

Braunton Flood Defence Improvement Scheme, Braunton, Devon

Results of an archaeological watching brief

NGR SS 4879 3686 & SS 4860 3640

Prepared by
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On behalf of
The Environment Agency

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AC archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Braunton, North Devon	National Grid Reference Centred on 24879 13686 24860 13640	Number:
Subject: Braunton Flood Defence Improvement Scheme: Results of an archaeological watching brief		Photos: Plates 1 and 2
Planning Application no: N/A	Recipient museum: Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon	
OASIS ID: 104740	Museum Accession no: NDDMS 2011.58	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD324	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 07-06-2011 to 09-06-2011	

Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried by AC archaeology in June 2011 during the excavation of six geotechnical trial pits associated with improvements to flood defences along the River Caen, within the historic core of the town of Braunton, Devon. Four of the trial pits were excavated in the vicinity of Horden's Bridge, towards the south of the town, while two were excavated in the memorial gardens further north (Figs. 1 & 2). The watching brief was commissioned by the Environment Agency.

Results

The groundworks consisted of the machine-excavation of six 0.5m x 0.3m-1m exploratory trial pits. These were excavated to a depth ranging between 0.2m and 1.1m. The recorded layer sequence for each trial pit is described in Table 1 below.

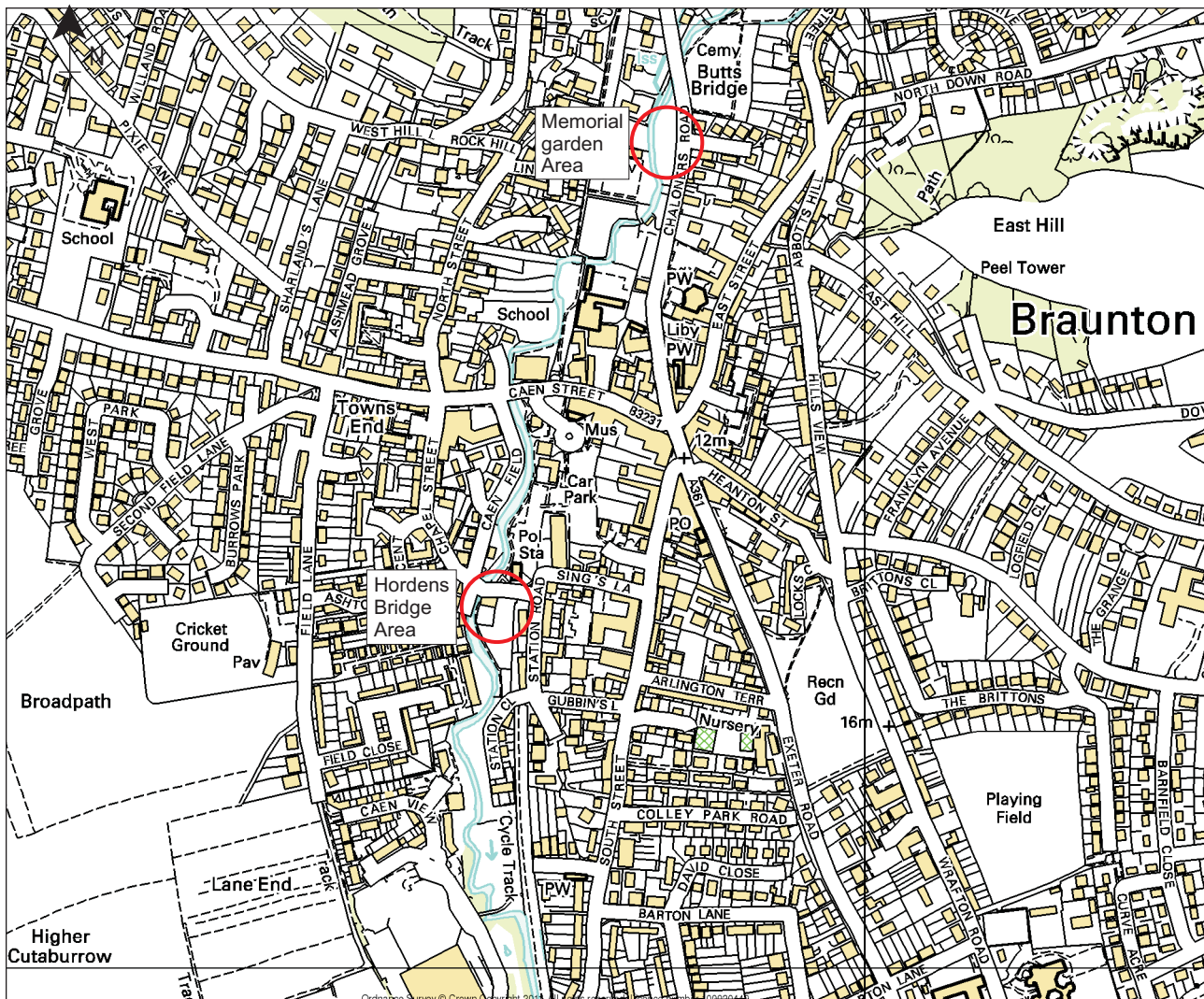
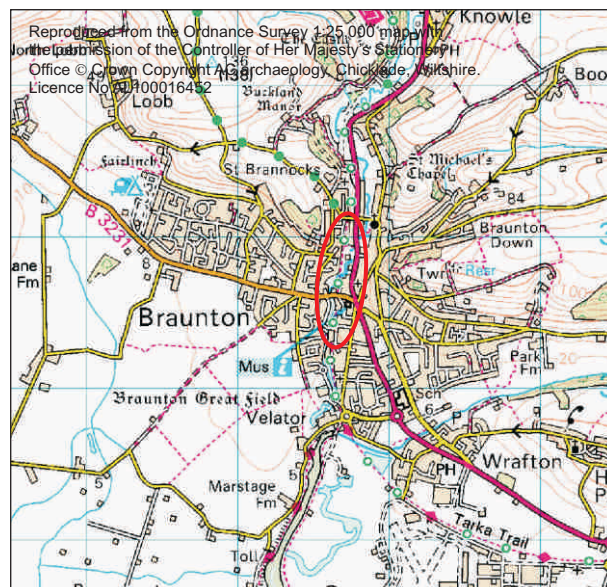
Table 1

Trial Pit 1			
Context	Depth	Description	Interpretation
100	0-0.3m	Medium-dark brown, friable, silty clay with root penetration	Topsoil
101	0.3-0.6m	Light brown friable sandy clay	Alluvial subsoil
102	0.6-1.1m+	Water derived rounded gravels and sand	Natural river gravels
Trial Pit 2			
200	0-0.4m	Concrete & kerb stones	Concrete surface and adjacent kerb
201	0.4m+	Water derived rounded gravels within a mid grey clayey sand	Re-deposited river gravels
Trial Pit 3			
300	0-0.09m	Tarmac	Road surface
301	0.09-0.24m	Stone hardcore	Bedding for road surface
302	0.24-0.92m+	Mid grey clayey sand with abundant rounded gravels	Re-deposited river gravels
Trial Pit 4			
400	0-0.12m	Tarmac	Road surface
401	0.12-0.38m+	Stone hardcore	Bedding for road surface
Trial Pit 5			
500	0-0.06m	Tarmac	Road surface
501	0.06-0.09m	Large cobbles	Bedding for tarmac surface
502	0.09-0.24m	Brownish-red silty clay with common gavels	Made-up ground
503	0.24-0.4m+	Mid grey sandy clay and water derived gravels	Natural river gravels
Trial Pit 6			
600	0-0.1m	Paving slab	Paving around foot of shelter
601	0.1-0.2m	Builders sand	Bedding for paving slabs
602	0.2m+	Concrete	Foundation for shelter

Discussion

Only two of the trial pits (nos. 1 & 5) revealed undisturbed natural deposits of river derived gravels and sand. These natural deposits were present between a depth of 0.24m and 0.6m. There were no archaeological features, artefacts or deposits of palaeo-environmental interest within these pits. Trial Pits 2, 4 and 6 were not excavated to a sufficient depth to establish the presence or absence of archaeological deposits, while in Trial Pit 3 only modern re-deposited sands and gravels were exposed.

Recorder: Kerry Dean, AC archaeology	Date sent to HER: 11 November 2011
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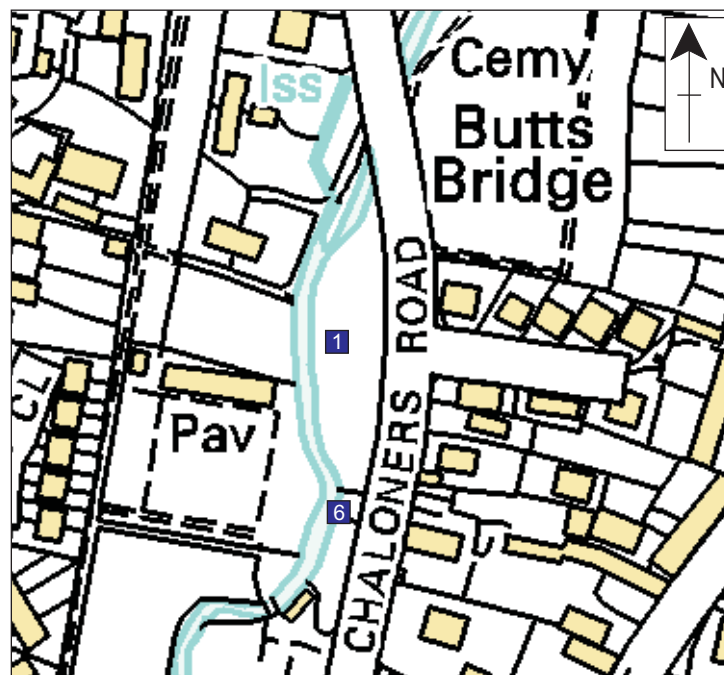


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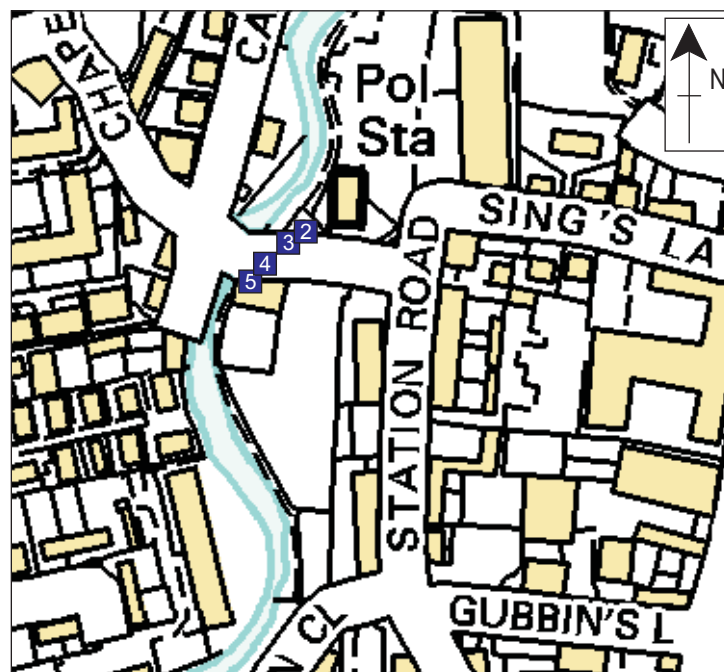
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Fig.1: Location of site



a) Memorial garden area trial pits



b) Horden's Bridge area trial pits

1 Trial Pit location

0 100m
Scale 1:2500@A4

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Fig.2: Trial Pit locations



Plate 1: General view of groundworks at Horden's Bridge area, from the south.



Plate 2: North facing section of Trial Pit 1, from the north.
Scale 1m



Plate 3: General view of Trial Pit 4, from the southeast.
Scale 1m

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