

LAND AT GREENHILL LANE, DENBURY, DEVON

(NGR SX 8246 6892)

Results of an archaeological trench evaluation

Teignbridge District Council planning reference
14/02561/FUL, condition 7

Prepared by:
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On behalf of:
Bramley Homes (SW) Ltd

Document No: ACD1113/2/0

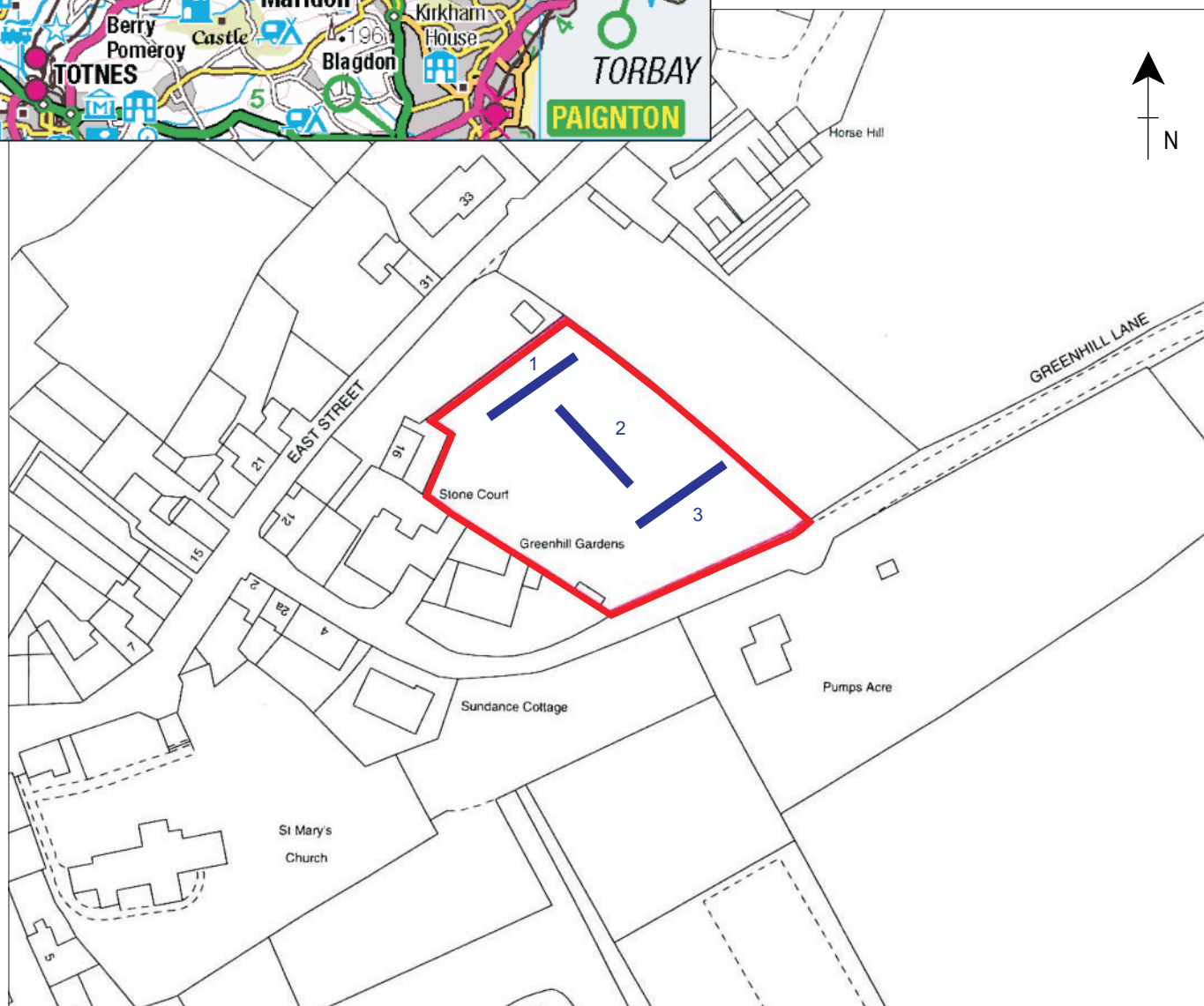
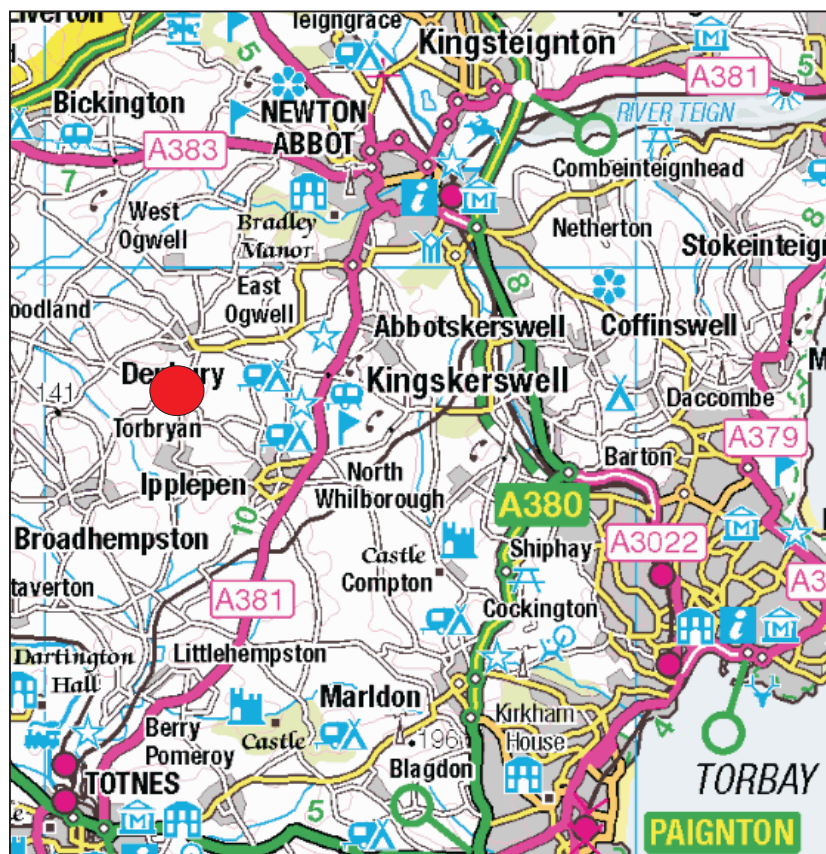
Date: July 2015



AC archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Denbury and Torbryan, Teignbridge	National Grid Reference SX 8246 6892	Number: (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
Subject: Land at Greenhill Lane, Denbury, Devon: Results of an archaeological watching brief		Photo attached? Yes
Planning Application no: Teignbridge District Council 14/02561/FUL (condition 7)	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS ID: 216514	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD1113	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 11 May 2015	
<p>Introduction (<i>Fig 1; Plate 1</i>)</p> <p>An archaeological trench evaluation was carried out by AC archaeology on land at Greenhill Lane, Denbury in advance of the construction of a residential development of four houses. The investigation was required under condition 7 of the grant of planning permission by Teignbridge District Council. The site consists of a small plot of level pasture totalling c. 0.2 hectares. It is situated on the eastern edge of the village at around 95m aOD, with underlying solid geology consisting of Devonian limestone of the Kingsteignton Volcanic Group.</p> <p>The site is located on the eastern edge of the village. A settlement at Denbury is first recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086, and borough status was granted in 1286. The 1839 parish Tithe Map shows the site as it is today, but with cottages depicted to the north alongside East Street. The plot is one of a number of strips on East Street whose layout is characteristic of medieval burgage plots and strip fields.</p> <p>Results (<i>Figs 1 and 2; Plates 2-4</i>)</p> <p>The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of three 1.8m wide trenches totalling 60m in length. Trenches were positioned to provide sample coverage of the site.</p> <p>All trenches contained a broadly consistent soil profile comprising natural weathered limestone encountered at a depth of between 0.3m and 0.5m from the surface, below 0.1-0.25m of subsoil comprising mid reddish-brown, sandy clay-loam with occasional angular limestone pebbles and cobbles, which was sealed by 0.2-0.25m topsoil – a dark brown, friable, sandy-loam with rare angular limestone pebbles. The thickness of these overburden deposits increased across the site from north to south. In addition to sherds of modern China in the topsoil, a single small fragment of a medieval jug was recovered from subsoil in trench 2 (201).</p> <p>A single, very shallow, square, probable posthole base (F203) was exposed in trench 2. It measured 0.46m across by 0.06m deep with moderately-steep to steep sides and an uneven base cut into the limestone bedrock. It contained a single fill (204) of dark grey-brown, loose, clay-loam with occasional flecks of lime mortar, coal and slate fragments, indicating a late post medieval or later date.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>A single posthole of probable late post-medieval date was revealed during the evaluation. There was no evidence for any earlier occupation, with the deposit sequence comprising typical agricultural soils. The site is located within one of a group of former fields between East Street and Greenhill Lane that have medieval origins. The development site may have originated as a medieval strip field, which was encroached upon by expansion of the village in the early post-medieval period, with the land (including the site) behind the houses on East Street being used as gardens.</p> <p>In summary, it is considered that the site has very low archaeological potential.</p> <p>This report and the associated OASIS entry represent the archive for the project.</p>		
Recorder: Alex Farnell, AC archaeology		Date sent to HER: 2 July 2015



0 50m
Scale 1:1250@A4

PROJECT

Land at Greenhill Lane, Denbury, Teignbridge, Devon

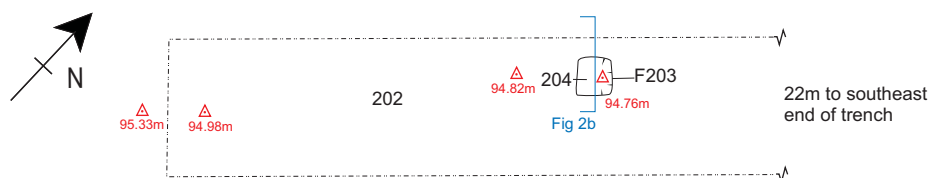
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Fig.1: Site location and trench layout

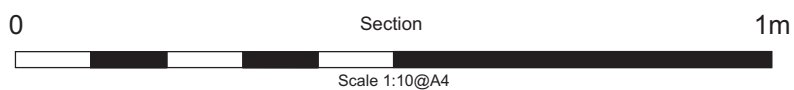
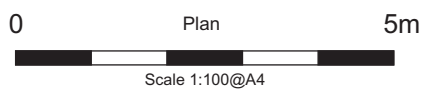
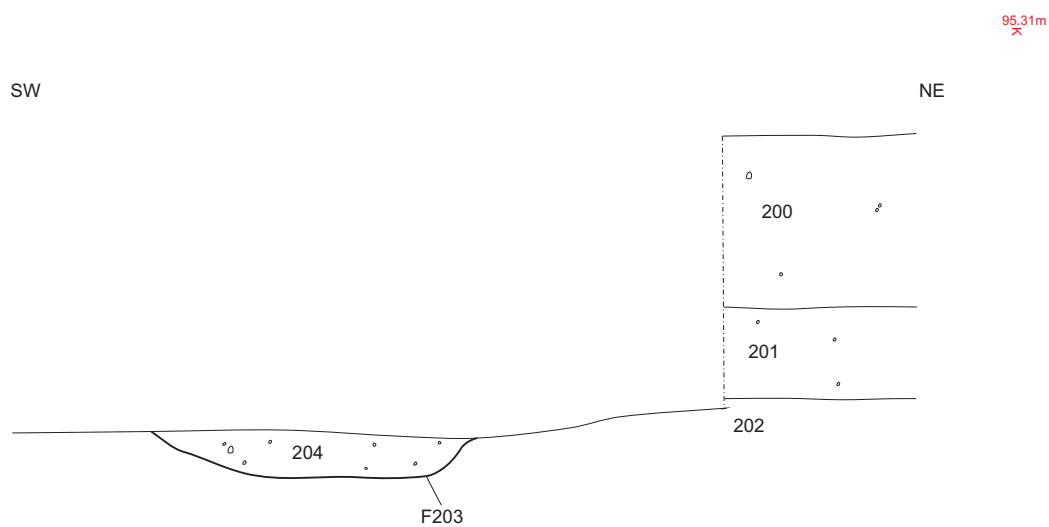


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a) Plan of trench 2



b) Section of F203



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Fig. 2: Trench 2, plan and section



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Plate 1: General site view,
looking north



Plate 2: General view of trench 2,
looking northwest (scale 1m)



Plate 3: Trench 3 representative section, looking northwest (scale 1m)



Plate 4: Southeast facing section of truncated posthole F205, looking northwest (scale 0.4m)

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