

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Cullompton, Mid Devon	National Grid Reference 301632,107254	Number:
Subject: Erection of a dwelling and formation of access on Land Adjacent To No. 70 Shortlands Road		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 11/01808/FULL	Recipient museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter	
OASIS ID: southwes1-117793	Museum Accession no: RAMM: 12/02 in lieu of an accession number	
Contractor's reference number/code: CSR12	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 17.02.12	

Description of works:

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by South West Archaeology (SWARCH) at the request of Mr Phil Brackley (the Client) prior to the proposed erection of a dwelling and formation of access on land adjacent to No.70 Shortlands Road, Cullompton, Devon. The work was carried out by S Walls in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) approved by S. Reed of Devon County Historic Environment Service (DCHES).

The development lies outside the historic core of Cullompton, but in an area of archaeological potential. Recent archaeological investigations to the east at Shortlands Lane, to the north at Tiverton Road and to the west on land off Knowle Lane have identified previously unknown prehistoric and Roman archaeological sites. The current application area lies on the south-facing side of a slight combe that lies between the Roman settlement in Cullompton and the prehistoric settlement near Knowle Lane. This area was undeveloped until the late 20th century and it is possible that archaeological deposits or artefacts are present within the proposed development site and may be impacted upon by any groundworks associated with the development.

The area of the proposed footprint of the building and access/turning area were stripped by a tracked mechanical excavator using a 1.4m wide toothless grading bucket under strict archaeological supervision (see Figure 1).

The topsoil on the site was 0.4-0.95m deep and consisted of three layers. A 0.1-0.25m thick upper, mid slightly yellowish-brown soft slightly sandy silt (101) with occasional (>50mm) sub-angular to sub-rounded chert fragments, occasional brick fragments and several patches of burning (bonfires?). This overlay a 0.2-0.6m thick deposit of clean slightly compacted buff-ginger sandy-silt (102) containing common sub-angular to sub-rounded chert fragments (>70mm) and rare charcoal flecks. This deposit (102) probably represents re-deposited natural which appears to have been deposited in the 20th century during the construction of the neighbouring properties (see Figure 2). A lower 0.05m thick deposit of buff-grey soft silty-sand (103) with rare sub-angular to sub-rounded chert fragments (>50mm) overlay the natural subsoil. The natural subsoil varied from a homogenous gingery-yellow clay to a blue-grey clay (to the north of the site), but was predominantly a compact buff-ginger silt-sand with occasional sub-rounded to sub-angular chert and gravel inclusions (>60mm).

Due to the large depth of topsoil the area for the access road and services was only reduced to formation level (c.0.3m below current ground level) and therefore only the area of the proposed building footprint was excavated onto the natural subsoil. Two archaeological features were identified within the north-east portion of the site, these were the edge of a pit [106] against the northern boundary bank and a 0.35m wide linear [104] running south-east by north-west across the stripped area.

Linear [104] was filled by a gritty buff-grey clay-silt (105) containing abundant sub-angular stones (>80mm), rare slate fragments and occasional (hand-made) brick fragments. It is most likely this feature represents a field drain and was therefore not fully excavated, being simply sampled for finds (Figure 3). The finds from the fill (105) included 6x sherds of late 18th South Somerset Wares (372g); 2x sherds of 18th century stoneware (133g); 1x slate fragment (86g); 2x sherds of White Refined Earthenware (41g); 1x hand-made brick fragment (356g).

Pit [106] had an exposed size of 1.3m x 0.3m before disappearing into the edge of the excavated area. Pit [106] was filled with a very loose soft homogenous purple-grey silt-clay containing occasional sub-angular to sub-rounded chert fragments (>60mm), as well as rare slate (>30mm) and clinker fragments. Feature [106] had a steep sloping profile and was excavated to a depth of 0.2m to recover datable finds. The finds included various 20th century objects, namely 5x complete glass bottles (including 2x Martell cognac bottles and 1x Black and White whisky bottle) all had

their metal lid tops (896g); 1x pan tile sherd (207g), and 1x large fragment of clinker (183g).

The finds recovered from the topsoil primarily reflected a similar 18th century and later date, with only 2x small flint waste flakes (4g) suggestive of earlier activity within the vicinity of the site. The other finds recovered from the topsoil were; 12x sherds of White Refined Earthenware (77g); 6x sherds of 18th-19th Century South Somerset Wares (151g); 2x iron slag fragments (227g); 1x 18th century bottle glass fragment (44g); 1x 19th-20th century bottle glass fragment (17g); 2x brick fragments (49g); 1x clay pipe stem (0.5g).

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: S. Walls

Date sent to HER: 01.03.12

Please email completed form to: archaeol@devon.gov.uk or post to County Archaeology Service, Environment Directorate, Matford Lane Offices, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QW. Information recorded on this form will be added to the Historic Environment Record, and made available to all researchers.

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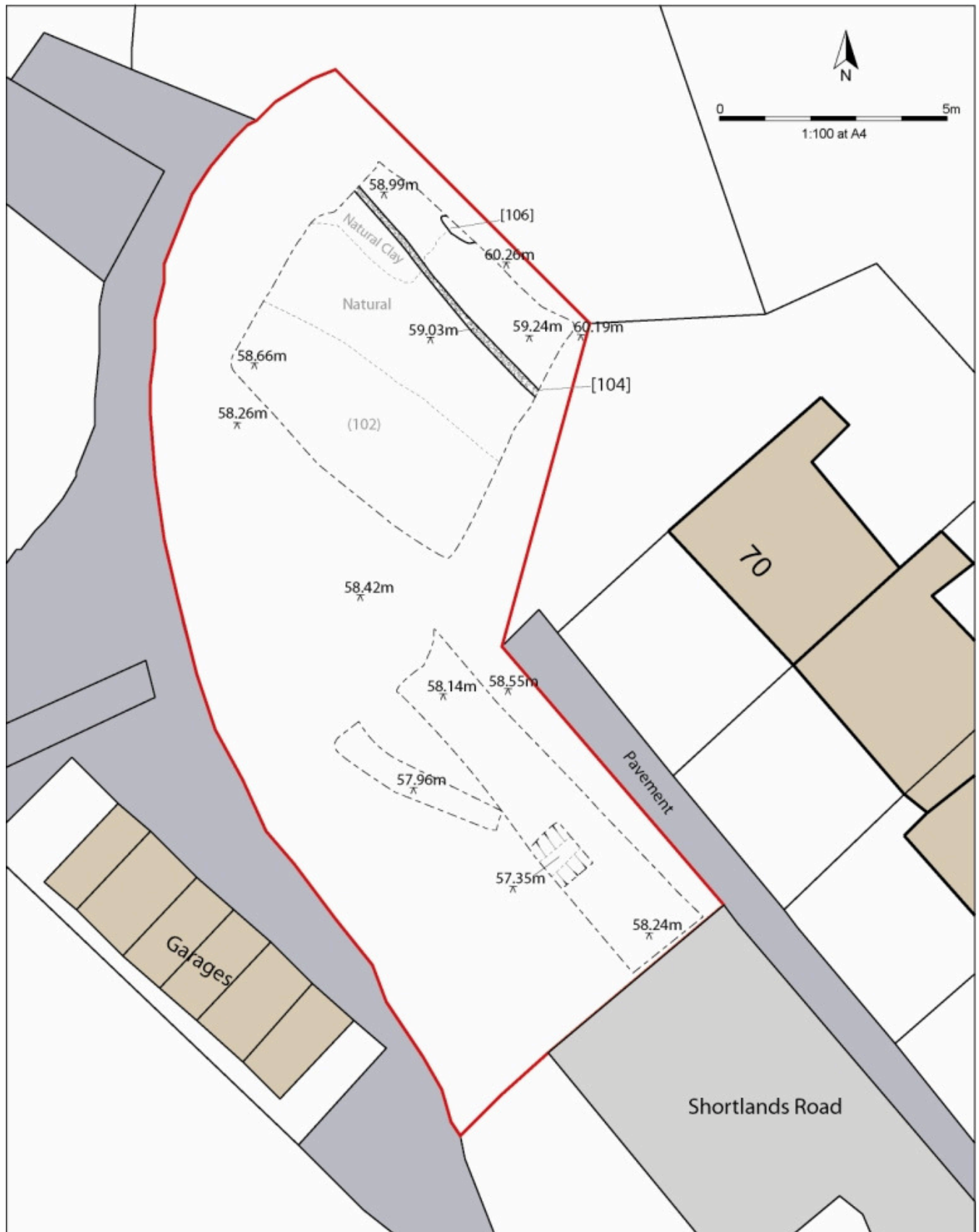


Figure 1: Site plan.



Figure 2: Shot showing the depth of topsoil deposits in the proposed access road, viewed from the north-east (1m scale). The brick visible in section was the same type/style as those used in the porch of No.80 Shortlands Road.



Figure 3: Post-ex shot showing linear [104], viewed from the south-east (2m and 1m scales).