

Extension of the Overhead Power Cable Network South East of Colaton Raleigh, Devon

(NGR SY 066 871 to SY 073 781)

Results of an archaeological watching brief

Prepared by:
Ben R Pears

On behalf of:
Western Power Distribution

Document No: ACD632/1/0

Date: June 2013

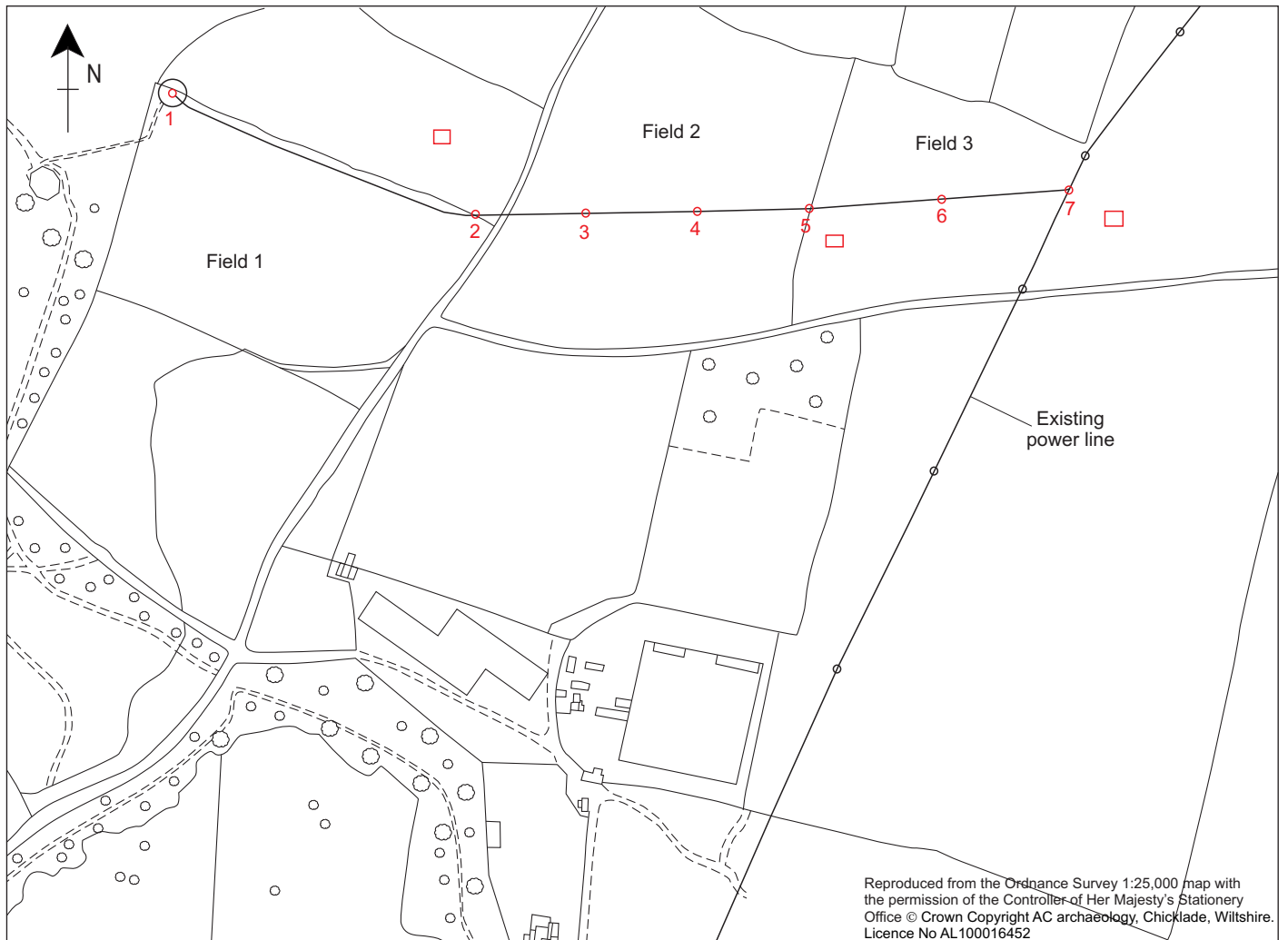
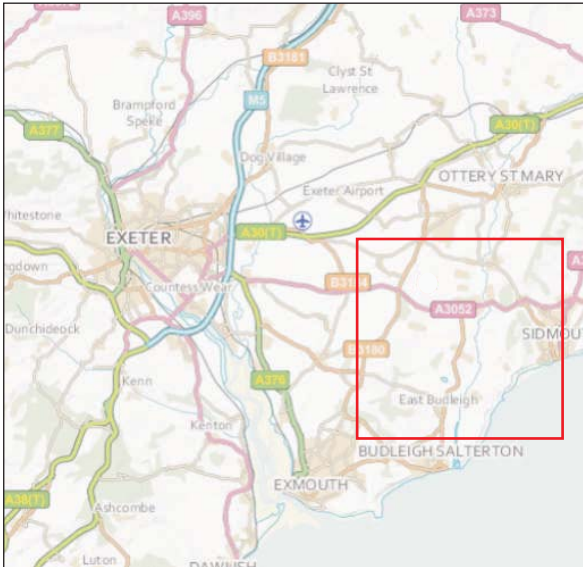


archaeology

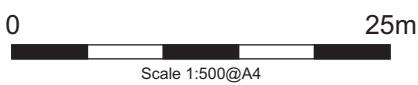
Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Colaton Raleigh & East Devon	National Grid Reference SY 066 871 SY 073 871	Number: (Leave blank for HES to fill in)																
Subject: Extension of the overhead power cable network to the south west of Colaton Raleigh, Devon: Results of an archaeological watching brief.		Photo attached Plates 1 to 4																
Planning Application no: N/A	Recipient museum: RAMM, Exeter																	
OASIS ID: 151858	Museum Accession no:																	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD632	Dates fieldwork undertaken: Friday 25 th January and Monday 28 th January 2013																	
<p>Description of works</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief by AC archaeology during the excavation of pits associated with the extension of the overhead electrical cable network between Baker's Brake Wood and Colaton Raleigh, Devon. The presence of a number of artefacts identified by metal detectorists indicated the potential for archaeology in the area. The work was commissioned by Western Power Distribution.</p> <p>Ten pits were excavated along a 225m transect in three fields aligned W to E between China Tower (Belvedere Tower), in Baker's Brake Wood, and the SW of Colaton Raleigh (Fig. 1; and Plates 1 and 2). The transect was situated on freely draining acid loams in arable and grassland.</p> <p>The seven electric pole pits and three stay pits (Fig 1) were all excavated to a depth of 2m by JCB mechanical excavator with a bucket measuring 0.5m wide and 1.2m long. The soil horizons identified across the site were consistent and are summarised in Table 1 and illustrated in Plates 3 and 4.</p> <p><i>Table 1: Summary of soil contexts from test pits</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Context</th> <th>Thickness (mm)</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Interpretation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>(1000)</td> <td>400-600</td> <td>Dark brown to dark greyish brown, silty sand loam with inclusions of small sub-rounded to rounded sandstone and flints c.10-15% occurrence. Also Roman to modern ceramics.</td> <td>Topsoil/ Ploughsoil</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(1001)</td> <td>200-400</td> <td>Light brown to brownish grey, silty sand loam with a softer consistency and almost no inclusions save a few rounded flints c.5-10% occurrence at 10-20mm.</td> <td>Subsoil</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(1002)</td> <td>+1m</td> <td>Light grey to white and areas of dark yellow sand with gravel patches.</td> <td>Natural Sand</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>No archaeological features were encountered during the works but at Pit 2 (Pole 2) three sherds (89g) of Roman pottery were recovered from context (1000). Naomi Payne's description: One base sherd of 79g from a Central Gaulish Samian ware Dragondorff Type 18 plain dish (date AD 50-100) or a Type 18/31 shallow dish (date AD 90-150). The internal surface is decorated with a band of rouletting around the base and retains the majority of its red slip. The other two sherds are South East Dorset Black Burnished 1 pottery. Neither is diagnostic of date and could have been made at any point during the Roman period. Subsequent intensive fieldwalking of the route in fields 1, 2 and 3 did not add any ceramics other than modern material.</p> <p>To the E and NE of the transect, between it and Drupe Farm, which slopes gently down to a tributary of the Otter by Colaton Raleigh village, cropmarks for ring ditches and linear features of unknown date have been recorded (MDVs: 49387, 49390, 49395 and 49415). Further to the north an irregular single ditched enclosure is known (MDV54122). They may indicate Romano-British period settlement locally. The general area has been extensively searched by metal detectorists with Roman period finds including brooches and coins spanning the whole period of Roman occupation (MDVs 58034, 58037 and 58087).</p> <p>The Roman pottery is not directly associated with any previously known finds or archaeological features, but the size and unabraded nature of the Samian sherd may indicate a Romano-British period site in close proximity.</p>			Context	Thickness (mm)	Description	Interpretation	(1000)	400-600	Dark brown to dark greyish brown, silty sand loam with inclusions of small sub-rounded to rounded sandstone and flints c.10-15% occurrence. Also Roman to modern ceramics.	Topsoil/ Ploughsoil	(1001)	200-400	Light brown to brownish grey, silty sand loam with a softer consistency and almost no inclusions save a few rounded flints c.5-10% occurrence at 10-20mm.	Subsoil	(1002)	+1m	Light grey to white and areas of dark yellow sand with gravel patches.	Natural Sand
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Recorder: Ben R Pears, AC archaeology	Date sent to HER: 18 June 2013																	

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○ 1 Pole trenches

□ Stay holes

PROJECT

China Tower, Colaton Raleigh, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Site location





Plate 1: Development route towards Baker's Brake Wood, viewed from the east.



Plate 2: Development route towards the River Otter, viewed from the west.



Plate 3: Soil sequence at test pit 2, viewed from the east.
(Scale 1m)



Plate 4: Soil sequence at test pit 4, viewed from the east (Scale 1m)

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