

# Water Main Replacement at Ford Farm, Stockland, Devon (ST 2404 0317)

Results of an archaeological watching brief

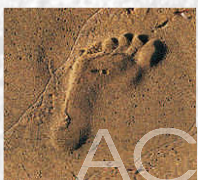
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Prepared by Kerry Kerr-Peterson

On behalf of South West Water

Document No: ACD386/2/0

Date: February 2012



archaeology

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# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Stockland, East Devon	<b>National Grid Reference</b> NGR ST 2404 0317	<b>Number:</b> (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
<b>Subject:</b> Results of an archaeological watching brief during water main diversion at Ford Farm, Stockland, Devon		<b>Photo attached?</b> N
<b>Planning Application no:</b> N/A	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> 115100	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> RAMM Ref 11/70	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b>  ACD386	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b>  1 December 2011	
<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was carried out by AC archaeology in December 2011 during the diversion of a small water main at Ford Farm, Stockland, Devon (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by South West Water.</p> <p>The main historic building at the site is the Grade II listed Ford House, described as a 17th-century former farmhouse that is documented from 1606. There is thought to have been an earlier house on the site that might have been a manor house and may have had earlier monastic connections with Forde Abbey in Dorset. Prehistoric activity within the vicinity is represented by scatters of flint collected from the topsoil.</p> <p><b>Results</b></p> <p>The new water main was laid using directional drilling, with the pipe being inserted through four pits. These pits were excavated using a mini-digger under archaeological supervision.</p> <p><b>Pit 1</b></p> <p>The first pit was located immediately to the north of Ford House within the adjacent field. It measured 3.2m long by 1.2m wide and was excavated to a total depth of 1m, just below the top of the existing water main. The following undisturbed sequence of deposits was exposed in the western part of the trench. Dark grey-brown, firm, silty clay topsoil (100), 0.30m deep, with common small, sub-angular chert fragments. Rare fragments of modern industrial whiteware china were present but not collected. This overlay a 0.3m deep medium reddish-brown, stony, silty clay subsoil (101) with common sub-angular chert fragments and common ceramic building material flecks. This overlay dark red, firm, silty clay natural subsoil (102) with very common large-small sized, sub-angular chert fragments and common manganese inclusions; this was present at a depth of 0.6m from the surface.</p> <p><b>Pit 2</b></p> <p>The second pit was located to the northwest of Ford House, again in the adjacent field. It measured 2m long by 2m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.9m. The topsoil (200), which was 0.3m thick, was the same as 100 but with common charcoal and ceramic building material flecks. The subsoil (201), which measured 0.3m deep, was similar to 101, but a medium brown colour and contained frequent charcoal and ceramic building material flecks. Beneath this was a 0.3m deep stony colluvial deposit (202) that was a medium brown, stony, silt clay with very common sub-angular chert fragments and sparse charcoal flecks. Natural light grey-brown clay natural subsoil (203) with oxidised flecks and very common large chert fragments was exposed at a depth of 0.9m from the surface.</p> <p><b>Pit 3</b></p> <p>This pit was located in the orchard to the south of Ford House, east of the ponds. It measured 2.7m long by 1.2m wide and was excavated to a total depth of 1m. The sequence of deposits within pit 3 consisted of 0.3m of medium brown topsoil (300), overlying 0.3m of medium brown subsoil (301). Modern industrial whiteware china, glass and ceramic building material was present in this layer but were not collected. This overlaid a 0.2m deep stony alluvial deposit (302) that was light grey-brown clay with very common large sub-angular chert fragments. This overlay natural subsoil (303), which was present at a depth of 0.8m from the surface.</p> <p><b>Pit 4</b></p> <p>This pit was also located within the orchard, just inside the main gateway of the field immediately opposite the road and Ford Farm. It measured 2.1m long by 1.15m wide and was excavated to a total depth of 1.1m. The topsoil (400) was 0.15m deep, and was the same elsewhere but also contained a large amount of debris in the form of hand-made bricks of c. 17th-18th-century date, mortar and shale fragments. Fragments of industrial white ware china were also present but not collected. Beneath this was 0.2m of dark red, firm clay (401), a redeposited natural subsoil with sparse charcoal flecks and shale fragments, and very common ceramic building material. Beneath this</p>		

was a further layer of re-deposited natural (402), measuring 0.1m deep, that comprised medium grey-brown, firm silt clay with common ceramic building material and large chert fragments. This overlaid further redeposited material (403) that was identical to (401) and was 0.20m thick. Beneath this was the natural subsoil (404) that consisted of medium grey-brown, firm silty clay with common chert fragments. This was present at a depth of 0.65m from the surface.

### The Finds

A summary of the finds, categorised by type, is presented in Table 1.

Context	Context Description	Pottery		CBM		Glass		Worked Flint/Chert		Burnt Flint/Chert	
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
200	Topsoil, pit 2	5	140			1	2	1	2		
202	Stony colluvium layer, pit 2									1	3
400	Topsoil, pit 4										
403	Re-deposited natural layer, pit 4			1	21						

**Table 1: Finds quantification by material type. Weight in grams. CBM = Ceramic Building Material.**

The assemblage includes of five pieces of medieval and early post-medieval pottery which all came from context 200 (cf Allan and Jarvis 1974 for discussion of other finds from Stockland). These are four green, lead-glazed jug fragments that include three body sherds, one base fragment and one rim sherd. Two of the fragments are oxidised, one with applied strip decoration. The others are reduced pieces with fabric ranging in colour from light grey to grey-brown with light to strong dark green glazes. The jug body sherd with light grey fabric and light green glaze probably originates from Dorset and is likely to be c. 16th century in date. One of the pieces is a highly-fired jar rim fragment with an applied band around the top and thumb-pressed decoration. This type of decoration was popular during the mid-17th century. In addition to the pottery there is also one piece of worked chert recovered from context 400. This is a thumbnail scraper derived from a greyish brown, river chert. One fragment of burnt chert was recovered from context 202.

### Conclusion

No archaeological features or deposits exposed within any of the pits. Pit 2 produced a stony colluvium deposit (202) which was to be expected due to the moderate slope of the field to the north of Ford House in which the pit was located. Pit 3 produced a stony alluvial deposit (302) demonstrating the proximity to the river and ponds located to the west of the field in which the pit was located. The only pits that produced finds were located close to the farmhouses within the Ford Farm complex and demonstrate domestic activity within the vicinity from the 16th century to the present, with a hint of prehistoric activity in the area.

### Bibliography

Allan, J., and Jarvis, K., 1974, 'Surface finds from Stockland', *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* 32, 170-175

**A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.**

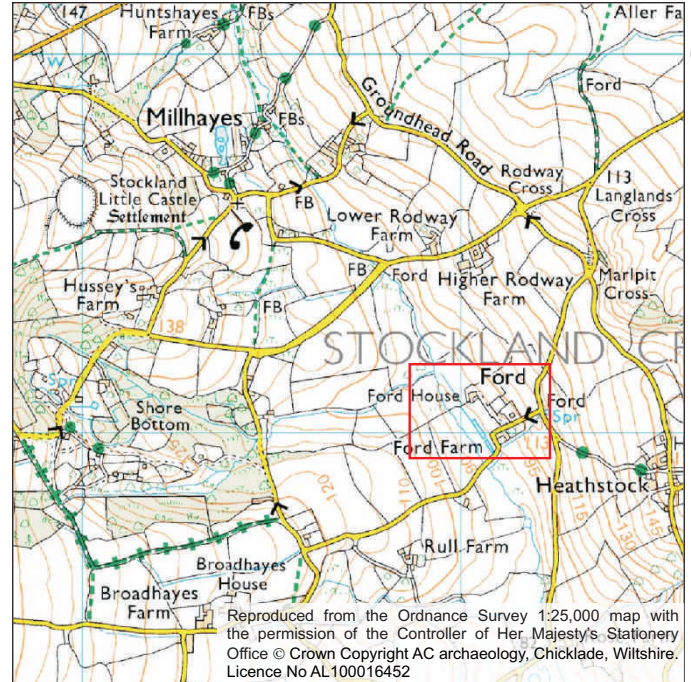
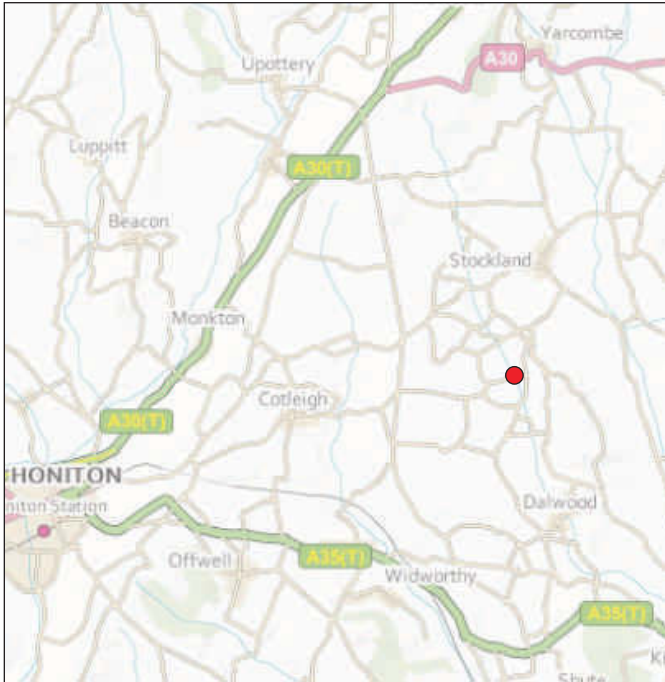
### Recorder:

Kerry Kerr-Peterson  
AC Archaeology

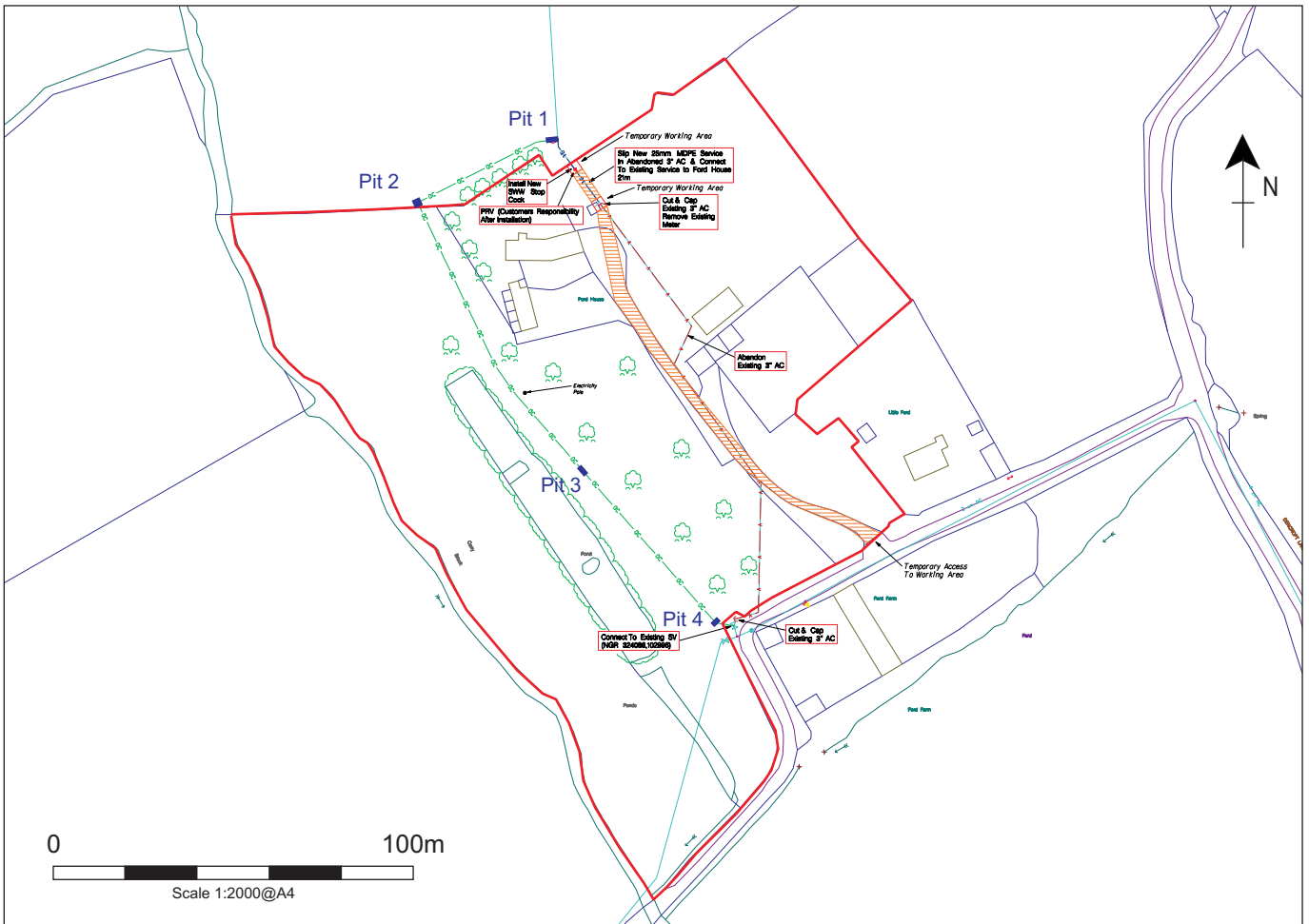
### Date sent to HER:

2 February 2012





ST 23 24 03 02



■ Pits

PROJECT

Ford Farm, Stockland, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of site and excavated pits



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