

NEW SCOUT HUT ELECTRICITY CABLE ROUTE, SALCOMBE HILL, SIDMOUTH, DEVON

(NGR SY 14155 88531)

Results of an archaeological watching brief

East Devon District Council planning reference: 11/0952/FUL

Prepared by:
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On behalf of:
the 1st Sid Vale Scout Group

Document No: ACD783/1/0

Date: November 2013



AC archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Sidmouth, East Devon	National Grid Reference SY 14155 88531	Number: (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
Subject: New Scout Hut electricity cable route, Salcombe Hill, Sidmouth: results of an archaeological watching brief		Photo attached? Y
Planning Application no: East Devon District Council planning reference 11/0952/FUL	Recipient museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter	
OASIS ID: 163806	Museum Accession no: TBC	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD783	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 07/10/2013-09/10/2013	

Introduction (Fig. 1)

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AC archaeology during groundworks associated with the insertion of an underground electricity cable, as part of a scheme to construct a new scout hut at Salcombe Regis recreation ground, Salcombe Hill, Sidmouth (SY 14155 88531). The work was required by East Devon District Council as a condition of planning permission, as advised by the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team.

The site is located on the east side of Sidmouth, to the west of Salcombe Regis, on the west side of Salcombe Hill Road.

A standing stone is shown on the first and second-edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey maps of 1889 and 1905 within plot 2 (See Fig. 1 for plot locations). The stone was first recorded in documentary sources by Peter Orlando Hutchinson during the 19th century. The stone was still standing in its original position during the early 1950s, but by 1962 it had been removed and dragged to its current position to the northeast on Milltown Lane (Devon County Council Historic Environment Record entries MDV14495 and MDV11075).

Aim and Methodology

The aim of the watching brief was to observe, investigate and record any below-ground surviving archaeological deposits and artefacts, as the site was likely to have the potential to expose surviving prehistoric deposits and artefacts. The groundworks were carried out with a mechanical excavator which was fitted with a toothless bucket.

Results (Fig. 2; Plates 1-2)

The groundworks consisted of the excavation of a trench totalling 450m in length. This ran from the location of the current temporary scout hut, across the recreation ground (plot 1), through two hedgebanks, across Milltown Lane, through plots 2 and 3 and terminated in the woodland (plot 4) to the west. The trench measured between 0.3m and 0.4m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.65m-0.8m. The sequence of deposits exposed consisted of 0.2m of dark brown, humic, stony silty loam ploughsoil (contexts 100, 200, 300 and 400) that lay directly on top of the natural geology, which consisted of light reddish-yellow clay with abundant large, angular flint and chert fragments (contexts 101, 201, 301 and 401). A pit-type feature (F202), was encountered in plot 2 (Fig. 2; Plate 1). It was 1.25m wide and contained three fills. Fill (203) was a dark brown, loose, stony silty loam which was very similar to the ploughsoil. This fill was only present on the west side of the feature and was 0.32m wide by 0.4m deep. This was overlaid by a re-deposited natural medium yellowish-brown, compact silty-clay with abundant chalky blocks and chert fragments (204). This fill was 0.9m wide by 0.19m deep. Overlying this fill was another re-deposited natural fill (205) which consisted of 0.9m wide by 0.27m deep off-white, compact, chalky silty-clay with abundant chalky blocks and angular chert fragments.

The hedgebank breaches were located along the south boundary of plot 1, and the north and west boundaries of plot 2. The banks were 1.2m high and consisted of c. 1m of dark brown, loose silty, sandy clay bank material with overlying topsoil. This lay directly on top of the natural geology.

The stones within Milltown Lane were also examined. The largest stone was situated to the northwest of the former location of the standing stone (Plate 2). This stone consisted of a cherty breccia and measured 2.1m long and c. 1.5m wide and tapered towards the top end. It was laid flat and a smaller stone was located next to it which measured c. 0.5 m by 0.5m. Another possible displaced stone was located c. 60m to the west along the track. This

was c. 1m long and 0.5m wide and was made from the same cherty breccia as the larger stone. The stones were covered in moss and lichen, which made it difficult to deduce whether the stones had been dressed.

Discussion

The only archaeological feature encountered during the groundworks was F202. This pit was located close to, but to the northwest of, the approximate former location of the standing stone shown on the historic maps. The size of the pit and the character of its fills indicate that it contained a large upright post or, perhaps more likely given its location, a stone. The fills probably represent initial packing (203) and later infilling (204 and 205) following its removal.

No other archaeological features or deposits were encountered and no finds were recovered.

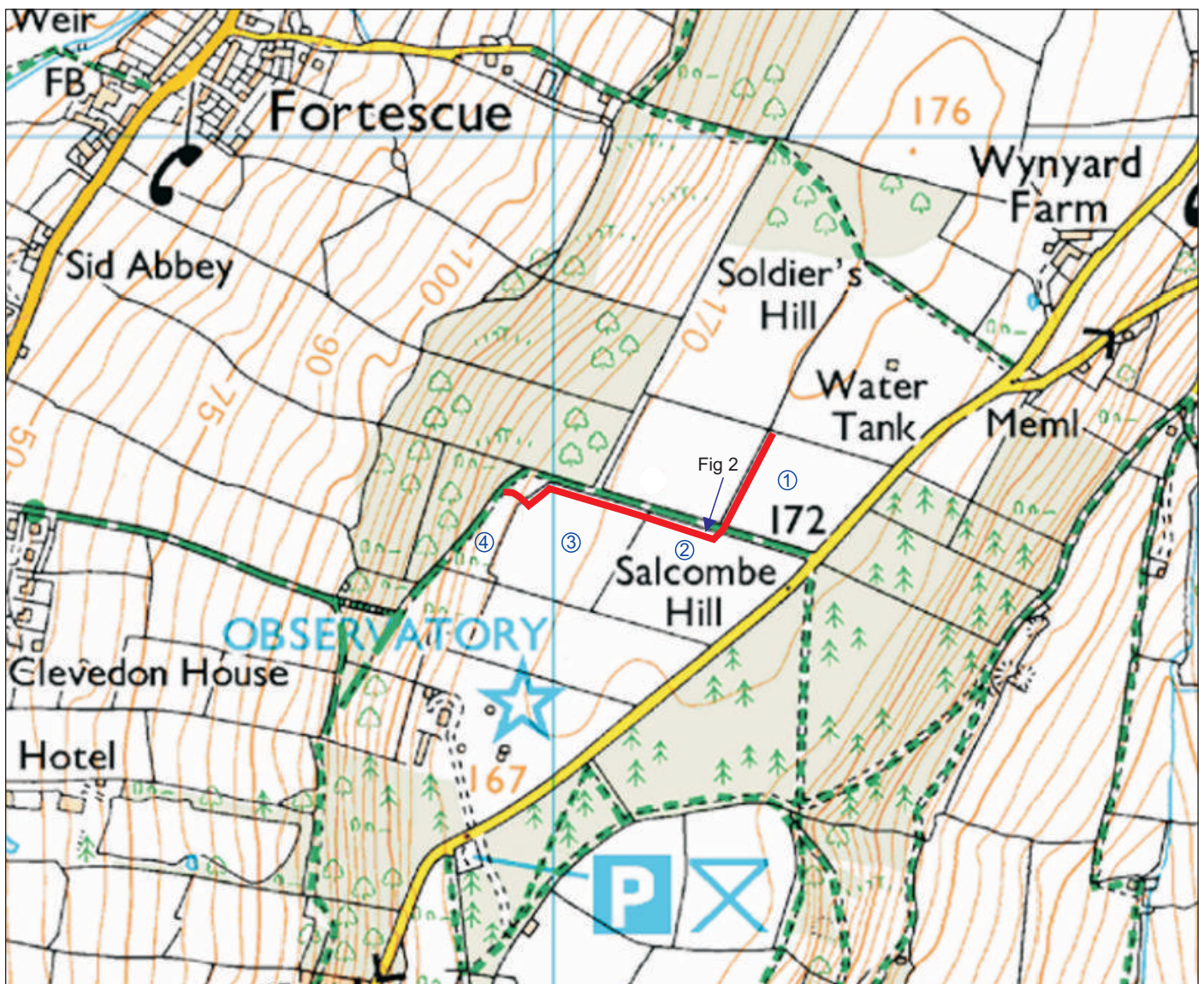
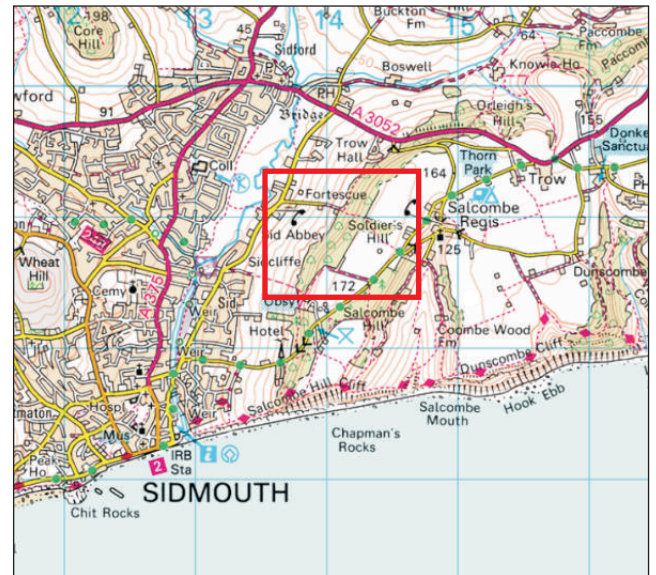
A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.

Recorder:

Kerry Kerr-Peterson
AC Archaeology

Date sent to HER:

28 November 2013



0 250m
Scale 1:7500@A4

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Cable trench

① Plot numbers

PROJECT

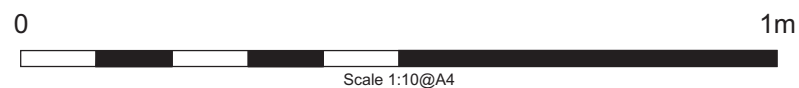
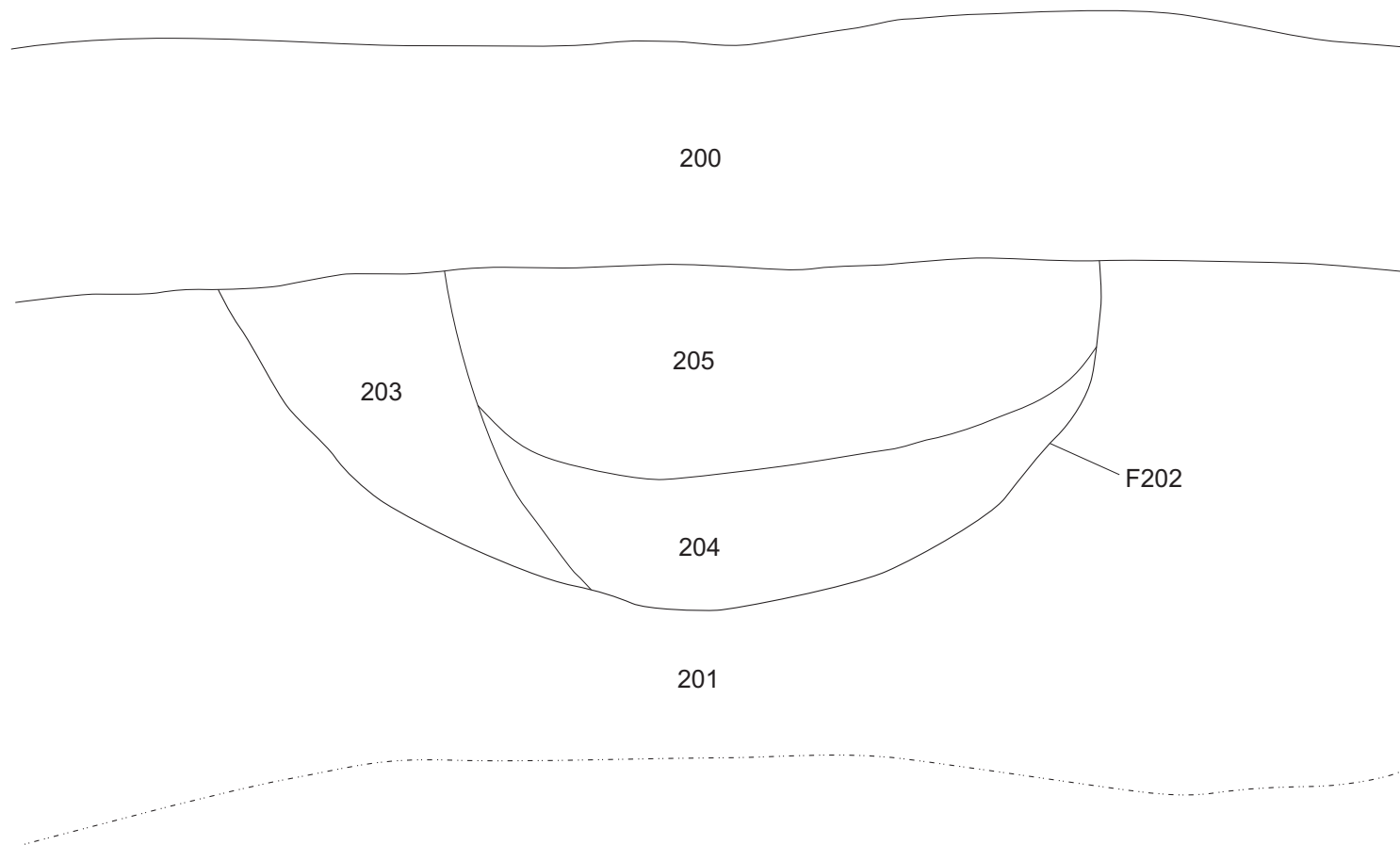
New Scout Hut, Sidmouth, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Site location and cable trench route

NW

SE



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New Scout Hut, Sidmouth,
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Fig. 2: Section of pit F202



Plate 1: South-facing section of pit F202, taken from the south, scale 1m



Plate 2: Former standing stone, taken from the north, scale 1m

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