

LAND AT TOWN FARM, FAIRY CROSS, ALWINGTON, BIDEFORD, DEVON

NGR SS 4046 3219

Results of an Archaeological Watching Brief

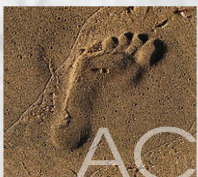
Torridge District Council Planning Reference 1/1007/2013/FUL

Prepared by:
Abigail Brown

On behalf of:
Mrs Elaine Beresford

Report No: ACD926/2/0

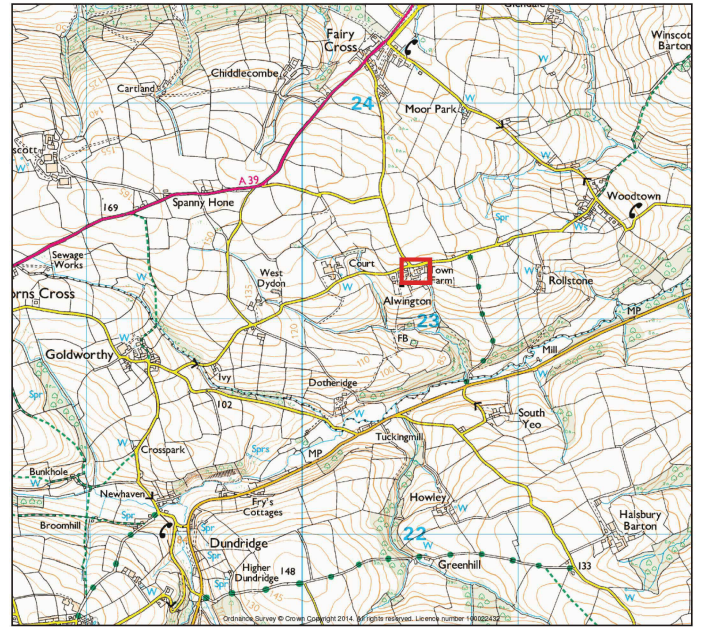
Date: October 2014



AC archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Torridge	National Grid Reference SS 4046 3219	Number: (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
Subject: Land at Town Farm, Fairy Cross, Alwington, Bideford, Devon. Results of an archaeological watching brief		Photo attached? Yes
Planning Application no: 1/1007/2013/FUL	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS ID: 189734	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD926	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 03/06/2014	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of a new double garage and turning area on land at Town Farm, Fairy Cross, Alwington, Bideford (Fig. 1). The investigations were required by Torridge District Council as advised by the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCCHET), and were carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by AC archaeology.</p> <p>The site was located in the historic core of the village, immediately north of the parish church of St. Andrew, which was originally constructed in the early 15th century. Town Farmhouse is a Grade II listed building (National Heritage List # 1104426) and is recorded as 17th century in date, with 19th century alterations. It is thought, however, that it originated as a medieval open hall. Other recorded archaeological sites nearby include a possible prehistoric circular enclosure recorded from aerial photographs and located south of the church (Devon County Council Historic Environment Record ref. MDV102343).</p> <p><i>Results (Fig. 2)</i></p> <p>Groundworks comprised of excavating the area of the development down to formation level, using a mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket. The development area was a rectangle measuring 10m by 7.60m. The topsoil comprised of moderate dark brown clayish silt with occasional, small to medium sub-angular stone and measured between 0.30m to 0.60m thick. The underlying natural consisted of compact, light yellowish brown clayish silt with abundant, small to large angular stone. One pit and four ditches were recorded.</p> <p>Pit F010 measured 2.15m in length, 1.25m wide and 0.24m deep. It contained a single fill (009) which consisted of moderate, mid brown clayish silt with very rare, small sub-angular stone and very rare charcoal flecks. Pit F010 cut the western edge of ditch F012.</p> <p>Ditch F012 was aligned approximately north-south and crossed the trench, it measured 2.60m wide and 0.50m deep. It contained a single fill (011) which consisted of moderate, dark brown clayish silt with very rare, small to medium sub-angular stone and very rare small charcoal flecks. The linear F012 was truncated on the western edge by pit F010.</p> <p>Ditch F019 was approximately east-west aligned and extended from the edge of the trench for a distance of 3.75m before terminating at the west end. It measured 0.60m wide and 0.31m deep and contained a single fill (003/013) which consisted of moderate, mid-brown clayish silt with very rare, small sub-angular stone.</p> <p>Ditch F020 was approximately east-west aligned and extended from the edge of the trench for a distance of 2.45m in length before terminating at the west end. It measured 0.50m wide and 0.10m deep and contained a single fill (005/015) which consisted of moderate, mid brown clayish silt with very rare, small to medium sub-angular stone.</p> <p>Ditch F021 was approximately north-south aligned and extended from the edge of the trench for a distance of 3.75m before terminating at the south end. It measured 0.70m and 0.40m deep and contained a single fill (007/017) which consisted of moderate, mid brown clayish silt with very rare small, sub-angular stones.</p> <p><i>Summary</i></p> <p>No artefacts were recovered from the features and their function and date are unknown. They do not appear to relate to intensive settlement and the linears most probably relate to field sub-division and/or drainage.</p>		
<p>A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.</p>		
Recorder: Abigail Brown, AC archaeology	Date sent to HER: 8 th October 2014	



 Area monitored

PROJECT

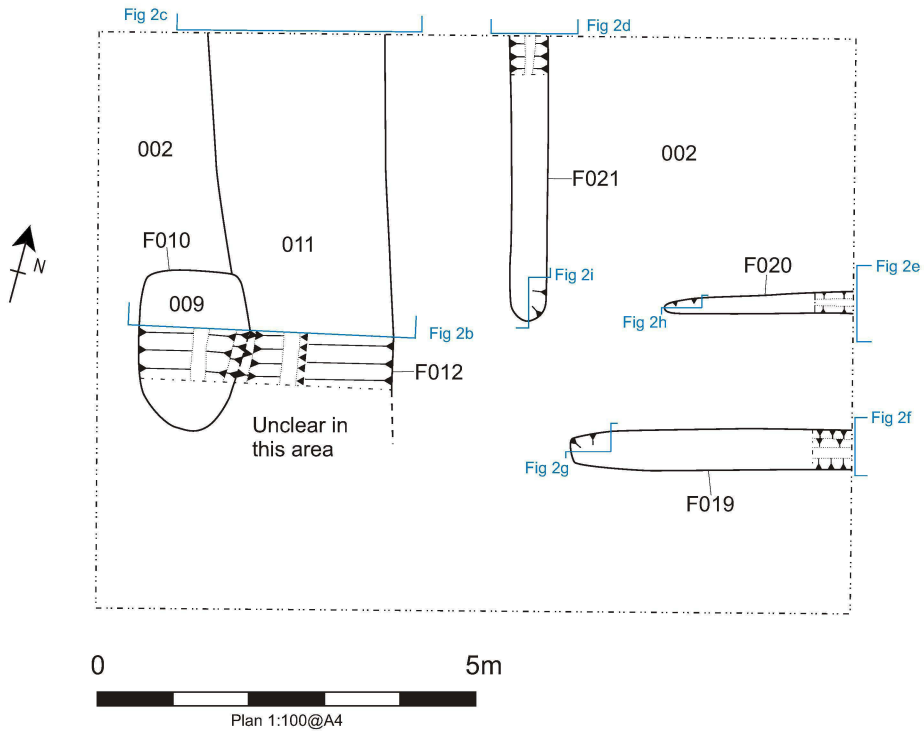
Land at Town Farm, Alwington, Bideford, Devon

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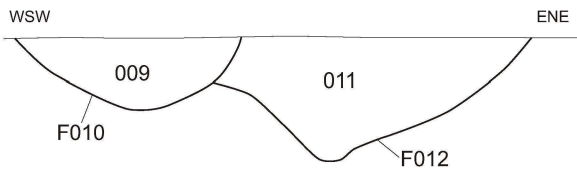
Fig. 1: Site location



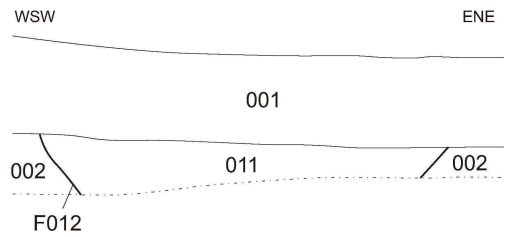
a) Plan



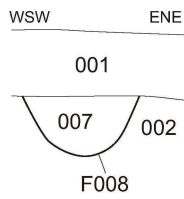
b) Section of F010 and F012



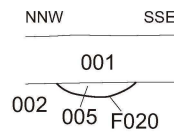
c) Section of F012



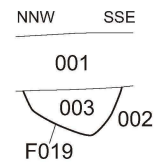
d) Section of F008



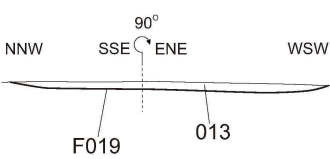
e) Section of F020



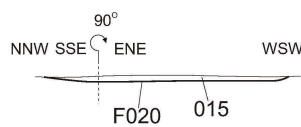
f) Section of F019



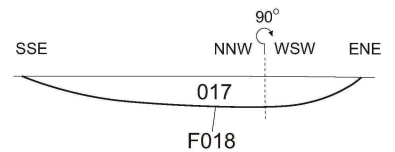
g) Section of F019



h) Section of F020



i) Section of F018



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Fig. 2: Plan and sections



Plate 1: View of site, looking south



Plate 2: Linear feature F019, looking west (scale 1m)

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