

CHURSTON COURT FARM, CHURSTON FERRERS, TORBAY

(NGR SX 9047 5646)

Results of an archaeological watching brief

Torbay Council planning reference P/2010/0177PA, condition 11

Prepared by:
Andrew Passmore BSc MIfA

On behalf of:
Dart Developments (Devon) Ltd

Document No: ACD446/2/0

Date: December 2013



AC archaeology

Torbay Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Churston Ferrers, Torbay	National Grid Reference SX 9047 5646	Number: (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
Subject: Churston Court Farm: results of an archaeological watching brief		Photo attached? N
Planning Application no: Torbay council P/2010/0177PA	Recipient museum: Brixham Museum	
OASIS ID: 164079	Museum Accession no: TBC	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD446	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 21 March 2013	
<p>Introduction (Fig. 1)</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AC archaeology during groundworks associated with the conversion of redundant farm buildings into residential accommodation. The work was required by Torbay Council as a condition of the grant of planning permission.</p> <p>Fieldwalking in the area has produced finds of prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval date (Collings and Wakeham 2008; Hedge 2012). The buildings represent a mid 19th-century planned farmstead, with most of the buildings dating to this period. These replaced earlier farm buildings that were depicted on earlier 19th-century mapping (Collings and Wakeham 2008).</p> <p>Aim and Methodology</p> <p>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, as well as evidence for earlier farm buildings.</p> <p>Results (Fig. 2)</p> <p><i>Service Trench and Ground Reduction</i></p> <p>The excavation of a service trench extending from the rear courtyard of the farmhouse to the farmyard entrance was monitored. The trench measured 1m wide by 1m deep. Natural reddish-brown clay was exposed at a depth of 0.90m from the surface, and was overlaid by a thick deposit of demolition debris in brown silty clay, interpreted as dating to the 19th-century rebuild of the farm, with the material deriving from the earlier buildings. This was sealed by modern surfaces of gravel (lower eastern yard), concrete (upper western yard) and 19th-century cobbles (house courtyard).</p> <p>Just within the entrance to the farmyard an L-shaped fragment of wall was exposed at a depth of 0.10m below the surface. It comprised roughly coursed limestone bonded with a pale white lime mortar, and stood to a height of 0.60m. It was laid directly onto the natural subsoil. The inside of the structure was filled with limestone demolition rubble – any surviving interior surfaces were not exposed. The wall forms part of building aligned parallel with the road that is depicted on the tithe map.</p> <p><i>Threshing barn and engine house</i></p> <p>Ground reduction within this building exposed the same deposit sequence as recorded in the service trench. Clearance to the east of the threshing barn exposed the original plan (prior to remodelling in the mid 20th century) of the late 19th-century attached engine house. It was heptagonal but the interior face was curved, presumably reflecting the shape of the path for the horse inside.</p> <p><i>Root house</i></p> <p>Clearance of rubbish from within this building revealed solid bedrock at the eastern (downhill) end, overlain to the west by a compact dark reddish-brown clay surface.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Natural deposits were exposed across the site and no early features were found. Limited evidence for the agricultural buildings pre-dating the current farmyard was recorded, in the form of one wall. Elsewhere, extensive demolition deposits, associated with the demolition of these buildings and the construction of the present farm,</p>		

were present.

Sources Consulted

Collings, A.G., and Wakeham, C.S., 2008, *Archaeological Assessment of Farm Buildings at Churston Court Farm, Churston Ferrers, Devon*, Exeter Archaeology Report No. **07.56**

Hedge, R., 2012, *Land at Churston Golf Club, Churston, Brixham, Devon, NGR: SX 90621 56779, Archaeological Evaluation*, Foundations Archaeology report no. **769**

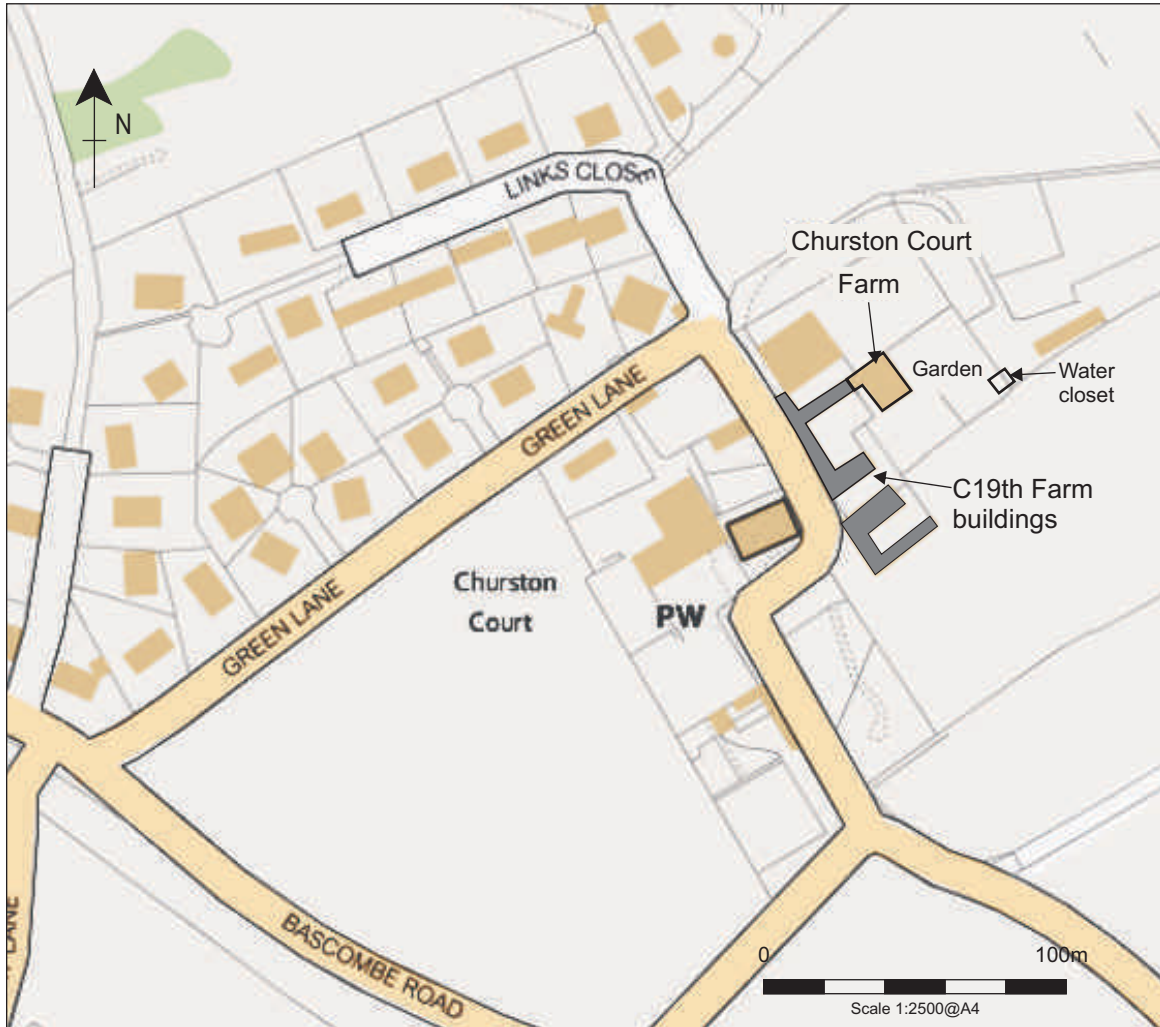
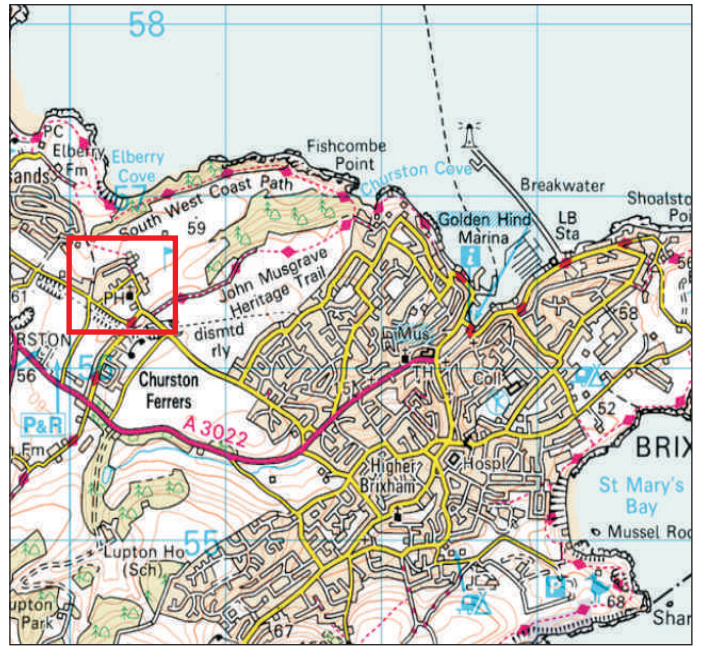
A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.

Recorder:

Andrew Passmore
AC Archaeology

Date sent to HER:

3 December 2013

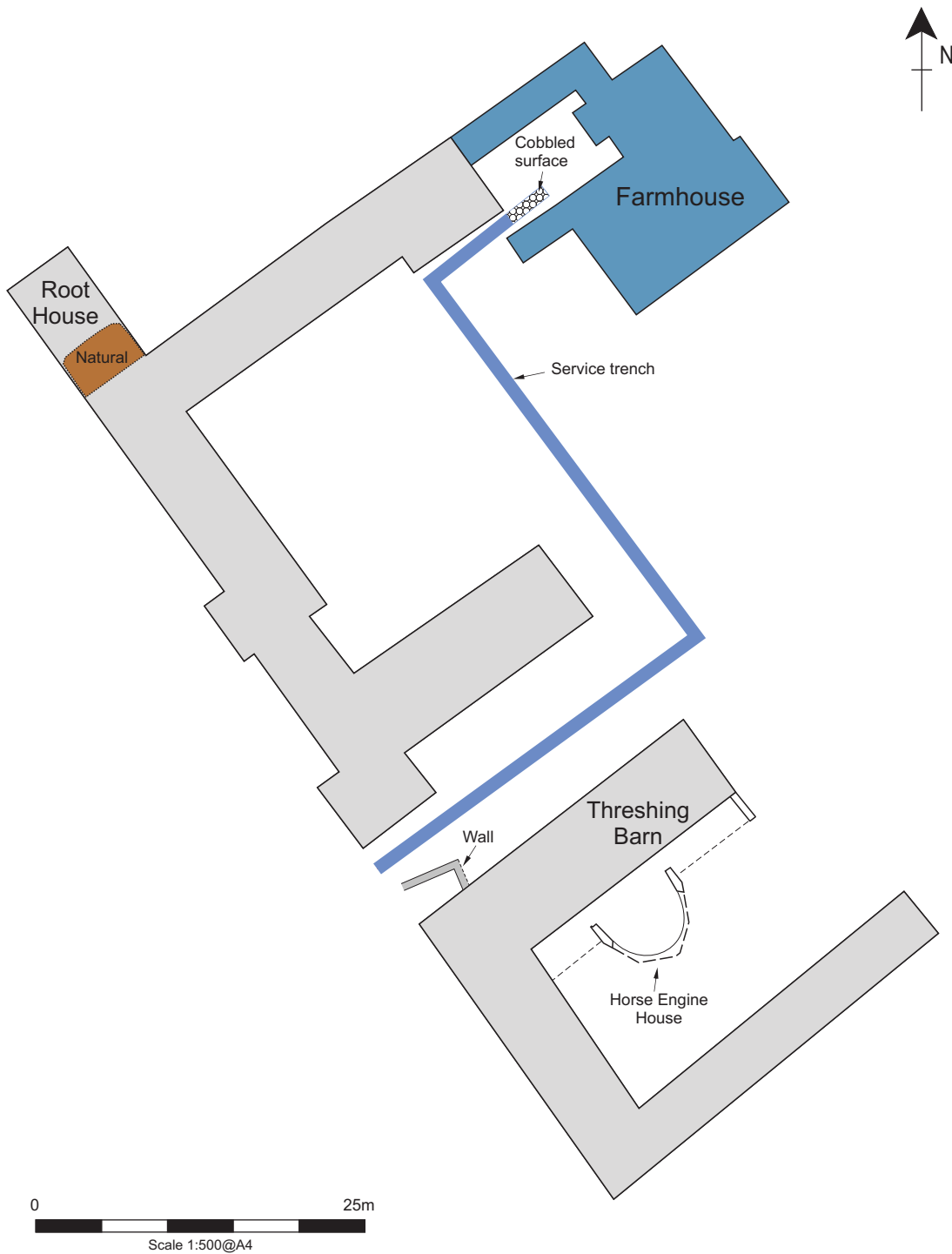


PROJECT

Churston Court Farm, Churston Ferrers, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Site location



PROJECT

Churston Court Farm, Churston Ferrers, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 2: Location of Observations



Devon Office

AC archaeology Ltd
Unit 4, Halthaies Workshops
Bradninch
Nr Exeter
Devon
EX5 4LQ

Telephone/Fax: 01392 882410

Wiltshire Office

AC archaeology Ltd
Manor Farm Stables
Chicklade
Hindon
Nr Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP3 5SU

Telephone: 01747 820581
Fax: 01747 820440

www.acarchaeology.co.uk