

19 Fawcus Place, Chard, Somerset:

Results of an archaeological evaluation

NGR: ST 3199308672

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On behalf of:
South Somerset District
Council

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AC archaeology

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SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 AC archaeology Ltd were commissioned by South Somerset District Council (SSDC) to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a proposed building extension at Fawcus Place, Chard Somerset. A planning application may be submitted for the building work in due course.

1.2 The proposed works will comprise the construction of a small extension (c. 3.5 x 4.5m) to an existing social housing property that is managed by Yarlinton Housing Group.

1.3 The site lies just outside an area designated in the Somerset Historic Environment Record as the extent of the 'medieval town and planned borough of Chard' (HER 53314) and is considered to lie in an area of archaeological potential.

1.4 The solid geology comprises Upper Greensand and the area is noted for superficial quaternary head deposits (BGS Online). The site lies at round 120m OD.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 The purpose of the evaluation was to inform SSDC Service Delivery Team of any archaeological interest in the proposed extension area, ahead of developing full proposals for a planning submission. The investigation comprised the excavation and recording of a single trial pit, 1m x 1m in plan, representing a c.6% sample of the proposed construction area. The trial pit was excavated and recorded in accordance with the AC archaeology Recording Manual and excavated on 17 August 2020.

3. RESULTS

3.1 The investigation revealed a simple sequence of topsoil over natural clay bedrock, with the presence of a modern, possible french drain, running approximately north to south in the west edge of the trial pit. This feature was excavated to a depth of 0.95m below ground surface, but not bottomed. The deposit sequence is summarised in the table below:

Layer	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
100	0.00-0.25	Dark grey-brown friable loam with frequent roots and moderate quantity of chert fragments >50mm in diameter. Deposit contained modern pottery and clay pipe stem	Modern topsoil
101	0.25 +	Mid yellow-brown clay with occasional chert lumps	Natural clay
[102]	0.25-0.95+	Steep-sided cut of trench. East side only exposed in trial pit. Filled with 103 and 104	Modern French drain?
103	0.25-0.50	Mixed mid-brown loam with chert and concrete fragments. Plastic sheet at base. Upper fill of [102].	Modern fill of trench
104	0.50-0.95+	Mixed deposit of mixed chert and gravel. Lower fill of [102]	Modern fill of trench

Finds by Naomi Payne

3.2 A small quantity of artefacts was recovered. All finds recovered on site during the evaluation have been cleaned and examined. They have been quantified according to material

type within each context and the assemblage examined to extract information regarding the range, nature and date of artefacts represented. The summary of finds by context is summarised below.

Context	Context Description	Post-medieval pottery		Clay tobacco-pipe		CBM	
		No.	Wt. (g)	No.	Wt. (g)	No.	Wt. (g)
100	Topsoil	2	3	1	1	1	19
103	Upper fill of French drain	-	-	1	2	2	484
Totals		2	3	2	3	3	503

Post-medieval pottery

3.3 Two sherds (3g) of 19th-century pottery were recovered from the topsoil. They include a transfer-printed teacup rim and a body sherd of Staffordshire-type white ware.

Clay tobacco-pipe

3.4 Two pieces (3g) of clay tobacco-pipe were recovered from two contexts. Both are stem fragments and cannot therefore be closely dated.

Ceramic building material

3.5 Three fragments of modern ceramic building material were recovered from two contexts. The topsoil contained a small piece of handmade brick, and context 103 produced two fragments of ceramic pipe, one glazed and the other unglazed.



Location of trial pit within footprint of proposed extension. View from west



Excavated trial pit with exposed possible french drain excavated to 0.95m depth. View from east; scale 1m

4. COMMENT

4.1 The evaluation has provided no evidence for archaeological interest in the site.

4.2 It is proposed that, in due course, the report will be submitted to the Somerset Historic Environment Record. It is not proposed to deposit the site archive with SWHT and the artefacts will be returned to the landowner or discarded.

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