

New Industrial Units on land East of Mullacott Cross Industrial Estate, West Down, Devon

NGR SS 518 441

Results of an archaeological watching brief

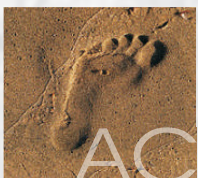
Condition 13 of North Devon Council Planning Reference
56449

Prepared by
William Smith

On behalf of
Pinnacle Architectural Design LTD

Document No: ACD848/2/0

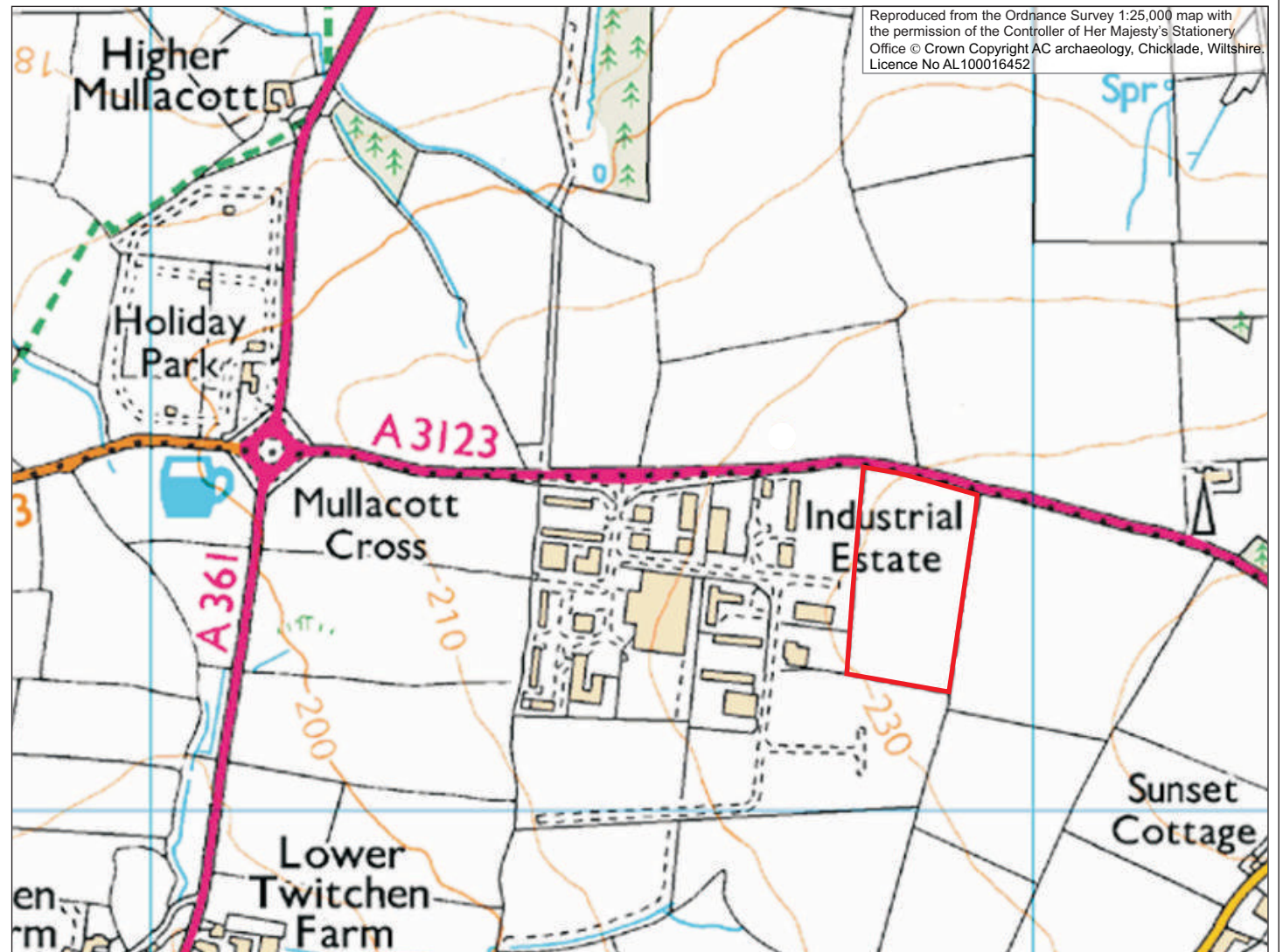
Date: April 2014



archaeology


Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: West Down, North Devon	National Grid Reference SS 518 441	Number:
Subject: New industrial units on land east of Mullacott Cross Industrial Estate, West Down, Devon: Results of an archaeological watching brief		Photo attached? Yes
Planning Application no: 56449	Recipient museum: Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon	
OASIS ID: 175329	Museum Accession no: NDDMS2014.2	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD848	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 13 March 2014	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was carried out by AC archaeology during geotechnical test pitting associated with the construction of new industrial units on land east of Mullacott Cross Industrial Estate, West Down, Devon (SS 518 441).</p> <p>The proposed new industrial units are situated within an agricultural field to the east of the industrial estate, which lies at a height of 225m aOD (Fig. 1). The underlying geology is slates of the Morte foundation (BGS website).</p> <p>The development lies within an area where prehistoric burial sites are recorded on the Historic Environment Record (e.g. MDV7337 situated immediately northeast of the industrial estate). The landscape around the industrial estate comprises regularly-shaped 20th-century fields adapted from small, more irregularly-shaped earlier fields, some separated by trackways. More recently the field has been used as a moto-x motorcycle course.</p> <p>Results</p> <p>The watching brief was undertaken in conjunction with monitoring of groundworks associated with the construction of a new wind turbine within the same plot (North Devon planning reference 56450). Groundworks comprised the machine-excavation of 12 geotechnical test pits across the entire field. Of these, Test Pits 6 to 12 were associated with the location of the proposed industrial units and adjacent areas (Fig. 2, Plate 1). The test pits measured 2.20m long and 0.70m wide and were excavated to depths of between 1m and 1.8m below ground level.</p> <p>Natural subsoil across the site comprised a weathered slate solid geology in a light grey silty clay matrix. In Test Pits 6, 7, 8, 10 and 11 the natural subsoil was overlain by 0.25m to 0.3m of mixed mid greyish-brown clay-loam topsoil. A single possible posthole was exposed in Test Pit 6 (F602). The possible posthole measured 0.26m across and 0.08m deep with moderately steep sloping sides and a flattish base (Plate 2). It contained a single fill (603) that was comprised of topsoil.</p> <p>The natural subsoil within Test Pits 9 and 12 was present at a depth of between 0.32m and 0.4m below current levels and was overlain by a mid yellowish-grey silty-clay subsoil and topsoil.</p> <p>Not finds were recovered from Test Pits 6 to 12.</p> <p>Comments</p> <p>Across the majority of the site, disturbance from landscaping associated with its former use as a moto-x motorcycle course was evident. The mixed nature of the soils recorded in Test Pits 6, 7, 8, 10 and 11 indicated that the ground in this area had been disturbed and in places landscaped with the soils here comprising mixed re-deposition of topsoil and subsoil. Possible posthole F602 was filled with material similar to the overlying mixed topsoil suggesting that it was of modern origin. The remaining Test Pits (9 and 12) were positioned on undisturbed ground. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were present in these test pits.</p>		
Recorder: William Smith (AC archaeology)		Date sent to HER: 16 April 2014



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0 250m
Scale 1:7500@A4

 Location of site

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Fig. 1: Site location

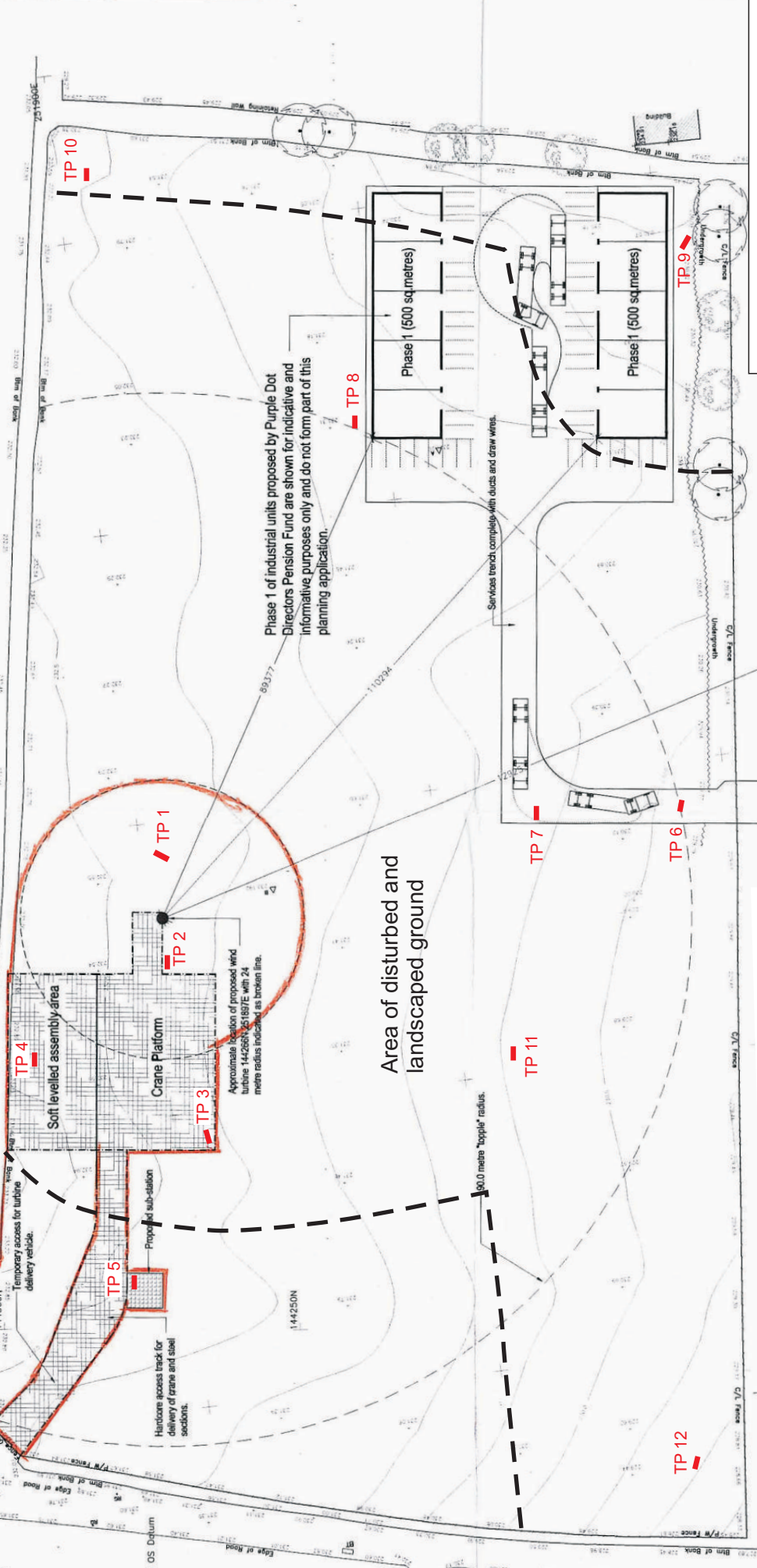


- SV Sluice valve
- DK Drop kerb
- FH Fire hydrant
- MH Manhole
- SC Stop cock
- WM Water meter
- BT Telecom manhole
- LP Lamp post
- RC Road gully
- SP Sign post
- EUP Electrically pole
- TP Telephone pole
- P/W Post and wire
- P/R Post and rail
- T/P Timber panel
- C/B Close boarded
- B/W Barbed wire

Grid and levels are to OS Datum

251900E

56450



Scale 1:1000@A4

■ Test pits

TP 11

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Fig. 2: Site plan showing location of test pits



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NOTES	DRW	DATE
NO DIMENSIONS TO BE SCALED CONTRACTOR TO VERIFY ALL DIMENSIONS IF IN DOUBT, ASK		
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Plate 1: View across proposed development site, looking west



Plate 2: North facing section of geotechnical Pit 6 with possible posthole F602 in foreground, view to south (scale 1m)

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