

CULVERT REPLACEMENT AT STARCROSS, DEVON

NGR SX 9769 8110

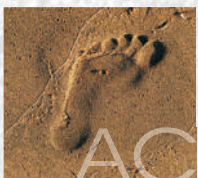
Results of Archaeological Recording and Monitoring

Prepared by
MFR Steinmetzer

On behalf of:
JBA Consulting Ltd

Document No: ACD442/2/1

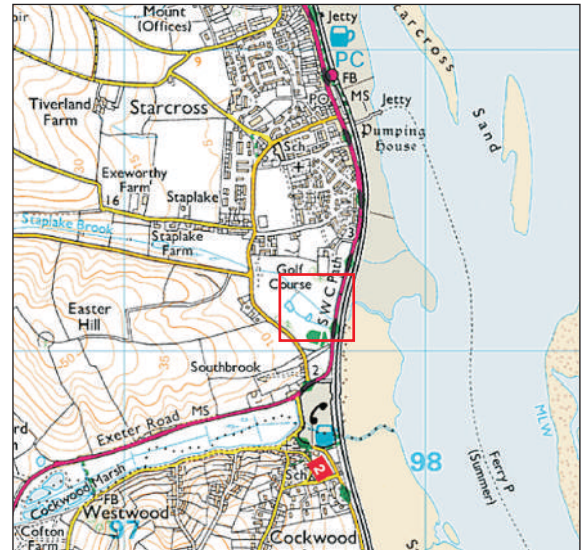
Date: 13th July 2012



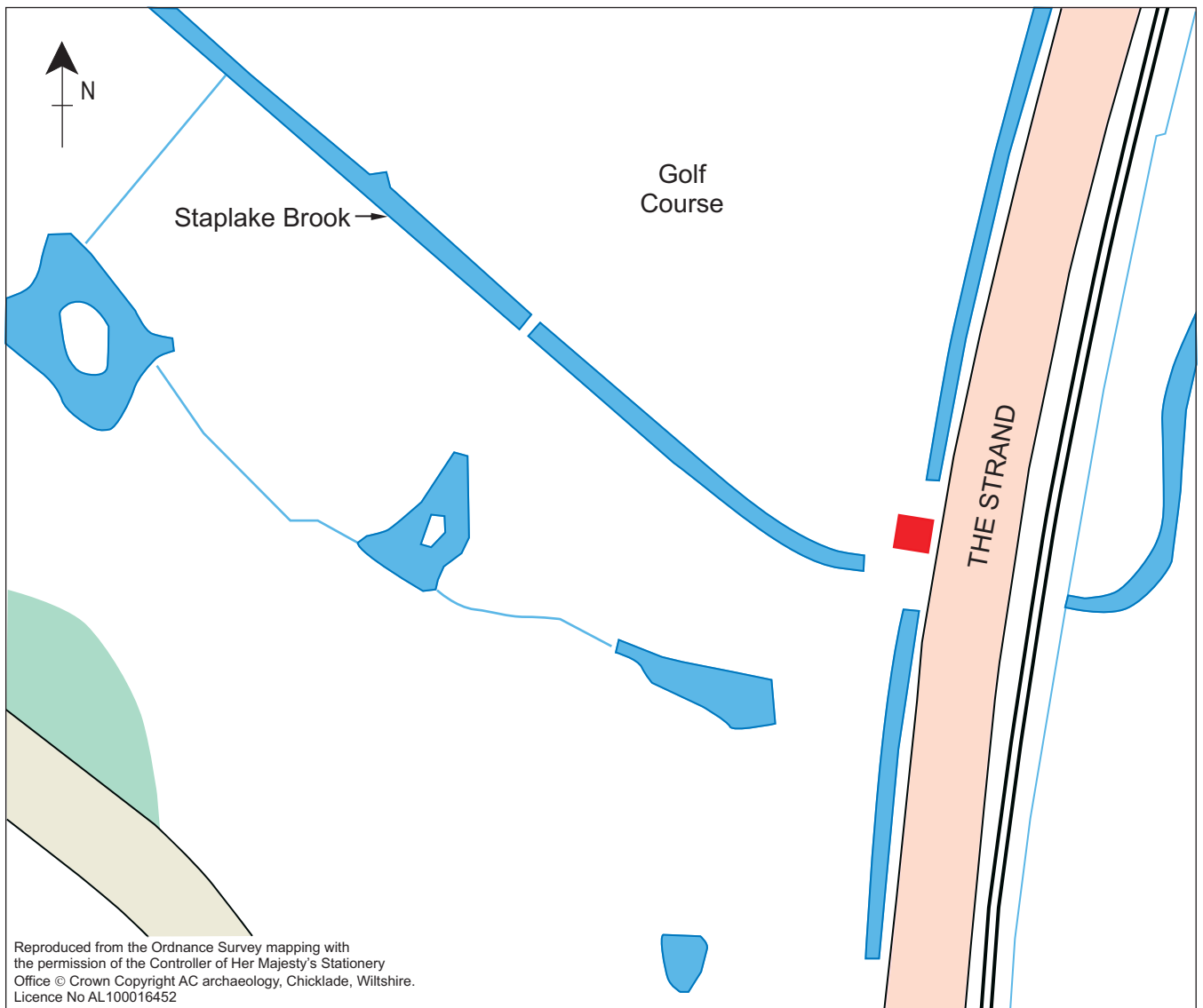
archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Starcross, Teignbridge	National Grid Reference: SX 9769 8110	Number:
Subject: Culvert Replacement at Starcross, Devon: Results of archaeological monitoring and recording		Photo attached: Y
Planning Application no: n/a	Recipient museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum	
OASIS ID: 130196	Museum Accession no: 12/08	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD442	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 24 April, 2 May and 3 May 2012	
<p>Description of works: An archaeological watching brief (Fig. 1) was carried out during the replacement of a culvert under the London-Penzance railway line and the adjacent A379, immediately south of Starcross. The site is relatively flat, lying within reclaimed land on the edge of the River Exe. It was therefore thought possible that waterlogged palaeoenvironmental deposits might survive within the area. The 1757 map of Topsham Harbour (DRO 1508m/Devon/Rivers/2 Exe Estuary) shows that the area contained a Saltworks, but by the mid-19th century these appear to have been abandoned and the site turned into pasture.</p> <p>A large launch-pit was excavated in advance of directional drilling under the road and railway (Fig. 1 and Plates 1-2). It was located on the west side of the road 2m to the north of the existing culvert. This measured 6.40m long by 6m wide and was excavated to a depth of 3.30m.</p> <p>Results: The sequence typically consisted of:</p> <p>0-0.12m (100) topsoil and turf 0.12-0.32m (101) dark grey compact silty clay with frequent small angular stones, and occasional bricks, glass, industrial china and coal – 19th-century made ground 0.32-0.47m (102) light red clay with frequent mortar flecks, coal, glass, industrial china and wood – 19th-century made ground 0.47-0.62m (103) dark grey soft silt with occasional machine-made bricks – 19th-century made ground 0.62-0.77m (104) light red sandy clay with stone and machine-made bricks – 19th-century made ground 0.77-0.89m (105) light to mid yellow sand – natural sand 0.89-0.99m (106) light grey clay – alluvial clay 0.99-1.7m (107) silts and gravel 1.7-2.1m (108) mid blue grey silty clay – alluvium 2.1-2.4m (109) mid grey sandy silt – alluvium 2.4-2.6m (110) mid to dark grey sandy clay – alluvium 2.6-3.30m (111) light to mid blue grey clay – alluvium (Plate 2)</p> <p>Conclusion: Groundworks for the proposed launch-pit exposed <i>in situ</i> natural alluvium of the Exe Estuary overlain by a group of 19th-century deposits. No palaeochannels or other deposits of palaeoenvironmental potential were exposed and no archaeological deposits or features were encountered. Analysis of historic maps indicates that the site lay on the edge of the foreshore of the River Exe, and was only reclaimed after the construction of the South Devon Railway in 1846. This corresponds with the sequence of deposits exposed in the launch pit.</p>		
Recorder: MFR Steinmetzer (AC Archaeology)		Date sent to HER: 13 July 2012



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0 50m
Scale 1:1250@A4

Launch pit

PROJECT

Culvert Replacement south of Starcross, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of site





Plate 1: General view of launch pit looking southeast



Plate 2: General view of clean alluvial clay [111] at base of launch pit looking south

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