

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Bradworthy, Torridge	National Grid Reference SS 29545 11820	Number:
Subject: Archaeological Excavation, Monitoring and Recording		Photo attached? No
Planning Application no: 1/0662/2007/OUT	Recipient museum: Barnstaple and North Devon	
OASIS ID: southwes1-47023	Museum Accession no: NDDMS 2008.90	
Contractor's reference number/code: BLAF08	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 01.09.2008 – 02.09.2008	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>South West Archaeology (SWARCH) undertook a programme of archaeological work comprising monitoring of groundworks, excavation, recording and post-excavation report writing required as a condition of outline planning consent for the construction of a new dwelling at Lower Alsworthy Farm. The work conformed to the requirements set out in a brief supplied by Ann Dick of the Devon County Historic Environment Service (DCHES). The monitored groundworks were completed over an area of approximately 233 square metres of grass pasture centered on NGR SS 29545 11820 as shown in Fig 1.</p> <p>The site was located approximately 100m north east of the core of Lower Alsworthy farmstead. The Archaeological Building Survey (South West Archaeology report 050312) indicates that the settlement probably pre-dates the Norman Conquest, and that a high status medieval house probably existed on or near the site of the present farmhouse. The Devon Historic Landscape Characterisation Project (HLC) shows the site to lie within an area which was probably first enclosed with hedgebanks during the Middle Ages.</p> <p>The main sub-rectangular area was reduced to the depth required for building construction which exposed the natural in the north of the area and topsoil in the south of the area as shown in Fig. 2. The topsoil ranged in thickness from 0.4-metres at the south-west corner of the site to 0.7-metres at the north-east corner. No finds were recovered from the topsoil. A linear cut through the topsoil from a high level and into natural was observed trending north-north-east to south-south-west across the site (Fig. 2). This was interpreted as a modern drainage ditch. Two archaeological features were observed, investigated, excavated and recorded (Fig. 2). The first was a sub-circular cut [103], 0.28-metres by 0.21-metres by 0.32-metres deep, with a fill (104) of friable, light-brown silty clay with 20% sub-angular to sub-rounded stone of less than 60-millimetres diameter and less than 2% fragments of charcoal of less than 10-millimetres in diameter and typically less than 5-millimetres in diameter. This feature was interpreted as a possible post-hole. There were no other post-holes present to indicate any associated structure. The second feature was a north-south trending linear cut [105], with a shallow, concave profile, 0.6-metres wide by a maximum of 0.2-metres deep. A length of 7.5-metres was seen; the northern 2.5m were truncated by the groundworks following examination, the feature extended beyond the limit of excavation; to the south the feature extended beneath the topsoil at the depth required by the groundworks, it continued further south beyond this limit. [105] was filled with (106) a yellow, silty clay with less than 10% angular and sub-angular stones ranging in size up to 70mm. This feature is interpreted as a possible drainage ditch. No archaeological finds were present in either feature.</p> <p>The L-shaped area to the south of the main area (Fig. 2) was reduced to natural in preparation for services. The topsoil was 0.4-metres thick. No finds were recovered from the topsoil. No archaeological features or artifacts were observed during the monitoring of this L-shaped area.</p>		
<p>A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.</p>		
Recorder: Ross Dean, South West Archaeology		Date sent to HER: 22-9-08

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