

GOLDEN CLEAVE, SHELDON, HONITON, DEVON

NGR ST 11596 06572

Results of an Archaeological Watching Brief

East Devon District Council Planning Reference
13/2493/FUL

Prepared by: Paul Cooke

On behalf of:
Premier Arenas Limited

Report No: ACD855/2/0

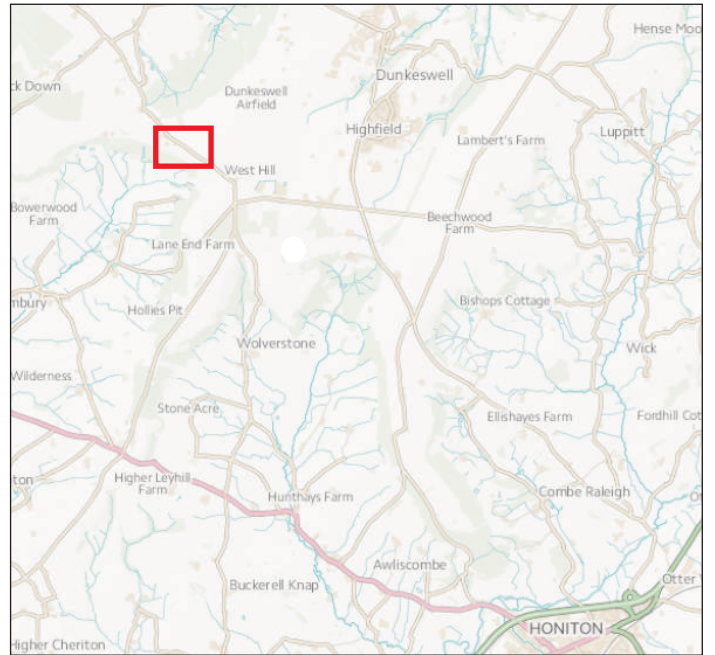
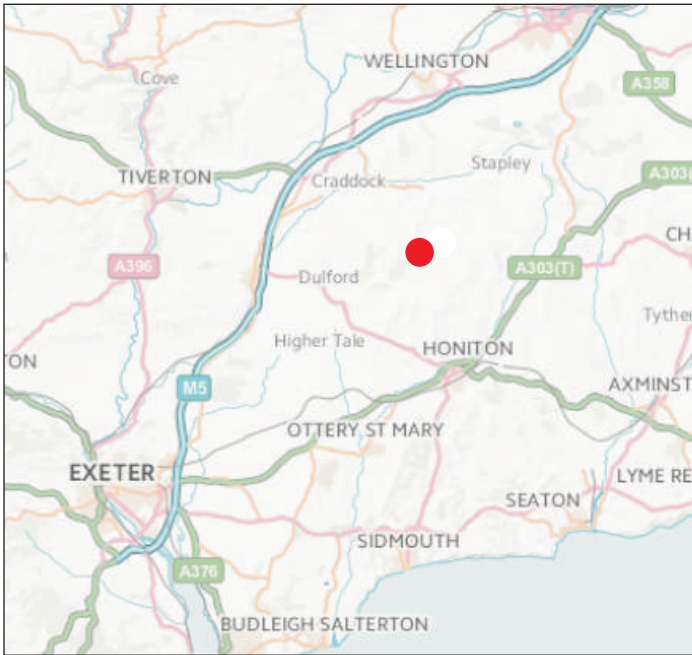
Date: March 2014




AC archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Dunkeswell, East Devon	National Grid Reference ST 1159 0657	Number: (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
Subject: Golden Cleave, Sheldon, Honiton, Devon. Results of an archaeological watching brief.		Photo attached? Yes
Planning Application no: 13/2493/FUL	Recipient museum: RAMM	
OASIS ID: 171608	Temporary Museum Accession no: RAMM 14/11	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD855	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 10 th - 11 th February, 2014	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was carried out by AC Archaeology during ground works associated with the construction of a menage/outdoor area at Golden Cleave, Sheldon, Honiton, Devon (ST 1159 0657)</p> <p>The site is located within the grounds of Golden Cleave, a late 20th century residence, on what was formally a pasture paddock located to the south of Golden Lane (Fig. 1). It is situated on level ground at a height of around 261m aOD, with the underlying solid geology comprising sandstone of the Upper Greensand Formation.</p> <p>The site lies in an area containing evidence for former industrial activity comprising extraction of raw materials such as iron, stone, clay and gravels. The sites of former post-medieval open-cast iron extraction pits located immediately to the south of Golden Cleave house, as well as approximately 1km to the northeast and southeast of the site, have been interpreted from earthworks visible on RAF aerial photographs taken in 1947. A number of post-medieval stone quarries are located within 1km to the southwest and southeast of the site and the sites of former clay and gravel pits located approximately 700m to the southeast of the site.</p> <p>Earlier activity in the general area comprises the remains of a probable Bronze Age bowl barrow located some 1.5km to the southeast.</p> <p>Description of works</p> <p>The monitored groundworks consisted of the bulk reduction of topsoil within a rectangular area measuring 60m by 20m using a tracked-machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket (Fig. 1).</p> <p>Natural subsoil, which comprised a light yellow silty-clay with common flint-gravel inclusions, was exposed at a depth of between 0.02m and 0.1m across the site. This was overlain by a mid grey silty-clay loam topsoil.</p> <p>No archaeological features or deposits were exposed. Topsoil finds are described below</p> <p>The Finds</p> <p>The only finds from the site, which were all recovered from topsoil, were three worked flints and a sherd of post-medieval pottery.</p> <p><u>Worked flint</u></p> <p>Three worked flints (65g) were recovered from topsoil. The flints include two flakes, one of which has a small area of retouch at the distal end, and a fine single platform core. The flints are likely to be later Neolithic or early Bronze Age in date.</p> <p><u>Post-medieval pottery</u></p> <p>A single sherd (15g) of post-medieval pottery was recovered from topsoil. This is a body sherd from a South Somerset-type earthenware vessel. It is probably 18th or 19th century in date.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>There was no evidence within the stripped area for iron extraction or associated features. The worked flint finds recovered from the topsoil suggests a general level of prehistoric activity in the area.</p>		
Recorder: Paul Cooke, AC Archaeology		Date sent to HER: 17 March 2014



 Location of monitored area

PROJECT

Golden Cleave, Sheldon, Honiton, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of site





Plate 1: General view of site, looking southeast



Plate 2: General view of site, looking west

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