

Broad Down Farm, Southleigh, Devon

SY 1731 9429

Results of an Archaeological Watching Brief

Prepared by:
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On behalf of:
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Document No: ACD512/2/0

Date: October 2012



AC archaeology

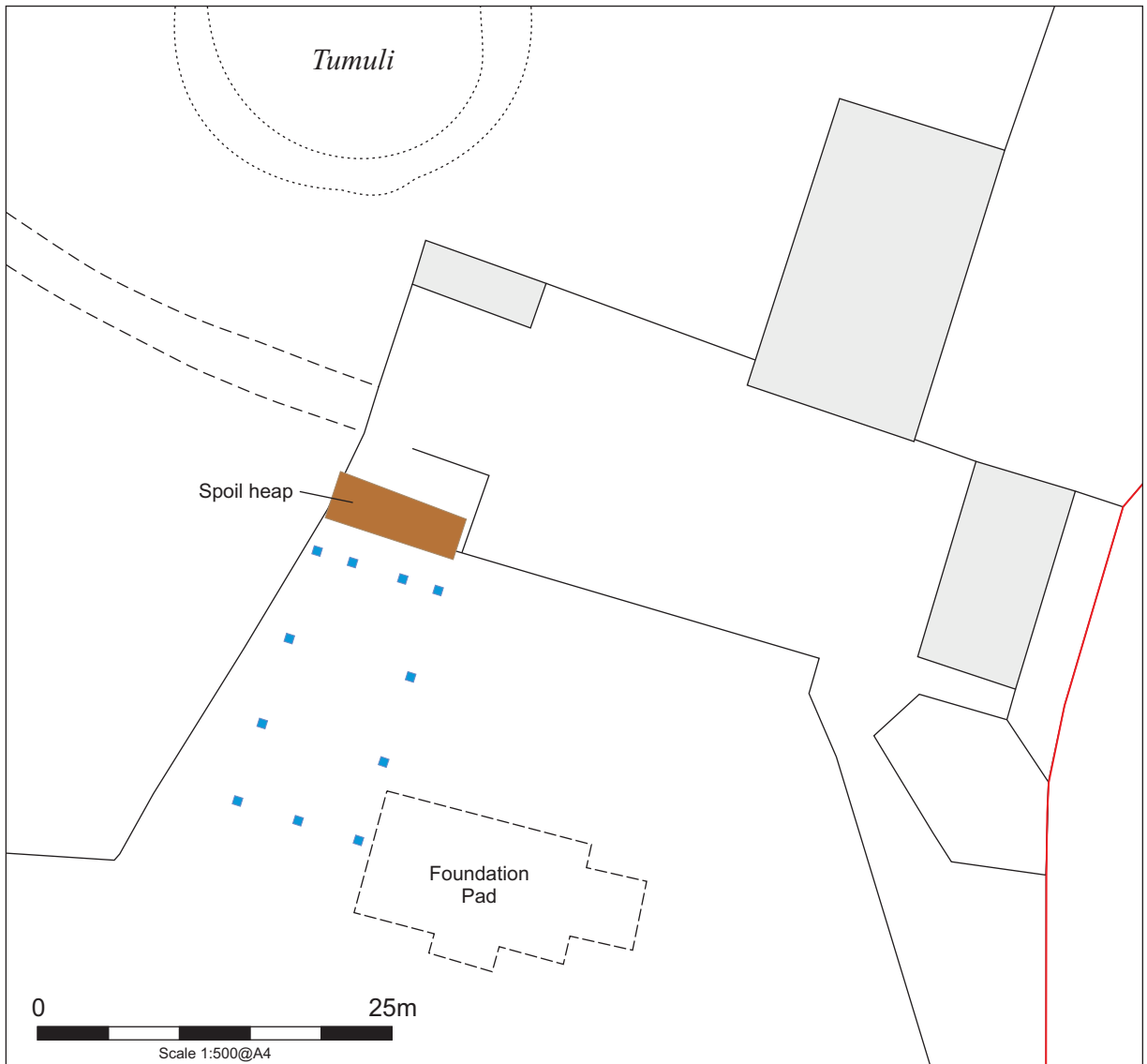
Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Farway, East Devon District	National Grid Reference (SY 1731 9429)	Number: (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
Subject: Broad Down Farm, Southleigh, Devon: Results of an archaeological watching brief		Photo attached? Y
Planning Application no:	Recipient museum: RAMM, Exeter	
OASIS ID: 135144	Museum Accession no: Reference Number 12/47	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD512	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 20/07/2012	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AC archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of an agricultural building on land at Broad Down Farm, Southleigh, Devon (Fig. 1). The site lies within a larger agricultural field adjacent to existing agricultural buildings.</p> <p>The new agricultural building is situated in a landscape containing extensive evidence for prehistoric funerary and settlement activity. Immediately to the north is an extant round barrow (DCHER ref. MDV10809), which forms part of a Bronze Age barrow cemetery on Broad Down (Scheduled Monument no 29634). Also present in the area are a number of artefact scatters and findspots (eg. MDV53620, 10828, 28547), indicating that there is the potential for associated settlement. The Southleigh parish tithe map of 1839 shows the site of the new building as occupying part of a large triangular field called 'Part of Broad Down'. The accompanying apportionment indicates that the field was then part of Willmoorleigh Tenement, the owner being Sir Edmund Saundesson Bart Prideaux and the occupier John Bishop. The land use is described as Furze. The Ordnance Survey first-edition 25-inch map of 1888 shows the field containing the proposed new building as it is today and does depict the many barrows surrounding the site, including the one immediately to the north.</p> <p>The aim of the watching brief was to preserve by record any archaeological features or deposits exposed during groundworks associated with the development, with particular reference to any evidence for prehistoric funerary remains or settlement.</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring was carried out during the excavation of 11 stanchion pits measuring 600mm x 600mm x 600mm deep (Plate 1). The deposit sequence within all of these pits consisted of a dark blackish brown silty clay topsoil containing occasional small fragments of flint (and occasionally modern rubbish – see Plate 1). Natural light brownish-yellow firm clay subsoil containing rare small flint fragments was encountered from a depth of 0.20m. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed during the excavation of these footings, and no finds were recovered.</p> <p>Monitoring was also carried out during the removal of a spoil heap situated to the north of the building. Excavation here did not extend below the current ground surface (Plate 2). The spoil heap comprised dark black friable silty loam that had been brought into the site, and contained a wide range of modern inclusions such as plastic sheets, metal fence wire, old wooden fence posts, and drainage pipe fragments that were not present within the topsoil exposed in the stanchion pits.</p> <p>In summary, no features or deposits were exposed, and no finds recovered. No evidence for prehistoric activity was located.</p>		
<p>A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.</p>		
Recorder: Chris Caine, AC archaeology	Date sent to HER: 17 October 2012	



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■ Stanchion pits

PROJECT

Broad Down Farm, Southleigh, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of observations





Plate 1: View of typical stanchion pit, looking from the west.
Scale 1m



Plate 2: View from the west, of the ground following the
removal of the spoil heap. Scale 1m

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