

Land at Half Acre, High Street, Newton Poppleford,
Devon

NGR SY 08231 89578

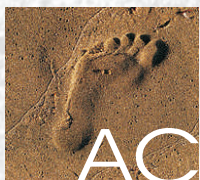
Results of an archaeological watching brief

Prepared by
Richard Sims

On behalf of
Mr and Mrs Burhop

Document No: ACD254/1/0

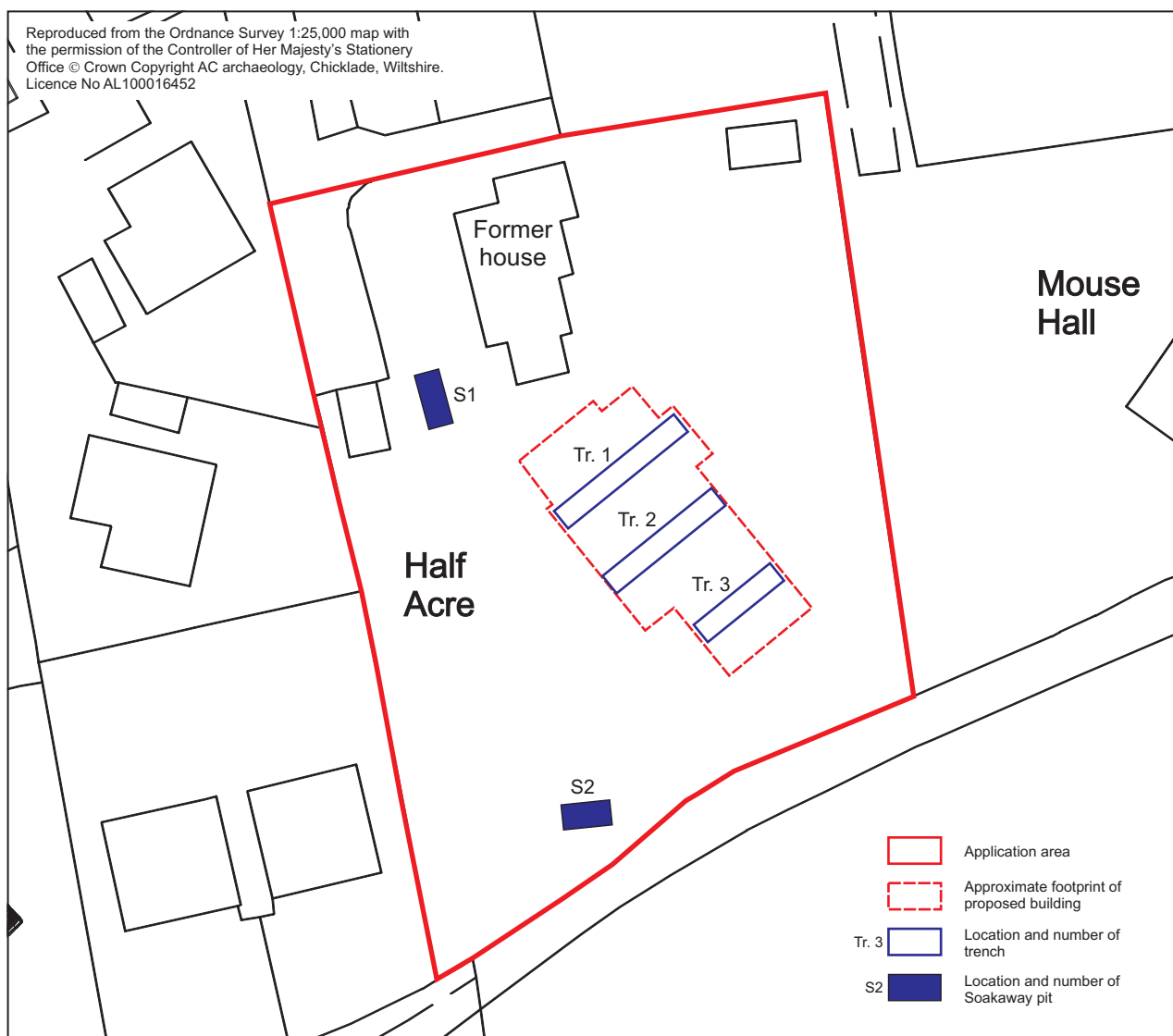
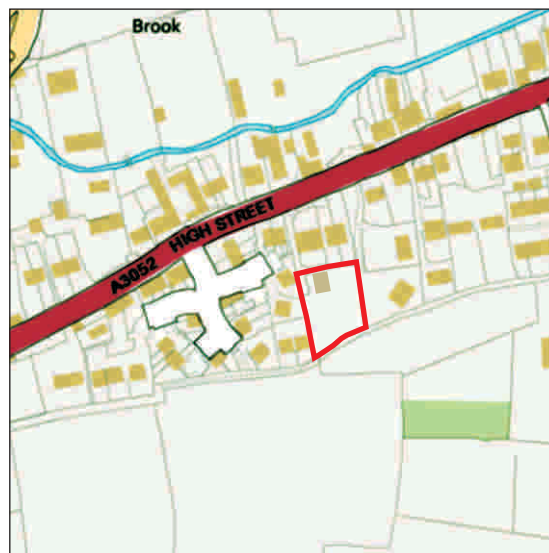
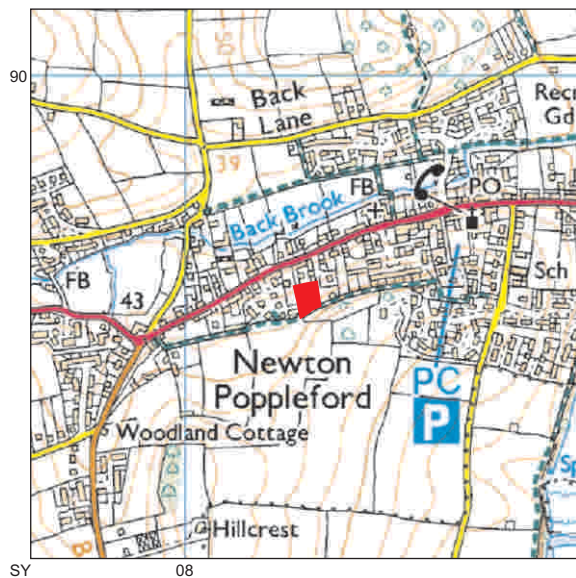
Date: June 2011



archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Newton Poppleford, East Devon	National Grid Reference SY 08231 89578	Number:
Subject: An archaeological watching brief on land at Half Acre, High Street, Newton Poppleford, Devon		Photo attached Plates 1-2
Planning Application no: 09/0283/FUL	Recipient museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum	
OASIS ID: 101169	Museum Accession no: TBA	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD254	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 28/01/11- 11/02/11	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was carried out in advance of and during groundworks associated with the construction of a replacement dwelling, garage and associated works. The work was carried out by AC archaeology and was commissioned by the site owners Mr and Mrs Burhop.</p> <p>The site lies to the rear of properties fronting onto the High Street and within the grounds of a now demolished house (Fig. 1). It is located on ground sloping gently down to the north at around 45m OD and the underlying geology comprises a head deposit of sands with clay and gravel, above a solid geology of sandstone of the Otter Formation.</p> <p>The site is located in the historic core of Newton Poppleford, with a settlement there first being recorded as early as 1226.</p> <p>Aim</p> <p>The aim of the watching brief was to preserve by record any archaeological features or deposits exposed during groundworks associated with the development, with particular reference to any evidence for early settlement or field systems.</p> <p>Methodology</p> <p>The watching brief was carried out during the first part of the initial ground reduction, the excavation of two soakaway pits located in the north and south parts of the site, as well as the digging of three test trenches positioned within the footprint of the proposed dwelling (Fig. 1 & Plate 1). All groundworks were carried out using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket and working under constant archaeological supervision.</p> <p>Results</p> <p>The site was initially reduced to a depth of around 0.3m through a dark greyish-brown sandy silt topsoil (100), onto and exposing a mid red-brown silty sand subsoil (102).</p> <p><u>Soakaway pits</u></p> <p>Soakaway pit 1 was located along the southern edge of site and was 4.2m long by 1.8m wide. The pit was excavated to a depth of 3m and the overlying layer sequence comprised 0.3m of topsoil (100), over 0.16m of subsoil (101), onto a light brownish-red sand natural subsoil (102), present at a depth of 0.45m below ground level.</p> <p>Soakaway pit 2 was located within the northern area of site and measured 3.5m long by 1.8m wide. The pit was excavated through subsoil layer (101) onto the top of natural subsoil (102), present at a depth of 0.17m below the reduced ground level.</p> <p><u>Test trenches</u></p> <p>Three parallel northeast to southwest aligned trenches with a combined length of 30m were excavated within the footprint of the new house. The trenches were excavated to a depth of between 0.15-0.2m, through subsoil (101) onto the top of natural subsoil (102) (Plate 2).</p> <p>No <i>in situ</i> archaeological features or deposits were exposed during the watching brief and no finds were recovered.</p>		
Recorder: Richard Sims (AC archaeology)		Date sent to HER: 17 May 2011



PROJECT

Half Acre, Newton Poppleford

TITLE

Fig.1: Location of site and trenches/pits



Plate 1: General view of the site, looking northeast



Plate 2: Sample section of Trench 1 (Scale 1m)

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