

Priory Cottage, 13a Gravel Walk, Cullompton,  
Devon

ST 02216 07137

Results of an archaeological watching brief

Planning ref: Mid Devon District Council 12/00431/FULL

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Prepared by:  
Dr Paul Rainbird

On behalf of:  
Mr Tony Bent

Document No: ACD493/2/1

Date: June 2015



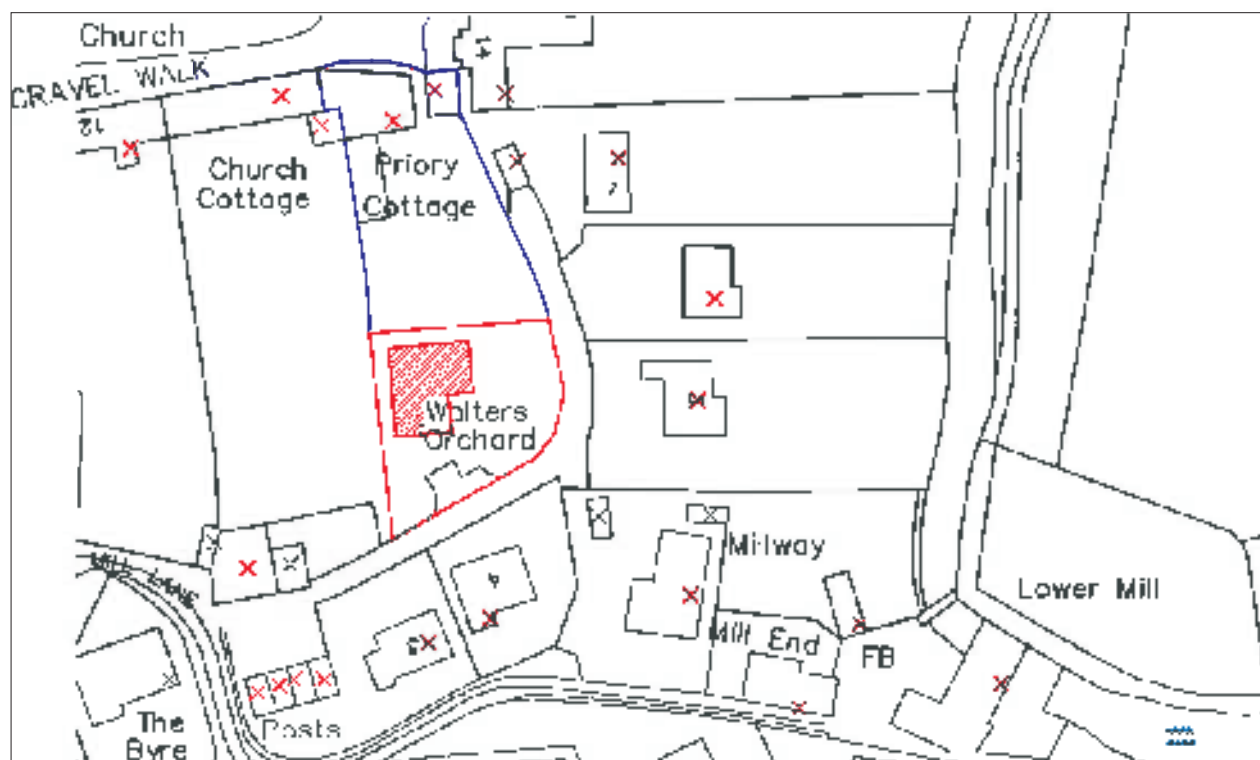
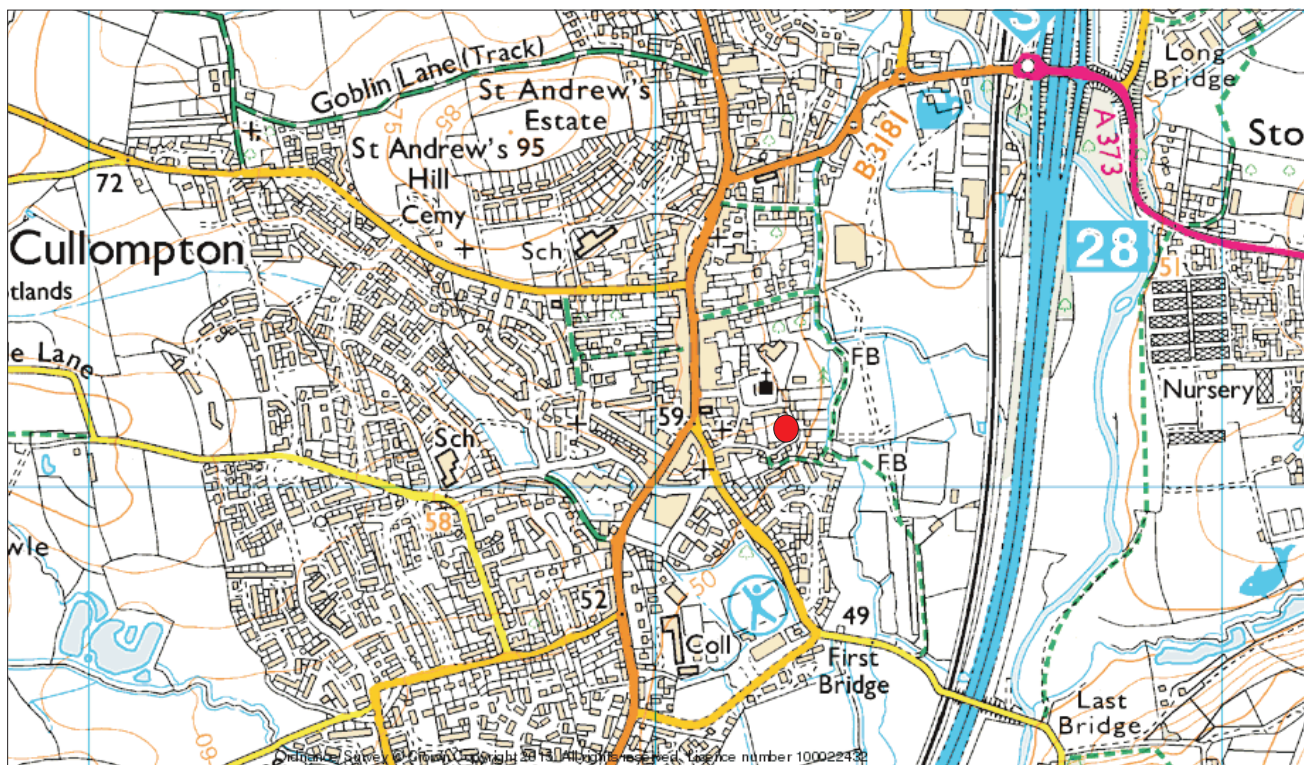
AC archaeology

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# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Cullompton, Mid Devon	<b>National Grid Reference</b> ST 02216 07137	<b>Number:</b> (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
<b>Subject:</b> Priory Cottage, 13a Gravel Walk, Cullompton, Devon, Results of an archaeological watching brief		<b>Photo attached?</b> Y
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 12/00431/FULL	<b>Recipient museum:</b> N/A	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> 213304	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> ACD493	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 15, 18 and 20 May 2015	
<p><b>Description of works</b></p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AC archaeology on behalf of the owner Mr Bent during groundworks for a new detached dwelling at the rear of Priory Cottage, 13a Gravel Lane, Cullompton. The archaeological works were required as a condition of planning permission by Mid Devon District Council, following consultation with the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team.</p> <p>The site lies on ground sloping gently to the south at a height of approximately 50m aOD. The underlying solid geology comprises Permian Sandstone of the Cadbury Breccia Formation overlain by Quaternary colluvium.</p> <p><i>Archaeological background</i></p> <p>The principal archaeological interest in the site is that it lies within the historic core of Cullompton (Devon Historic Environment Record ref. MDV71719). The church may have been a focus of early settlement and is thought to be on the site of an earlier minster church (MDV54301). Within the town to the north and northwest of the church, evidence for prehistoric, Roman military and Romano-British activity has also been discovered.</p> <p>The aim of the archaeological monitoring and recording was to preserve by record any archaeological features or deposits exposed during groundworks associated with the project, with particular reference to the potential for historic settlement remains.</p> <p><i>Results (Figs 1 and 2; Plates 1 and 2)</i></p> <p>Groundworks comprised the levelling of the site and excavation of trenches for the footings of the dwelling and for a revetment wall to the rear (the north side) of the proposed dwelling. The foundation trenches measured up to 0.85m wide by up to 1.10m deep. In patches at the north end of the site the natural was reached at 0.35m below the levelled ground surface, but the natural dropped steeply to the south where it was not encountered until 1.10m below the former ground surface.</p> <p>The following soil sequence was recorded: a topsoil (context 001), measuring up to 0.40m thick, comprising greyish-brown silty-loam with rare modern artefacts (none of which were retained), below which was a subsoil (002), measuring between 0.30m and 0.70m thick, consisting of brownish-grey silty-loam. In the northern part of the site a further layer (003), measuring 0.23m thick and consisting of pale yellowish silty-sand and pebbles, possibly representing a naturally-derived colluvium. The underlying natural (004) consisted of light red and pale orange gravels.</p> <p>A shallow ditch (F005) orientated north-south and measuring 0.8m wide by 0.41m deep was exposed towards the west end of the levelling scarp and revetment wall trench cutting into layer 003. It had shallow sloping sides and rounded base with a single fill (006) consisting of a clean grey silty-loam with no finds. The orientation follows the slope and it is probably a drainage ditch, although a boundary ditch cannot be ruled out since it also matches the orientation of the historic field boundaries. It appears to have a naturally accumulated fill.</p> <p><i>Summary</i></p> <p>A single archaeological feature was exposed – part of a probable drainage ditch or boundary, possibly of historic date. No firm evidence for the early settlement of Cullompton, or any other activity, was encountered.</p> <p>This report and the associated OASIS entry represent the archive for the project.</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> Paul Cooke, AC archaeology		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 11 June 2015





0 100m

Scale 1:2500@A4



Location of site



Footprint of new building

PROJECT

Priory Cottage, 13a Gravel Walk, Cullompton, Devon

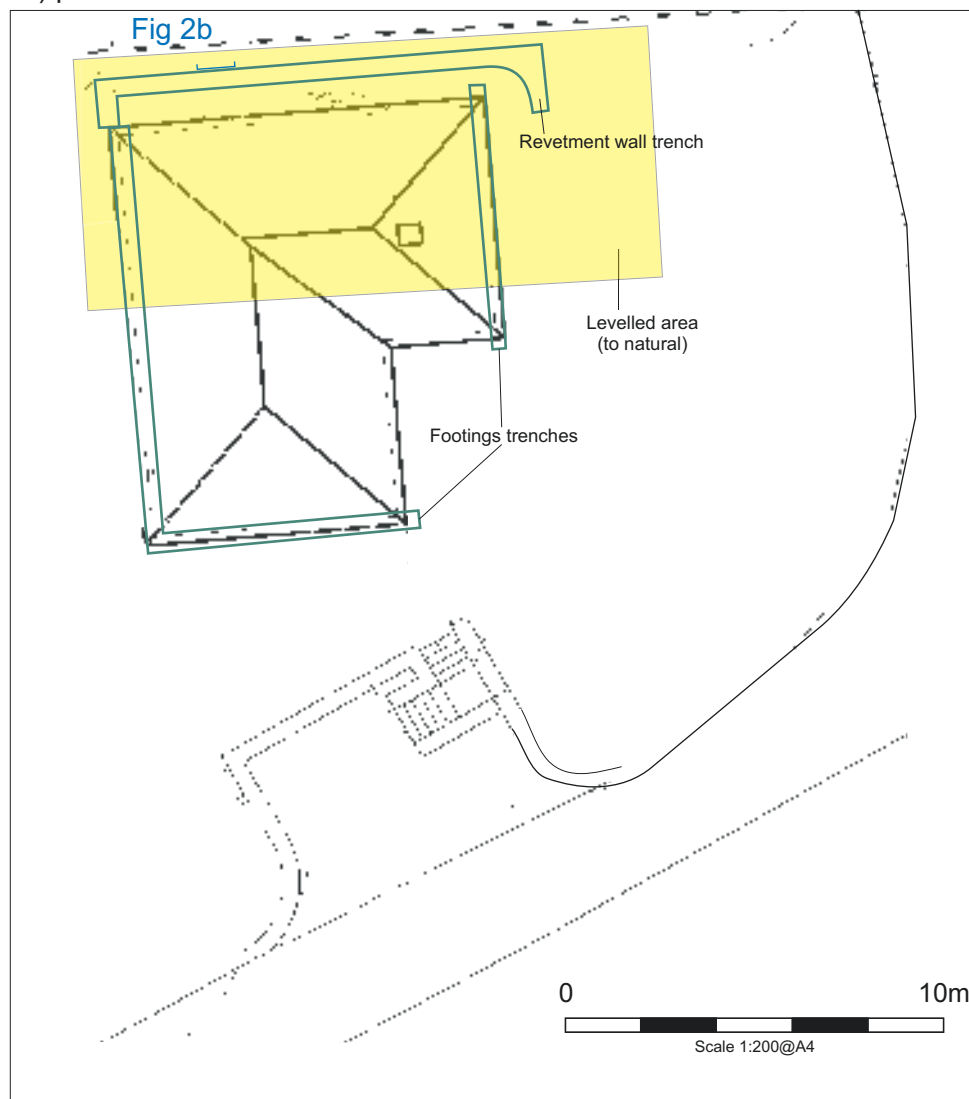
TITLE

Fig.1: Location of site

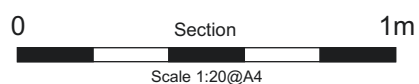
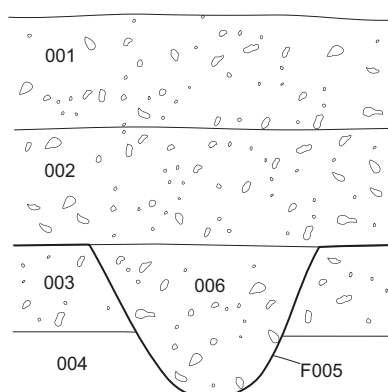


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a) plan of area observed



b) section of ditch F005



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TITLE

Fig. 2: Plan of area observed and section of ditch F005



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Plate 1: The building plot, view from the southeast



Plate 2: Ditch F005, view from the south (scale 0.4m)

### Devon Office

AC archaeology Ltd  
Unit 4, Halthaies Workshops  
Bradninch  
Nr Exeter  
Devon  
EX5 4LQ

Telephone/Fax: 01392 882410

### Wiltshire Office

AC archaeology Ltd  
Manor Farm Stables  
Chicklade  
Hindon  
Nr Salisbury  
Wiltshire  
SP3 5SU

Telephone: 01747 820581  
Fax: 01747 820440

[www.acarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.acarchaeology.co.uk)