

LAND AT THE FORMER CARDEW POTTERY SITE, BOVEY TRACEY, DEVON

Centred on NGR SX 8165 7690

Results of an archaeological trench evaluation and watching brief

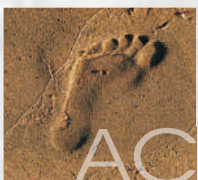
Planning refs Teignbridge District Council 11/00861/MAJ and 07/03882/MAJ

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On behalf of:
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AC archaeology

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Summary

An archaeological trench evaluation and watching brief was carried out on land at the former Cardew Pottery site, Bovey Tracey, Devon (centred on SX 8165 7690) by AC archaeology from August 2011 to December 2012. The development area occupies approximately 4.8 hectares of mixed former industrial and related works and woodland.

The evaluation comprised the machine-excavation of three trenches totalling 60m in length, with each trench measuring 2m wide. These were positioned to test areas in woodland ahead of landscaping. The results from these excavations were negative. The watching brief observed the groundworks associated with the residential development and the results from this were also largely negative. However, two features of archaeological interest were recorded in infrastructure works at the northern edge of the development area. Here a short section of mortared stone wall, possibly related to the 20th century Dartmoor Tors Pottery, was recorded in a service trench and a small section of the 19th century Haytor Granite Tramway was recorded in a grass verge adjacent to groundworks for the improvement of pedestrian access to the development site.

1. INTRODUCTION (Fig. 1)

- 1.1 This document sets out the results of a staged programme of archaeological works, comprising a trench evaluation and watching brief, carried out in association with planning applications for landscaping and groundworks for a housing development at the former Cardew Pottery site, Bovey Tracey, Devon (SX 8165 7690). It reports on the archaeological works required by Teignbridge District Council, as advised by the Devon County Historic Environment Team (hereafter DCCHET).
- 1.2 The archaeological works were commissioned by Taylor Wimpey (Exeter) and carried out by AC archaeology between the 31st August 2011 and the 27th December 2012.
- 1.3 The residential development covers an area of approximately 3.2ha of land on the site of the former Cardew Pottery and associated hard standings. A further area of 1.6ha in the south that is mainly occupied by woodland and ponds was to be landscaped. The site lies at around 32m aOD, with the underlying solid geology comprising Undifferentiated Blatchford Sand, overlain in places by riverine alluvium.
- 1.4 Landscaping works included the creation of two areas of managed heathland, as well as new planting in the buffer zones between the woodland and the ponds and around the ponds. Residential and associated infrastructure development makes up the remainder of the site to the north and west.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Two desk-based assessments have been previously prepared (Cotswold Archaeology 2006 and 2010). These established that there may be potential for the site to contain previously unrecorded prehistoric activity, as well as post-medieval and modern pottery related features such as pottery dumps. The assessments also indicated that finds such as small cannon shot, musket balls and powder flask kegs commonly associated with English Civil War battles may be present; the site of a battle of 1646 lies immediately to the southeast of the site.
- 2.2 Bovey Tracey has been a centre of pottery production since the 18th century. The Devon Tors Pottery was founded within the site in 1921 and produced small souvenir-type products.

3. AIMS

- 3.1** The aims of the trench evaluation were to establish the presence or absence, extent, depth, character and date of any archaeological features, deposits or finds within the site.
- 3.2** For the groundworks a watching brief was undertaken, with the aim of to preserve by record any archaeological features present in the area which will be damaged or destroyed by the development.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1** All works were undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Valentin 2011).
- 4.2** The trench evaluation comprised the machine excavation of three trenches totalling 60m long, with each trench 2m wide (Fig. 2). Trenches were positioned to target areas where the greatest disturbance by groundworks was planned, although access was limited and only three of the four planned trenches were excavated. The removal of soil overburden was undertaken by machine under the control and direction of the site archaeologist.
- 4.3** Groundworks were monitored by the attending archaeologist.
- 4.4** All features and deposits revealed were recorded using the standard AC archaeology pro-forma recording system, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, and in accordance with AC archaeology's *General Site Recording Manual, Version 1*. Detailed sections or plans were produced at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate.

5. RESULTS (Figs 1-2; Plates 1-7; Appendix 1)

5.1 Trench evaluation

Due to problems with access Trenches 1 and 2 were combined and Trench 3 was moved; the positions of the trenches are marked in Figure 1. No archaeological features were revealed or finds recovered. Full details of the trenches and contexts are described in Appendix 1.

5.2 Watching brief

Several parts of the main housing development were monitored during groundworks, as was the landscaping including excavations for the ponds in the woodland area. The results of the watching brief were largely negative. Only two features of archaeological interest were identified and they were both located in the works related to the road junction in the northeast of the development area. In this area a low stone wall (F1001) and part of a granite tramway (F1002) were recorded. The remainder of the site, where exposed, appears to be built on made up ground consisting of modern material and relating to the demolition of the pottery or natural clay and sand subsoil. Much of the house foundation work was achieved by piling due to the soft nature of the underlying deposit.

Stone wall F1001

Excavation of a service trench adjacent to the main road revealed a 2m long stretch of a northwest-southeast aligned mortared wall. It had irregular coursing, but was constructed of well-pointed quarried ashlar stone blocks. The face of the wall had render surviving in places. The only finds in possible association were sherds of modern china. The wall was buried directly beneath modern road and pavement make up and had been truncated at either end of the recorded stretch by modern service trenches.

Granite Tramway F1002

Groundworks for a new pedestrian access went across the route of a quarry tramway, but no features relating to the track were exposed and must have previously been destroyed. However, to the northwest of the groundworks, an area of grass verge adjacent to a roundabout had been disturbed by the activities related to the groundworks and a section of a tramway constructed of granite blocks had broken through the turf. The exposed stretch was northwest-southeast oriented and 4.50m long and 1.30m wide between wheel grooves. The track was made of separate blocks with each block (plate) approximately 1m long by 0.35m wide. The blocks had a c. 0.10m wide lip on their inner side and the southwestern line had a c. 0.10m wide wear groove in the middle of the block which is not present on the northeastern line.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1** The wall F1001 possibly belongs to the Devon Tors Pottery complex that was established in the 1920s. These are the first buildings recorded on the site and Ordnance Survey mapping shows them adjacent to the road.
- 6.2** Feature F1002 is undoubtedly part of the Haytor Granite Tramway (Devon Historic Environment Record no. MDV19593) which was opened in 1820 for the purpose of transporting granite blocks on wagons from the quarries in the vicinity of Haytor, 6km northwest of the exposed section, to the head of the Stover Canal, 4km to the southeast; from there it was transported to the estuary of the Teign for coastal shipping. The tramway holds a significant place in the early history of the development of railways and was used until the 1850s. It has very good surviving sections on the moor in the vicinity of the quarries where it is designated a Scheduled Monument (SM number: 1002528), but has survived far less well outside of the Dartmoor National Park. A section on the outskirts of Bovey Tracey, 1.5km northwest of the site, where a small bridge survives, has Grade II Listed Building status (National Heritage List no. 1097435).

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1** The archaeological trench evaluation and watching brief established that there was no evidence of pre-modern activity on the site.
- 7.2** Evidence for activity on the site relates to the demolished remains of the 20th century Devon Tors Pottery.
- 7.3** Adjacent to the development a small section of the 19th century Haytor Granite Tramway was revealed.

8. ARCHIVE AND OASIS

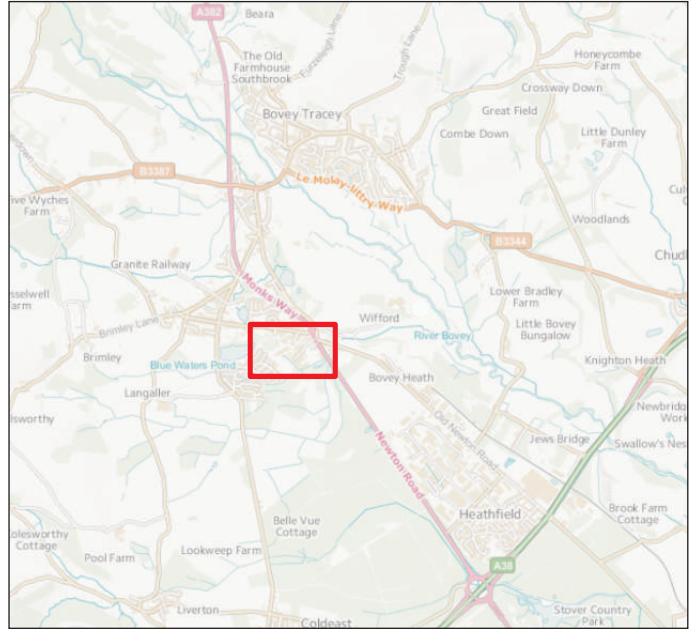
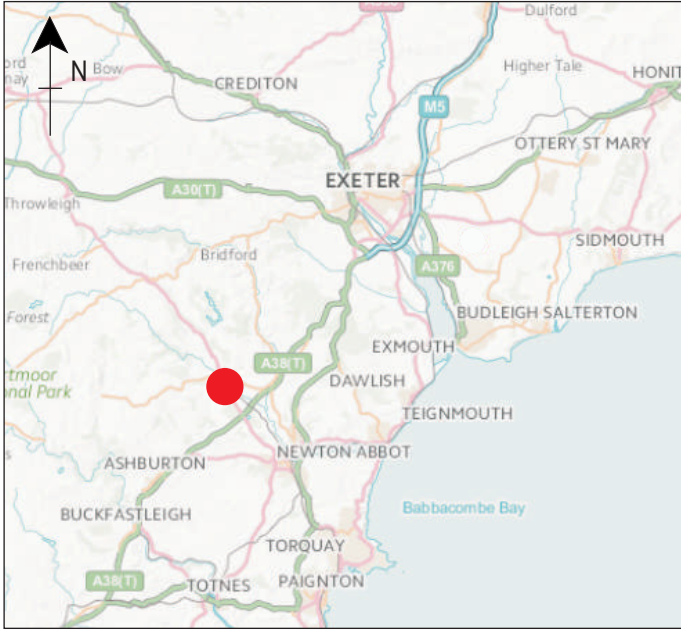
- 8.1** The paper digital and artefactual archive is currently held at the offices of AC archaeology Ltd, at 4 Halthaies Workshops, near Exeter, Devon, EX5 4LQ. On completion of the OASIS entry, the archive will be discarded.
- 8.2** An online OASIS entry has been completed, using the unique identifier 166573, which includes a digital copy of this report.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

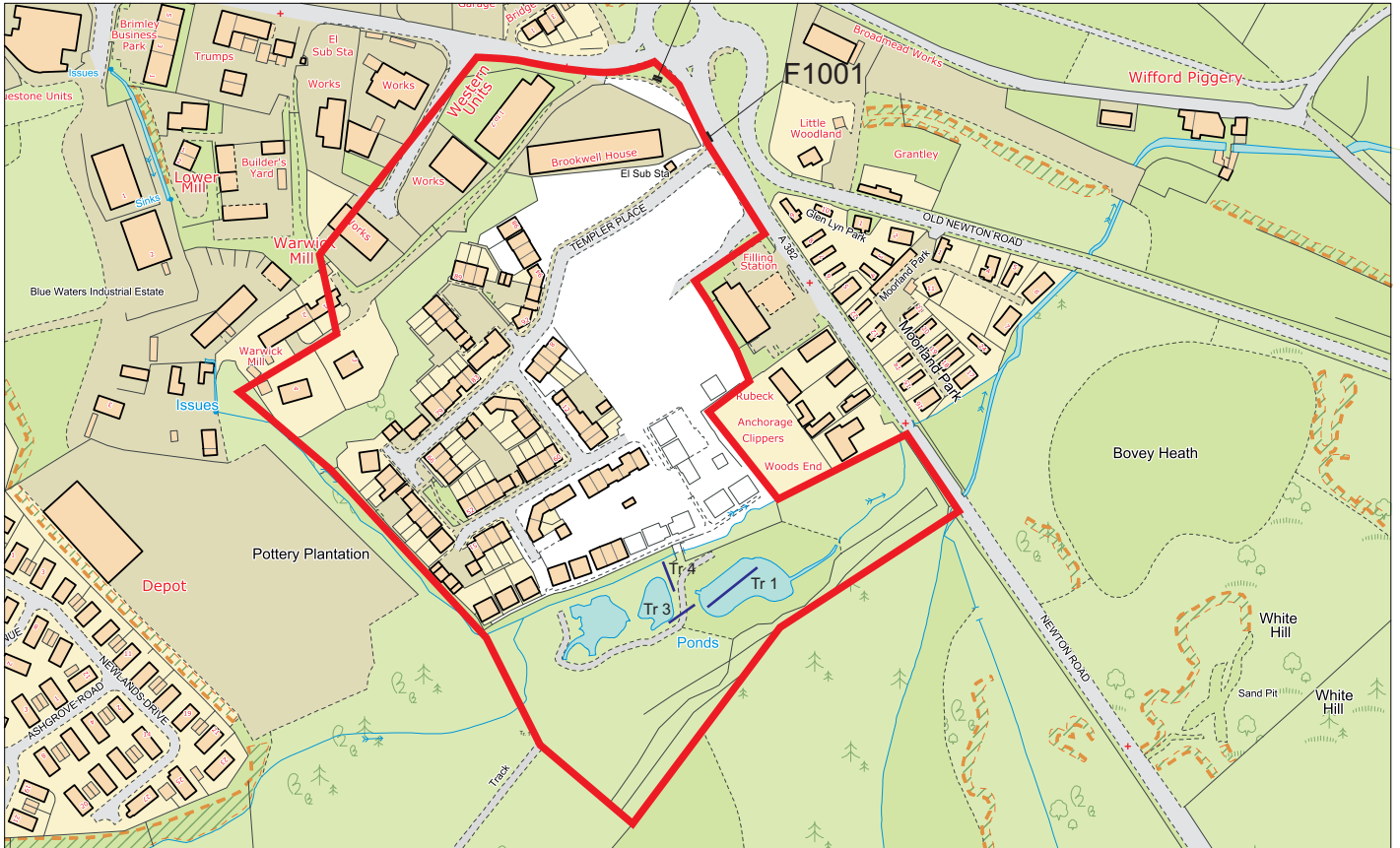
- 9.1 The fieldwork was commissioned by Taylor Wimpey (Exeter). The site work was undertaken by Richard Sims, Chris Caine and Jerry Austin, with the illustrations for this report prepared by Elisabeth Patkai. Kerry Kerr-Peterson identified the finds. The collaborative role of Stephen Reed, DCCHET Archaeology Officer is duly acknowledged.

10. REFERENCES

- Cotswold Archaeology, 2006, *Former Cardew Pottery site, Bovey Tracey: Archaeological desk-based assessment*. Unpublished document for client
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F1002



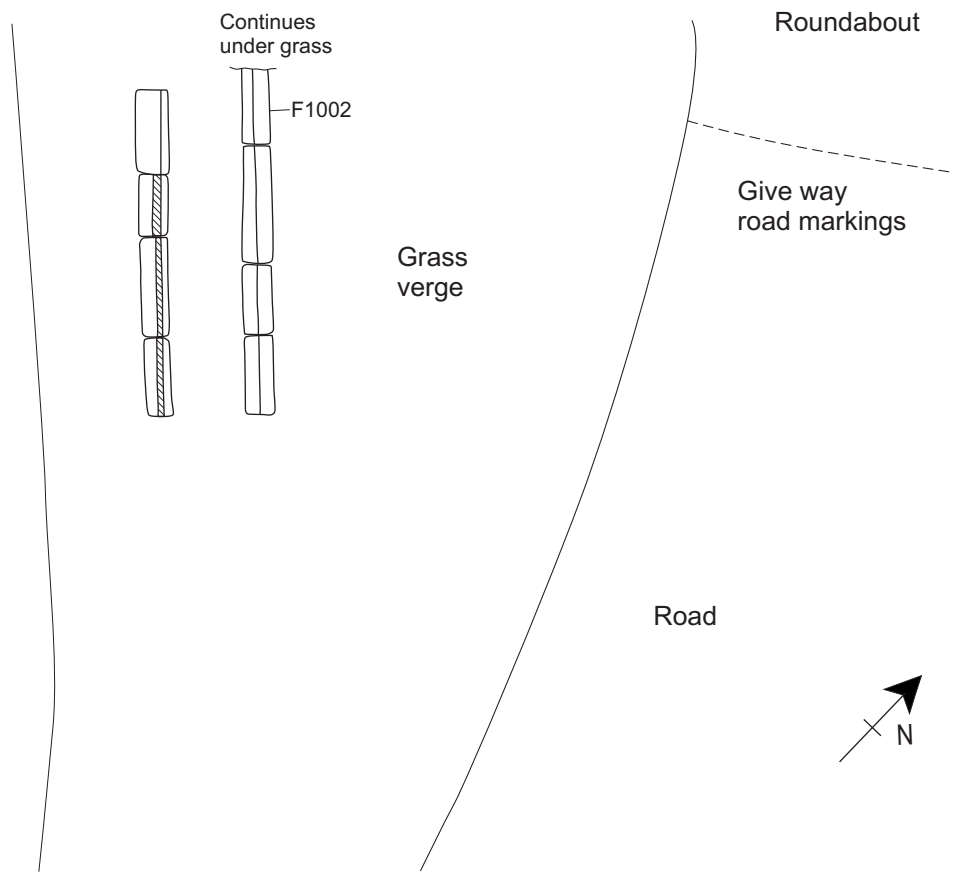
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 Site boundary

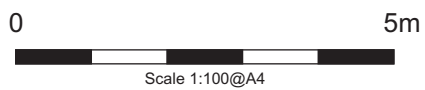
PROJECT
**Land at the Former Cardew Pottery Site,
 Bovey Tracey**

TITLE
**Fig. 1: Location of site with
 trench locations and
 archaeological features identified**





 Wear groove



PROJECT

Land at the Former Cardew Pottery Site,
Bovey Tracey

TITLE

Fig. 2: Plan of F1002
(Haytor Granite Tramway)



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking northeast
(scale 1m)



Plate 2: Trench 3, looking southwest
(scale 1m)



Plate 3: Trench 4, looking northwest
(scale 1m)



Plate 4: View of the residential development
area, looking northwest



Plate 5: Watching brief area in southwest corner of the residential development, looking southwest (scale 1m)



Plate 6: Exposed section of the Haytor Granite Tramway, looking northwest (scale 1m)



Plate 7: Detail of southwest line of the Haytor Granite Tramway, looking northwest (scale 0.3m)

Appendix 1

Tabulated trench descriptions

APPENDIX 1: TABULATED TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trenches 1 and 2		Length	Alignment	Width
		30m	NE-SW	2m
Con-text	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
100	Firm dark grey sandy silt with very frequent small to large sub-angular gravels	0-0.16m	Topsoil	
101	Friable mid grey sandy clay with occasional small to medium sub-angular gravels	0.16-0.55m	Subsoil	
102	Friable light brownish grey sandy clay with rare small sub-angular gravels	0.55m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 3		Length	Alignment	Width
		15m	NW-SE	2m
Con-text	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
300	Firm dark grey sandy silt with very frequent small to large sub-angular gravels	0-0.13m	Topsoil	
301	Friable mid grey sandy clay with occasional small to medium sub-angular gravels	0.13-0.38m	Subsoil	
302	Friable light brownish grey sandy clay with rare small sub-angular gravels	0.38m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 4		Length	Alignment	Width
		15m	NW-SE	2m
Con-text	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
400	Firm dark grey sandy silt with very frequent small to large sub-angular gravels	0-0.18m	Topsoil	
401	Friable mid grey sandy clay with occasional small to medium sub-angular gravels	0.18-0.52m	Subsoil	
402	Friable light brownish grey sandy clay with rare small sub-angular gravels	0.52m+	Natural subsoil	

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