

Pulhayes Farm, East Budleigh, Devon

NGR SY 06929 83672

Results of an archaeological trench evaluation

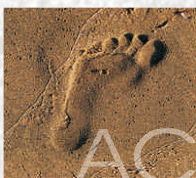
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Prepared by Chris Caine

On behalf of Mr James Pyne

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archaeology

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# **PULHAYES FARM, EAST BUDLEIGH, DEVON**

**(NGR SY 06929 83672)**

## **Results of an archaeological trench evaluation**

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## **Summary**

*An archaeological evaluation was carried out by AC archaeology during September 2011 on land at Pulhayes Farm, East Budleigh, Devon (NGR SY 06929 83672). The evaluation was undertaken to provide supporting information for a future planning application for the erection of two mobile poultry units. The site is located immediately north of a cropmark that may represent a possible prehistoric feature.*

*The evaluation comprised two machine-excavated trenches totalling 80m in length. The investigations did not identify any physical evidence for archaeological activity. Two prehistoric flints were recovered from the topsoil.*

### **1. INTRODUCTION (Figure 1)**

- 1.1** An archaeological trench evaluation was undertaken by AC archaeology during September 2011 to provide supporting information for a future planning application for the erection of two mobile poultry units. The work was commissioned by Mr James Pyne following consultation with Devon County Historic Environment Service (DCHES). The location of the site is shown on Figure 1.
- 1.2** The proposed development site is situated 1km south of the village of East Budleigh at NGR SY 06929 83672, just west of the B3178, in an area of land currently used as pasture. The topography slopes gently downhill to the east and the site is situated at a height of approximately 20m aOD. The solid geology comprises Otter Sandstones overlain by gravel River Terrace Deposits. The natural subsoil comprised light greyish-red gravely, silty-sand.

### **2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** The main archaeological interest in the site is that it is located immediately north of a large circular cropmark, some 90m in diameter, with three tracks leading from its edge to the centre (DCC HER 74326). This cropmark may represent the site of a prehistoric settlement, although it may also represent the footprint of more modern agricultural practices. At the time of the evaluation the site of the cropmark could be identified on the ground as a shallow circular depression. If the cropmark does represent a prehistoric archaeological site, associated features or artefacts may be present within the application area and will be affected by the 'cut and fill' groundworks associated with the construction of two poultry units.
- 2.2** The application area is within part of a large field which has been created by the enlargement of smaller fields. The 1842 tithe map shows that it was once three fields, which had been reduced to two fields – with a new dividing field boundary – 1888 when the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map was surveyed. The same arrangement of fields was recorded by the Ordnance Survey in 1903. The 1842 tithe apportionment describes the field as under arable cultivation.

### **3. AIMS**

- 3.1** The aim of the trench evaluation was to establish the presence or absence, extent, depth, character and date of any archaeological features, deposits or finds within the site. The results of the work will be reviewed and used to inform any subsequent mitigation as a condition of planning permission, if granted.

#### **4. METHODOLOGY (Figure 2)**

- 4.1** The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief prepared by the Devon County Historic Environment Service (DCHES; Reed 2011) and a Project Design (Passmore 2011). Two trenches, each 40m long by 1.60m wide were excavated along the west side of each proposed poultry unit, with the 'cut' area of groundworks. The location of these trenches is shown on Figure 2.
- 4.2** All deposits revealed were recorded using the standard AC archaeology *pro forma* recording system, comprising written, graphic and photographic records and in accordance with AC archaeology's *General Site Recording Manual, Version 1* (Revised April 2005).

#### **5. RESULTS (Figure 3, Plates 1-3)**

##### **5.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 3 and Plate 1)**

The natural subsoil was exposed at heights of between 14.84 and 14.38m aOD, between 0.29m and 0.61m below the surface. The layer sequence above natural comprised light greyish-brown, silty-sand topsoil (100) overlying light brown, silty-sand subsoil (101). No archaeological features or deposits were present and only two flint flakes were recovered from the topsoil.

##### **5.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 3 and Plates 2-3)**

The natural subsoil was exposed at heights of between 16.37m and 16.01m aOD, between 0.23m and 0.29m below the surface. The layer sequence above natural comprised light greyish-brown, silty-sand topsoil (200) overlying light brown silty-sand subsoil (201). No archaeological features or deposits were exposed and no finds were present.

#### **6. THE FINDS**

- 6.1** A total of two flint artefacts were recovered from the topsoil in trench 1. There were a small round end scraper of late Neolithic/early Bronze Age date, produced from a flake, with neat regular deep retouching, and an undiagnostic primary flake.

#### **7. DISCUSSION**

- 7.1** The cut and fill construction method of the poultry units will only have the potential to remove archaeological deposits on the west side of the buildings – within the cut areas of the footprint. These areas were targeted during the evaluation. The results of the evaluation did not identify any *in situ* evidence for archaeological activity, and only two flint flakes were recovered from the topsoil, which is unlikely to represent evidence of significant prehistoric activity on the site.

Although no evidence of plough scars into the natural was observed, which suggests the area has not been not ploughed deeply, the thin soil cover does indicate intensive agricultural activity.

- 7.2** In summary, the evaluation did not expose any archaeological feature or deposits, and this is likely to be representative of the footprints of the new units. It is therefore unlikely that construction of new poultry units will have any impact on the archaeological resource.

## **8. ARCHIVE AND OASIS ENTRY**

- 8.1** The paper and digital archive and finds are currently held at the offices of AC archaeology Ltd, at 4 Halthaies Workshops, Bradninch, near Exeter, Devon, EX5 4LQ. The archive will be deposited under the relevant accession number at the Royal Albert memorial Museum, Exeter, at the earliest in 2013 when the current museum non-acceptance policy will be reviewed. A temporary reference number from the museum is 11/44.
- 8.2** The OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS) entry has been completed with the unique identifier 111382.

## **9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The evaluation was commissioned by Mr James Pyne. The evaluation was carried out by Richard Sims, Christopher Caine and Francis Ward, with the illustrations for this report prepared by Cain Hegarty. Thanks are due to Stephen Reed, Devon Archaeology Officer, for his advice, and to Mr Tom Pyne for operating the machine.

## **10. SOURCES CONSULTED**

### **Devon Record Office**

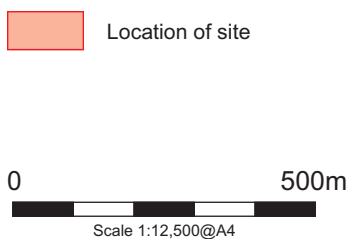
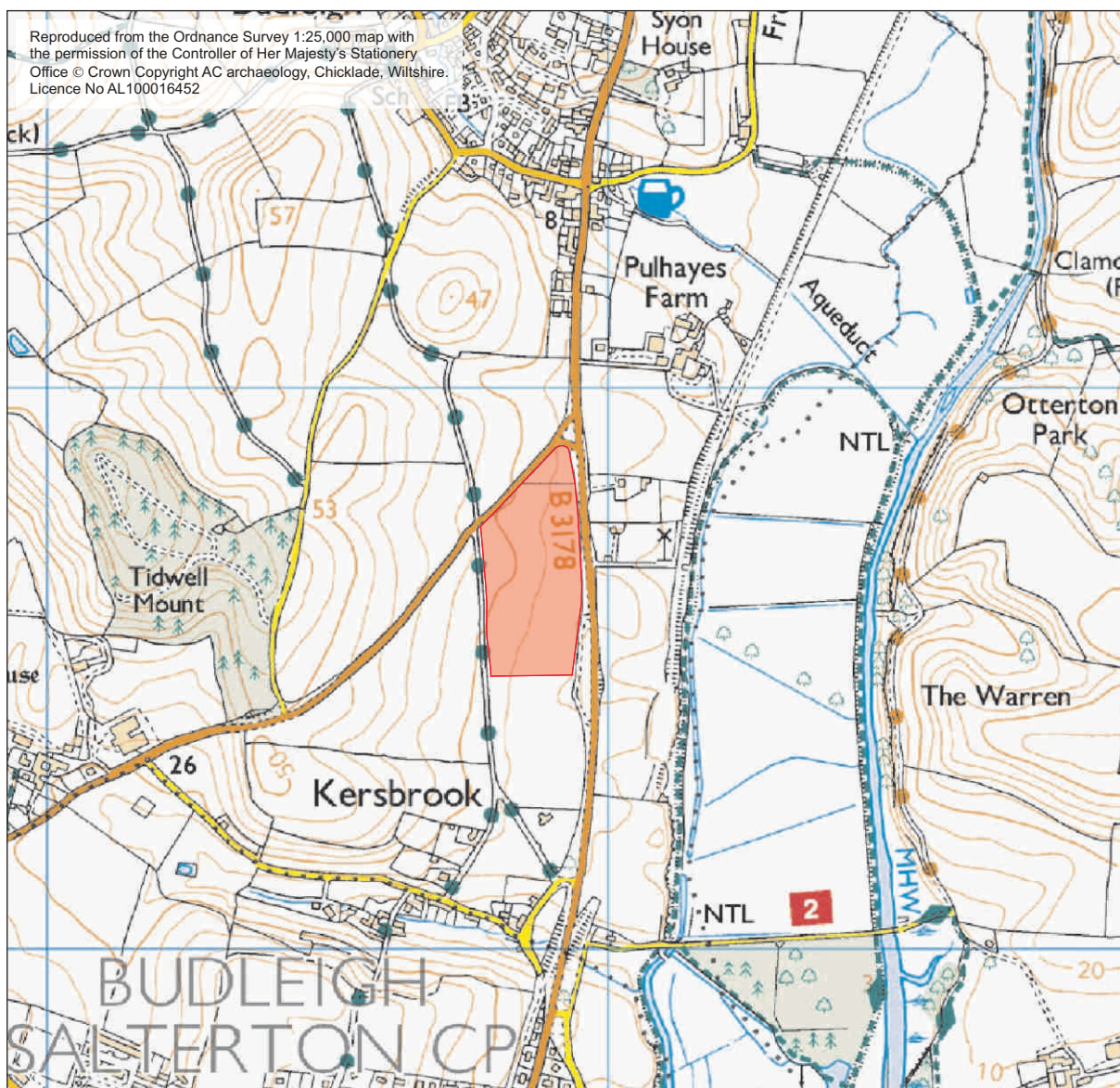
East Budleigh tithe map (1842) and apportionment (1842)

### **Printed Sources**

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map sheet 93.15, 1st edition surveyed 1888, published 1889, and 2nd edition revised 1903, published 1904.

Passmore, A., 2011, *Pulhayes Farm Farringdon Devon: Project Design for an archaeological trench evaluation*. Unpublished AC archaeology document for client, ref. ACD358/1/0.

Reed, S., 2011. *Brief for archaeological evaluation undertaken in support of a planning application: land at NGR 306929.83672, East Budleigh Road (south-west of Pulhayes Farm)*, DCHES document ref. ARCH/DM/ED/18010.



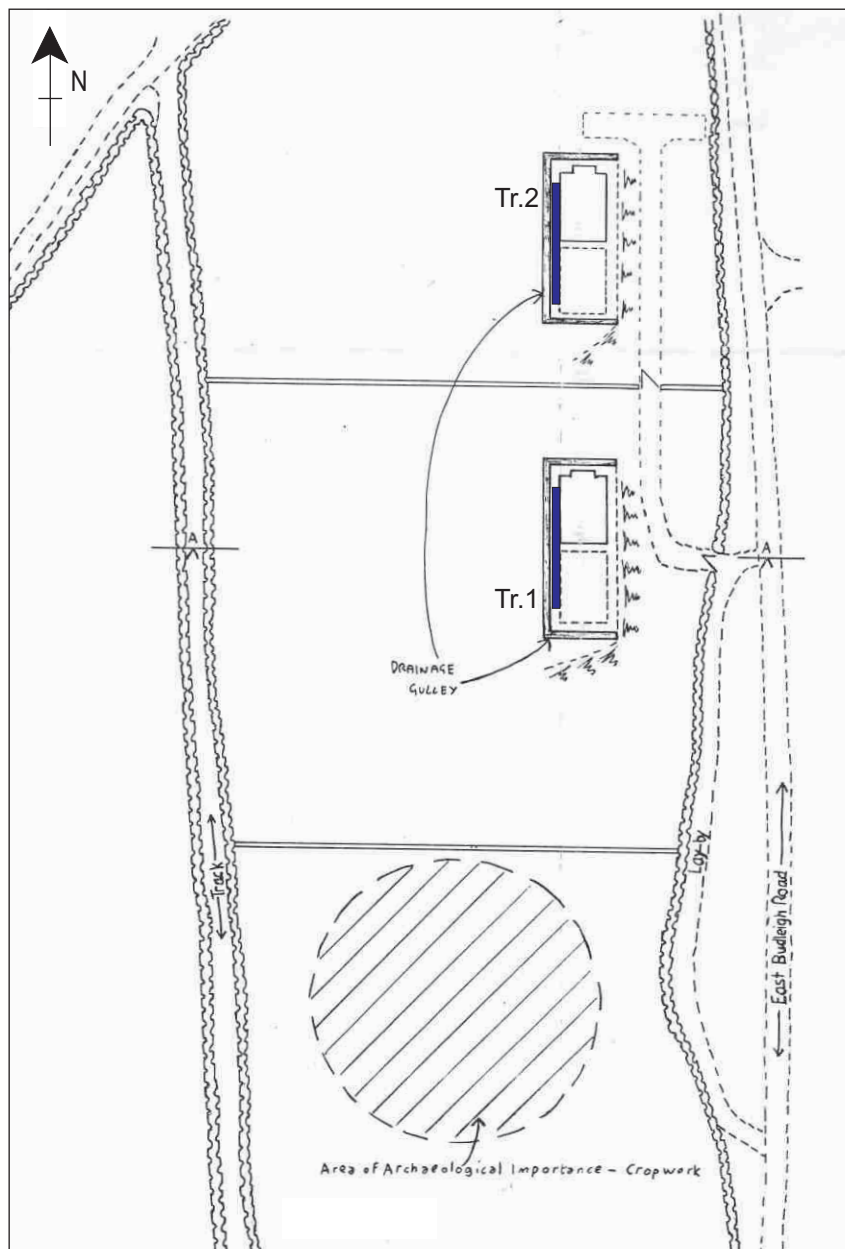
PROJECT

Pulhayes Farm, Devon

TITLE

Fig.1: Location of site





Tr.1 Evaluation trench

0 100m  
Scale 1:2500@A4

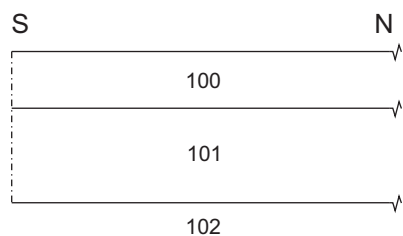
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Pulhayes Farm, Devon

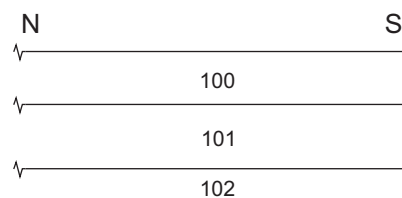
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Fig.2: Location of evaluation trenches

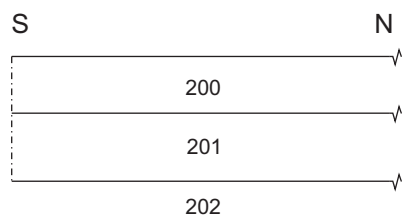
a) Trench 1, west facing  
representative section



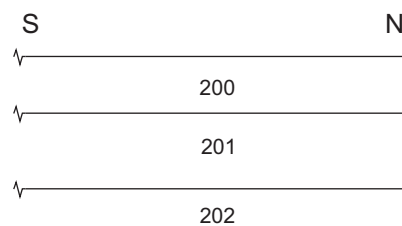
b) Trench 1, east facing  
representative section



c) Trench 2, east facing  
representative section



d) Trench 2, east facing  
representative section



PROJECT

Pulhayes Farm, Devon

TITLE

Fig.3: Representative sections





Plate 1: General view of Trench 1, looking to the north



Plate 2: General view of Trench 2, looking to the north



Plate 3: West facing representative section of north end of Trench 1

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