

# Stoke Canon Flood Defence Scheme, Devon

SX 93612 97956 - SX 93829 99114

Results of an archaeological watching brief

East Devon District Council planning reference  
13/1813/FUL

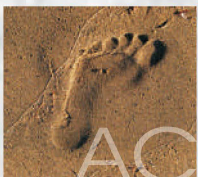
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Prepared by:  
Kerry Kerr-Peterson BA

On behalf of:  
The Environment Agency

Document No: ACD766/2/0

Date: September 2014



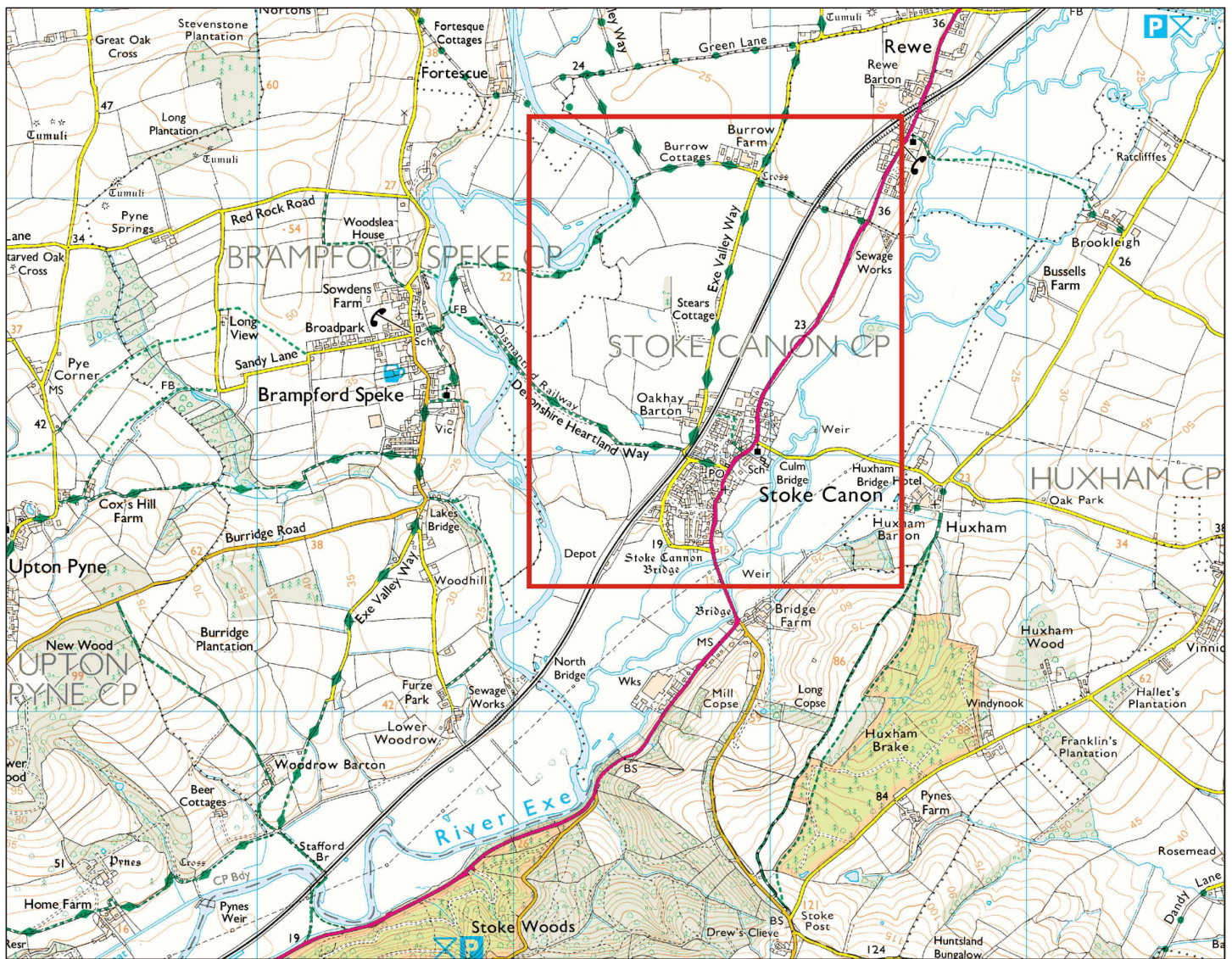
archaeology

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# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

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| <b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b><br>Stoke Canon, East Devon                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>National Grid Reference</b><br>SX 93612 97956 – SX<br>93829 99114 | <b>Number:</b> (Leave blank for HES to fill in) |
| <b>Subject:</b> Stoke Canon Flood Defence Scheme, Devon; Results of an archaeological watching brief                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                      | <b>Photo attached?</b> Y                        |
| <b>Planning Application no:</b> East Devon District Council planning reference 13/1813/FUL                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Recipient museum:</b> N/A                                         |                                                 |
| <b>OASIS ID:</b> 189762                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A                                      |                                                 |
| <b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b><br>ACD766                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b><br>26/09/2013 – 21/03/2014        |                                                 |
| <p><b>Description of works.</b></p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AC archaeology during additional work for the Stoke Canon Flood Defence Scheme. The works were commissioned by the Environment Agency and required as a condition of planning permission for the scheme. The sites lies on the floodplain of the River Exe where the excavation of geotechnical pits in 2011 revealed river gravels, in places overlaid by alluvial clays, at a depth of around 0.75m below the ground surface. Prehistoric activity in the landscape is demonstrated by prehistoric settlement and funerary monuments to the north of the village. No prehistoric features have been identified during the monitoring of the main works, although a small assemblage of residual lithics was recovered. South of Burrow there are cropmarks of enclosures that may be associated with the deserted settlement of Burrow.</p> <p><b>Results</b></p> <p>The scheme comprised groundworks within four plots (Figures 1 and 2, recorded during the fieldwork as Plots 1-4). All of the monitored excavations were carried out by a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket.</p> <p><i>Plot 1</i> was located to the north of Stoke Canon, to the south of Burrow Cross and adjacent to Green Lane. An area 70m long by 4m wide was excavated to a depth of 200mm, with only the topsoil (100) being partially removed (Plate 1). This comprised light reddish-brown, loose, sandy loam with common medium sized sub-rounded water-derived gravels. Late post-medieval and modern pottery was noted but not retained, and two pieces of residual worked flint which includes one piece of a broken blade were collected.</p> <p><i>Plot 2</i> was located west of Plot 1, to the west of Burrow Cottages. The works involved raising the ground level including the road south of the cottages. The overall are measured 25m long by up to 10m wide. The topsoil (200 – the same as 100) was partially removed to a depth of 200-250mm. North of the road it contained a large amount of modern rubbish and a modern pipe leading to a cess pit was located in the southeast corner of the field.</p> <p><i>Plot 3</i> was on the west side of the village, adjacent to the railway line. The works here involved the widening, to c.1.5m and deepening to 1.2m, of a 300m long existing drainage ditch along the eastern side of the field (Plate 2). Modern disturbance and truncation of the deposits was exposed at both ends of the ditch. The undisturbed deposits in the central part consisted of 0.44m of dark brown, friable, clay silt topsoil with frequent small-medium-sized sub-angular water-derived gravels and sparse clinker (300). This overlay 0.3m of mid brown, friable clay silt subsoil with occasional water-derived gravels and a lens of clinker and charcoal towards the base of the deposit (301). Below this was a 0.36m deep deposit of mid reddish-brown, compact silty clay with occasional iron panning and sparse water-derived gravels (302). This overlay the natural light-medium reddish-brown, compact sand/silty sand with frequent iron panning (303).</p> <p><i>Plot 4</i> was also located adjacent to the railway line and a public footpath north of Plot 3. A tapering area, 30m long by up to 6.5m wide, was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.65m. The sequence of deposits was the same as in Plot 3.</p> <p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>No evidence of any archaeological features or deposits was revealed. In Plots 1 and 2 the groundworks were not deep enough to expose any buried remains. Two pieces of residual worked flint were recovered from the topsoil of Plot 1.</p> |                                                                      |                                                 |
| <p><b>A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                      |                                                 |
| <b>Recorder:</b><br>K Kerr-Peterson, AC archaeology                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                      | <b>Date sent to HER:</b><br>26 September 2014   |





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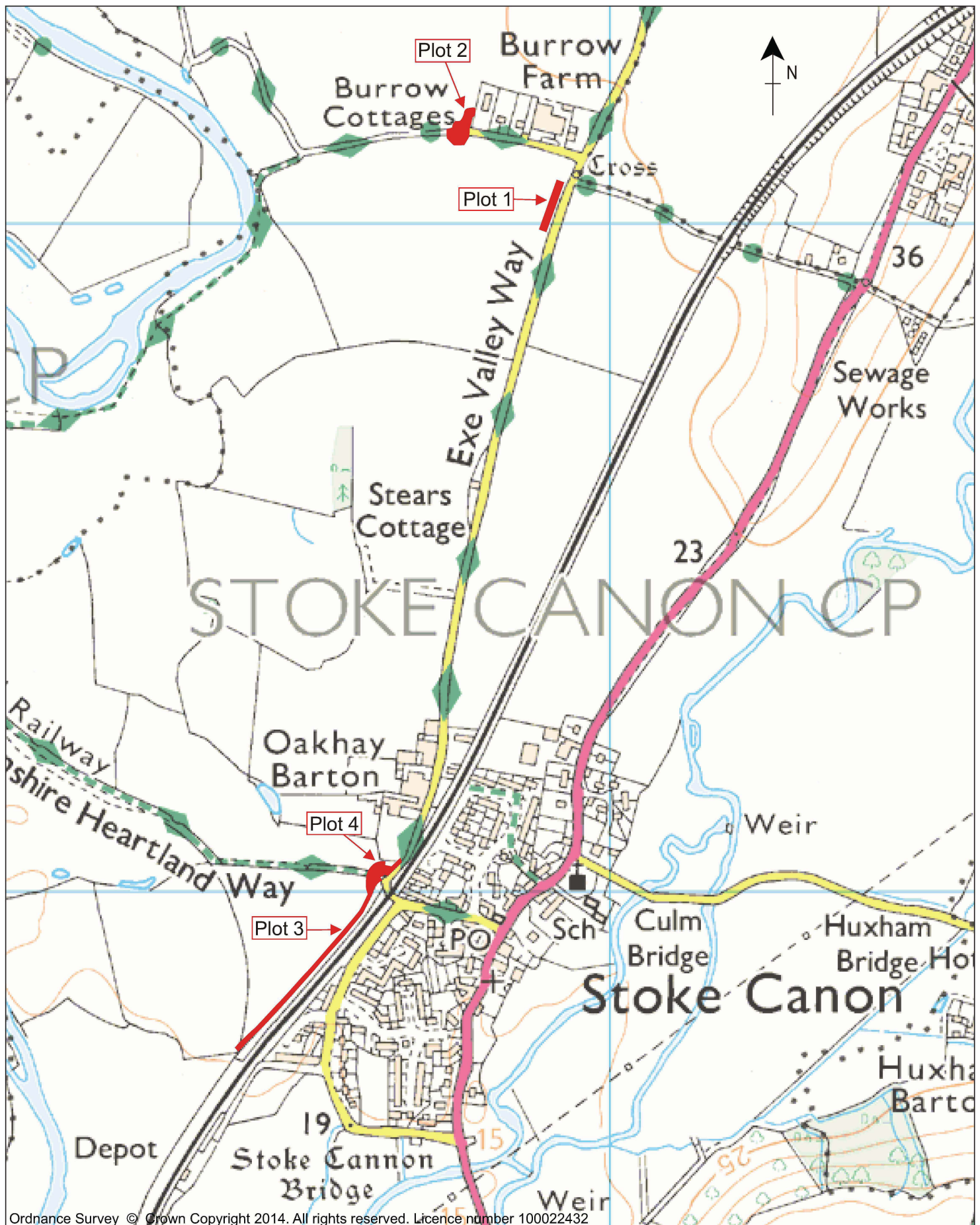
PROJECT

Stoke Canon Flood Defence Scheme, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Site location





PROJECT

Stoke Canon Flood Defence Scheme, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 2: Location of plots



Plate 1: Plot 1, looking south



Plate 2: Plot 3, looking north-east

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