

LAND AT PEAR TREE COTTAGE, CHARDSTOCK, DEVON

(NGR ST 31020 04375)

Results of archaeological monitoring and recording

East Devon District Council planning reference
13/0490/FUL

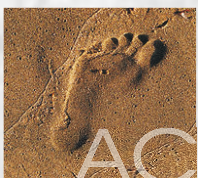
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On behalf of:
Geoffrey Sims

Report No: ACD1223/2/0

Date: July 2017



archaeology

LAND AT PEAR TREE COTTAGE, CHARDSTOCK, DEVON (NGR ST 31020 04375)

Results of an archaeological watching brief

East Devon District Council planning reference 13/0490/FUL

| | |
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| Client | Geoffrey Sims |
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The archaeological investigations were commissioned by the site owner Geoffrey Sims. The site works were carried out by Elisabeth Patkai and Chris Blatchford, with the illustrations prepared by Leon Cauchois. Thanks to Stephen Reed, Devon County Council Historic Environment Team who provided useful advice prior to and during the course of the site works.

The views expressed in this report are those of AC archaeology and are presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information currently available.

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Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by AC archaeology during development on land at Pear Tree Cottage, Chardstock, Devon (ST 31020 04375).

The monitoring exposed some limited evidence for prehistoric and medieval activity, with this represented by a small number of features and deposits comprising a ditch, a pit and a buried soil. A shallow pit contained worked flint and a Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age (c.3000-2000BC) date is suggested for this feature. The ditch contained medieval pottery and animal bone as did a buried soil indicating some activity of this date on the site. The second pit was undated.

A small assemblage of finds consisted of worked flint, medieval and post-medieval pottery, glass, animal bone, clay tobacco pipe and coal.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of archaeological monitoring and recording carried out during groundworks associated with the construction of a new dwelling and garage on land at Pear Tree Cottage, Chardstock, Devon (ST 31020 04375; Fig. 1). The work was required as condition 4 of planning permission reference 13/0490/FUL by East Devon District Council, following consultation with the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team.
- 1.2 The archaeological works were commissioned by the site owner Mr Geoffrey Sims and were carried out by AC archaeology between March 2016 and March 2017.
- 1.3 The site lies on the corner of Kitbridge Hill and the Fernleigh Road leading southeast towards Tytherleigh. It comprises part of a plot former garden area belonging to the Pear Tree Cottage property. The site lay on ground that sloped gradually south towards the River Kit at 116m aOD (above Ordnance Datum), with the underlying solid geology comprising sandstone of the Upper Greensand Formation under head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravels (British Geological Survey Online Viewer)

2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Pear Tree Cottage is located within the historic core of Chardstock. The village is named in the Domesday Book of 1086 as *Cerdestoche*. The adjacent Tytherleigh Road and Kitbridge Hill is lined by a number of 18th to 19th century Grade-II listed buildings. These comprise Turners Cottage (National Heritage List for England no. 1098582) and a thatched cottage named Strongs (1098550). The Ordnance Survey First-Edition map of 1886 depicts the site as within a triangular-shaped plot containing a range of buildings extending along Kitbridge Hill.

3. AIM

- 3.1 The aim of the archaeological monitoring and recording was to preserve by record any archaeological features or deposits exposed during groundworks associated with the development.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 Monitored groundworks consisted of the footprint for the new house, a new septic tank pit and the combined area for a new garage and water filtration system. Groundworks for the new house comprised the excavation of footings trenches, while the remaining

areas were bulk reduced. The excavations were carried out using a tracked machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket for the areas of bulk reduction.

4.2 The work was undertaken in accordance with a project designed prepared by AC archaeology (Hughes 2015) and with reference to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' guidelines, *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (published 2014). All archaeological deposits exposed were recorded in accordance with the AC archaeology pro-forma recording system, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, and with reference to AC archaeology's *General Site Recording Manual*, Version 2 (revised August 2012). Sections were drawn at 1:10 and plans at 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate.

5. RESULTS (Detailed plan Fig. 2a and Section Figs. 2b-e; Plates 1-4)

5.1 Introduction

Natural subsoil (context 103) across each of the three monitored areas consisted of a light yellowish-brown sandy-clay with frequent gravel inclusions. A small number of archaeological features were exposed in the area stripped for the new garage and water filtration system. These are described in detail below. No pre-modern archaeological features were exposed in the areas monitored for the new house and septic tank, with natural subsoil in these locations exposed at a depth of 0.3m below a garden soil.

5.2 Area for new garage and water filtration system

This area was stripped onto natural subsoil (103), which was exposed at a depth of approximately 0.5m below existing levels. In the middle of the site a mid greyish-brown silty-clay buried soil layer (114) with common gravel inclusions was exposed as sealing the natural subsoil. This was overlain by a sequence of soils present throughout the area that consisted of a subsoil (102) and garden soil (101) sealed by gravels (100). Two sherds of medieval pottery and 11 pieces of worked flint were recovered from buried soil 114.

A total of three features were exposed within this area. These consisted of a ditch (F106), a possible posthole (F108) and a possible pit (F112).

Ditch F106

Ditch F106 was exposed at the northeast end of the area investigated. It was northwest-southeast aligned and measured 1.25m wide by 0.24m deep with moderately-steep sloping sides and a flattish base. The ditch contained a mid greyish-brown silty-clay fill (107) that had common gravel inclusions. Three sherds of medieval pottery, three fragments of animal bone and a residual piece of prehistoric worked flint were recovered from ditch F106.

Possible posthole F108

Possible posthole F108 measured 0.61m across and 0.35m deep with a steep-sided and flat-based profile that flared out at the top due to root disturbance (109). It contained a light greyish-brown silty-clay fill (111) that had occasional gravel and charcoal fleck inclusions. No finds were recovered.

Possible pit F112

This oval feature was located adjacent to possible posthole F108. It measured 1m long, 0.5m wide and 0.6m deep with steep sides and undulating base. The possible pit contained a mid brownish-grey silty-clay fill (113), with common gravel inclusions. Two pieces of worked flint were recovered.

6. THE FINDS *by Charlotte Coles and Naomi Payne*

6.1 All finds recovered during the monitoring and recording have been retained, cleaned and marked where appropriate. They have been quantified according to material type within each context and the assemblage examined to extract information regarding the range, nature and date of artefacts represented. The assemblage of finds are summarised in Table 1 below and consist of worked flint, medieval and post-medieval pottery, glass, animal bone, clay tobacco pipe and coal.

Table 1. Summary of finds by context (weights are in grams)

| Context | Context description | Worked flint/chert | | Medieval pottery | | Post-medieval pottery | | Glass | | Clay tobacco pipe | | Animal bone | | Coal | |
|--------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------|----------|-----------|-------------------|----------|-------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| | | No | Wt | No | Wt | No | Wt | No | Wt | No | Wt | No | Wt | No | Wt |
| 101 | Topsoil | 1 | 22 | | | 3 | 84 | 1 | 4 | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 102 | Subsoil | 1 | 1 | | | 6 | 112 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 7 | | | | |
| 107 | Fill of ditch F106 | 1 | 14 | 3 | 13 | | | | | | | 3 | 33 | | |
| 113 | Fill of F112 | 2 | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 114 | Buried soil | 11 | 38 | 2 | 6 | | | | | | | 2 | 10 | 2 | 2 |
| Total | | 16 | 83 | 5 | 19 | 9 | 196 | 2 | 12 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 43 | 3 | 4 |

6.2 Worked flint/chert *by Naomi Payne*

A total of 16 pieces of worked flint and chert were recovered, these come from five contexts. These are a small core from context 101, a chip waste flake from context 102, a waste tertiary flake from context 107, a retouched notched flake and a chert broken flake both from context 113. The small collection of chert and flint from context 114 includes a probable microlith, three chips, six chert flakes and one broken flint flake.

6.3 Medieval pottery

Five sherds of medieval pottery were recovered. These consist of a sherd of Upper Greensand derived ware and two jug body sherds in a fine sandy fabric, which were recovered from context 107, and a sherd of Upper Greensand derived pottery and two jug body sherds in an Exeter fabric from context 114. The Upper Greensand derived pottery dates from 950 to 1350AD. The medieval jugs date from 1250 to 1500AD.

6.4 Post-medieval pottery

Nine sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from two contexts. These consist of a sherd of South Somerset ware from context 101, and three pieces of South Somerset ware and a piece of white ware, possibly border ware, from context 102. These date from the late 17th and 18th centuries. The remaining sherds are 19th and 20th century industrial whitewares with some transfer printed sherds present.

6.5 Glass

Two shards of vessel glass were retrieved from contexts 101 and 102. These consist of a 19th to 20th century clear and green bottle glass.

6.6 Other finds

The remaining finds are a single piece of clay tobacco pipe stem from context 102, five pieces of unidentified mammal bone from contexts 107 and 114 and three pieces of coal from contexts 101 and 114.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The small number of features exposed and finds recovered from overlying soil layers suggest the presence of activity dating to the prehistoric and medieval periods on the site.
- 7.2 Possible pit F112, which although was very shallow and fairly diffuse, perhaps represented evidence for prehistoric activity. The presence of two worked flints suggests a tentative Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date for this. Further evidence of prehistoric activity was indicated by the number of worked flints recovered as residual finds from buried soil 114, ditch F106 and the overlying subsoil and topsoil layers. The presence of a microlith in the assemblage, has the potential to represent earlier, perhaps Mesolithic activity.
- 7.3 The recovery of pottery dating from around the 13th to late 15th centuries suggests that ditch F106 was medieval in origin. The short length of this feature that was exposed makes interpretation on its function difficult, but the recovery of pottery and animal bone representing domestic waste suggest that it was relatively close to contemporary occupation. Buried soil 114 is also likely to have been of a similar date to ditch F106. Its presence as a roughly linear band may have suggested that it represented part of a lynchet or had survived under a now removed feature such as a bank.
- 7.4 Given the broad date range of activity represented, possible posthole F108, which was undated, could not be assigned to a period with any certainty.

8. CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The monitoring of groundworks at Pear Tree Cottage exposed some limited evidence for prehistoric and medieval activity, with this represented by a small number of features and deposits comprising a ditch, a pit and a buried soil.
- 8.2 Prehistoric activity - something that has not been previously identified in Chardstock – consisted of a shallow pit containing worked flint. In addition, a number of worked flints recovered as residual finds from later features and deposits have been considered to provide further indication of prehistoric activity in the area. Based on the types of worked flints recovered, a Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date is likely, but the inclusion of a microlith in the assemblage may broaden this to include the Mesolithic period.
- 8.3 A small area of surviving buried soil and a ditch dated from pottery finds to around the 13th to 15th century demonstrated the presence of medieval activity on the site. While the function of the ditch was not clear due to its limited exposure, the recovery of medieval pottery and animal bone suggested that contemporary occupation was in the vicinity; something that was perhaps expected given the medieval origins of the village.

9. ARCHIVE AND OASIS ENTRY

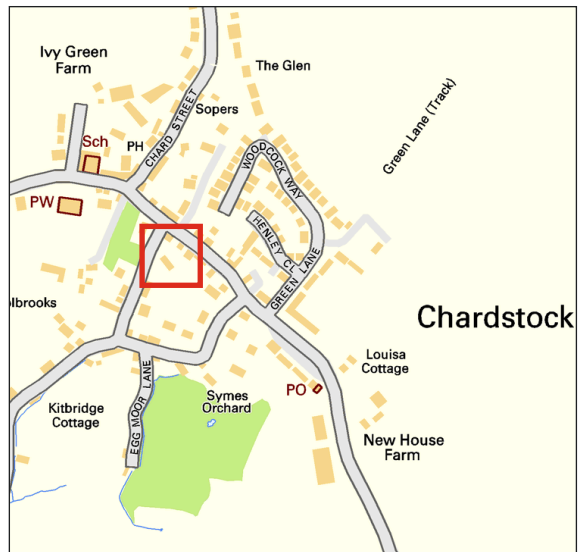
- 9.1 The finds, paper and digital archive is currently held at the offices of AC archaeology Ltd, at 4 Halthaies Workshops, Bradninch, near Exeter, Devon, EX5 4LQ under the unique project code of **ACD1223**. It will be held until the need for any further archaeological work on the site is established and ultimately will be offered to the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter under the temporary reference **RAMM 17/47**, but if they are unable to accept this, then it will be dealt with under their current accession policy.

9.2 An online OASIS entry has been completed, using the unique identifier **224528**, which includes a digital copy of this report.

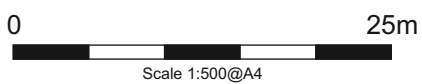
10. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey Online Viewer, www.bgs.ac.uk.

Hughes, S., 2015, *Land at Pear Tree Cottage, Chardstock, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological monitoring and recording*. Unpublished AC archaeology document, ref. ACD1223/2/0



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PROJECT

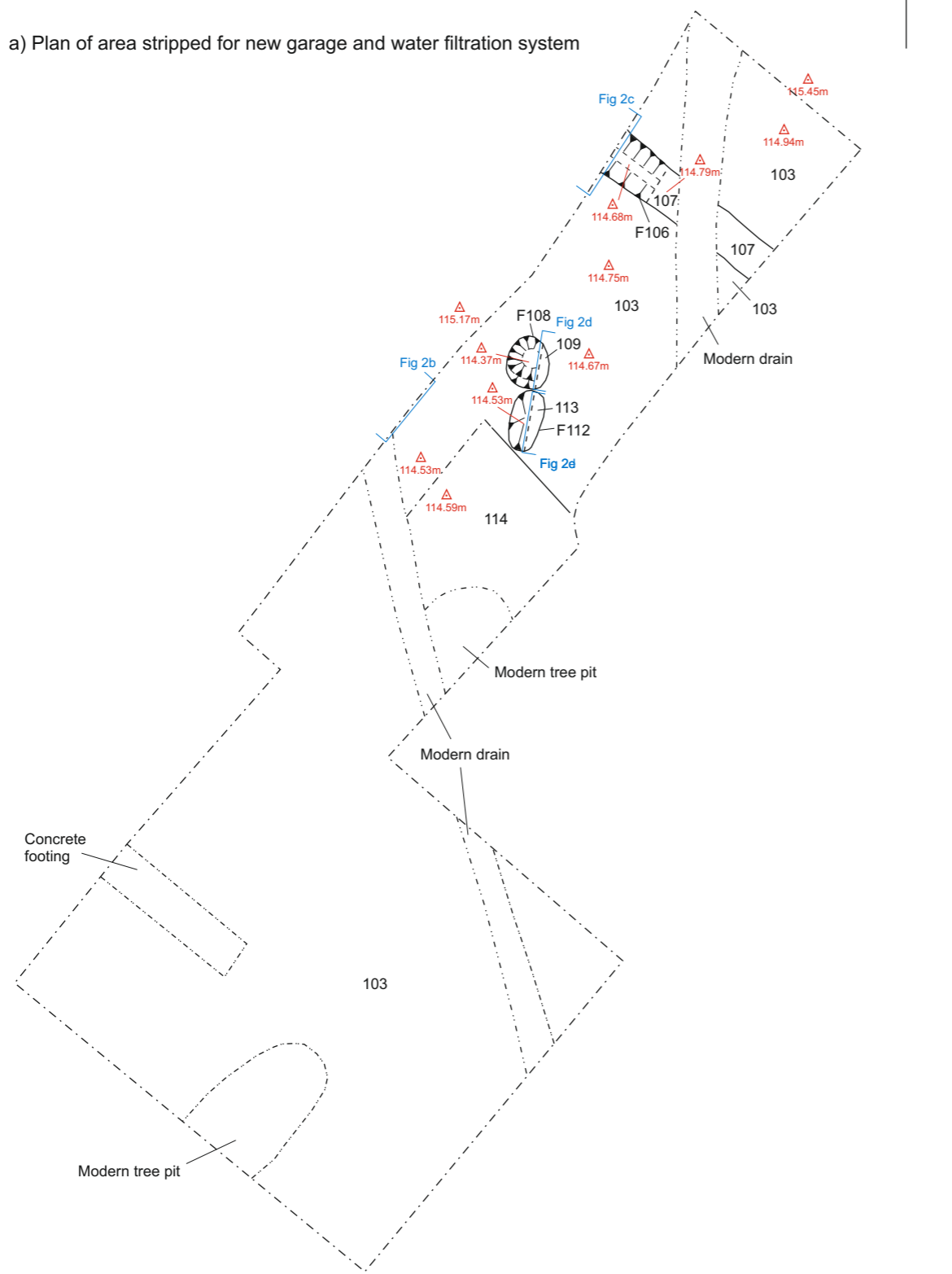
Land at Pear Tree Cottage, Chardstock, Devon

TITLE

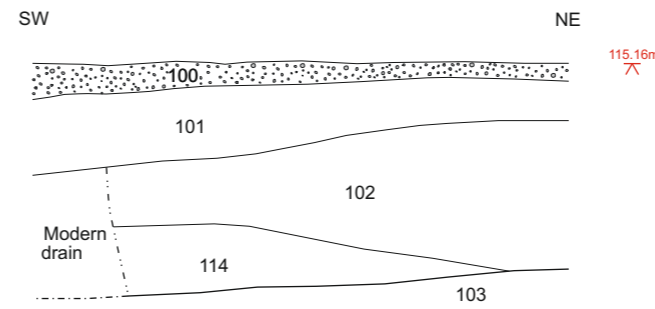
Fig. 1: Location of site with areas of monitored groundworks shown



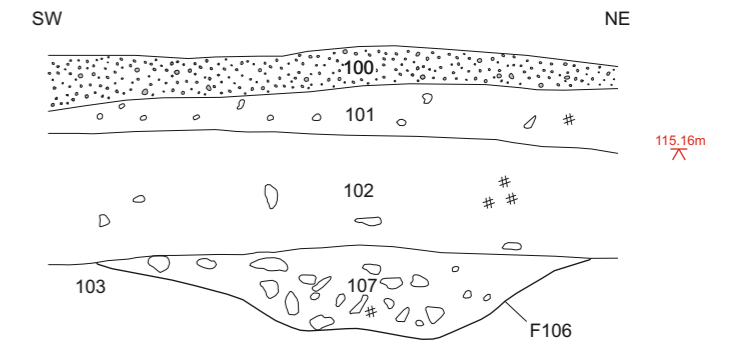
a) Plan of area stripped for new garage and water filtration system



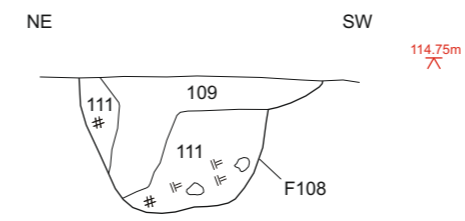
b) Section showing buried soil 114 and overlying soils



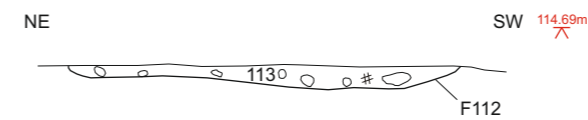
c) Section of ditch F106



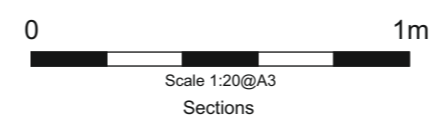
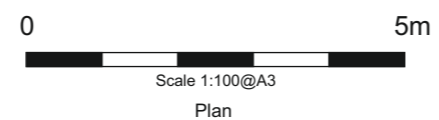
d) Section of posthole F108



e) Section of pit F112



| Key | |
|-----|----------|
| | Stones |
| | Charcoal |
| | Gravel |
| | Clay |



PROJECT
Land at Pear Tree Cottage,
Chardstock, Devon

TITLE
Fig. 2: Area for new garage and
water filtration system, plan and
sections





Plate 1: Showing area for new garage and water filtration system.
Looking northwest towards ditch F106 (scale 1m)



Plate 2: Ditch F106, view to northwest (scale 0.2m)



Plate 3. Posthole F108, view to southeast (scale 0.2m)



Plate 4. Possible pit F112. View to southeast (scale 0.2m)

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