

# LAND TO THE REAR OF 60 HIGH STREET, HONITON, DEVON

NGR ST 16459 00657

Results of an archaeological watching brief

East Devon District Council Planning Reference:  
14/0773/FUL (condition 13)

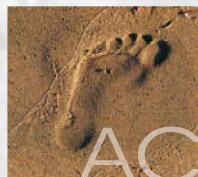
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Prepared by:  
Ben Pears

On behalf of:  
Mr Robert Harris

Document No: ACD988/2/0

Date: October 2014



archaeology

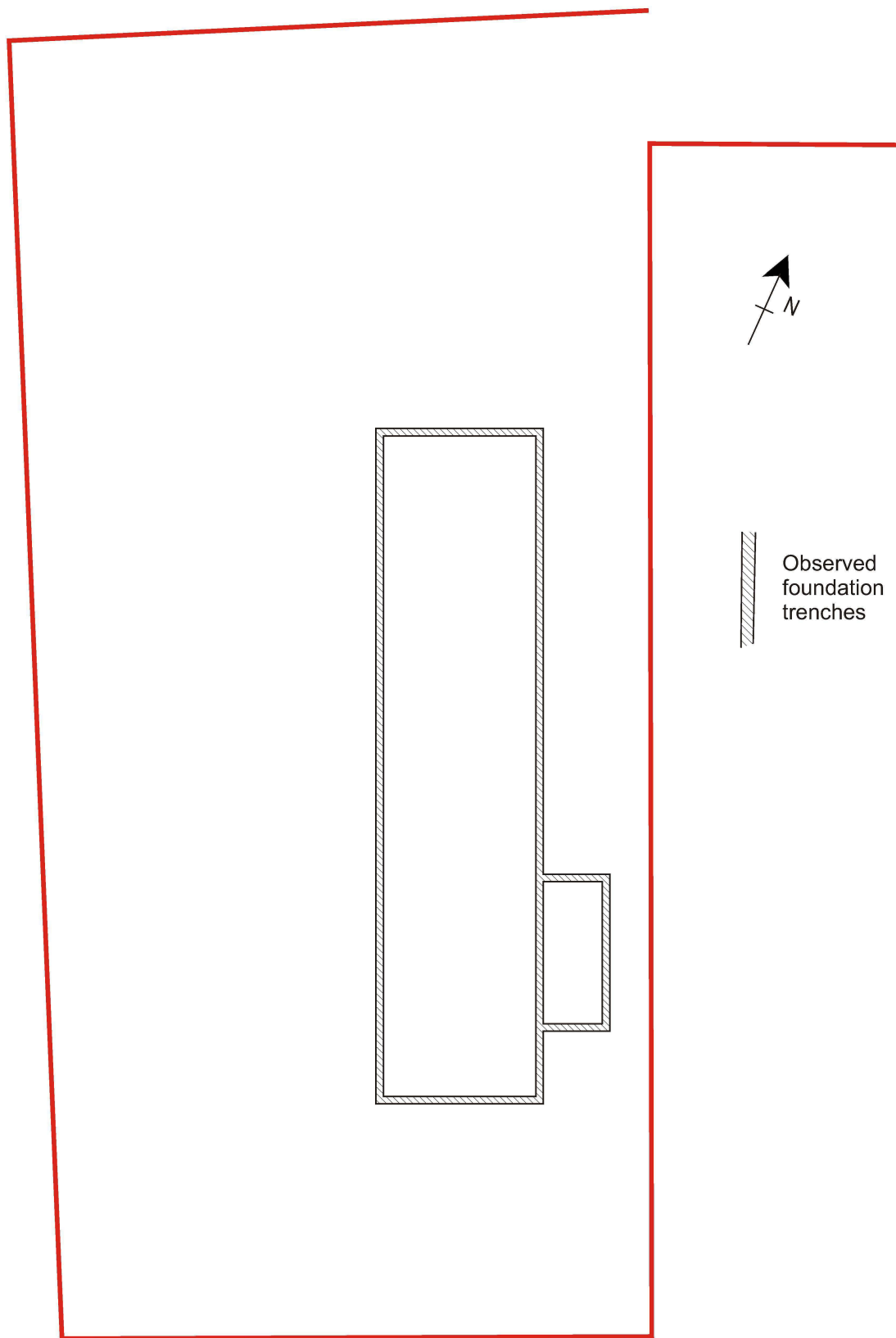
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# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Honiton, East Devon	<b>National Grid Reference</b> ST 16459 00657	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Land to the rear of 60 High Street, Honiton, Devon: Results of an archaeological watching brief		<b>Photo attached?</b> Yes
<b>Planning Ref no:</b> 14/0773/FUL (condition 13)	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> 193532	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> reference no. RAMM:14/57	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> ACD988	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 6 to 8 October 2014	
<p><b>Introduction</b> (Fig. 1)</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was carried out by AC archaeology during groundworks for the construction of a dwelling at the rear of 60 High Street, Honiton, Devon. The development site covers 0.07ha, and lies to the south of the historic High Street of Honiton at a height of approximately 119m aOD. The underlying geology comprises interlaminated sandstones, mudstones and siltstones of the Triassic Branscombe Mudstone Formation, overlain by freely draining, moderately acidic sandy loam soils.</p> <p>60 High Street, Honiton lies within the historic core of the town and is fronted by a Grade II listed two-storey 18th century building with an inserted 19th century shop frontage (Devon Historic Environment Record ref. MDV43633). The main archaeological interest in the site is that it occupies the rear portion of one of a series of burgage plots, probably established during the 13th century, that extend back from the High Street (MDV105823). Here, there is the potential for small-scale medieval and later industrial and agricultural activity as well as the disposal of domestic rubbish. Historic 19th- and 20th-century maps depict the site as an open garden.</p> <p>A trial trench excavation carried out by AC archaeology in the neighbouring plots 46-52 High Street exposed two ditches that are possibly internal medieval burgage boundaries or later sub-divisions. An 18th-century century pit was found containing residual 15th-century pottery. Two sherds of late Bronze Age or early Iron Age pottery were also found in 18th-century garden soils (Pears and Rainbird 2013).</p> <p><b>Methodology</b></p> <p>The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by AC archaeology (Hughes 2014). The watching brief consisted of the monitoring and recording of the stripping of topsoil within the footprint of the new building, and the excavation of the external foundation trenches, which were 600mm wide by 800-900mm deep.</p> <p><b>Results</b> (Fig. 2; Plates 1-3)</p> <p>No archaeological features were identified, and in all of the foundation trenches a sequence of soils was identified comprising topsoil (dark grey, silty, clayey loam with stone, brick and pottery inclusions), a garden soil (very dark grey silty clayey loam with frequent brick, CBM and pottery inclusions), a subsoil (light grey silty sandy clay with small sandstone inclusions) and the natural geology (bright yellow to light brown clay with moderate stone inclusions). Several made-ground horizons associated with the creation of a central concrete path and a greenhouse were also present. The overall deposit sequence was slightly shallower at the southern end of the site. Later post-medieval and modern finds, including pottery, CBM, glass and industrial waste, were noted but not retained.</p> <p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>In summary, no archaeological features were exposed, and the recorded spoil sequence related to the later post-medieval horticultural use of the site.</p> <p>This report and the associated OASIS entry represent the archive for the project.</p> <p><b>References</b></p> <p>Hughes, S. 2014, <i>Land to the rear of 60 High Street, Honiton, Devon, Centred on NGR ST 16459 00657, Project Design for an Archaeological Watching Brief, East Devon District Council Planning Reference: 14/0773/FULL (condition 13)</i>, AC archaeology document no. <b>ACD988/1/0</b></p> <p>Pears, B. and Rainbird, P. 2013, <i>Land north of Field View, Rear of 46-52 High Street, Honiton, Devon, NGR Centred on ST 1648 0068, Results Of An Archaeological Trench Evaluation, Planning Reference East Devon District Council 12/0622/FUL (Condition 2)</i>, AC archaeology document no. <b>ACD809/2/0</b></p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> Ben Pears (AC archaeology)		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 30 October 2014







PROJECT

Land to the rear of 60 High Street, Honiton,  
Devon

TITLE

Fig. 2: Location of observations



AC archaeology





Plate 1: The site following topsoil stripping, view to the south



Plate 2: General view of excavation of foundation trenches at the south end of the site, view to the north



Plate 3: View of the eastern foundation trench showing soil sequence, view to the southeast. 1m scale

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