DUNKESWELL WASTE WATER TREATMENT WORKS, DUNKESWELL, DEVON

NGR ST 14887 08071

Results of an Archaeological Trench Evaluation

Devon County Council Planning Reference DCC/3694/2014 (condition 3)

Prepared by:
Stella De-Villiers

On behalf of:
South West Water

Document No: ACD1015/2/0

Date: December 2014

AC archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Dunkeswell, East Devon	**National Grid Reference** ST 14887 08071	**Number:** (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
Subject: Dunkeswell Waste Water Treatment Works, Dunkeswell, Devon: Results of an archaeological trench evaluation		**Photo attached?** Y
Planning Application no: DCC/3694/2014	**Recipient museum:** N/A	
OASIS ID: 198493	**Museum Accession no:** N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD1015	**Dates fieldwork undertaken:** 26 November 2014	

Description of works.

Introduction (Fig. 1)
Archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by AC archaeology on behalf of South West Water prior to the construction of additional water treatment facilities at Dunkeswell Waste Water Treatment Works, Dunkeswell, Devon (ST 14887 08071). The works were required under condition no. 3 of the grant of planning permission by Devon County Council. The development will include the construction of a reed bed waste water treatment facility, control equipment cabinet, blower cabinet, vehicular access track and perimeter fencing.

The site is located 800m northeast of Dunkeswell on land immediately adjacent to the existing waste water treatment works. It forms part of a wider pasture plot located on elevated ground at 210m aOD. This is positioned on the north side of a topographic spur between a tributary stream and the main Madford River. The underlying solid geology comprises sandstone of the Upper Greensand Formation.

There are no previously-recorded heritage assets on the site, with the closed asset of interest being a probable enclosure located 400m to the west on the opposite side of the stream valley.

Method (Fig. 2)
The work was carried out in accordance with a project design prepared by AC archaeology (Hughes 2014). A total of four machine-dug trenches totalling 60m long were excavated in the area of the proposed reed beds in order to establish the presence or absence of any archaeological features or deposits.

Results (Fig. 2; Plates 1-2)

Trench 1
The deposit sequence in trench 1 comprised topsoil, subsoil and the natural. The topsoil (101) was 200mm thick and consisted of medium brown silty sandy loam with rare sub-angular stone inclusions up to 60 mm long. The subsoil (101) was 140mm thick and consisted of medium grey brown silty clay with common sub-angular stone inclusions up to 80mm long. The natural (102) consisted of medium reddish-brown yellow silty sand with patches containing rare sub-angular stone inclusions up to 60mm long.

Trench 1 exposed a NE-SW aligned ditch terminus F103, which contained no dateable material but was cut through the subsoil that would indicate a relatively modern date (Plates 1-2). It measured 0.60m wide, 0.50m deep with 0.90m of its length exposed in the trench. It contained a single fill (104) that was a medium grey brown silty clay with common sub-angular stone inclusions up to 80mm long.

Trench 2
Trench 2 contained no archaeological features or deposits. The soil profile found in the trench consisted of 300mm topsoil (200,) which overlies the natural (201). These deposits were the same as those recorded in trench 1.

Trench 3
Trench 3 contained no archaeological features or deposits. The soil profile consisted of 200mm topsoil (300) above a modern 50mm thick dumped deposit of medium red clay (301) over 200mm subsoil (302) which overlies the natural (303). The topsoil, subsoil and natural deposits were the same as those recorded in trench 1.

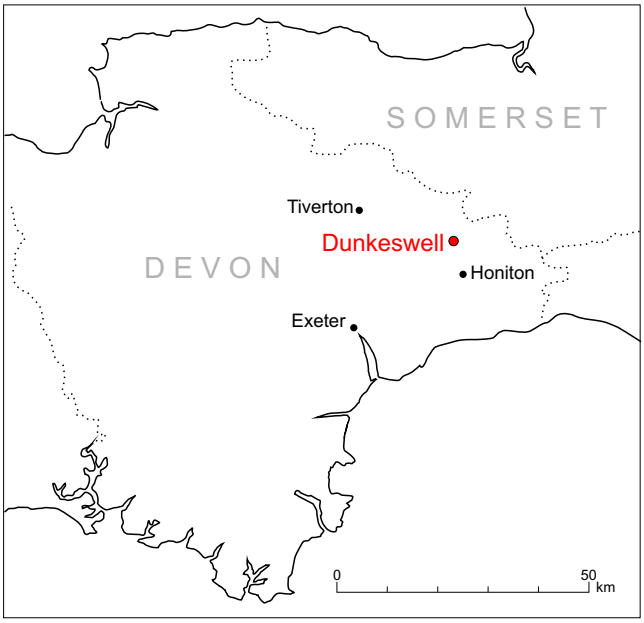
Trench 4
Trench 4 contained no archaeological features or deposits. The soil profile consisted of 350mm topsoil (400) over 400mm subsoil (401) which overlies natural (402). These deposits were the same as those recorded in trench 1.

Comments
The evaluation has characterised the site, and the soil profile is generally consisted across the development area. A single feature, a ditch of probable modern date, was identified. Its southwest end was exposed; it probably continues to the northeast, outside of the development area. No finds were recovered from any of the deposits. The fieldwork has investigated a small portion of the whole site but indicates that there is very little potential for any significant archaeological features or deposits to be present.

Reference
Hughes, S, 2014, *Dunkeswell Waste Water Treatment Works, Dunkeswell, Devon, (NGR ST 14887 08071), Project design for archaeological monitoring and recording*, *Devon County Council planning reference DCC/3694/2014 (condition 3)*, AC archaeology document no. **ACD1015/1/0**.

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:	**Date sent to HER:**
Stella De-Villiers. AC archaeology	19 December 2014



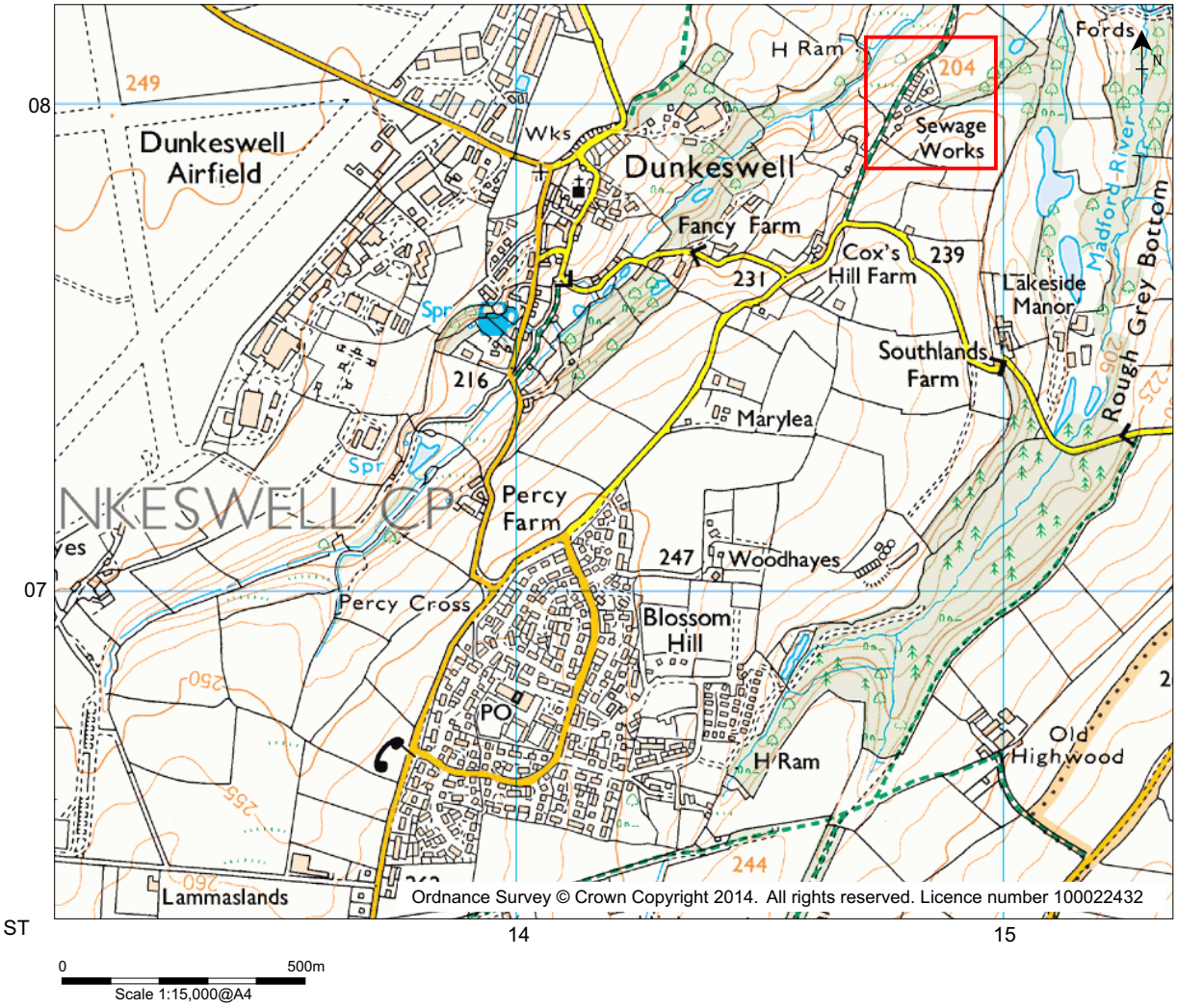


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Fig. 1: Location of site

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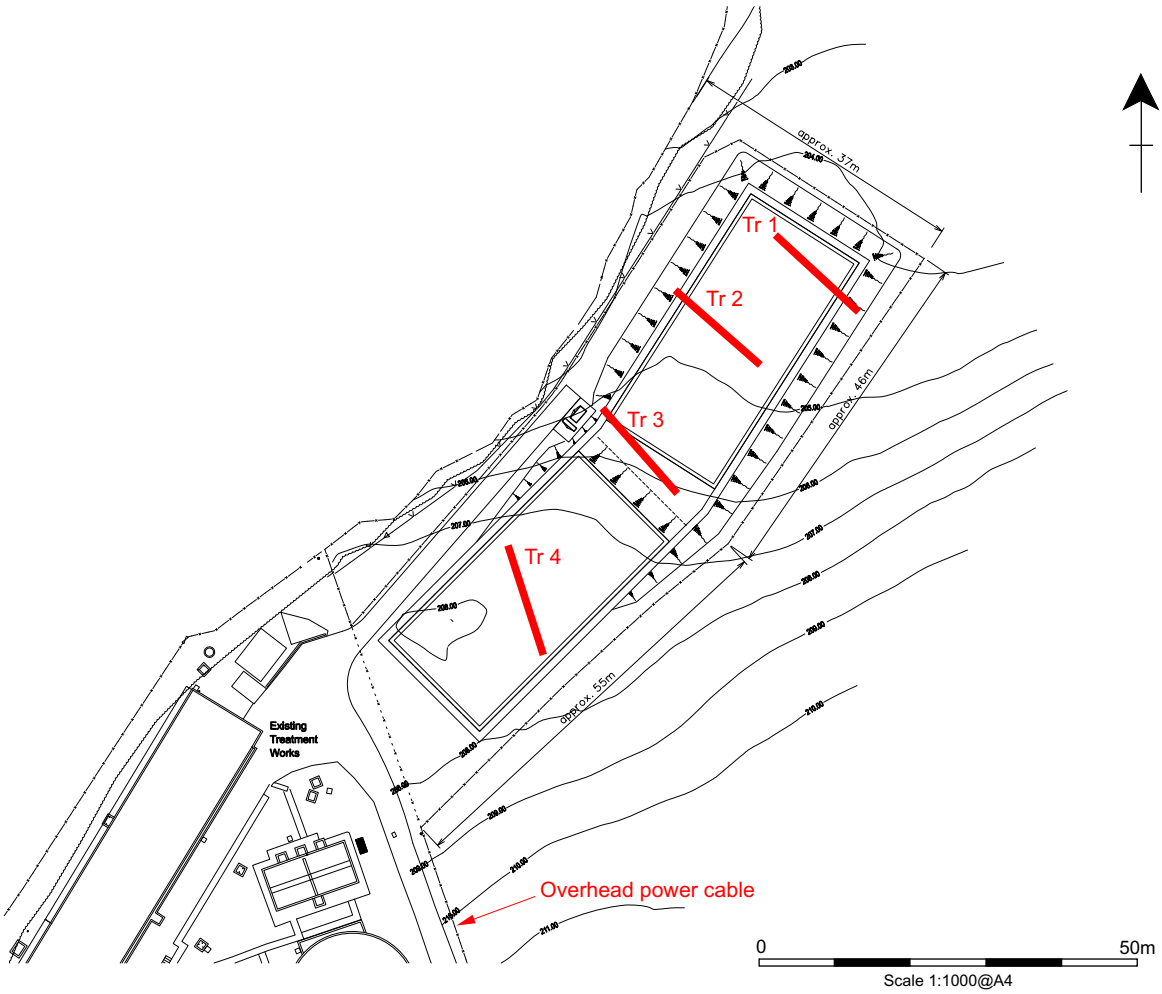
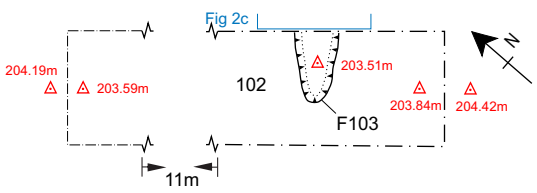
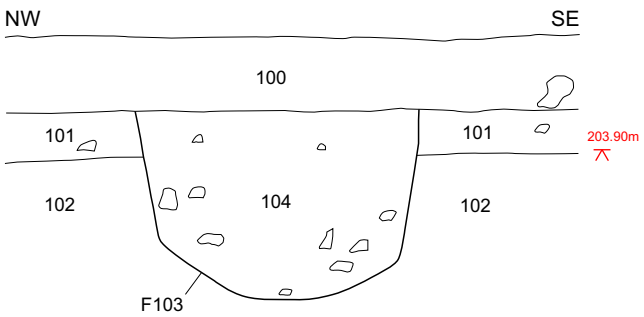


a) Trench location plan, also shows the location of the new development

b) Plan, Trench 1



c) Section of F103



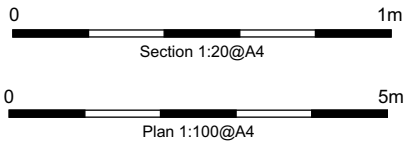


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Fig. 2: Trench location plan and Trench 1, plan and section

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Plate 1: Trench 1, looking northwest showing ditch terminus F103 in foreground. 1m scale

Plate 2: Trench 1, showing ditch F103 looking northeast. 1m scale

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