

LUCAS FARM, UFFCULME, DEVON

(NGR ST 07578 13711)

Results of an archaeological watching brief

Mid Devon District Council planning references 14/00715/FULL,
14/0895/FULL and 14/01036/FULL

Prepared by:
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On behalf of:
XL Planning and Design Ltd

Document No: ACD996/1/0

Date: September 2014



AC archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Uffculme, Mid Devon	National Grid Reference ST 07578 13711	Number: (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
Subject: Lucas Farm, Uffculme, Devon: Results of an archaeological watching brief.		Photo attached? Y
Planning Application no: 145/00715/FULL, 14/00895/FULL and 14/01036/FULL	Recipient museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter	
OASIS ID: 191248	Museum Accession no: reference number 14/62	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD996	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 23 September 2014	

Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AC archaeology at Lucas Farm, Uffculme, Devon (centred on ST 07578 13711) in advance of the proposed construction of three agricultural livestock buildings. The work was requested by Mid Devon District Council, as advised by the Devon County Historic Environment Team.

The site is located to the northeast of the village of Uffculme, in the field to the north of Lucas Farm (Fig. 1). The topography of the area is a southeast-facing slope down to the River Culm with a number of small coombes, one of which is located within the field north of the farm. The site is situated within an area that contains evidence for late prehistoric and Romano-British activity including rectilinear enclosures (MDV11485 and MDV107670), one of which is located in the field immediately to the northeast. An Iron Age coin (10bc-ad60) has been found in the field to the southwest (MDV42119).

Results (Fig. 2; Plates 1-4)

The evaluation comprised the excavation of three trenches, totalling 79m in length, which were located along the long central axis of the proposed new buildings. The sequence of deposits exposed is shown below in Table 1.

Trench 1			
Context	Interpretation	Thickness	Description
100	Topsoil	100mm	Mid brown-grey, friable sandy silt loam with common sub-rounded flint and rare ceramic building material.
101	Subsoil	250mm	Mid yellow-brown, friable, sandy silt loam with common sub-rounded flint and rare ceramic building material and coal.
102	Natural	250mm+	Mixed loose sand, compacted sandstone and gravel.
Trench 2			
Context	Interpretation	Thickness	Description
200	Topsoil	160mm	Mid brown-grey, friable sandy silt loam with common sub-rounded flint and rare ceramic building material.
201	Subsoil	250mm	Mid yellow-brown, friable, sandy silt loam with common sub-rounded flint and rare ceramic building material and coal.
202	Colluvium	390mm	Mid orange-brown, sandy loam with well-rounded gravel.
203	Colluvium	240mm	Mid brown-orange soft sandy loam with well-rounded gravel.
204	Colluvium	130mm	Mid orange soft sandy loam.
205	Natural	1170mm+	Sandstone
Trench 3			
Context	Interpretation	Thickness	Description
300	Topsoil	160mm	Mid brown-grey, friable sandy silt loam with common sub-rounded flint and rare ceramic building material.
301	Subsoil	200mm	Mid yellow-brown, friable, sandy silt loam with common sub-rounded flint and rare ceramic building material and coal.
302	Natural	360mm+	Mixed loose sand, compacted sandstone and gravel.

Table 1: Context Descriptions

The Finds

All of the finds were retained, cleaned and assessed to determine the date and range of the finds. The assemblage consists of pottery dating from the late prehistoric to the post-medieval periods. This pottery is summarised per context by material type in Table 2.

Context	Context Description	Prehistoric pottery		Romano-British pottery		Post-medieval pottery	
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
100	Topsoil Trench 1					1	9
101	Subsoil Trench 1	2	3	11	10		
200	Topsoil Trench 2					2	38
202	Colluvium Trench 2			2	8		
Total		2	3	13	18	3	47

Table 2: Pottery quantified by context and material type. Weight in grams.

All of the pottery is residual within topsoil, subsoil or colluvial deposits and comes from trenches 1 and 2. Two small sherds of late prehistoric pottery weighing 3g were recovered. These are abraded and cannot be further identified. The majority of the pottery dates to the Romano-British period. These are all small sherds (less than 10mm long) and very abraded; the fabrics and dates cannot be identified. Three sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered. These include a jug fragment dating to the 16th century and industrial white ware and stoneware fragments.

Comments

Trench 3 was located within the coombe and the deposit sequence with colluvial deposits below the agricultural soils reflects this topography. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed. The presence of residual late prehistoric and Roman-British pottery is consistent with the previously-recorded heritage assets in the vicinity, and they are likely to have derived from a nearby settlement, although on the basis of the negative results of the evaluation this is unlikely to be in the area of the proposed new livestock buildings.

In summary, no archaeological features or deposits were exposed, and despite the presence of residual prehistoric and Roman-British pottery it is unlikely that the proposed development will impact on any below-ground archaeological deposits.

A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.

Recorder:

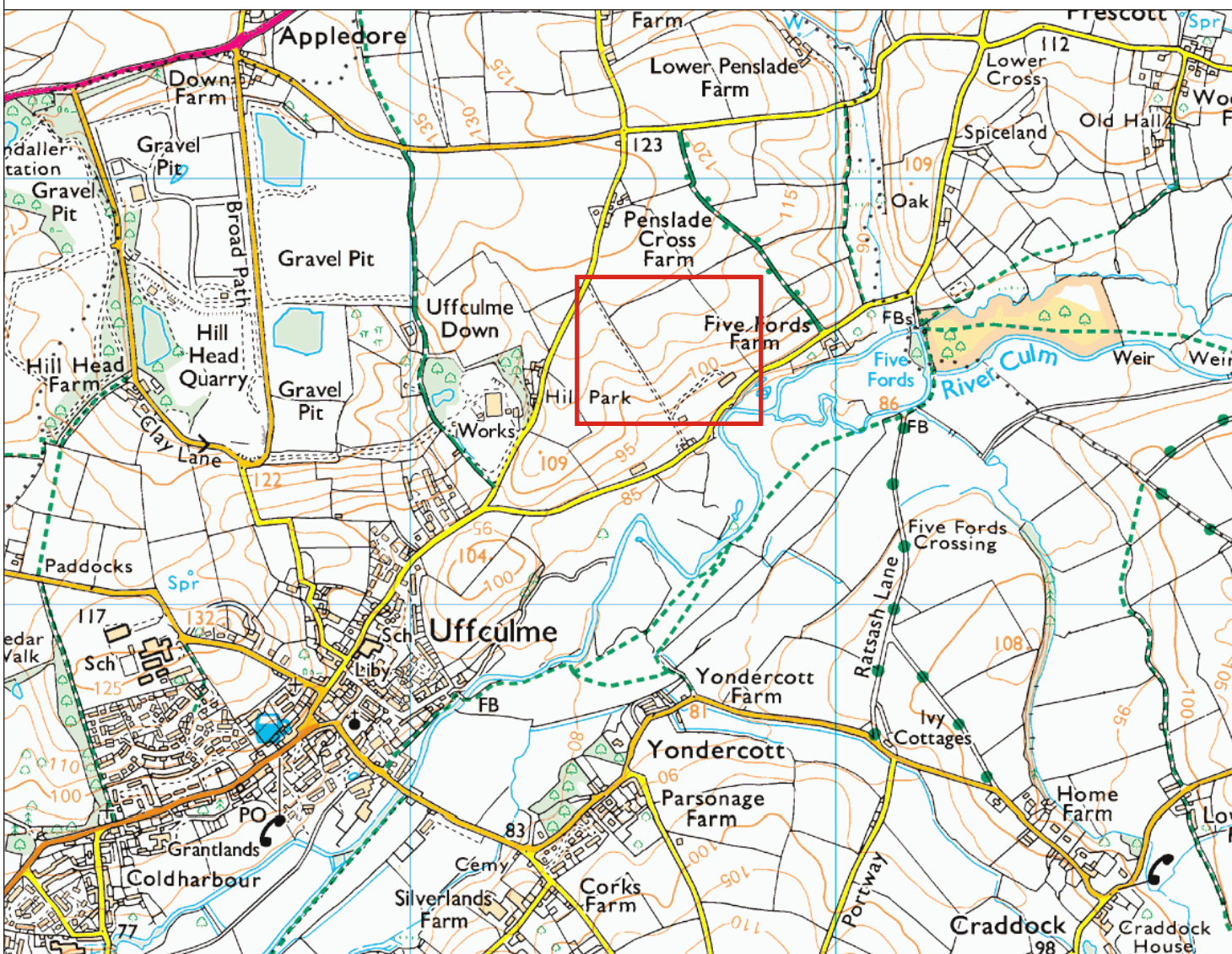
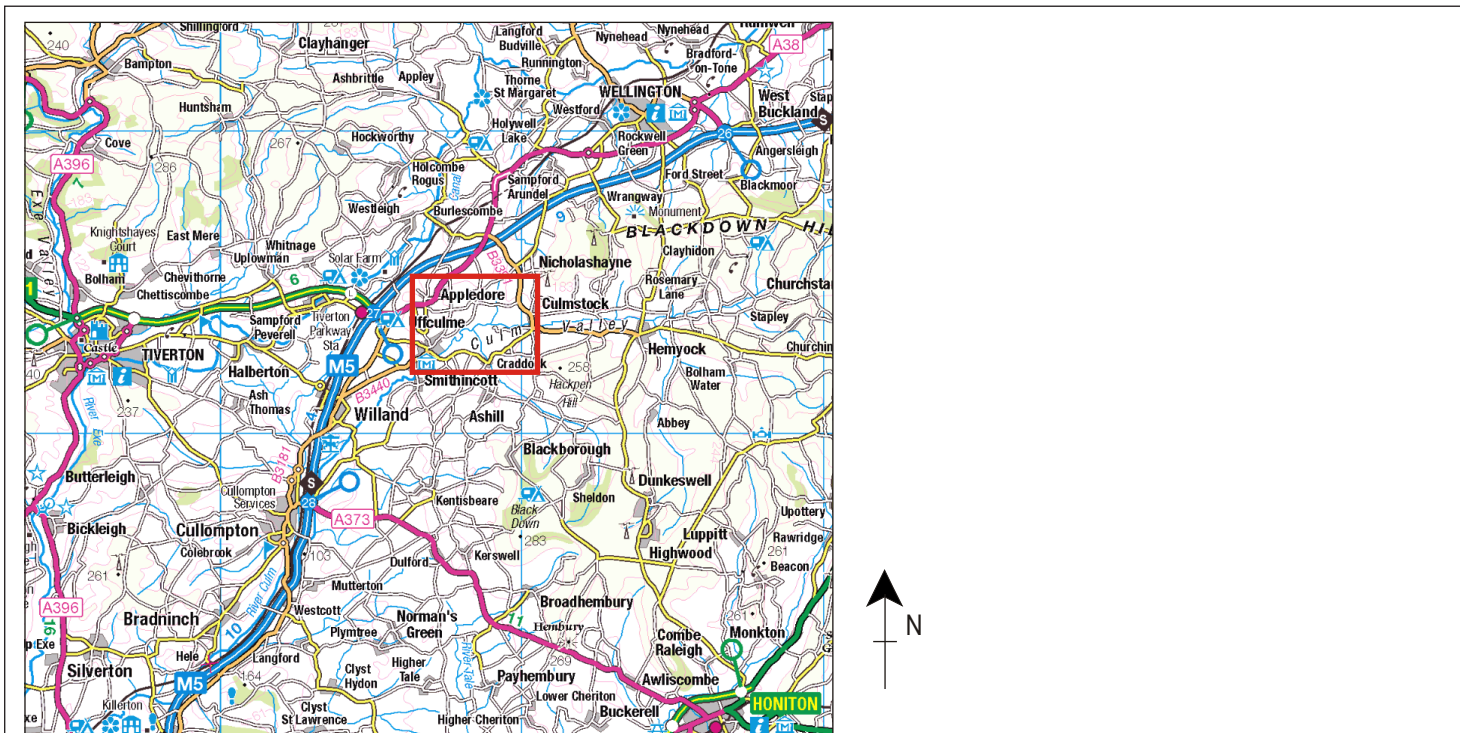
Paul Cooke, AC archaeology

Date sent to HER:

30 September 2014

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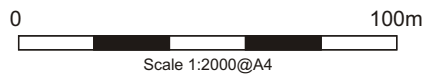
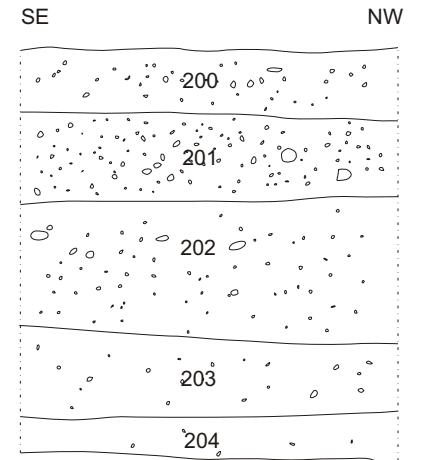
PROJECT

Lucas Farm, Uffculme, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of site





- New buildings
- Evaluation trenches

PROJECT
 Lucas Farm, Uffculme,
 Devon

TITLE
 Fig. 2: Location of
 evaluation trenches in
 relation to new buildings,
 and section





Plate 1: General view of site, viewed from the east



Plate 2: Trench 1, representative section, viewed from the northwest. 1m scale



Plate 3: Trench 2, representative section showing colluvial deposits, viewed from the northeast. 1m scale



Plate 4: Trench 4, general view, viewed from the southeast. 1m scale

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