



Land south of Hatchlands Road Poltimore, Devon

Archaeological Watching Brief



East Devon District Council Planning Ref: 14/0499/MFUL
Royal Albert Memorial Museum Code: RAMM: 16/34
WA Reference: 114320.02
May 2017



**Land south of Hatchlands Road
Poltimore, Devon**

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Quality Assurance

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Plate 2: Plough soil layer 201 viewed from the south (with 2 m and 1 m scale)



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Archaeological Watching Brief

Summary

Wessex Archaeology has been commissioned by Geo Consulting Engineering to undertake an Archaeological Watching Brief during ground works associated with the construction of an earth bund on land to the south of Hatchlands Road, Devon, adjacent to the M5 motorway at NGR 297216 096860.

The watching brief took place between the 20th and 24th April 2017. Due to the shallow nature of the groundworks no archaeologically significant features were revealed.



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Archaeological Watching Brief

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Geo Consulting Engineering. The fieldwork was undertaken by Roy Krawowicz, and Lynn Hume. The report was compiled by Tracey Smith, with illustrations by Nancy Dixon. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Kirsty Nichol.



Land south of Hatchlands Road Poltimore, Devon

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology were commissioned by Geo Consulting Engineering (hereafter 'the Client'), to undertake an Archaeological Watching Brief during ground works associated with the construction of an earth bund on land to the south of Hatchlands Road, Devon, adjacent to the M5 motorway at NGR 297216 096860 (hereafter 'the Site', **Figure 1**).

1.1.2 These investigations were undertaken in order to fulfil Planning Condition 7 of planning consent 14/0499/MFUL, which states

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 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: The details are required at an early stage to ensure, in accordance with Policy EN6 (Nationally and Locally Important Archaeological Sites) of the East Devon Local Plan and paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012), that an appropriate record is made of archaeological evidence that may be affected by the development.

1.2 The Site

1.2.1 The Site is located on the western side of the M5 motorway, 570 m east of Poltimore Village, Devon. The area of the bund lay in an arable field on flat ground at approximately 25 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology is the Dawlish Sandstone Formation with no superficial deposits recorded (BGS online <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background has been collated from the Devon Historic Environment Record (DHER), these include heritage events records (EDV), non-designated heritage assets (MDV) as well as online resources such as the National Heritage List for England (NHLE), and PastScapes. No designated heritage assets were identified within the bounds of the Site, and no intrusive archaeological investigations have been undertaken within the immediate vicinity.

2.1.2 The DHER records a number archaeological investigations within 1 km of the Site, primarily consisting of non-intrusive investigations such as geophysical survey. Located 1 km to the north of the Site, a geophysical survey at Francis Court Farm (EDV 6493) identified evidence of potential archaeological features such as ditches and pits, however the significance of these is at present, unclear.



- 2.1.3 A fluxgate gradiometer survey in two areas to the east of Poltimore House (EDV 6594) identified limited evidence for archaeological activity; potential features identified during the survey included, pits and ditches in the southwestern investigation area, and a series of ditches in the north-eastern area.
- 2.1.4 A larger scale geophysical survey (EDV 6595) was conducted to investigate the wider area surrounding the House. The results suggested the presence of a former building or enclosure on the southern side of Poltimore House, and numerous linear features potentially associated with former gardens, tracks and boundaries.

2.1 Prehistoric

- 2.1.1 There is limited evidence of early prehistoric activity within the surrounding landscape, with no direct evidence found within the site boundary. However, a number of flint scatters have been identified within 1 km of the Site, one of which consisted of 143 flints collected in advance of the construction of the M5 motorway, directly to the north-east of the Site (MDV 14564). Flint and chert artefacts have also been discovered c. 800 m to the south-east of the Site, at 'Jarvishayes' Farm (MDV 65213).
- 2.1.2 A large prehistoric conjoined, curvilinear ditched enclosure of probable late-prehistoric to Romano-British date, lies approximately 250 m to the south of the Site (MDV 28628), and a probable Bronze Age ring ditch c. 400 m to the south (MDV 51858). These have been identified on aerial photographs as cropmarks on a gentle southeast facing slope.
- 2.1.3 The only evidence of Iron Age in the vicinity of the Site is a possible square ditch enclosure visible on aerial photographs as a cropmark. It lies c. 400 m to the south of the Site (MDV 28627). Although the precise date of this feature is currently unclear, there are a number of undated but potentially late prehistoric enclosures within the wider landscape.

2.2 Romano-British

- 2.2.1 A group of Roman coins including a copper coin, attributed to Valentinian, and a Byzantine coin are recorded as having been found in Poltimore (MDV 15503). It is probably likely that some of the undated enclosures within the wider landscape may also date to the Romano-British period.

2.3 Saxon and Medieval

- 2.3.1 Poltimore is reputed to be the location of the Battle of Pinhoe (AD 1001) which was fought between the Danes and a Saxon army raised from Devon, Cornwall and Somerset (PastScape 448082), no physical evidence of the battlefield has been found to date.
- 2.3.2 The Parish Church of St Mary, built by William Bampfylde in the 15th century, is a Grade I listed building (LB 1333257). It stands c. 600 m to the west of the Site in the centre of Poltimore. There were substantial renovations made to the superstructure in the 16th and 17th Centuries as well as changes to the fenestration and other elements in the 18th and 19th Centuries. To the south-east of the Church is a 15th century socket stone and shaft cross which has been scheduled (SAM 1016219).
- 2.3.3 To the south-east of the Site lies the Grade II listed building Jarvishayes Farmhouse (LB 1306193), which dates to the 15th century, and features later additions and alterations.

2.4 Post-Medieval

- 2.4.1 To the south-west of the Site is Poltimore House, a Grade II* listed building (LB 1098310) which was constructed in the late-16th century as the seat of the Bampfylde family.

Successive generations altered the house, and the Bampflyde family occupied the house until 1921. A number of heritage assets directly relating to the house include the site of a post-medieval dovecote (MDV 10157) and a Grade II listed 19th century walled garden (LB 1098311). The house was originally surrounded by a Deer Park which is detailed on Saxton's 16th century map (MDV 19787).

- 2.4.2 An Air Ministry Direction Finding Station is recorded within the site boundary. It is visible on 1940s aerial photographs (MDV 53280), and comprised a T-shaped building surrounded by four masts, ancillary structures and earthwork embanked or ditched features. The central structure was still identifiable on recent aerial photographs. However, the eastern part of the complex was truncated by the construction of the M5.

2.5 Undated

- 2.5.1 Several undated linear cropmarks, possibly part of a ditched enclosure (MDV 38789), are visible on the northwest facing hillslopes east of Poltimore, on aerial photographs dated to 1984. These may cut across the eastern side of the Site.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1.1 With due regard to the ClfA *Standard and guidance: archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a), the principle aim was to record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices, and in compliance with the *Code of conduct* and other relevant by-laws of ClfA.

- 3.1.2 In furtherance of the project aim, the following objectives were defined:

- *To allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works; including*
- *to ensure the preservation by record of all archaeological deposits revealed by intrusive groundworks to the highest possible standard;*
- *to confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;*
- *to determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains;*
- *to determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains; and*
- *to determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present,*
- *to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and*
- *to prepare a report on the results of the watching brief.*

3.1 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.1.1 A detailed description of the watching brief methodology is set out in the WSI (WA 2016). The watching brief involved the monitoring, by an experienced archaeologist, of groundworks associated with the construction of a new soil bund along the western boundary of the M5 Motorway. This included the stripping of topsoil as part of a ground reduction exercise as well as the machine excavation of a drainage channel along the fence line with the motorway, and shallow drainage channels laterally across the bund (Figure 1, Plate 1).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

- 4.1.1 The earliest soil exposed during the watching brief was a moderately compact, brown-red, silty sand containing frequent pebbles (201, Plate 2). Fragments of pottery, ceramic building material and struck flint were also recovered from the top of this deposit. This layer was almost certainly a plough horizon.
- 4.1.2 The plough soil was overlain by a layer of material containing rubble (101) which had been dumped along the fence line of the field. This layer was immediately overlain by topsoil and turf, consisting of a loose mid-red grey-brown (100 and 200). This layer also contained frequent rounded and sub-angular pebbles, varying in size to up to 30 mm, as well as very occasional fragments of roof slate, pottery, ceramic building material, cinder and small fragments of non-ferrous / non-vitreous slag.
- 4.1.3 No cut features were exposed during the groundworks, due to the depth of the plough horizon and the shallow nature of the groundworks. Soil descriptions can also be found in Table 1 (Appendix 1).

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

- 5.1.1 A small quantity of finds was collected during the course of the watching brief, all from the topsoil and plough horizon. The assemblage comprises post-medieval and more modern pottery and a single piece of prehistoric worked flint. The finds have been quantified by material type and context; the results are presented in Table 2 (Appendix 2).
- 5.1.2 All the pottery is post-medieval or modern in date. The assemblage comprises post-medieval redwares (16th–19th century), transfer-printed and plain whiteware (post-1780), black basalt ware (c. 1770–1900) and yellow ware (post-1820). The majority of the pottery was recovered from the topsoil (200); two sherds (yellow ware and whiteware) were recovered from the plough horizon (201).
- 5.1.3 A single struck flint was recovered from the plough horizon (201), it was a fragment of broken blade which had been snapped in antiquity (possibly through plough action).

6 STORAGE AND CURATION

6.1 Museum

- 6.1.1 The Site archive will be prepared for long-term storage in accordance with current guidelines (e.g. Walker 1990; MGC 1994 *etc.*). The designated receiving museum will be Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter. The Curator of Archaeology has been contacted in advance of the fieldwork for an accession number/Site code (RAMM: 16/34) and to obtain information regarding the appropriate archive preparation standards.

6.2 Preparation of the Archive

- 6.2.1 The complete Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the appropriate Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; Brown 2011; ADS 2013; ClfA 2014c).
- 6.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the Site/accession code (RAMM: 16/34) and a full index will be prepared. The archive comprises the following:
- 1 document case of paper records & A4 graphics
 - 39 jpeg digital photographic images
- 6.2.3 Until final deposition with the museum the archive will be stored at the offices of Wessex Archaeology West in Bristol. The Devon Historic Environment Team will be notified upon deposition of both the material and digital archives.
- 6.2.4 The digital archive, comprising all born-digital data and digital copies made of the primary site records and images will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) no later than six months after the completion of the fieldwork. The archive will be compiled in accordance with the standards and requirements of the ADS as per their given guidance.
- 6.2.5 A copy of the fieldwork report and ArcGIS Shapefiles of the watching brief area will be submitted to the Bristol Historic Environment Record. The existing OASIS form (OASIS ID **wessexar1-264969**) will be completed and a pdf copy of the report will also be uploaded.

6.3 Discard policy

- 6.3.1 WA follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections* (SMA 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.
- 6.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993 and 1995; HE (formerly EH) 2011).

6.4 Copyright

- 6.4.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by WA Ltd under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The Museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.

6.5 Security Copy

- 6.5.1 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.

7 REFERENCES

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8 APPENDICES

8.1 Appendix 1: Context list

Context	Category	Description	Depth (bgl)
100	Layer	Topsoil and turf: Red grey-brown sandy silt, fairly loose, with common pebbles and occasional fragments of modern glass, including bottle glass	0.0-0.10 m
101	Layer	Made Ground: Dumped soil with mixed rubble comprising existing bund	0.10-0.90 m
200	Layer	Topsoil and turf: Red grey-brown sandy silt, fairly loose, with common pebbles, occasional pottery, slate fragments, glass, ceramic building material	0.0-0.10 m
201	Layer	Plough Horizon: Red-brown moderately compact silty-sand, containing pebbles, occasional pottery sherds, ceramic building material, single struck flint	0.10-0.30 m

8.2 Appendix 2: Artefact Summary

Context	Pottery	Worked flint
200	12/100	
201	3/17	1/3
Total	15/117	1/3



8.3 Appendix 3: Oasis

OASIS ID: wessexar1-**282588**

Project name	Land South of Hatchlands Road, Poltimore, Devon
Short description of the project	Watching Brief
Any associated project reference codes	114320 – Site code
Type of project	Watching Brief on groundworks associated with the extension of a bund to the west of the M5 motorway

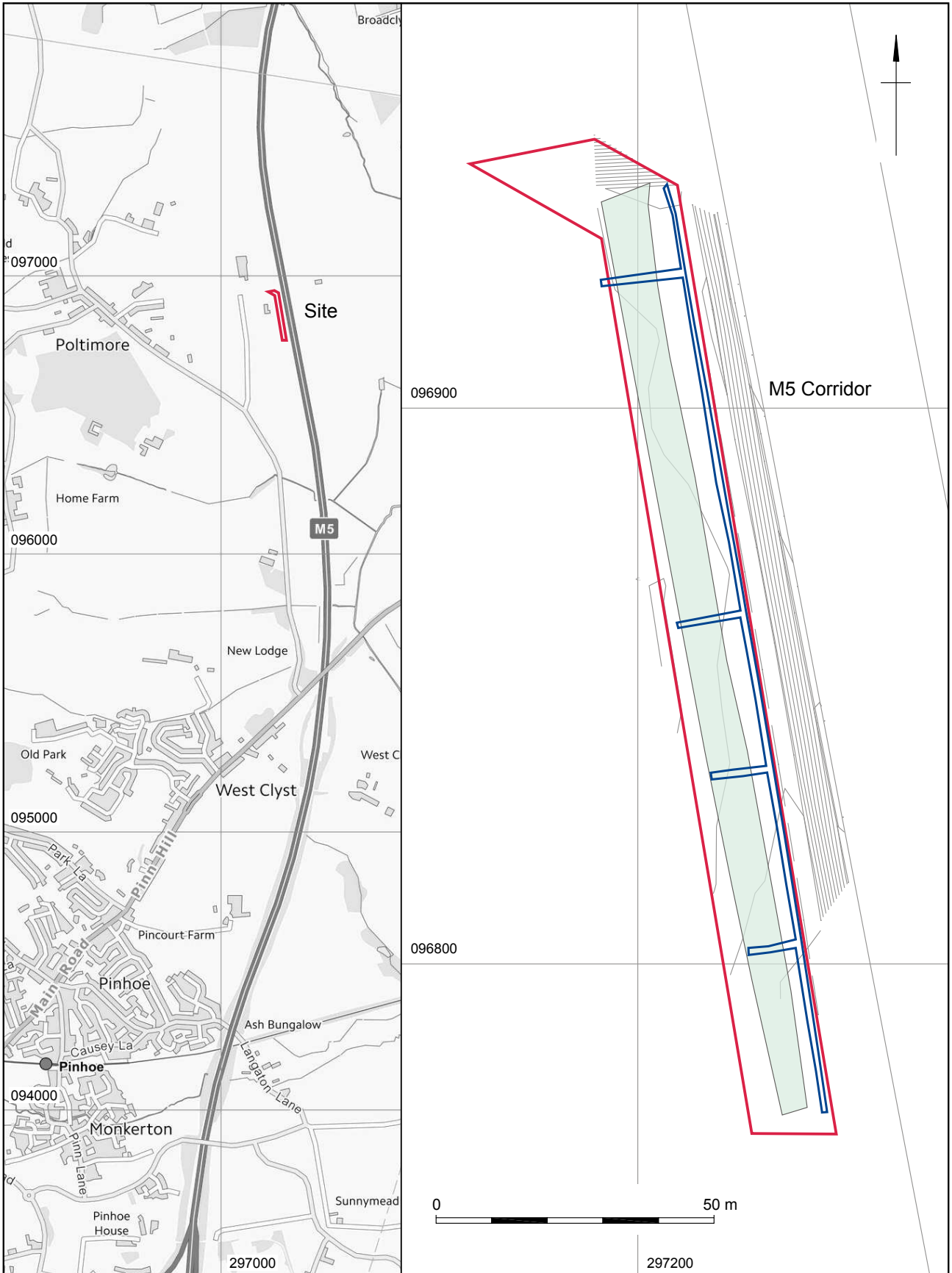
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	DEVON EAST DEVON POLTIMORE Land South of Hatchlands Road
Postcode	EX4 0AS


Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Stephen Reed
Project design originator	Devon County Council
Project director/manager	Kirsty Nichol
Project supervisor	Lynn Hulme
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Devon County Council

Digital Archive recipient	Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter
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Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Bristol



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site Stripped area Drainage ditch 	<p>Base mapping supplied by client.</p> <p>Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2017. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.</p>		
	<p>Date: 18/05/2017</p>	<p>Revision Number: 0</p>	
	<p>Scale: 1:20,000 and 1:1000 at A4</p>	<p>Illustrator: KMN/ND</p>	
	<p>Path: X:\PROJECTS\114320\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\WB\2017_05_17</p>		

Site location

Figure 1



Plate 1: Excavation of north-south drainage ditch viewed from the south



Plate 2: Plough soil layer 201 viewed from the south (with 2 m and 1 m scale)

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		Scale:	N/A	Illustrator:	ND
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