

25 Fore Street, Silverton, Devon

SS 95593 03006

Results of an Archaeological Watching Brief

Planning ref. East Devon District Council 13/00125/FULL

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Prepared by:  
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On behalf of:  
Robert Williams

Document No: ACD763/2/0

Date: March 2014



AC archaeology

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# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Silverton, Mid Devon	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SS 95593 03006	<b>Number:</b> (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
<b>Subject:</b> 25 Fore Street, Silverton, Devon: Results of an archaeological watching brief		<b>Photo attached?</b> Yes
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 13/00125/FULL	<b>Recipient museum:</b> RAMM	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> 160865	<b>Temporary Museum Accession no:</b> 14/12	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> ACD763	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 2 October 2013	

## Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AC archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of an off-street parking area at the front of 25 Fore Street, Silverton, Devon (SS 95593 03006).

The site is located on the west side of Fore Street and comprises part of an elevated lawned garden bounded by a stone wall (Fig 1). It lies on flat ground at around 85m aOD, with the underlying solid geology comprising Sandstone of the Thorverton Sandstone Formation.

Several of the houses along Fore Street have medieval origins, including number 25 Fore Street and the adjacent property number 21, which together are a Grade II Listed Building (English Heritage List for England reference number: 1325798). The historic mapping suggests that the garden plot has remained largely unchanged since at least the 19th century. The Silverton parish tithe map of 1842, shows the site occupying one of a number of probable medieval burgage plots as a combined single house with the now adjacent properties. The 1888 Ordnance Survey first-edition map shows the formerly single house had been divided into three properties by this date, with no further changes depicted on subsequent editions.

## Description of works

The groundworks comprised the bulk reduction of part of the lawn area measuring approximately 9m long and 8m wide using a tracked-machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket (Fig. 2, Plate 1)

Natural subsoil (context 107), was exposed at a depth of approximately 0.8m below existing levels and comprised a light red silty clay with common gravels. The natural subsoil was overlain to the south of the site by a dark reddish-brown, friable, sandy silt clay (106) on which a metalled surface (105) was lain (Plate 2). The metalled surface was comprised of flat-lain sub-rounded pebbles of up to 0.06m long.

Overlying metalled surface 105 was a mid reddish-brown, clayey-loam buried soil layer (102) that was in turn cut by an east to west aligned possible stone footing (104). The possible stone footing was set within a 0.85m wide construction cut (F103) and was constructed from sub-angular sandstone blocks of up to 0.3m long in a mid reddish-brown, clay-loam bond. The wall footing was overlain by a 0.3m thick general made ground deposit of dark reddish-brown clay-loam (101), which was in turn sealed by 0.3m of topsoil and turf (Plate 3).

## The Finds

Finds recovered from the site comprised post-medieval pottery, clay tobacco pipe, animal bone, mortar, clinker and a copper alloy button. These are summarised in Table 1 below

Table 1: Finds quantifications. Weight in grams

Context	Context Description	Post-medieval pottery		Clay Pipe		Animal Bone		Shell		Mortar		Clinker		Cu alloy	
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
100	Topsoil	4	15	1	10									1	7
101	Made-up ground	13	227	3	9	3	43	1	2						
102	Buried soil	2	43												
104	Wall footing					1	31	1	5	1	6				
106	Layer under metalled surface	4	35			4	20					1	12		
<b>Totals</b>		<b>23</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>

**The pottery**

The assemblage contains twenty-three sherds of pottery, weighing 320 grams. The pottery is all post-medieval or later in date and consists mostly of South Somerset lead glazed earthenwares with trailed slip decoration. There is also a rim sherd of North Devon sgraffito pottery, a piece of German style stoneware with mottled slip and a sherd of Jakefield ware from context 101, both dating to the later 18th or 19th centuries. Several sherds of 19th or 20th century industrially produced white wares and blue and white transfer printed wares were recovered from contexts 100 & 101.

**The other finds**

Eight pieces of animal bone, which display butchery marks and two pieces of cockle shell were recovered from contexts 101 and 104. Four pieces of clay tobacco pipe, comprising three pieces of plain stem and one bowl fragment that date to between c. 1770-1840 and an 18th or 19th century circular copper alloy button were recovered from topsoil 100 and made ground layer 101.

**Discussion**

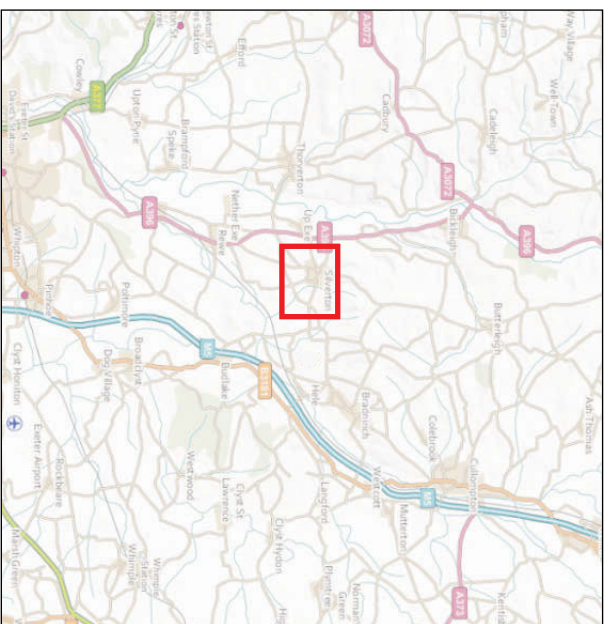
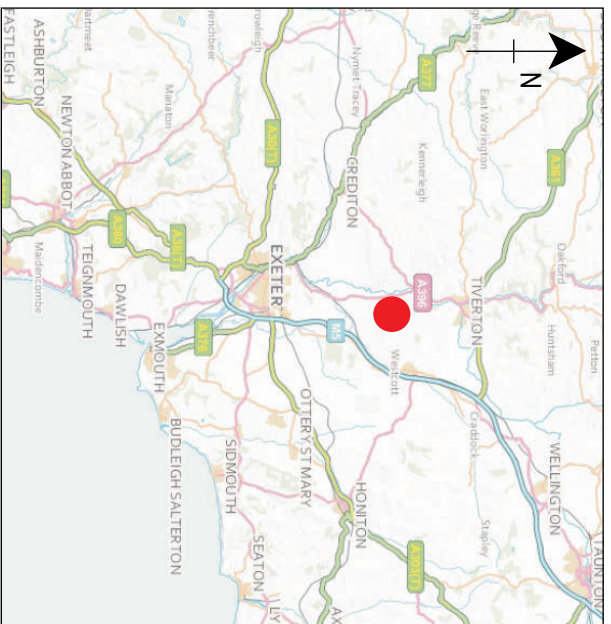
The groundworks have exposed a former metalled surface buried under the elevated garden plot that dates to the post-medieval period. This is likely to have been a former pathway or yard surface close to the entrance of the house. The position of wall footing 104 may have corresponded with an earlier alignment of the garden wall.

**Recorder:**

Kerry Kerr-Peterson, AC Archaeology

**Date sent to HER:**

26 March 2014



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 Scale 1:750@A4

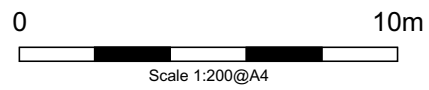
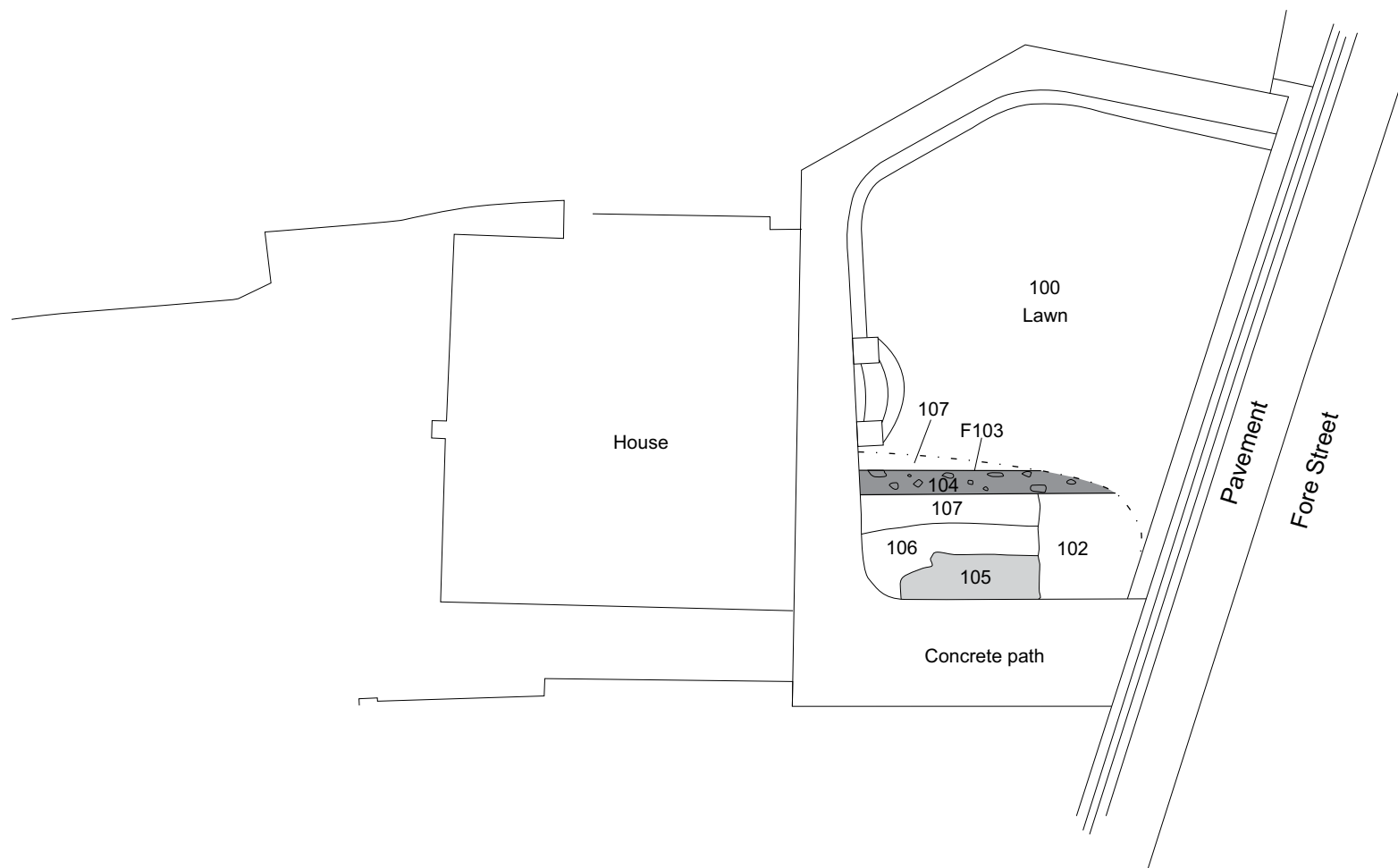
PROJECT  
 25 Fore Street, Silverton, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Site location



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Fig. 2: Area monitored





Plate 1: General view taken from the southeast (scale 1m)



Plate 2: Metalled surface 106 view to the south (scale 1m)



Plate 3: Representative section of site, view to north (scale 1m)

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