

**OLD TRANSPORT DEPOT,
STATION ROAD,
NORTHLEW,
DEVON.**

NGR: SX 503 991

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

March 2017
Report No. 1186



ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY, MANAGEMENT & FIELD SERVICES

**OLD TRANSPORT DEPOT,
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Southeastern end of Area A, looking northwest

March 2017

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Quality Assurance

This Document has been compiled and authorised in accordance with AMS's Quality Procedures (BS EN ISO 9001: 2008)

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Old Transport Depot, Northlew, Devon: Archaeological Watching Brief

SUMMARY

On 27th February 2017 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief at the Old Transport Depot, Station Road, Northlew, Devon (NGR: SX 503 991). The work was commissioned by the landowner Diane Todd.

The watching brief was to monitor the excavations involved with erection of a detached dwelling with garage and associated access. However, in discussion with Bill Horner, the County Archaeologist for Devon County Council, it was decided that the works would instead consist of the excavation down to natural deposits within the footprint of the new driveway and area of landscaping, as well as the strip of a 12m by 4m area close to Station Road, within the area of the new build.

No archaeological features or deposits, which predated the Modern period, were present within the monitored areas. Modern material was present within all the observable layers of stratigraphy.

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

For the purpose of this project archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from Prehistoric times to the Modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

CBM

Ceramic building material.

Medieval

The period between the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) and *c.* AD 1500.

Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level.

OS

Ordnance Survey.

Post-medieval

The period from *c.* AD 1500 onwards.

Prehistoric

The period prior to the Roman invasion of AD 43. Traditionally sub divided into; Palaeolithic – *c.* 500,000 BC to *c.* 12,000 BC; Mesolithic – *c.* 12,000 BC to *c.* 4,500 BC; Neolithic – *c.* 4,500 BC to *c.* 2,000 BC; Bronze Age – *c.* 2,000 BC to *c.* 800 BC; Iron Age – *c.* 800 BC to AD 43.

Romano-British

Term used to define the fusion of indigenous Iron Age traditions with invasive Roman culture. Traditionally dated AD 43 to *c.* AD 410.

Saxon

The period between AD 410 and AD 1066.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 27th February 2017 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief at the Old Transport Depot, Station Road, Northlew, Devon (NGR: SX 503 991). The work was commissioned by the landowner Diane Todd.
- 1.2 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2015) The WSI was produced in accordance with the general principles of NPPF12 (*National Planning Policy Framework 2012*) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).
- 1.3 This document presents the findings of the archaeological works and complies with the specification set out in MoRPHE (English Heritage, 2006).

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In accordance with the *NPPF* (2012), the County Archaeologist requested that a programme of archaeological recording be undertaken during the development works.
- 2.2 The project involved the erection of a detached dwelling with garage and associated access. Planning permission for the works was granted by West Devon Borough Council under Application Number 00405/2013.
- 2.3 The underlying geology is recorded as *Ashton Mudstone Member And Crackington Formation* with no superficial deposits recorded (www.bgs.ac.uk).
- 2.4 The proposed development area is located in the village of Northlew; it is bounded to the east by Queens Street and to the south by Station Road. The north of the site is defined by houses, while to the west of the site there is a housing estate “Kimberlands” around The Meadows. Historic maps and information held by the Devon Historic Environment Record, including aerial photographs, were consulted within a 200m search radius of NGR: SX 503 991 in order to provide an archaeological and historical context to inform the Written Scheme of Investigation for the site. The results of this work are presented in the Written Scheme of Investigation for this site, which should be read in conjunction with this report. The results are summarised below.
 - 2.4.1 The site’s main potential was for the recovery of finds and features relating to either the Medieval or Post-medieval periods. The locus of settlement appears to have been established around the Church of Saint Thomas of Canterbury during the Medieval period. The village expanded to the west during the Post-medieval and Modern periods, but did not intrude significantly into the site area until the 20th century. Consequently, it was likely that the site was mostly under agriculture throughout the Medieval and Post-medieval periods. It was

considered likely that stray finds from these periods might have worked their way on to site through manuring practices and, if features were present, then they would probably be connected with cultivation. The significance of stray finds was likely to be low with agricultural features, such as field boundaries, ditches, gullies, pits and ridge and furrow having low-moderate significance.

2.4.2 Modern material was to be expected, most likely in the form of stray finds, but the significance of any such material was likely to be negligible.

2.5 The main archaeological potential of the site was for the presence of evidence relating to the Medieval and Post-medieval periods. This did not prejudice the watching brief against features and finds associated with other periods.

3 AIMS

3.1 The aims of the archaeological recording were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits.

3.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:

i) to define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible;

ii) to attempt to characterize the nature of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of features present on the site;

iii) to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence which will attempt to determine the complexity of the horizontal and vertical stratigraphy present, and to recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples;

iv) to determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 All intrusive groundworks were to be monitored and recorded in order to identify any archaeological finds, features or deposits. However, in discussion with Bill Horner, the County Archaeologist for Devon County Council, it was decided that the works would instead consist of excavation down to the natural deposits within the footprint of the new driveway and landscaping, as well as the strip of a 12m by 4m area close to Station Road, within the area of the new build.

4.2 Appropriate sections were recorded to be able to characterise the stratigraphy of the area impacted by the groundworks.

Old Transport Depot, Northlew, Devon: Archaeological Watching Brief

- 4.3 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the WSI and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 The works consisted of two stripped areas, a northwest-southeast aligned area (Area A) 12m by 4m, within the location of the proposed new dwelling and a northwest-southeast area (Area B), with a maximum width of 8m and length of 20m, within the area of the new driveway and landscaping.
- 5.2 Both areas were excavated down onto natural deposits of yellow mudstone/sandstone to an average depth of 0.5m (145.82m AOD) below the Modern ground level. The natural deposits were sealed by a dark grey silty loam (101), with frequent shale and mudstone inclusions, which contained occasional Modern plastic inclusions. At the southeastern end of Area A was a Modern cut [103], which contained a compacted layer of dark grey hardcore (102). Cut [103] was present for over 4m; it cut through layer (101) and the natural substrates and continued beyond the limit of excavation. An earthen bank approximately 1.3m high and 3m wide was present along the northern edge of Area B. The bank material (104) appeared to be a mixture of (101) and the natural substrates and may have been created by the material removed for the construction of the hardstanding area [103].
- 5.3 No finds, features or deposits which predated the 20th century were present within the evaluated areas.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 No archaeological features or deposits, which predated the Modern period, were present within the monitored areas,. Modern material was present within all the observable layers of stratigraphy.
- 6.2 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited within 12 months with Exeter Museum.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

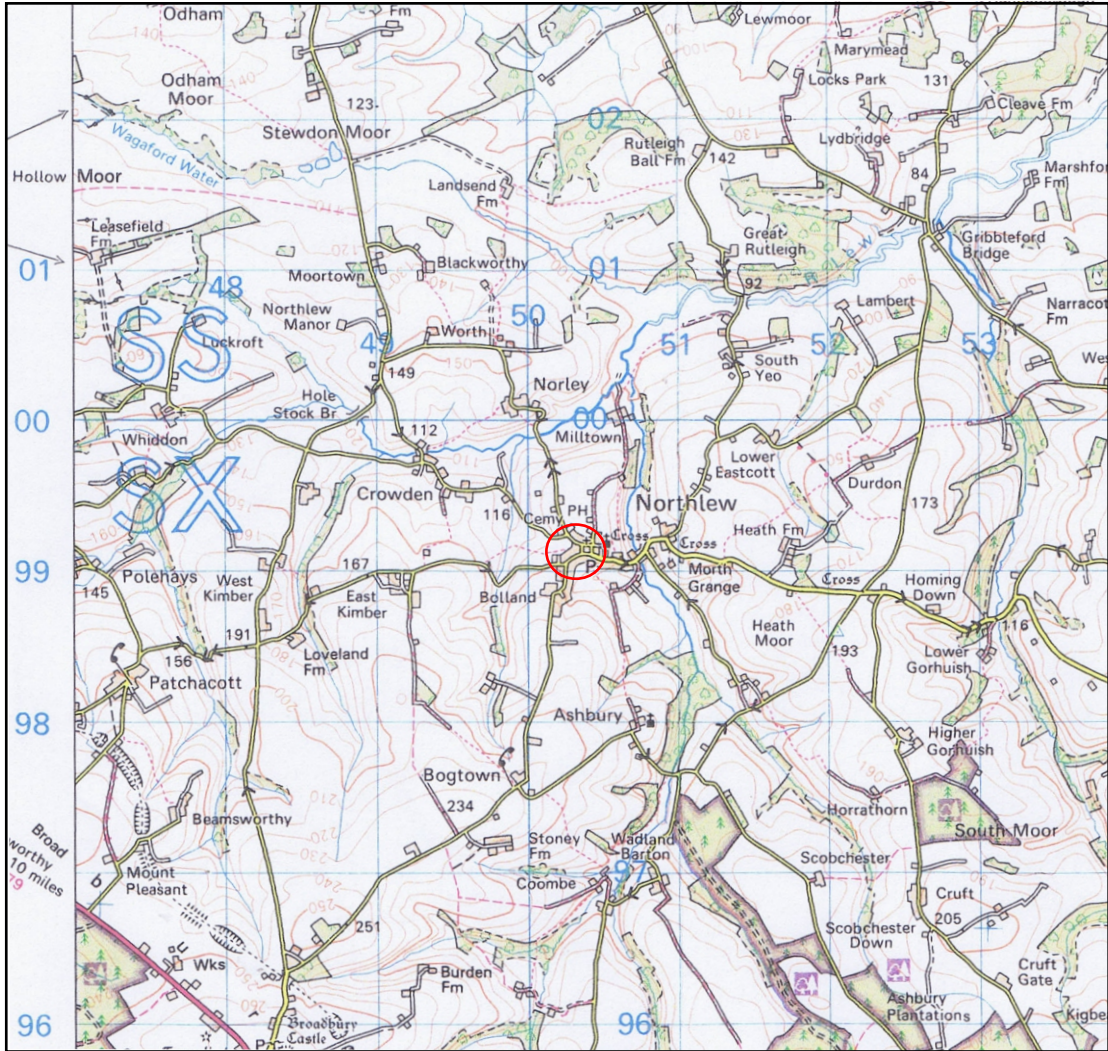
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8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank the County Archaeologist Bill Horner, the landowner Diane Todd and the on-site workers for their help with this project.

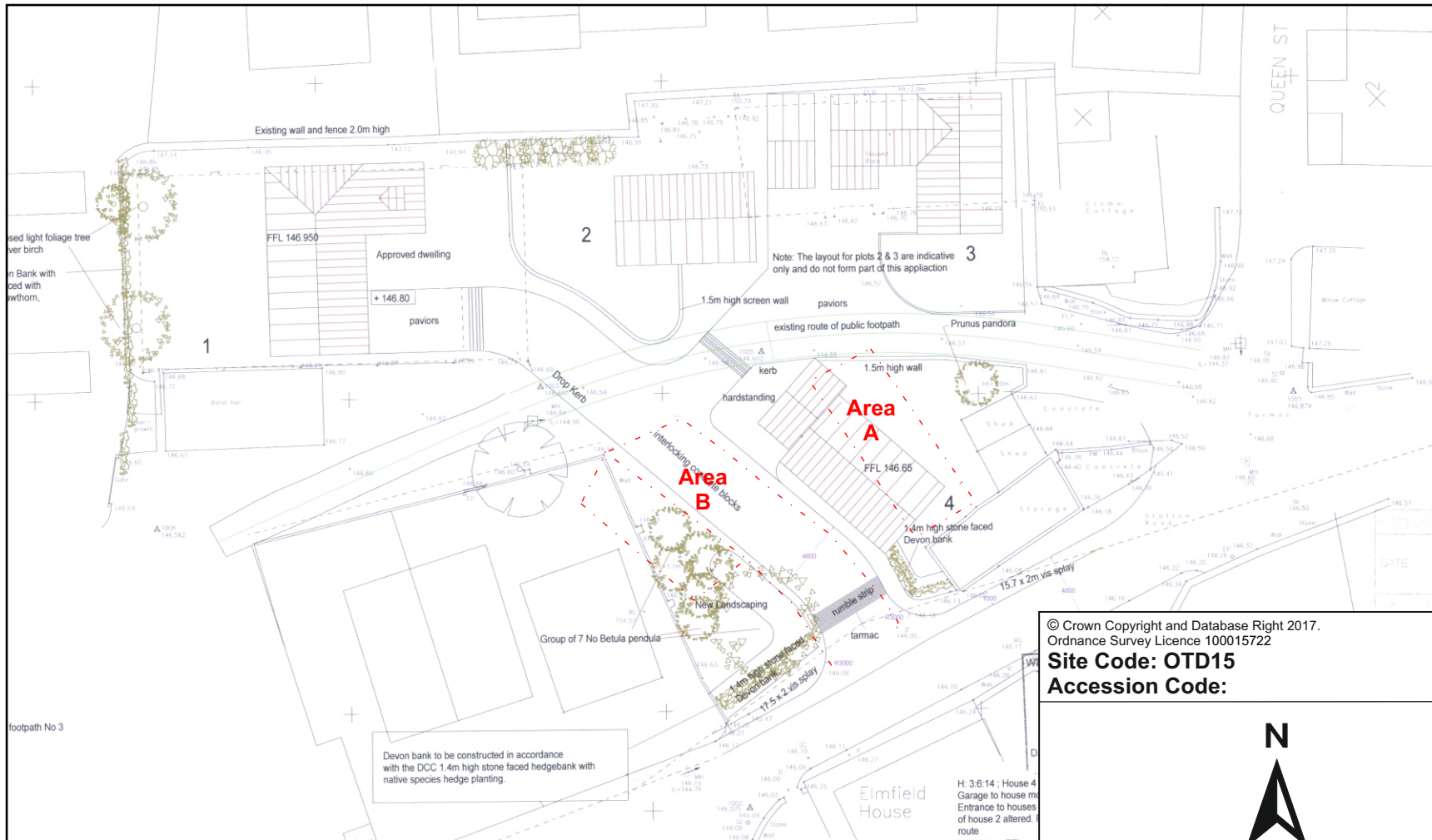


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N

0m 2km

FIGURE 1: Site Location



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Accession Code:



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FIGURE 2: Site Area