

# LAND AT RIX FARM, BOLHAM, TIVERTON, DEVON

NGR SS 9524 1410

## Results of an archaeological watching brief

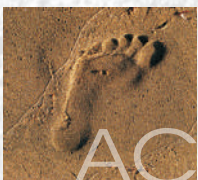
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Prepared by  
Peter Stead

On behalf of:  
Mr Michael Frankpitt

Report No: ACD342/2/0

Date: 11th June 2012



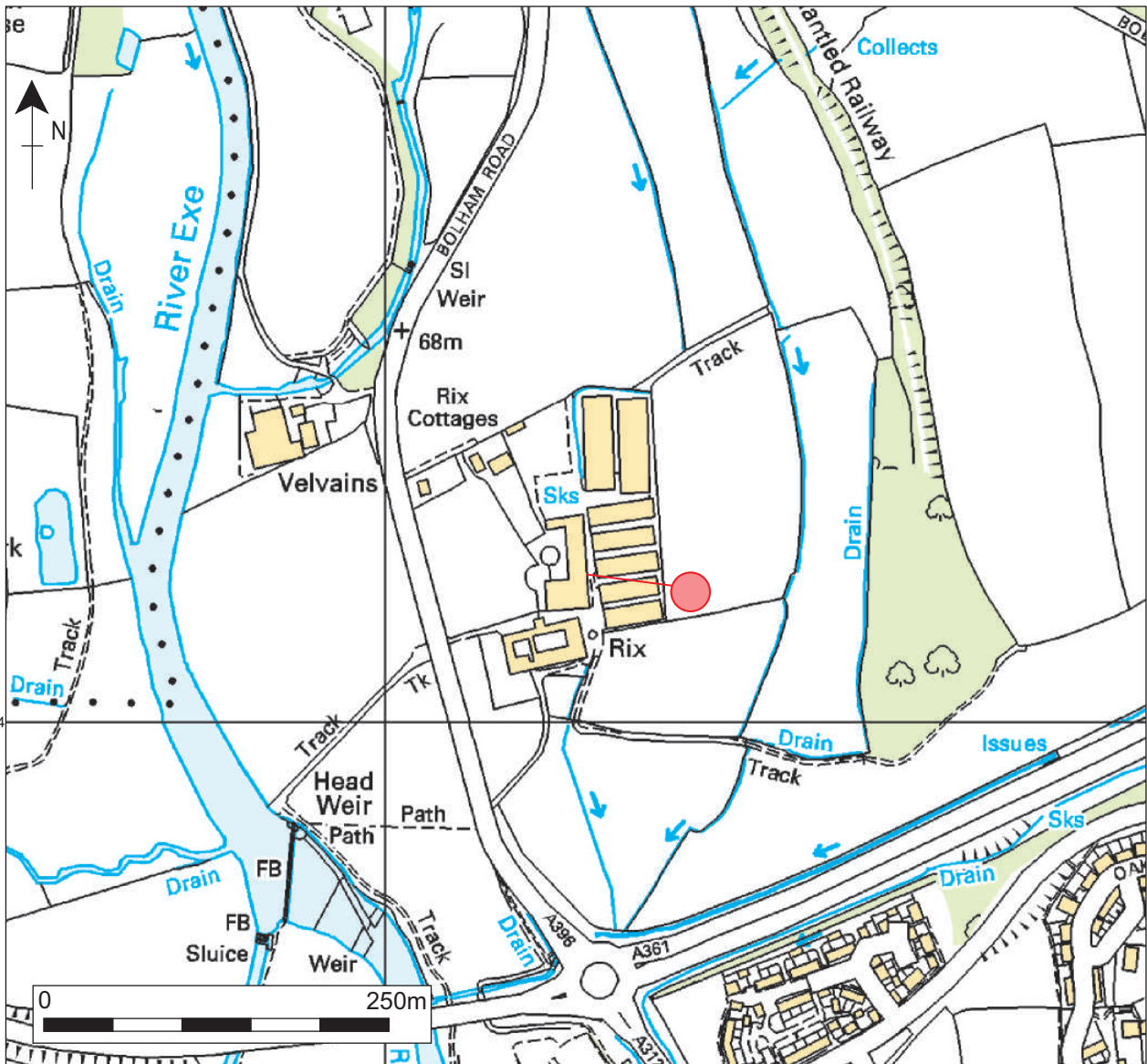
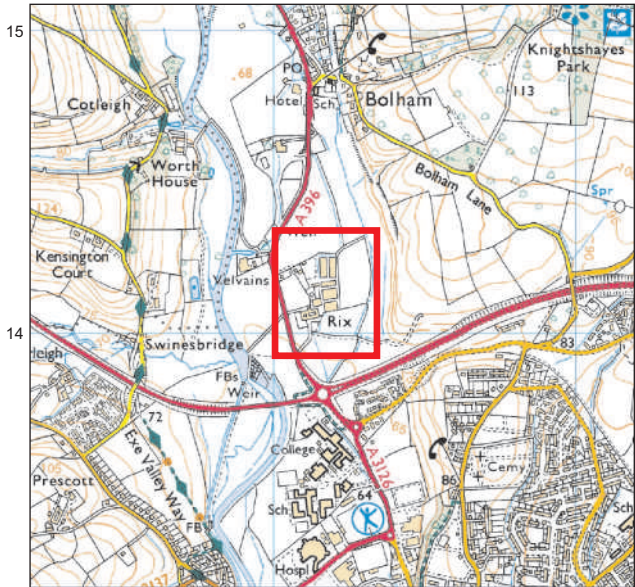
AC archaeology


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# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Tiverton, Mid Devon	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SS 9524 1410	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Land at Rix Farm, Bolham, Tiverton: Results of an archaeological watching brief		<b>Photo attached:</b> Plates 1-2
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 11/00399/FULL	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> 127707	<b>Museum temporary reference no:</b> RAMM: 11/35	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b>  ACD 342	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b>  18th May 2012	
<p><b>Description of works</b></p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was carried out by AC archaeology on behalf of Mr Michael Frankpitt, during groundworks associated with the installation of a new slurry tank on land at Rix Farm, Bolham (Fig. 1). The work was required by Mid Devon District Council under a condition attached to the grant of planning permission for the development.</p> <p>The site lies on level ground within the floodplain of the River Exe, at a height of approximately 66m aOD. It occupies the southwest corner of a larger field, the boundaries of which appear unchanged from those shown on the Tiverton Pitt parish tithe map of 1841. The main archaeological interest in the site lay in its proximity to a Roman fort, situated 225m to the east, on the higher ground of Bolham Hill. The fort is a scheduled monument (SM No. 10502) and dates from c. AD65. Concentrations of worked flint have been found to the north of the site indicating a general potential for late prehistoric activity within the area.</p> <p><b>Method</b></p> <p>All topsoil stripping on the site of the new slurry tank and associated hardstanding was monitored (Fig. 2). Topsoil was removed using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket, to the level of the underlying subsoil. Deposits were recorded using the standard AC archaeology <i>pro forma</i> recording system, comprising written, graphic and digital photographic records.</p> <p><b>Results</b></p> <p>A simple deposit sequence was exposed throughout, consisting of brown silty clay loam topsoil (100) approximately 25cm thick, over very light brown alluvial clay subsoil (101).</p> <p>No archaeological features or deposits were present and no evidence was found for former palaeochannels within the alluvium. Occasional sherds of blue and white transfer-printed pottery and brown-glazed earthenwares were noted within the topsoil. These were all of 19th- or early 20th-century date and were not retained.</p> <p><b>Discussion</b></p> <p>The absence of any evidence for archaeological activity and the lack of pre-modern pottery or other dating evidence indicates a historically low level of use, doubtless due to the location of the site within the centre of the floodplain and its consequent exposure to seasonal flooding.</p> <p>In view of the sterility of the site, and following discussion with Devon County Council's Historic Environment Service, it was agreed that no further attendance would be required during the remaining groundworks, which comprised the installation of a slurry tank feed pipe.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b>  Peter Stead, AC archaeology		<b>Date sent to HER:</b>  11 June 2012





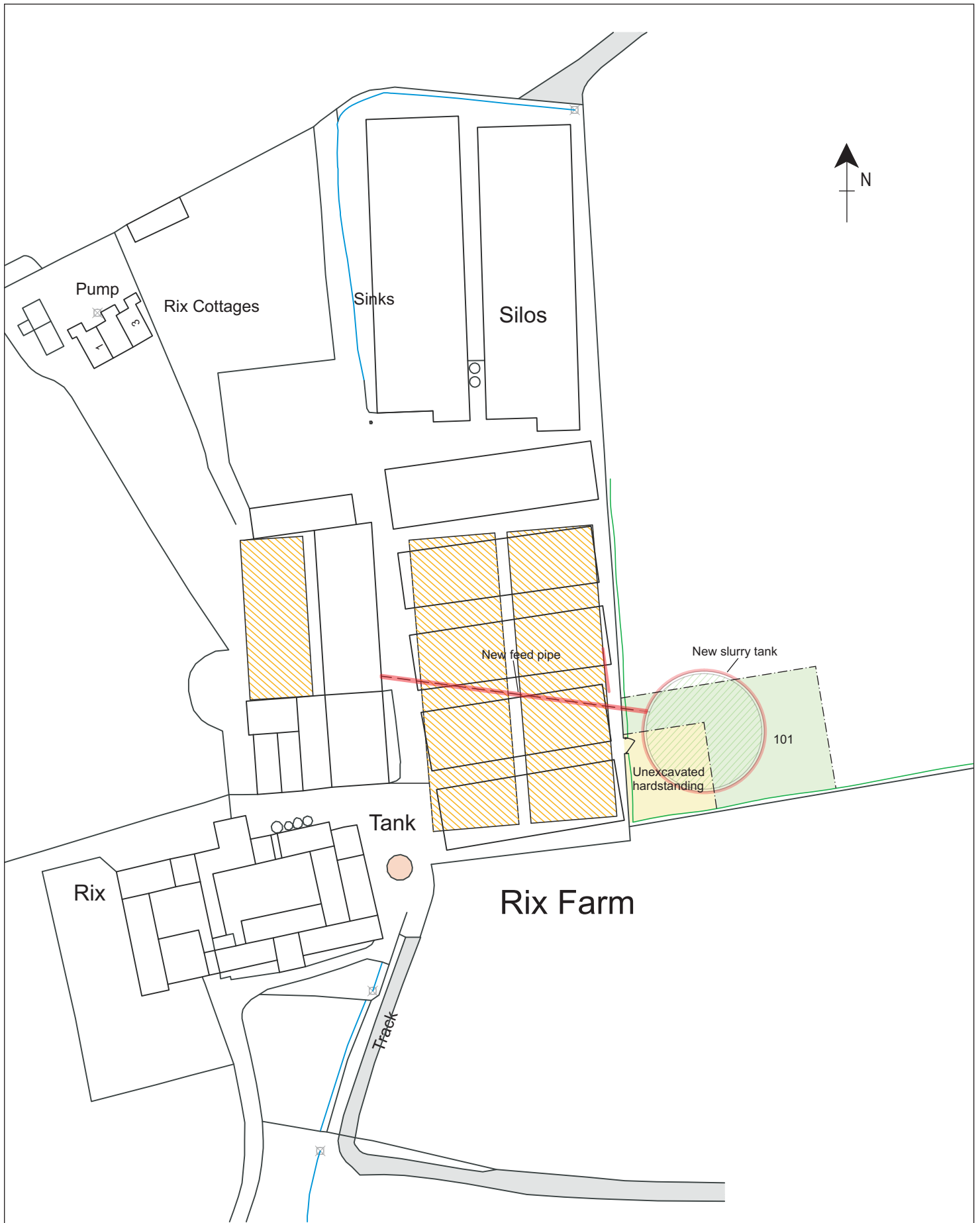
 Position of slurry tank and feed pipe


PROJECT

Rix Farm, Bolham, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of site



 Area monitored

PROJECT

Rix Farm, Bolham, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 2: Area of monitored groundworks







Plate 1: General view showing alluvial clay. Bolham Hill, the site of the Roman fort, in background. View to east



Plate 2: General view of groundworks. Looking northwest

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