

LAND ADJACENT TO MANOR COTTAGE, SOUTH MILTON, DEVON

(NGR SX 69879 42848)

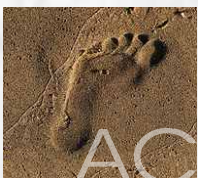
Results of an archaeological watching brief

South Hams District Council planning reference
1099/21/FUL, condition 8

Prepared by:
Paul Rainbird

Document No: ACD2616/2/0

Date: December 2022



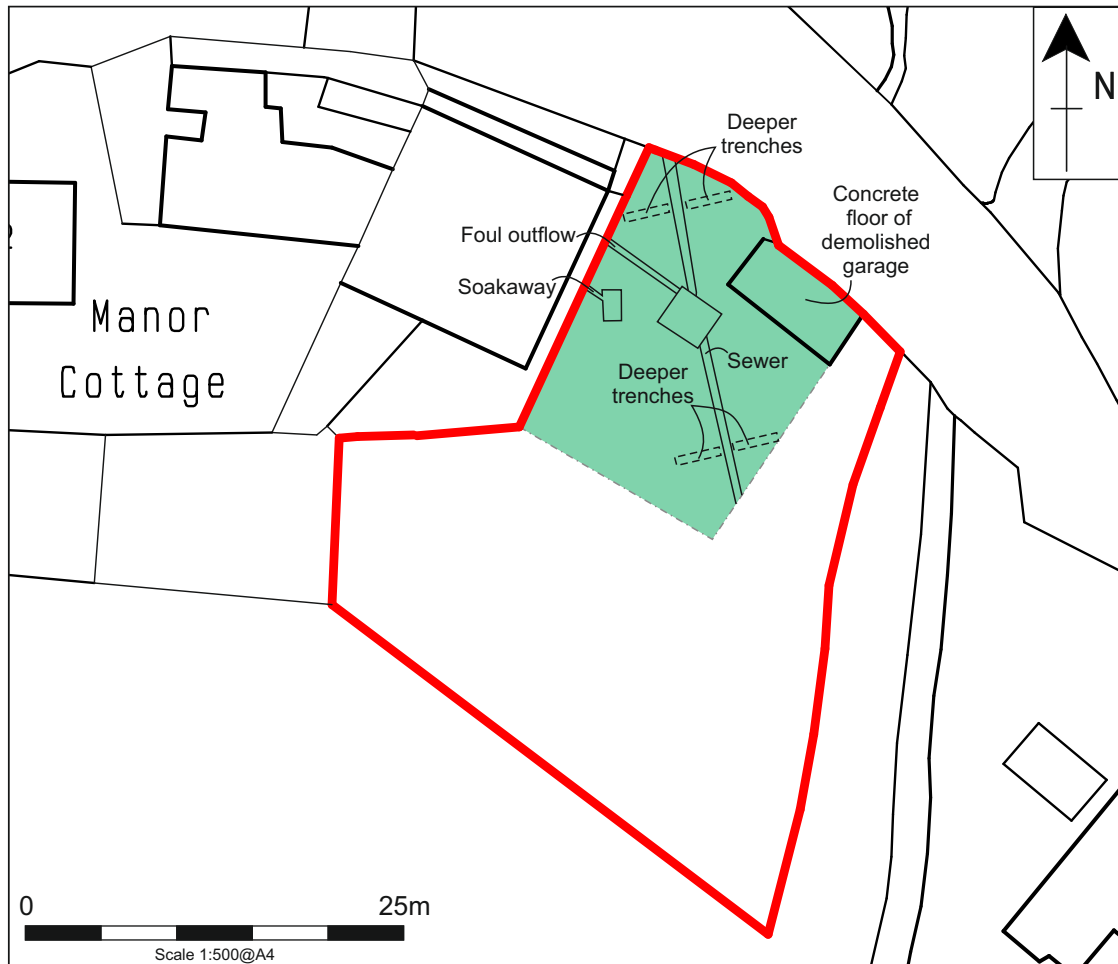
archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: South Milton, South Hams	National Grid Reference SX 6988 4285	Number: (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
Subject: Land adjacent to Manor Cottage, South Milton, Devon: Results of an archaeological watching brief		Photo attached? Plates 1-2
Planning Application no: 1099/21/FUL, condition 8	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS ID: 433849	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD2616	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 1st and 30th August 2022	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AC archaeology during the groundworks for a new dwelling on land adjacent to Manor Cottage, South Milton (Fig. 1). The investigation was required under condition 8 of the grant of planning permission (South Hams District Council planning reference 1099/21/FUL) for 'new 3 bedroom detached dwelling (Resubmission of 2731/20/FUL)'. The archaeological work was commissioned by the private owners and requested by the Devon County Historic Environment Team.</p> <p>The site was an abandoned garden plot, covering an area of 0.11ha, located on the south side of the road through the village that leads from South Milton to Thurlestone, and situated between the building containing the flats Valley View and Meadows Meet to the west and St Judes Cottage to the southeast. It is situated at a height of approximately 22m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology comprises Devonian slate, siltstone and sandstone of the Meadfoot Group, overlain by Quaternary alluvium of clay, silt, sand and gravel (British Geological Survey Online Viewer).</p> <p>The South Milton tithe map of 1843 and apportionment of 1839 record the site as an orchard, occupying part of a larger plot (282) that extends south down to the valley bottom. It formed part of an unnamed farm, with the present Manor Cottage representing the farmhouse. The 1886 and 1906 25-inch Ordnance Survey maps recorded that at those dates respectively associated agricultural buildings extended into and were fully present within the site. All these had been demolished by the 1950s when the current building to the west had also been erected.</p> <p>Results.</p> <p>The whole site was stripped by machine of turf and the top part of the topsoil (1000) revealing a concrete slab representing the floor of a demolished modern garage on the northeast side adjacent to the road. Within the footprint of the proposed new building the area was further stripped by machine to reveal natural deposits with the following stratigraphic sequence exposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topsoil (1000) – mid greyish brown silty clay loam, 0-0.25m below ground surface; • Redeposited natural (1001) – mid yellow silty clay, 0.25m-0.45m below ground surface; • Buried topsoil (1002) – mid greyish brown silty clay loam, 0.45m-0.70m below ground surface; • Natural Quaternary alluvium (1003) – mid yellow silty clay with abundant gravel, 0.70m+ below ground surface (northwest part of building plot); and • Natural Quaternary alluvium (1004) – mid brownish yellow loamy sand with abundant fine gravel, 0.70m+ below ground surface (remainder of building plot). <p>The variability of the natural Quaternary alluvium was further revealed in four deeper trenches excavated to a depth of 1.60m below ground surface for the purpose of abutments for bridging a sewer main pipe that crossed through the site at an angle.</p> <p>Conclusion.</p> <p>No archaeological features, deposits or finds were exposed during the groundworks, and no evidence for historic buildings associated with the 19th-century farm or for earlier settlement was present. The investigation identified an episode of modern landscaping, probably associated with the construction of the adjacent residential building.</p> <p>This report represents the only archive for the project and will be available online via the Archaeology Data Service (www.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk).</p>		
Recorder: Christopher Caine, AC archaeology Ltd		Date sent to HER: 8 December 2022



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- Site
- Monitored area

PROJECT

Land adjacent to Manor Cottage, South Milton, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of site and monitored area





Plate 1: General view of the site following initial stripping of turf and topsoil, looking southwest (1m scale)



Plate 2: Building plot following bulk reduction, looking northwest (1m scale)

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