

LAND OPPOSITE THE ORIENTAL PROMISE, LONDON ROAD, ROCKBEARE, DEVON

NGR SY 02429 95580

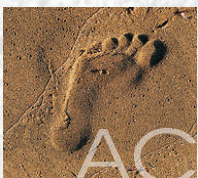
Results of an archaeological trench evaluation

Prepared by:
Peter Stead

On behalf of:
CgMs Consulting Ltd

Document No: ACD534/2/0

Date: August 2012



archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Rockbeare, East Devon	National Grid Reference SY 0242 9558	Number:
Subject: Land opposite The Oriental Promise, London Road, Rockbeare, Devon: Results of an archaeological trench evaluation		Photo attached: Plates 1 and 2
Planning Application no: 05/1791/MOUT (withdrawn)	Recipient museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter	
OASIS ID: 131938	Museum Accession no: Not available. Temporary reference no. RAMM: 12/60	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD534	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 06 August 2012	

Description of works

An archaeological trench evaluation was carried out by AC archaeology on behalf of CgMs Consulting Ltd, in connection with a withdrawn planning application for residential development.

The site (Fig. 1) is situated on the northwest side of Rockbeare adjacent to the former A30 road and comprises generally level agricultural land lying at between 35m and 40m AOD (Plate 1). The underlying geology comprises Drift gravels and clays overlying Permo-Triassic and Carboniferous mudstone.

A summary assessment of the site carried out in 2006 highlighted its proximity to the section of the course of the Roman road between Exeter and Honiton, which follows the route of the former A30 (now London Road) immediately to the south of the site. In consideration of this, the Devon County Historic Environment Service advised that a trench evaluation should be undertaken to establish the archaeological potential of the site. The results of the evaluation (this report) would be used to determine the need for any archaeological mitigation work that may be required should any new planning application be successful.

Method

The trench evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) provided by CgMs Consulting Ltd and a Project Design prepared in response to this by AC archaeology.

Three trenches each measuring 30m long by 1.8m wide were excavated under direct archaeological supervision, in the positions shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). All trenches were dug using a wheeled excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. Excavation continued until either the top of archaeological deposits or natural subsoil was reached, at which point machining ceased and the base and one side of each trench were cleaned by hand. Deposits were recorded using the standard AC archaeology *pro forma* recording system, comprising written, graphic and digital photographic records.

Results

Natural subsoil, consisting of mixed gravels and clay, was exposed within all trenches at between 0.40m and 0.45m below ground level. A single posthole was exposed within Trench 1, cutting from the level of natural subsoil. No archaeological features were present within Trenches 2 and 3, which are summarised in table form only below.

Trench 1

This trench was aligned northeast-southwest and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.40m. A small circular posthole (F103) was exposed 12m from the southwest end of the trench (Figs 2b and 2c, Plate 2).

Context	Depth	Description	Interpretation
100	0-0.10m	Mid to dark brown silty clay with occasional small water-worn stones	Turf and topsoil
101	0.10-40m	Mid grey/brown silty clay with occasional water-worn stones and manganese staining	Agricultural subsoil
102	0.40m+	Yellow/brown clay and gravels	Natural subsoil

Feature F103

This was a circular posthole measuring 0.40m in diameter by 0.15m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (104) of greyish-brown silty clay containing occasional water-worn stones. No pottery or other dating evidence was present.

Trenches 2 and 3

Context	Depth below ground level	Interpretation
Trench 2		
200	0-0.10m	Turf and topsoil
201	0.10m-0.40m	Agricultural subsoil
202	0.40m+	Natural subsoil
Trench 3		
300	0-0.15m	Turf and topsoil
301	0.15-0.45m	Agricultural subsoil
302	0.45m+	Natural subsoil

Comment

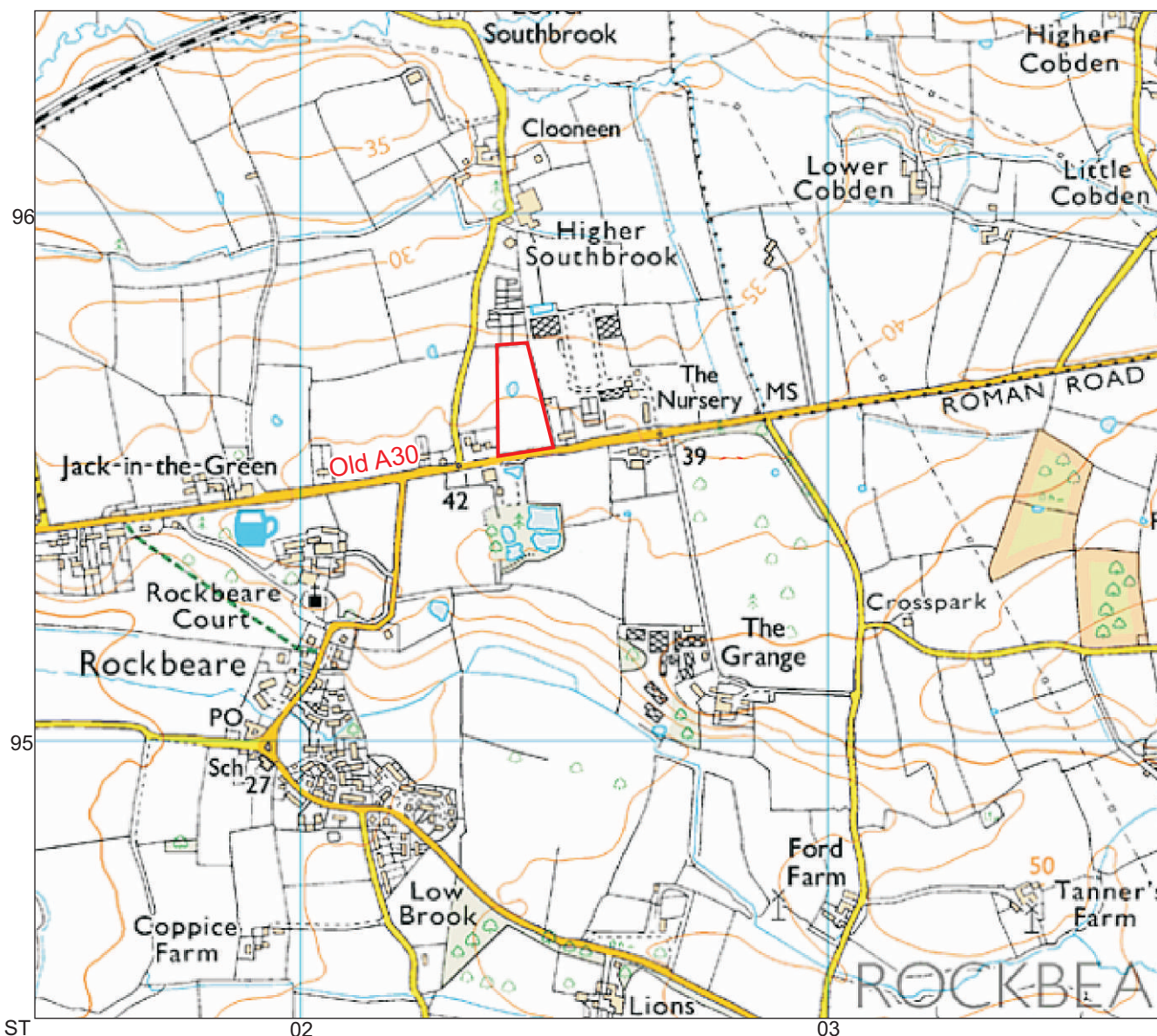
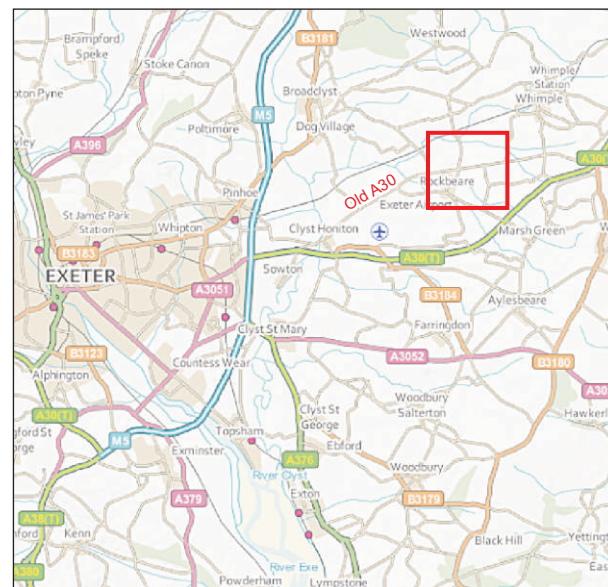
The trench evaluation has exposed a consistent and simple deposit sequence across the site comprising agricultural soils overlying natural subsoil. No roadside features or deposits of Roman date have been found, and indeed, with the exception of the isolated and undated posthole exposed within Trench 1, the evaluation has identified no evidence of past human occupation or activity within the site. The low archaeological potential of the site is further indicated by the absence of pottery or other dating evidence, either from within the trenches during excavation or as displaced finds from spoil heaps.

Recorder:

Peter Stead, AC archaeology

Date sent to HER:

13 August 2012



0 500m
Scale 1:12,500@A4



PROJECT
Land opposite The Oriental Promise, Rockbeare, Devon

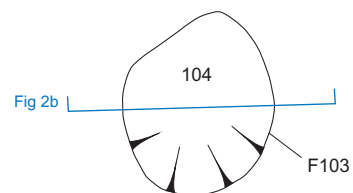
TITLE

Fig.1: Site location

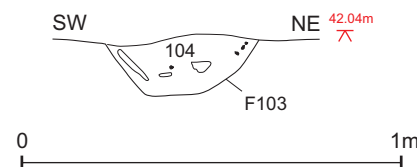




b) Trench 1, plan of F103



c) Trench 1, section of F103



0 50m
Scale 1:1000@A4

Site

PROJECT

Land opposite The Oriental Promise, Rockbeare, Devon

TITLE

Fig.2: Location of trenches and plan/section F103





Plate 1: Trench 3, view to southwest. Scale 1m



Plate 2: Trench 1, posthole F103 view to northwest. Scale 1m

Devon Office

AC archaeology Ltd
Unit 4, Halthaies Workshops
Bradninch
Nr Exeter
Devon
EX5 4LQ

Telephone/Fax: 01392 882410

Wiltshire Office

AC archaeology Ltd
Manor Farm Stables
Chicklade
Hindon
Nr Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP3 5SU

Telephone: 01747 820581
Fax: 01747 820440

www.acarchaeology.co.uk