

ST ANDREW'S ROAD, CULLOMPTON, DEVON

(NGR ST 0204 0750)

Results of a archaeological watching brief

Mid Devon District Council planning reference 13/00168/FULL

Prepared by:
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On behalf of:
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Document No: ACD731/1/0

Date: August 2015



AC archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Cullompton, Mid Devon	National Grid Reference ST 0204 0750	Number:
Subject: St Andrews Road, Cullompton, Devon: Results of an archaeological watching brief		Photo attached? Y
Planning Application no: 13/00168/FULL	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS ID: 220407	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD731	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 12th November – 10th December 2014	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p><i>Introduction</i> An archaeological watching brief was carried out by AC archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of two dwellings and garages on land at St Andrews Road, Cullompton, Devon.</p> <p>The site was situated on the northeast side of St Andrews Road and comprised of two adjoining plots occupied by the former premises of Westway Heating and a garden immediately to the northeast that formed the rear of No. 46 High Street (Fig. 1). The site sloped moderately to the southeast towards the High Street and the River Culm beyond at around 67m aOD, with the underlying solid geology comprising breccia of the Exeter Group.</p> <p>The site lay close to the historic core of Collumpton. A number of historic buildings line Cullompton High Street with the location of former Burgage plots to their rear, with these principally recorded to the south of the site. The earliest map depicting the location of the site is an estate map that dates from 1633. In this the site is shown within an open plot to the rear of High Street. The 1840 Cullompton parish tithe map shows the site in more detail as comprising two plots in a similar arrangement to the current layout. In this the current garden plot is shown with a building in the location of No.46 High Street to the rear. The west plot is shown to have been occupied by a small structure on its south side. The first-edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey map of 1887 depicts a structure in the location of the Westway Heating premises with the small structure previously shown to the south no longer present. This is also the case in the subsequent Ordnance Survey map of 1903. The Westway Heating premises dated from the late 20th century.</p> <p>Monitored groundworks comprised the stripping of topsoil and modern surfaces followed by the excavation of footings trenches (Fig. 2).</p> <p><i>Results</i></p> <p>House Footings Natural subsoil comprised a mid brownish-red clayey-sand and was exposed at a depth of 1.44m below existing levels. This was overlain by a 0.44m thick colluvial soil of light yellowish-grey loamy-sand. The colluvial soil was overlain by a 0.65m thick mid brownish-grey sandy-silt loam, which was, in turn, sealed by a dark grey humic silty-loam topsoil (Plate 1).</p> <p>Two northwest to southeast aligned linear features were exposed (F104 and F106) that were cut into the natural subsoil (Plates 2 and 3). These features, which potentially represented parts of the same overall probable ditch, both contained similar light yellowish-grey loamy-sand fills with rare sub rounded flint gravel inclusions. Due to the depth of the features, these could not be recorded in detail. Conversely, the excavations were not of a sufficient depth in the central house plot footing trench to expose the probable ditch. No finds were recovered from the groundworks associated with the house footings.</p> <p>Garage footings This area had been previously terraced into the natural subsoil (Plate 4). The natural subsoil was overlain by a layer of mixed gravel and rubble made ground. A 0.25m high c.19th century brick culvert (F108) was exposed extending northwest to southeast across the southwest portion of the plot (Plate 5). No finds were recovered from the garage footings.</p>		

Comments

The watching brief exposed a deep sequence of soils within the plot containing the house footings. The depth of soil is likely to have been partially due to the use of the area until recently as an established garden. The two sections of ditch, which are likely to have represented parts of the same feature were undated. However, based on their position as cut into the natural subsoil and beneath the deep soil sequence, suggest that this may have been of medieval or earlier date.

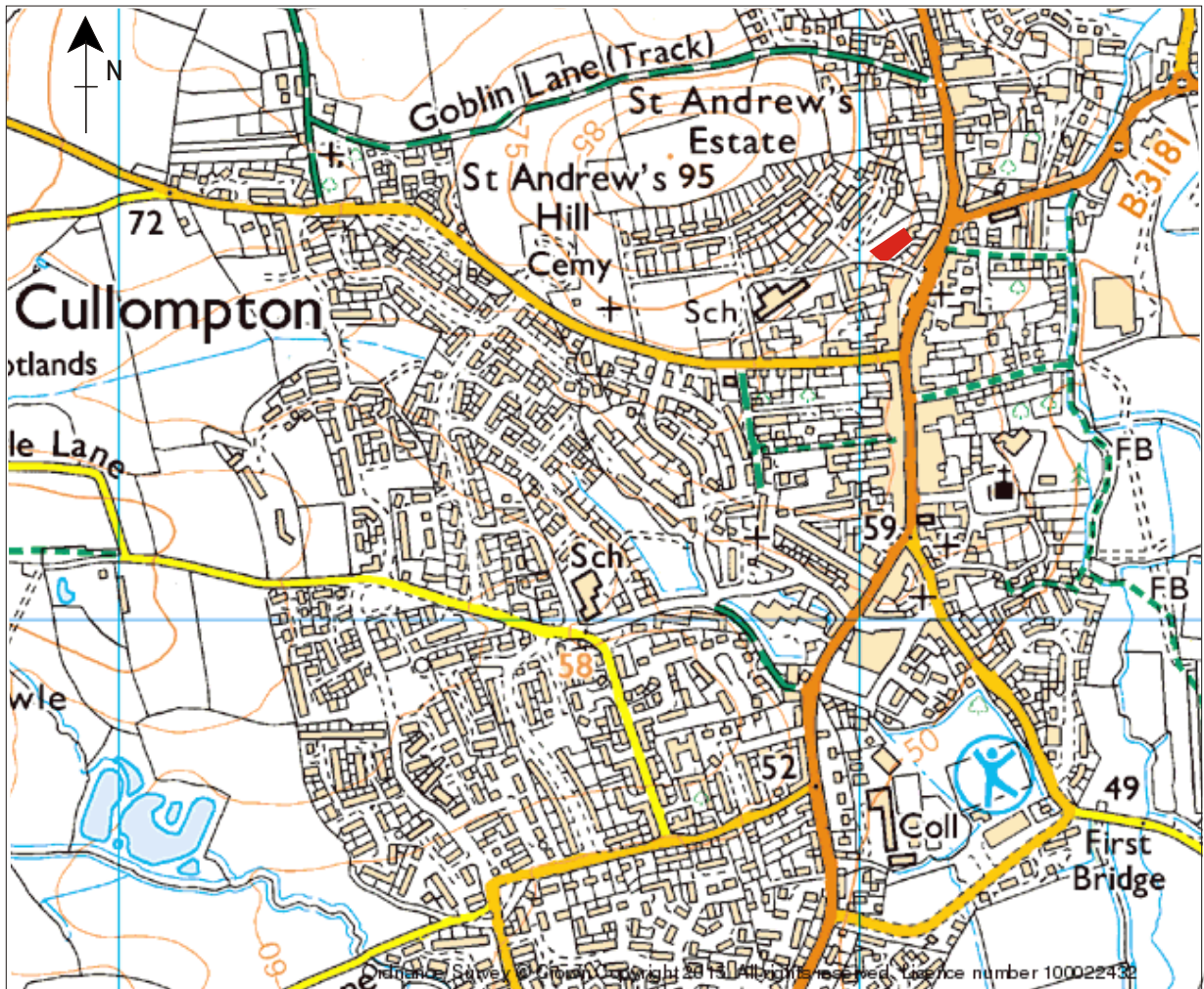
The groundworks for the garage footings established that the area had previously been terraced into the natural subsoil, probably when the premises previously occupying the site were constructed.

Recorder:

Stella De-Villiers. AC archaeology

Date sent to HER:

12 August 2015



PROJECT

St Andrews Road, Cullompton, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of site

0 250m



Scale 1:10,000@A4



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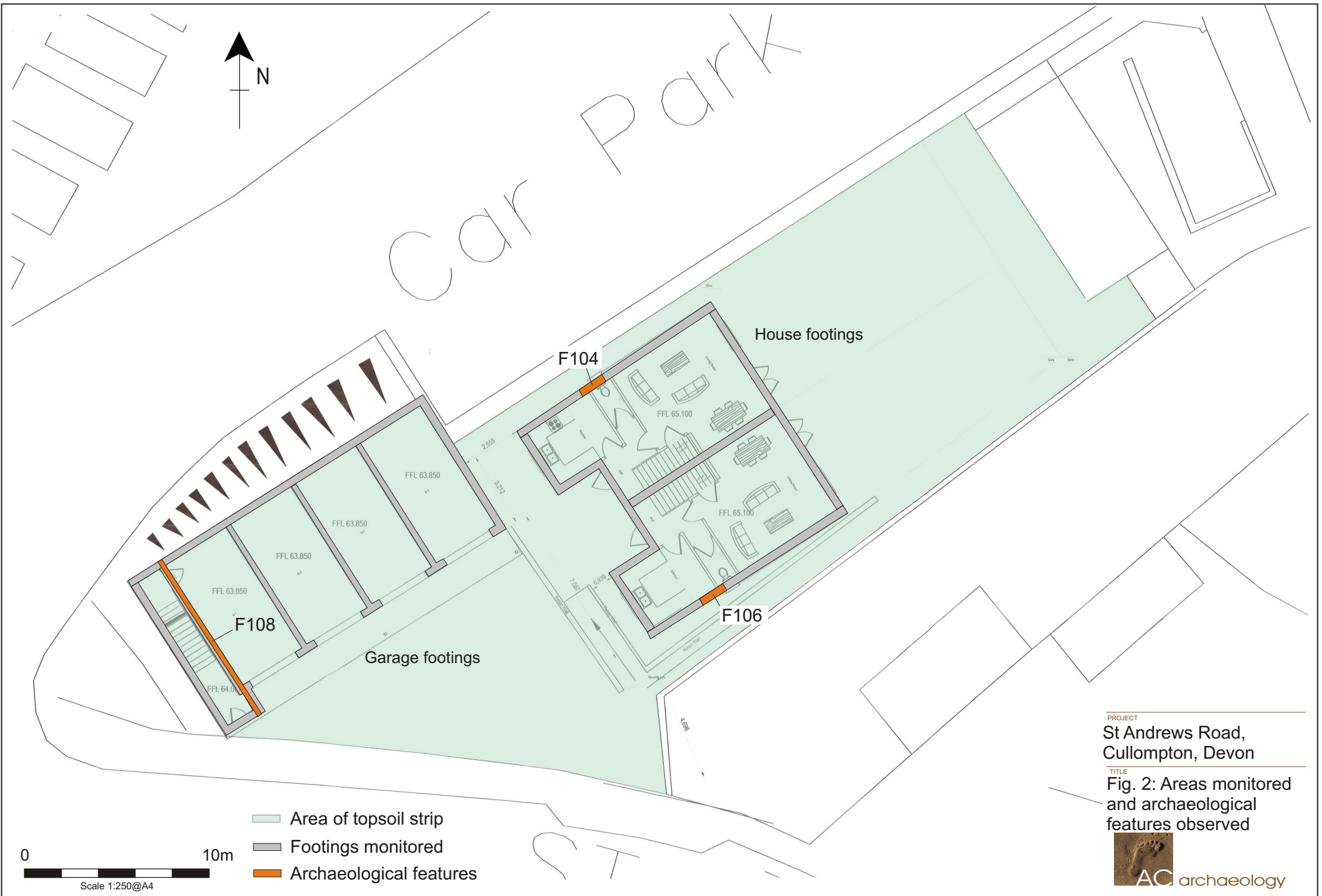




Plate 1: View of house footings looking north (1m scale)



Plate 2: Showing ditch F104, view to northwest (1m scale)



Plate 3: Showing ditch F106, view to southeast (1m scale)



Plate 4: View of garage footings, looking northwest (1m scale)



Plate 5: Showing brick culvert F108, view to southwest (1m scale)

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