

LAND ADJACENT TO BUCKLAND BREWER PRIMARY SCHOOL, BUCKLAND BREWER, DEVON

(NGR SS 42206 20629)

Results of an archaeological watching brief

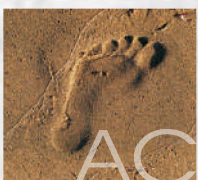
Planning reference: Torridge District Council 1/0716/2012/FULM

Prepared by:
Will Smith

On behalf of:
Pearce Homes

Document No: ACD776/2/0

Date: July 2014



AC archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Buckland Brewer	National Grid Reference SS 42206 20629	Number:
Subject: Land Adjacent to Buckland Brewer County Primary School, Buckland Brewer, Devon: Results of an archaeological watching brief		Photo attached? Plates 1-4
Planning Ref no: 1/0716/2012/FULM	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS ID: 183140	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD776	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 16 October 2013	
<p>Introduction (Fig. 1)</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks associated with the construction of a new village hall and parking, amenity space and school play area, open market dwellings and affordable units at land adjacent to Buckland Brewer County Primary School, Buckland Brewer, Devon. The work was commissioned by Pearce Homes and carried out by AC archaeology in fulfilment of condition (4) of planning permission required by Torridge District Council, as advised by Devon County Council Historic Environment Team.</p> <p>The proposed location of the development lies on the southeast side of Buckland Brewer, encompassing two full plots and part of a third that are currently mixed and arable pasture fields. The topography of the fields slopes to the south east at around 145m aOD. The underlying solid geology comprises Bude Formation Sandstone.</p> <p>Results (Fig. 2)</p> <p>The watching brief consisted of the recording of two hedgebanks breached during the development, together with the opening of two small trial trenches measuring 10x1.50m at right-angles to the hedgebank to test the possibility that an earlier road into the village had run along this side of the hedge.</p> <p>Hedgebanks (Fig. 3; Plates 1-3)</p> <p>Hedgebank 1 forms the northwest boundary of the site with the playing field of Buckland Brewer Primary School. The hedgebank has revetment walls on both sides, a type common throughout Devon and Cornwall, and most likely of post-medieval date (Plates 1-2). The bank consisted of a core (101) of very compact, light yellow clay with sparse to moderate sub-angular shale gravels. No buried soil was visible beneath this suggesting soil was stripped (possibly to use as capping material) prior to construction. This deposit was sealed beneath further core material (102) consisting of less compacted brown to yellow clay with sub-angular shale gravels, which in turn was topped by loose yellow-brown clay with sparse sub-angular shale gravels and pebbles (103). These deposits were retained behind two walls (104) and (105) of evenly coursed, clay bonded, angular shale and sandstone cobbles. Wall (104) on the southern side of the bank was greater in height than (105) indicating that the hedgebank may have been built along an existing break of slope. All these deposits were capped with a light grey-brown clay (106) with very sparse shillet gravels, possibly the turf removed before the construction of the hedgebank.</p> <p>Hedgebank 2 forms the southwest boundary of the site, adjacent to the main road into the village (Plate 3). This hedgebank was in the form of an earthen bank, the bulk of which comprised of a mid brown yellow clay loam (201) with sparse poorly sorted shale and sandstone cobbles and pebbles. This deposit was very mixed in its nature and is likely to derive from up-cast material re-deposited during the course of maintenance of the road. A single sherd of 13th-15th-century coarse-ware pottery was recovered from this fill (not retained). This deposit was sealed by a thin layer of peat-loam (202) derived from partially degraded leaf litter and other organic material. The breaching of the hedgebank cut into the underlying natural subsoil (200). This showed that the level of the natural subsoil in the roadway (observed as dropping away beneath the modern tarmac) had been cut or eroded to a level c.1.30m below that in the development site to the northeast, indicating the road way may be of some antiquity.</p> <p>Trenches (Fig. 2; Plate 4)</p> <p>Trenches 1 and 2 were situated at right angles to hedgebank 2 (Figure 2; Plate 4) and were positioned to test the possibility that the road from the southeast into the village had followed a different course in the past. Both trenches were devoid of archaeological features. The exposed soil sequence in both trenches consisted of 0.08m of mid brownish yellow clay loam topsoil which directly overlaid the natural subsoil. The shallow depth of overburden may be due to landscaping of the site during groundworks associated with earlier stages of the development.</p>		

Comments

Due to the different morphology of the hedgebanks breached it may be possible to assign them to different periods of enclosure. Hedgebank 1 is likely to form part of the field system relating to 17th- and 18th-century enclosure of the land surrounding the village. Hedgebank 2 is likely to form part of the earlier medieval system of enclosure, although is largely formed from upcast material associated with the adjacent road.

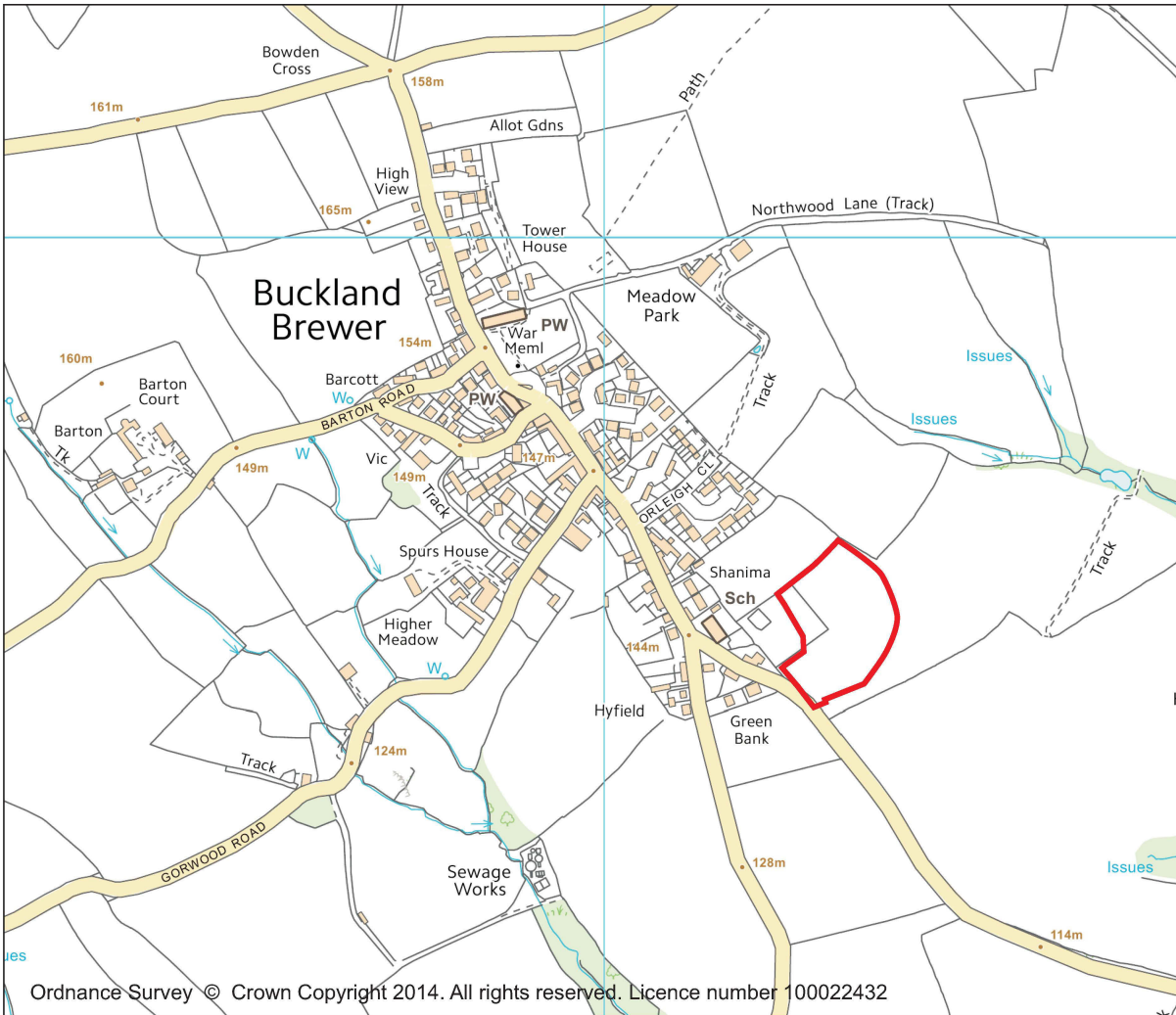
The absence of any archaeological deposits in either of the trial trenches, together with the profile of the natural subsoil observed in the breach of hedgebank 2 indicate that the line of the road entering the village from the southeast is likely to be of early (i.e. medieval) date, and has not deviated from its present course.

Recorder:

William Smith (AC archaeology)

Date sent to HER:

11 July 2014



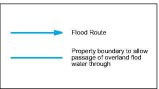
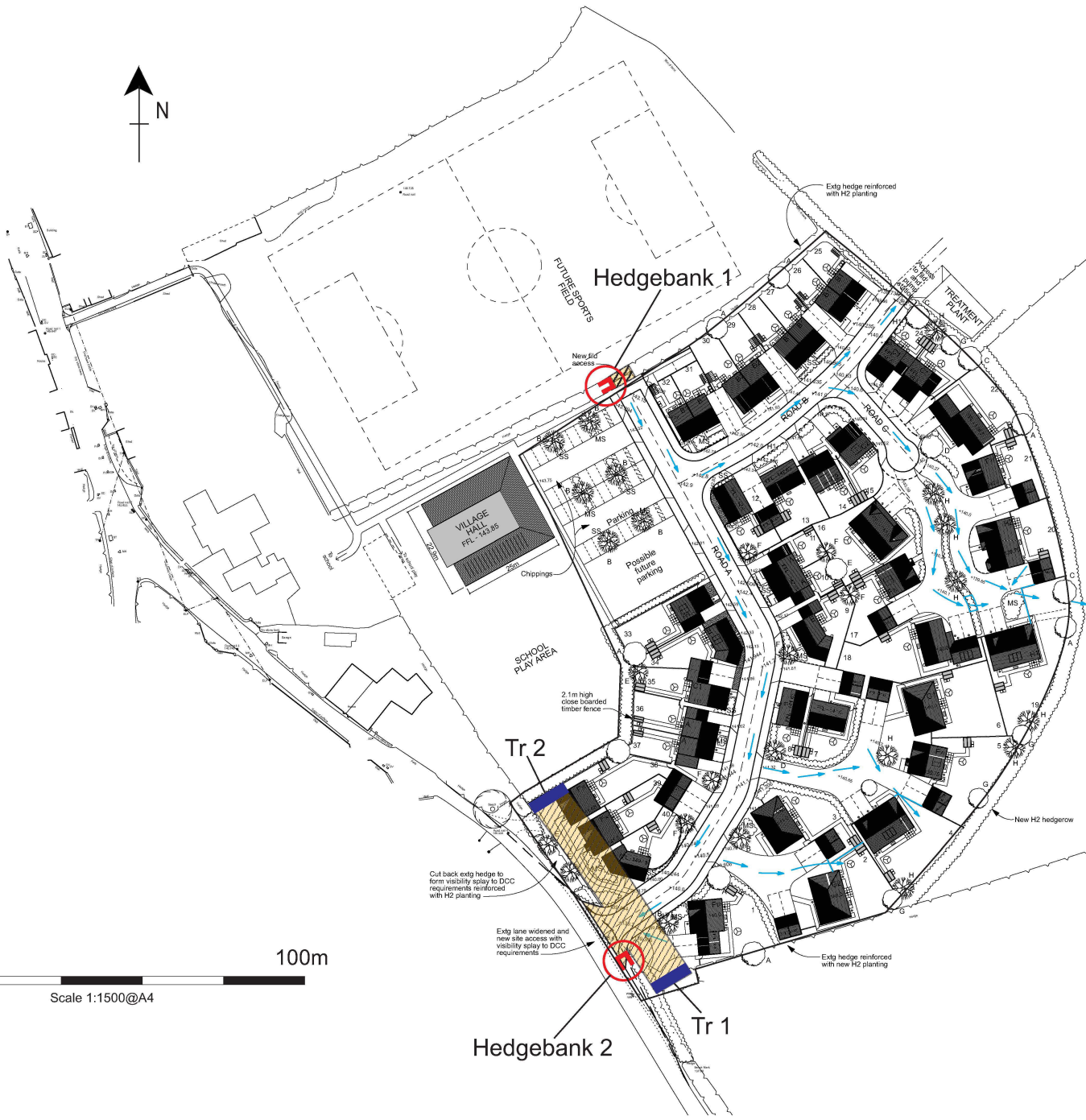
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Land adjacent to Buckland Brewer Primary School, Buckland Brewer, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of site





 Areas requiring archaeological monitoring and recording



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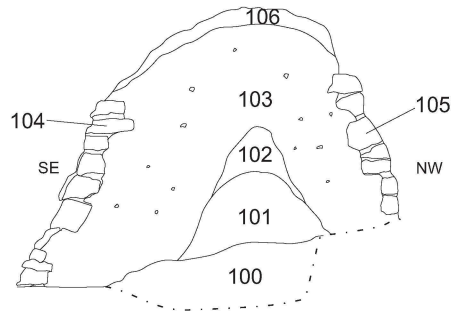
Map provided courtesy of the client

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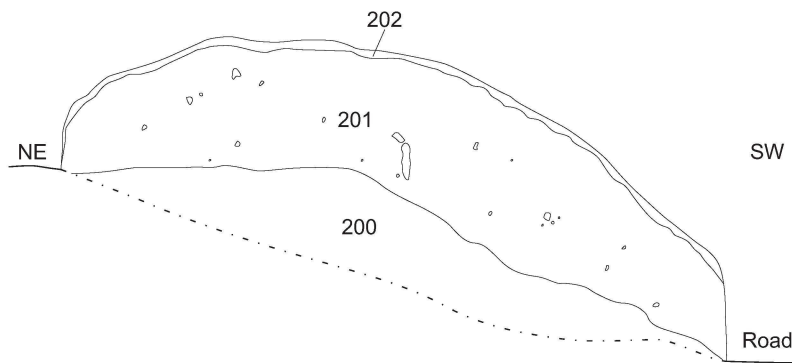
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 Fig. 2: Site plan showing location of observations



a) NE facing section of hedgebank 1



b) NW facing section of hedgebank 2



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Fig. 3: Hedgebank sections



Plate 1: Hedgebank 1, south side, looking west. 1m scale



Plate 2: Hedgebank 1, north scale, looking west. 1m scale



Plate 3: Hedgebank 2, looking southeast. 2m scale



Plate 4: Trench 1, looking southwest. 1m scale

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