

LAND TO THE REAR OF 46 FORE STREET, TOTNES,
DEVON

(NGR SX 80374 60333)

Results of an archaeological watching brief

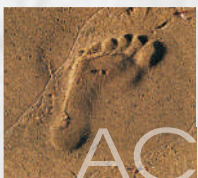
South Hams District Council planning reference
56/1465/14/F, condition 3

Prepared by
Dr Paul Rainbird

On behalf of
Harrison Sutton Ltd

Document No: ACD1065/2/0

Date: May 2015



archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: South Hams District Council	National Grid Reference SX 80374 60333	Number: (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
Subject: Land to the rear of 46 Fore Street, Totnes, Devon		Photo attached? Y
Planning Application no: 56/1465/14/F	Recipient museum: RAMM, Exeter	
OASIS ID: 210039	Museum Accession no: RAMM 15/19	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD1065	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 30-31 March 2015 and 15 April 2015	
<p>Description of works</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AC archaeology for Harrison Sutton Partnership on behalf of the owner Mr Cast during the construction for a house and associated landscaping. The archaeological works were required under condition 3 of the grant of planning permission by South Hams District Council, following consultation with the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team.</p> <p>The site covers an area of approximately 0.07ha, was formerly used as gardens; it is situated at a height of approximately 13m aOD. The plot drops slightly to both the north and the south. The underlying solid geology comprises Devonian mudstone, siltstone, limestone and sandstone of the Nordon Formation.</p> <p><i>Archaeological background</i></p> <p>Fore Street connects the late Saxon <i>burh</i> and crossing point of the River Dart to the east, and is formed from a series of medieval burgage plots. An archaeological trench evaluation was undertaken by AC archaeology during July 2014 (De-Villiers and Kerr-Peterson 2014). No significant archaeological features or deposits were identified, with only two medieval pits being partially exposed. The deposit sequence was broadly similar across the site, comprising modern, post-medieval and medieval soil layers. It was therefore concluded that the site has low archaeological potential and the proposed development would have no significant impact on any archaeological remains.</p> <p>The aim of the watching brief was to preserve by record any archaeological features or deposits exposed during the deepest groundworks, which had been identified as those elements of the development that had the potential to expose archaeological features of medieval date.</p> <p><i>Results</i> (Fig. 1; Plates 1 and 2)</p> <p>The watching brief targeted areas of deepest excavation (up to 1.30m below current ground surface), and comprised the monitoring of groundworks for the parking area at the south end of the plot. This area had not been investigated during the evaluation due to the presence of asbestos. A deep garden topsoil of dark brown silty loam contained modern finds (not collected) and evidence of burning with the area closest to the south boundary clearly being used for the disposal of rubbish. Due to the natural slope moving northwards the garden soil was shallower with the natural geology exposed by the groundworks the garden soil was also much cleaner with less evidence for rubbish dumping. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were located. The results of the watching brief show that there is no evidence for the south end of the burgage plot, furthest from the buildings on Fore Street, being the focus for activity in medieval or early post-medieval period.</p> <p><i>Reference</i></p> <p>De-Villiers, S. and Kerr-Peterson, K. 2014 <i>Land to the Rear of 46 Fore Street, Totnes, Devon, (NGR SX 80374 60333), Results of an archaeological trench evaluation, Planning Ref. South Hams District Council 56/1465/14/F.</i> AC archaeology document no. ACD966/1/1</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: Paul Rainbird, AC archaeology		Date sent to HER: 5 May 2015



Area monitored



Area stripped to natural

PROJECT

46 Fore Street, Totnes

TITLE

Fig. 1: Site location and plan of area monitored



AC archaeology



Plate 1: Southern part of parking area following machine stripping, looking northwest



Plate 2: Northern part of parking area following stripping, looking north

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