

LAND AT 12 NEWCOURT ROAD, SILVERTON, DEVON

(NGR SS 95555 02768)

Results of an archaeological watching brief

Condition 12 of Mid Devon District Council planning reference
12/00283/FULL

Prepared by:
Kerry Kerr-Peterson

On behalf of:
Firmplot Ltd

Document No: ACD654/2/0

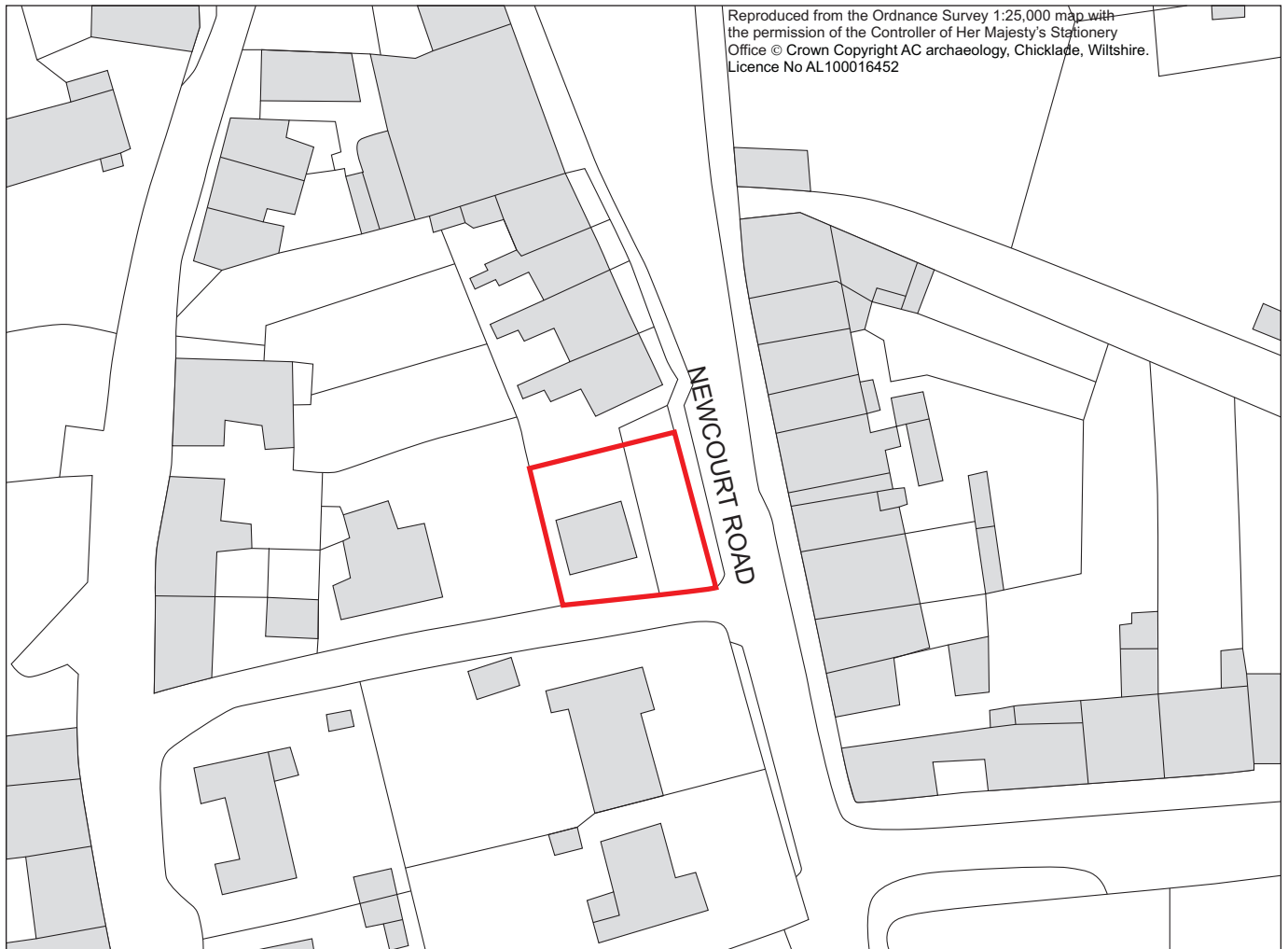
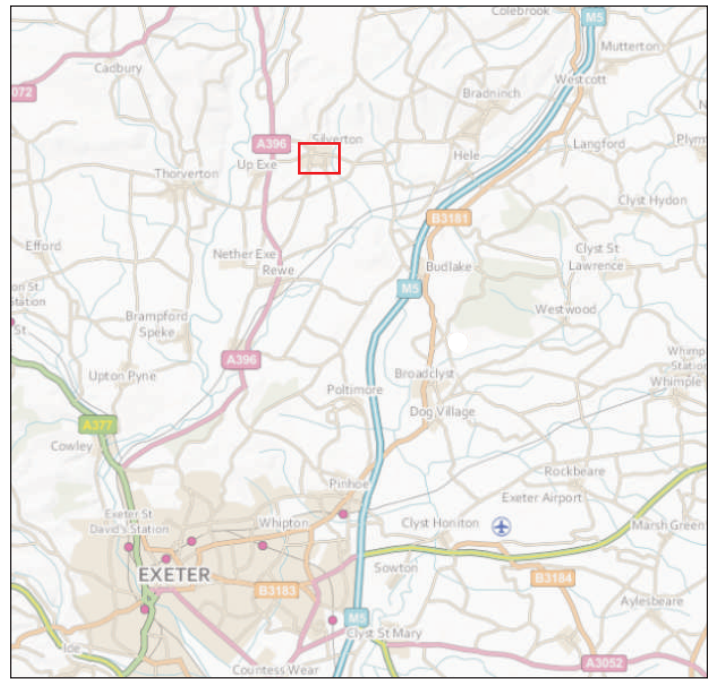
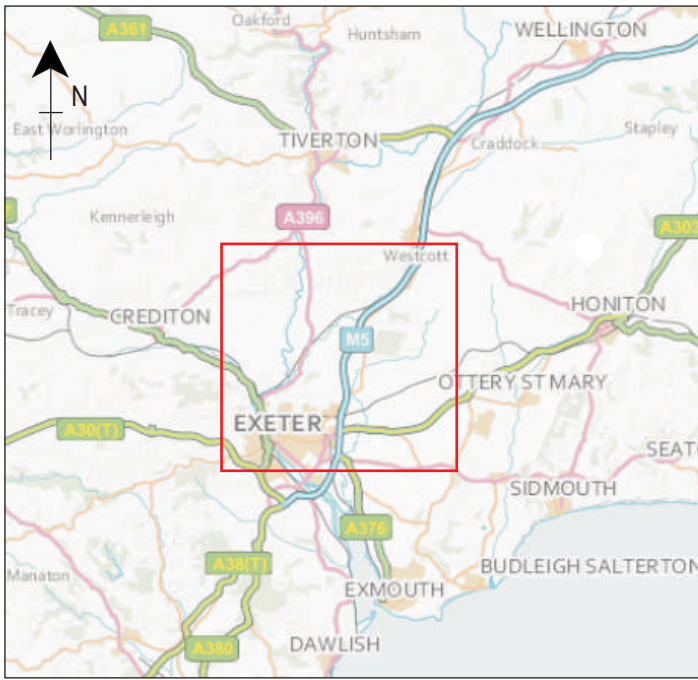
Date: June 2013



AC archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Silverton	National Grid Reference SS 95555 02768	Number: (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
Subject: Land at 12 Newcourt Road, Silverton: Results of an archaeological watching brief		Photo attached? Y
Planning Application no: 12/00283/FULL	Recipient museum: RAMM, Exeter	
OASIS ID: acarchae2-152305	Museum Accession no:	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD654	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 27/03/2013-16/04/2013	
<p>Introduction An archaeological watching brief was carried out by AC archaeology during the groundworks associated with the erection of a single dwelling, replacing a bungalow which had recently been demolished. The work was undertaken during March and April 2013 as a condition of planning permission put in place by Mid Devon District Council.</p> <p>Archaeological Background The development site is situated within the historic core of the village of Silverton and within 100m of the parish church (Fig. 1). A rectangular building is depicted on the south side of the plot on the tithe map of 1842 when the area was separated into two plots. This building had gone by the late 19th century and had been replaced by a sub-rectangular building situated on the north side of the plot; the modern plot boundary transects this former building. A pump is also shown near the southeast corner of the building. This building has been demolished by the early 20th century but a water tap was still present.</p> <p>Results (Fig. 2; plates 1-4) The groundworks were carried out by a machine using a toothless grading bucket. The area of the development consisted of a square plot measuring 196 square metres. The ground level was reduced by a maximum of 1.4m and the deposits exposed consisted of up to 0.7m of imported garden topsoil (100), which was a dark brown, friable silt that contained frequent modern brick fragments and common small-medium sized rounded stones. In the west part of the site, this overlay up to 0.5m of a made-up ground deposit (101), consisting of a mixed dark grey and brown silt. This material had been imported to level the ground for the construction of a garage which had been demolished. Beneath this was 0.1m deep subsoil (103) which consisted of medium brown, friable sand silt with frequent small sized oval stones. The cob and stone wall separating the two plots (F102) had been demolished down to ground level. A cobble surface (F105) was exposed beneath the subsoil (103), with their survival limited to a few patches across the southern part of the site. These areas were up to 3m long and 0.7m wide and consisted of linear courses of east-west aligned oval, rounded, water-derived pebbles, averaging 0.15m long and 0.05m wide. A section of cobble surface abutted the former boundary wall (F102) and incorporated a brick square drain adjacent to two lines of north-south aligned cobbles, creating a channel. These patches of cobbles are likely to represent a yard surface associated with one of the buildings shown on the historic maps. A brick domed structure was exposed in the northwest corner of the plot (F106). This had an arched brick entrance with stairs descending down into it on its southwest side, and it had been cut into the bedrock (104). The interior of the structure had been partially infilled and this was not removed during groundworks. This structure was located in the position of the building shown on the late 19th century Ordnance Survey map and is likely to be a cellar or an underground storage structure or coal bunker.</p> <p>A series of north-south and east-west aligned foundation trenches were excavated across the east part of the site, to a maximum depth of 0.8m. The sequence revealed consisted of 0.1m of subsoil (103) overlying natural breccia bedrock (104). A parking area was excavated in the southwest corner of the site measuring 5m long by 3m wide and reduced to a maximum depth of 1.4m; the sequence of deposits exposed was as described above.</p> <p>There was no further evidence for the buildings shown on the site on the historic maps. No pre-modern features were identified or finds recovered during the groundworks.</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: Kerry Kerr-Peterson, AC archaeology		Date sent to HER: 19 June 2013



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0 25m
 Scale 1:750@A4

 Location of site

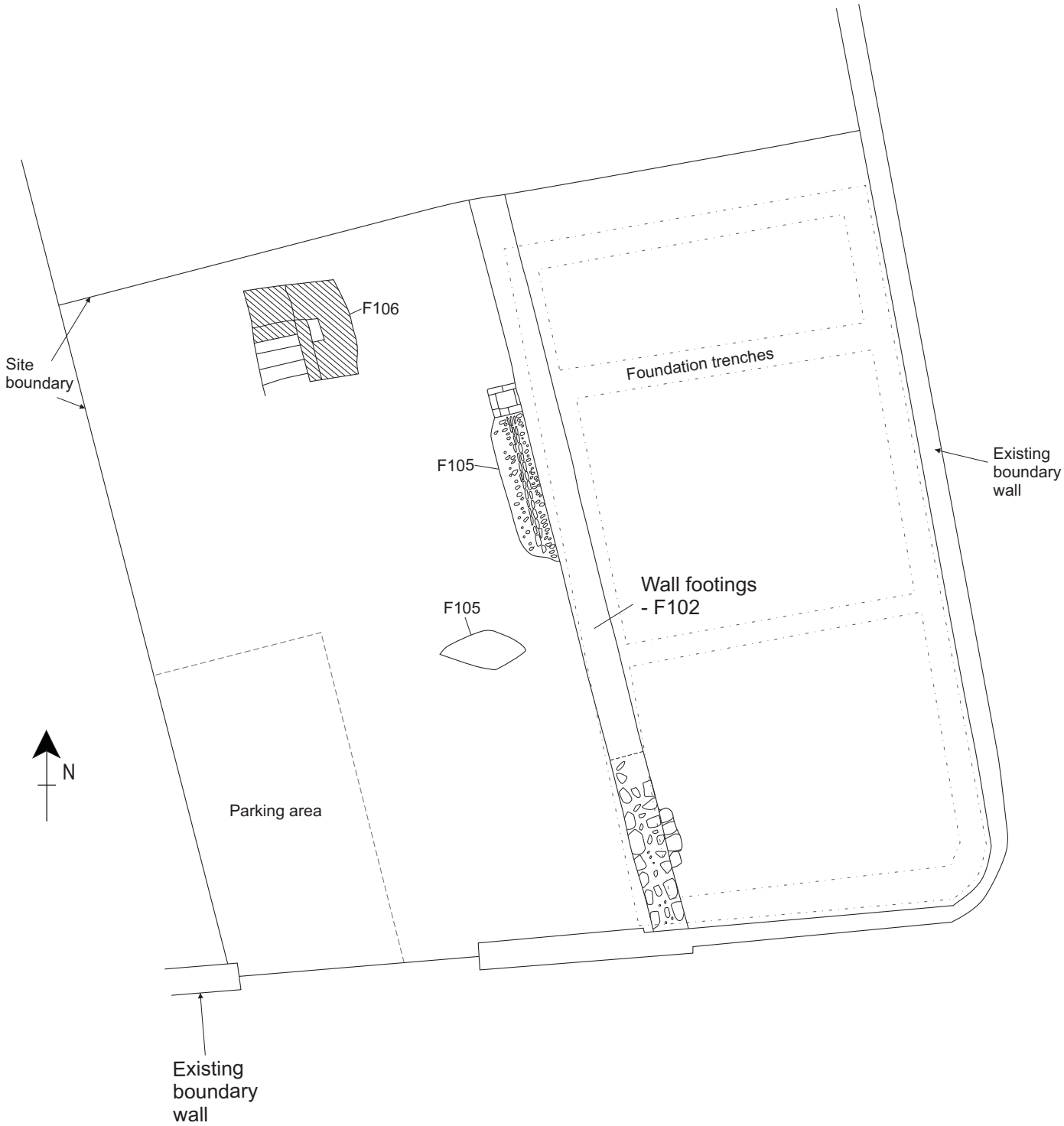
PROJECT

Land at 12 Newcourt Road, Silverton

TITLE

Fig. 1: Site location





0 5m
 Scale 1:100@A4

PROJECT

Land at 12 Newcourt Road, Silverton

TITLE

Fig. 2: Site plan





Plate 1: General view of the site taken from the west



Plate 2: Cobbled surface F105 taken from the west



Plate 3: Structure F106, taken from the south



Plate 4: Structure F106, taken from the southwest

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