

LAND AT PUTTS CORNER CARAVAN PARK, SIDBURY, DEVON

NGR SY 142 963

Results of Archaeological Monitoring

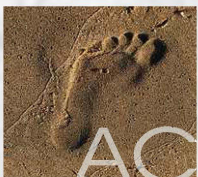
East Devon District Council Planning Reference
13/2048/FUL

Prepared by:
Alex Farnell

On behalf of:
The Caravan Club

Reprot No: ACD814/2/0

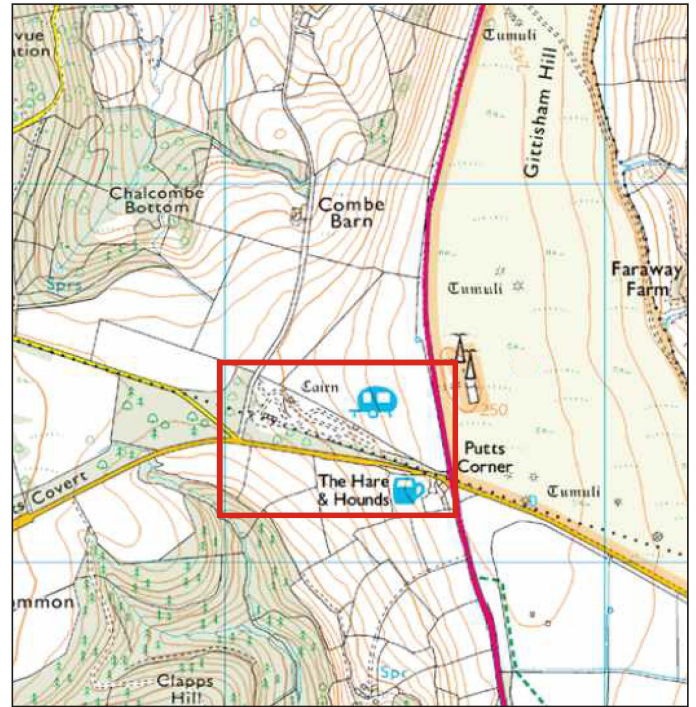
Date: June 2014




AC archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

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|--|---|--------------------------|
| Civil Parish & District: Gittisham | National Grid Reference SY 142 963 | Number: |
| Subject: Land At Putts Corner Caravan Park, Sidbury: Results of archaeological monitoring | | Photo attached? Y |
| Planning Application no: East Devon District Council 13/2048/FUL | Recipient museum: N/A | |
| OASIS ID: 179531 | Museum Accession no: N/A | |
| Contractor's reference number/code: ACD814 | Dates fieldwork undertaken: 11th-13th December 2013 | |
| <p>Introduction</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the construction of a new toilet block on land at Putts Corner Caravan Park, Sidbury (SY 142 963) was carried out by AC archaeology during December 2013. The caravan site covers an area of approximately 4.9 hectares comprising gravel pitches and woodland areas to the north of the B3174 and crossing the Gittisham/Sidmouth parish boundary (Fig. 1). The site lies on elevated ground at approximately 228m aOD with the the underlying solid geology comprising sandstone from the Upper Greensand Formation.</p> <p>A scheduled cairn (English Heritage Ref. 27410) is situated within the boundary of the caravan park to the north of the new toilet block. Immediately to the south is a putative Roman Road (DCCHER Ref 14169) This feature is observed to run broadly parallel to the line of the Gittisham/Sidmouth parish boundary.</p> <p>Description</p> <p>The monitored groundworks comprised the removal of topsoil and subsoil within an approximately rectangular area measuring 20m by 16m (Fig 2). The area had been previously landscaped for caravan plots and had been built up in places. Undisturbed natural subsoil was encountered at a depth of between 0.20m and 0.35m, below 0.05m of mid greyish-brown silty-clay subsoil and up to 0.3m of dark greyish-brown clayey-silt topsoil. A single linear feature (F104) was exposed (Plate 1).</p> <p>F401 was a WNW to ESE aligned ditch, exposed for a length of 19m and continuing beyond the limit of excavation to the east and west. It measured a maximum of 1.9m wide and 0.5m deep with moderate to gently sloping sides and a concave base. It contained three fills (105, 106 and 107). Primary fill 105 was composed of mottled reddish-brown and light greyish-brown clayey-silt with occasional gravel and rare large cobble inclusions. Second fill 106 was an accumulation deposit of dark greyish-brown silty-clay with occasional gravel inclusions. Upper fill 107 was a mixed dumped deposit of mid greyish-brown silty-clay comprised of redeposited topsoil and modern debris. The ditch was undated.</p> <p>Comment</p> <p>The exposed ditch is broadly consistent with the location of a former flanking trackway boundary that extended immediately parallel to the parish boundary and is depicted on the 1889 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. Although the ditch is likely to be of post-medieval date, it is also parallel with the line of the putative line of the Roman road and also represents a probable continuation of this general alignment. This boundary appears to have changed little by late 20th century. Figure 3 shows the site and feature F104 in relation to this boundary as depicted on the 1980, 1:2500 OS map. The area had been subject to landscaping for caravan plots in the 1980s. It is likely that ditch F104 was infilled and any associated earthworks slighted during this work. This is consistent with its fill sequence.</p> | | |
| Recorder: Alex Farnell, AC archaeology | Date sent to HER: 22 May 2014 | |



0 100m
Scale 1:2500@A4

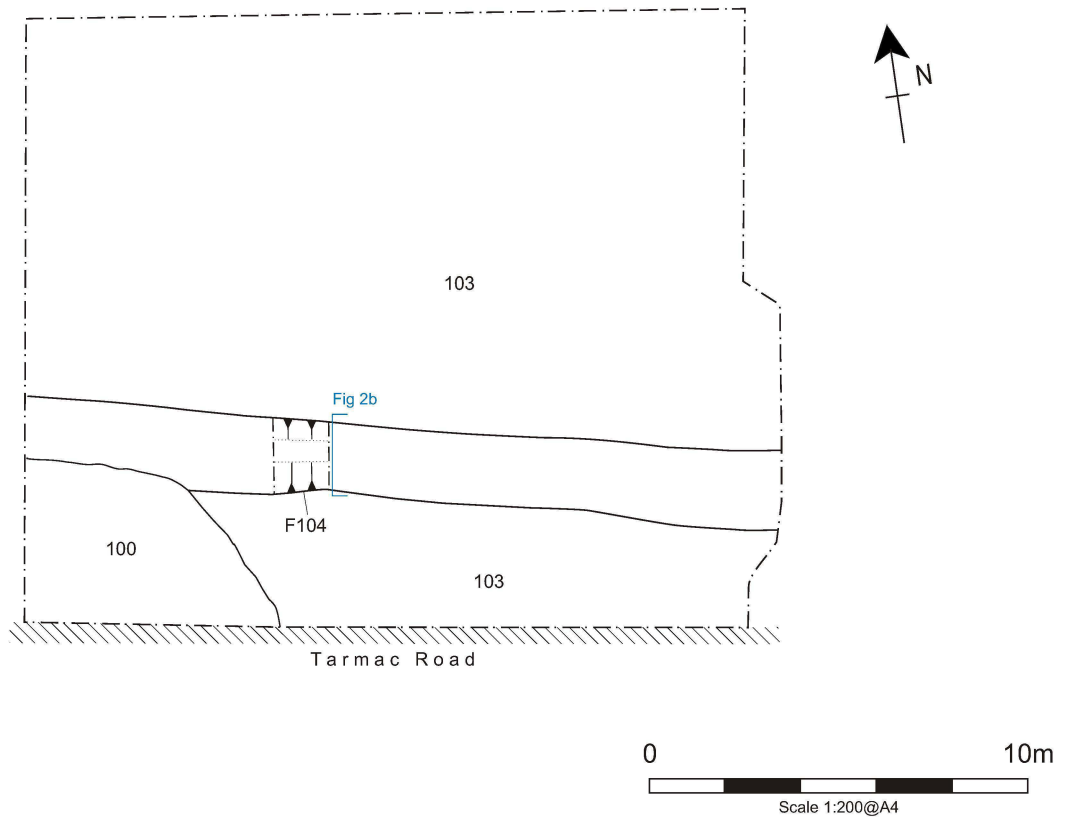
 Monitored area (toilet block)

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Land at Putts Corner Caravan Park, Sidbury, Devon

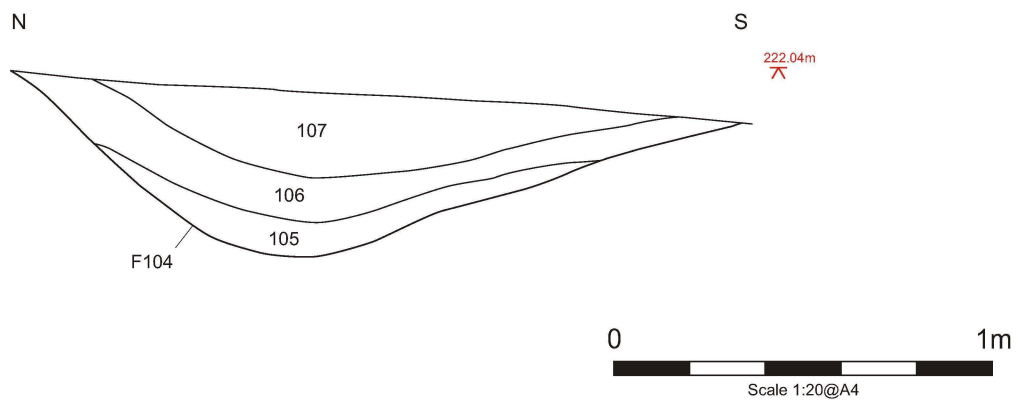
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Fig. 1: Location of site

a) Plan of monitored area



b) Section of F104

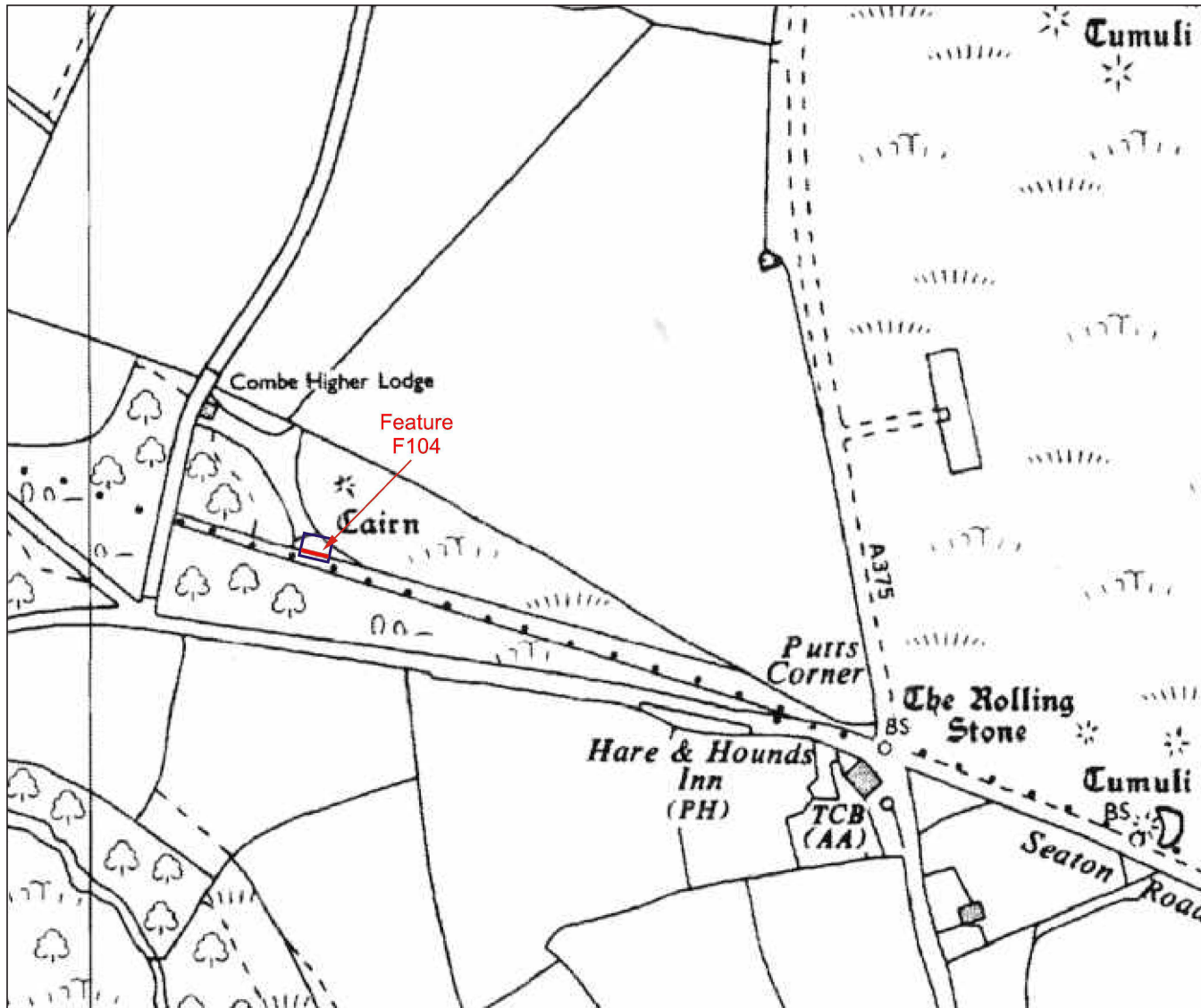


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Fig. 2: Plan and section



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Fig. 3: The site and feature F104 in
relation to the boundary depicted on
the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey Map,
1980



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Plate 1: Ditch F104 looking northeast
(scale 1m x 1m)



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