physical or digital archive is required to be deposited for this project. A security copy of the paper records will be prepared (see Section 8.3).

8.2 Discard Policy

8.2.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.



8.2.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002).

8.3 Security Copy

8.3.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

9 **REFERENCES**

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APPENDIX 1: FINDS AND TRENCH SUMMARY

| Context | Pottery | Other Finds |
|---------|---------|---|
| 201 | 4/174 | 1 vessel glass |
| 301 | 1/62 | 1 worked flint |
| 400 | 1/1 | 1 iron |
| 404 | 3/67 | 1 vessel glass; 1 ceramic building material |
| 501 | 4/43 | |
| 505 | 3/8 | 1 clay pipe |
| Total | 16/355 | |

Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

Table 2, Trench Summaries

| TRENCH | 1 | | | | |
|----------|-------------|-------------------------|---|---------------|-----------|
| Dimensio | ons: | Max. depth: | | Ground level: | |
| Context | Description | | | | Depth (m) |
| | | Not excavated no access | 3 | | |

| TRENCH | 2 | | | | | |
|----------|----------------|----------|--|-----------------------|-----------|--|
| Dimensio | ons: 29.45mx2. | 05m | Max. depth:0.47m | Ground level:8.34 aOE |) | |
| Context | Description | | | | Depth (m) | |
| 200 | Topsoil | Mid bro | wn clayish silt, infrequent frags of s | hale (20-40mm) | 0.00- | |
| | | | | | 0.28m bgl | |
| 201 | Subsoil | Mid gre | Mid grey brown silty clay, rare shale (c.25mm) pottery glass | | | |
| | | | | | 43m bgl | |
| 202 | Layer | Alluvial | mid brown grey clay, infrequent sha | ale (20-150mm) | 0.43+m | |
| | | | | | blg | |
| 203 | Natural | Bright y | ellow clay with moderate patches o | f abundant shale. | 0.43+m | |
| | | | | | blg | |

| TRENCH | TRENCH 3 | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------------------|--|-----------------------|-----------|--|--|
| Dimensions: 16mx2.30m Max. depth:0.50m Ground level:7.74 aOD | | | | | | | |
| Context | Description | | | | Depth (m) | | |
| 300 | Topsoil | Mid gre | Mid grey brown clayish silt, sparse randomly dispersed sub angular | | | | |
| | | mudsto | 0.26m bgl | | | | |
| 301 | Subsoil | Mid ye | Mid yellow grey clayish silt, randomly dispersed sub angular | | | | |
| | | mudsto | 0.47m bgl | | | | |
| 302 | Natural | Mid ye | ellow brown silty clay, common ra | andomly dispersed sub | 0.30+ | | |
| | | angular mudstone (30mm) | | | | | |
| 303 | Pit | Cut for | modern pit, geo investigation | | | | |

| TRENCH | TRENCH 4 | | | | | | |
|----------|----------------|---------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| Dimensio | ns:29.10x2.05r | n | Max. depth:1m | Ground level:8.19aOD | | | |
| Context | Description | | | | Depth (m) | | |
| 400 | Topsoil | Clayish | silt mid red brown, rare sub angular r | nudstone and shale | 0.00- 0.22m bgl | | |
| 401 | Subsoil | | ey brown clayish silt, rare randomly nudstone, pot | dispersed sub angular | 0.22- 0.43m bgl | | |



| 402 | Natural | Mid yellow brown clay common mixes shale components | 0.43+ bgl |
|-----|---------|---|--------------|
| 403 | Layer | Dump of waste quarrying stone. | 0.20m -1m |

| TRENCH | TRENCH 5 | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|--|------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| Dimensions:29.2x2m | | | Max. depth:0.56m | Ground level:7.58aOD | |
| Context | Description | | | | Depth (m) |
| 500 | Topsoil | Mid grey brown clayish silt, sparse randomly dispersed sub angular0.00-mudstone/shale (8mm)0.26m bgl | | | |
| 501 | Subsoil | Light yellow brown clay, artefacts from SW edge of trench, randomly0.26-dispersed sub angular mudstone/shale, some dumping visible from0.34m bgllaying of cable adjacent to the trench.0.34m bgl | | | |
| 502 | Natural | Mid grey brown clay silt, sparse randomly dispersed sub angular 0.34m+ bgl | | | |
| 504 | Cut | Cut of in situ burning. 0.34m blg | | | 0.34m blg |
| 505 | fill | Fill of 504, a mid-red brown burnt clay, carbonised material, post 0.34m blg medieval (Victorian) artefacts. | | | 0.34m blg |

| TRENCH 6 | | | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|---|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--|
| Dimensions:31.50x1.65m | | n | Max. depth:0.80m | Ground level: 11.72aO | el: 11.72aOD | |
| Context | Context Description | | | Depth (m) | | |
| 600 | Topsoil | Mid grey brown clayish silt, randomly dispersed sub angular0.00-mudstone/shale.0.20m bgl | | | | |
| 601 | Subsoil | Mid grey brown clayish silt, bands of abundant common sub angular0.20-mudstone/shale.0.40m bg | | 0.20- 0.40m bgl | | |
| 602 | Natural | Bands of mid yellow/brown grey mixed mudstone/shale. 0.41m+ bgl | | | | |

| TRENCH 7 | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--|------------------|-------------------------|-----|
| Dimensions: 27.30x1.55m | | m | Max. depth:0.73m | Ground level: 10.45 aOD | |
| Context | Context Description | | | Depth (m) | |
| 700 | Topsoil | Mid grey brown clayish silt, randomly dispersed sub angular 0.00- | | | |
| | | mudstone/shale 0.22m bgl | | | |
| 701 | Subsoil | Mid grey brown clay, mixed mudstone and shale lenses. 0.22- | | | |
| | | 0.53m bgl | | | |
| 702 | Natural | Mid yellow brown clay, mixed banding of mudstone and shale lenses 0.53m+ | | | |
| | | bgl | | | bgl |

APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: wessexar1-183419

Project details

- Project name Puddavine, Dartington, Devon
- Short description of Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Bloor Homes South West, to carry out an the project archaeological trial trench evaluation on a parcel of land which is proposed for residential development between Dartington and Totnes, Devon, TQ9 6EU (hereafter 'the Site'), centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 279653 061450. The archaeological evaluation consisted of six trenches; each approximately 30m by 1.8m in size. The excavated trenches did not reveal any archaeological remains. A number of possible features were investigated. Trench 3 identified a possible mudstone path which on investigation was proved to be a natural outcrop. Trench 4 contained a layer of dumped guarrying waste derived from the area of irregular topography in the north-eastern part of the Site. A small patch of in situ burning in Trench 5 was found to contained late post-medieval pottery. A small quantity of post-medieval artefacts were recovered from the subsoils during machining but these were not associated with any features.
- Project dates Start: 09-06-2014 End: 11-06-2014
- Previous/future work No / No

codes

Any associated 104600 - Contracting Unit No. project reference

| 00003 | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Type of project | Field evaluation |
| Site status | None |
| Current Land use | Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland |
| Monument type | NONE None |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Post Medieval |
| Methods & techniques | "Targeted Trenches" |
| Development type | Rural residential |
| Prompt | Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS |
| Position in the planning process | After full determination (eg. As a condition) |

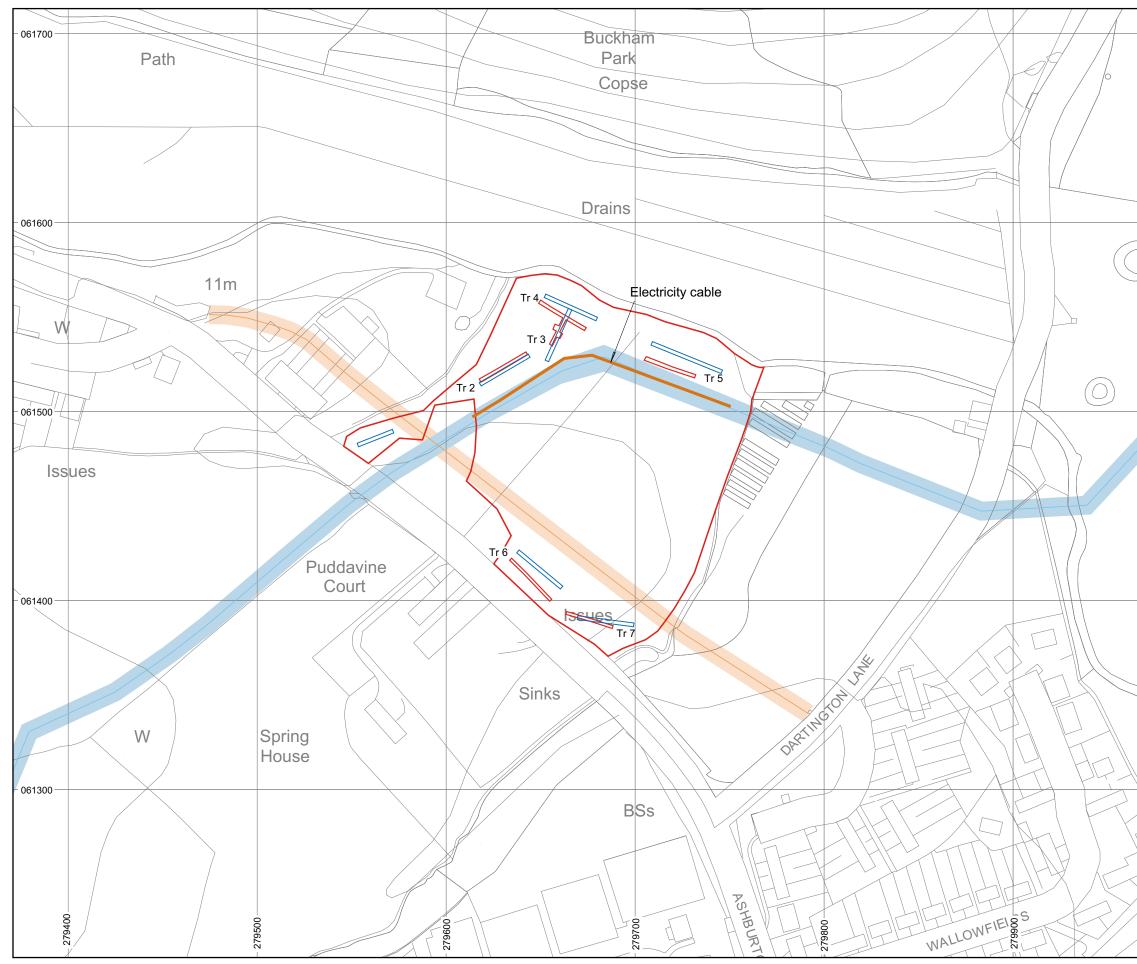
Project location

| Country | England |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Site location | DEVON SOUTH HAMS TOTNES Puddavine |

| Postcode | TQ9 6EU | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Study area | 1.00 Hectares | | |
| Site coordinates | SX 795 615 50.4403466618 -3.69714551873 50 26 25 N 003 41 49 W Point | | |
| Height OD / Depth | Min: 10.00m Max: 11.50m | | |
| Project creators | | | |
| Name of Organisation | Wessex Archaeology | | |
| Project brief originator | Devon County Council | | |
| Project design originator | Wessex Archaeology | | |
| Project director/manager | A Manning | | |
| Project supervisor | M. Dinwiddy | | |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Developer | | |
| Name of sponsor/funding body | Bloor Homes | | |
| Project archives | | | |
| Project archives | Project archives | | |
| Physical Archive Exists? No | Physical Archive Exists? No | | |
| Digital Archive recipient Wessex Archaeology | Digital Archive recipient Wessex Archaeology | | |
| Digital Archive ID 104600 | Digital Archive ID 104600 | | |
| Project bibliography 1 | | | |
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) | | |
| Title | Puddavine, Dartington, Totnes, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation | | |
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| Other bibliographic details | 104600 | | |
| Date 2014 | | | |
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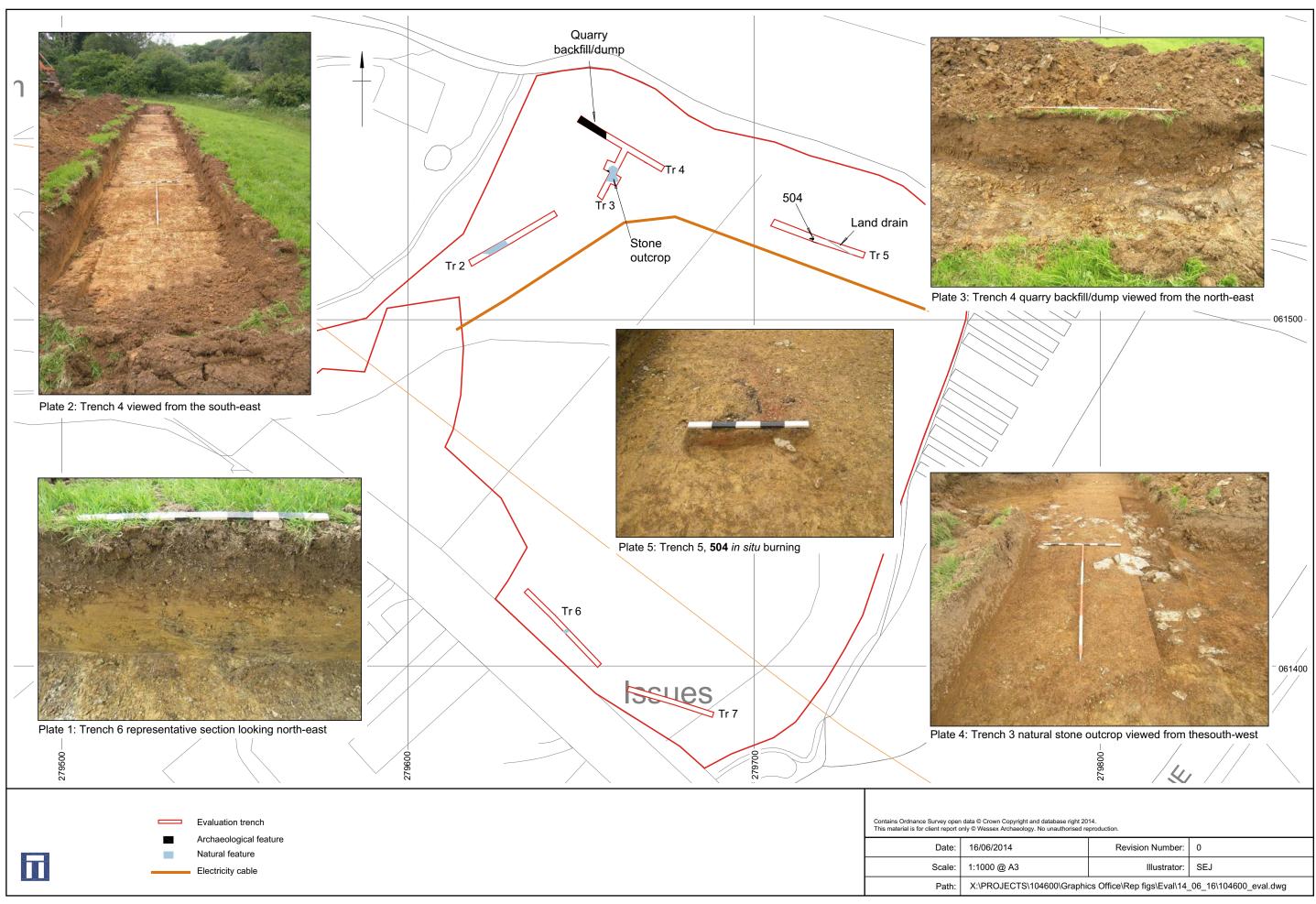


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Site and trench location

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| River Dart | Proj Wa | luation trench posed trench ter pipe (with 5m buffer) ver cable (with 5m buffer) | | |
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Detail plan of trenches and selected plates





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