

FENITON FLOOD ALLEVIATION WORKS, FENITON, EAST DEVON - PHASE 1

NGR SY 09996 99565 to SY 09500 98522 and Centred
on SY 09817 96924

Results of an Archaeological Watching Brief

East Devon District Council Planning Reference
14/2882/MFUL (condition 4)

Prepared by:
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On behalf of:
East Devon District Council

Report No: ACD1137/2/0

Date: February 2016



archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Feniton, East Devon	National Grid Reference SY 09623 98923	Number:
Subject: St. Feniton flood alleviation works, Feniton, East Devon – Phase 1: Results of an archaeological watching brief.		Photo attached? Yes
Planning Application no: EDDC 14/2882/MFUL	Recipient museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter	
OASIS ID: 835300	Museum Accession no: RAMM: 15/23	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD1137	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 9th October to 11 th November 2015	
<p>Introduction Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out by AC Archaeology during ground works associated with the excavation of the first phase of flood defence works around the village of Feniton, East Devon (SY 09623 98923).</p> <p>The Phase 1 area was located on farmland immediately south of the village, located off Ottery Road (Fig. 1). It was situated within an arable field at the base of sloping ground forming a shallow valley, at a height of around 74m aOD. The underlying solid geology comprised sandstone of the Otter Sandstone Formation.</p> <p>Description of works The monitored groundworks consisted of the initial topsoil-stripping of an approximately 5m wide working-width to a depth of 0.35m below existing levels. The flood-alleviation channel was then excavated within this area to a maximum depth of 1.3m from the stripped level (Plate 1).</p> <p>Natural subsoil (context 105) comprised a mid brownish-red clayey-sand with patches of gravel and was exposed at a maximum depth of between 0.65m and 1m below existing levels. Overlying the natural subsoil was an intermittent alluvial loamy-sand (102), which varied from mid to light grey. An east to west-aligned probable ditch (F103) was exposed across the approximate mid-point of the Phase 1 area, which was cut into the natural subsoil. Ditch F103 measured 1.2m wide and 0.3m deep with moderately-steep sloping concave sides and a concave base. It contained a mid reddish-brown sandy-loam (104) with occasional sub-rounded flint pebble inclusions. No finds were recovered from ditch F103.</p> <p>Ditch F103 and alluvial layer 102 were overlain by a mid greyish-brown sandy-silt subsoil (101), which was, in turn, sealed by a mid brown silty-loam topsoil (100).</p> <p>The Finds Finds recovered from Phase 1 comprised four pieces of worked flint and a single piece of post-medieval pottery.</p> <p><i>Worked flint</i> Four pieces (69g) of worked flint were recovered from the topsoil (100). The flintwork consists of good quality flint ranging from black to dark brown in colour. All four pieces have been made from secondary flakes, two of which have pebble cortex and the other two nodule cortex. Of the pebble flint, one piece has been used as a core to produce small flakes, while the other is an utilised flake, showing some retouch along one edge and possible use-wear along another. Of the nodule flint, one piece is an utilised flake with retouch along one edge and possible use-wear along two other edges. The other flake is larger and appears to be a core rejuvenation flake exhibiting some signs of retouch to form a notched working edge, as well as probable use-wear along two other edges. This small assemblage does not contain any pieces diagnostic enough to date with confidence, but the re-use of every piece (barring the small core), coupled with the rough nature of the flakes themselves is perhaps suggestive of a later Neolithic or more likely Bronze Age date.</p> <p><i>Post-medieval pottery</i> A single sherd (17g) of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil (100). This is a base sherd of South Somerset glazed earthenware. It comes from a large, functional vessel such as a pan or storage jar. It is most likely 18th or 19th century in date.</p>		

Discussion

Monitoring of Phase 1 of flood alleviation works at Feniton recorded a single ditch. Although undated, its dark fill and alignment as approximately comparable to the existing field system, suggests it represents a former component to the probable medieval to post-medieval boundary arrangement.

The small assemblage of worked flint provides a background of Neolithic and Bronze Age activity in the general area.

Recorder:

Paul Cooke, AC Archaeology

Date sent to HER:

21 December 2015

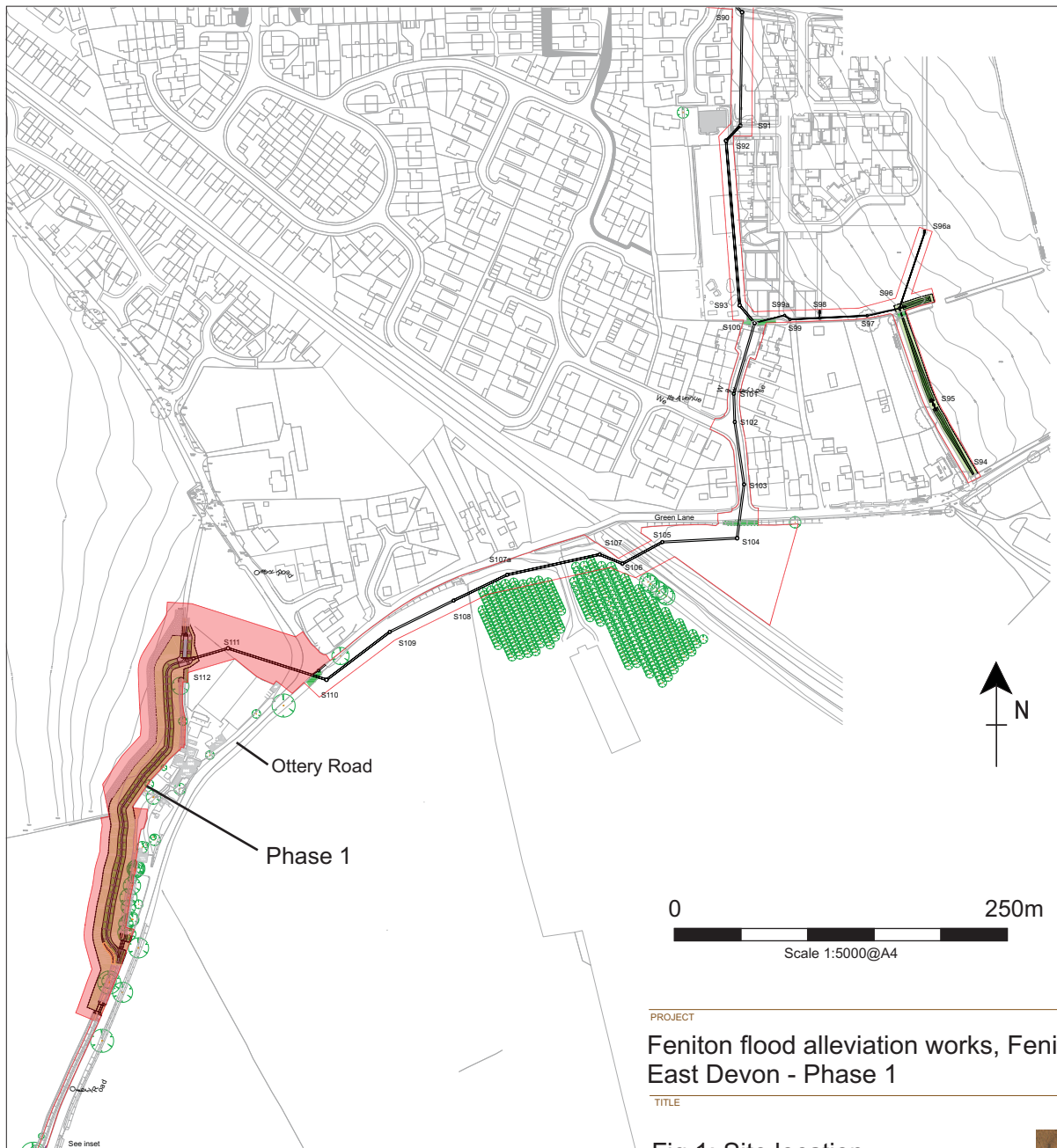
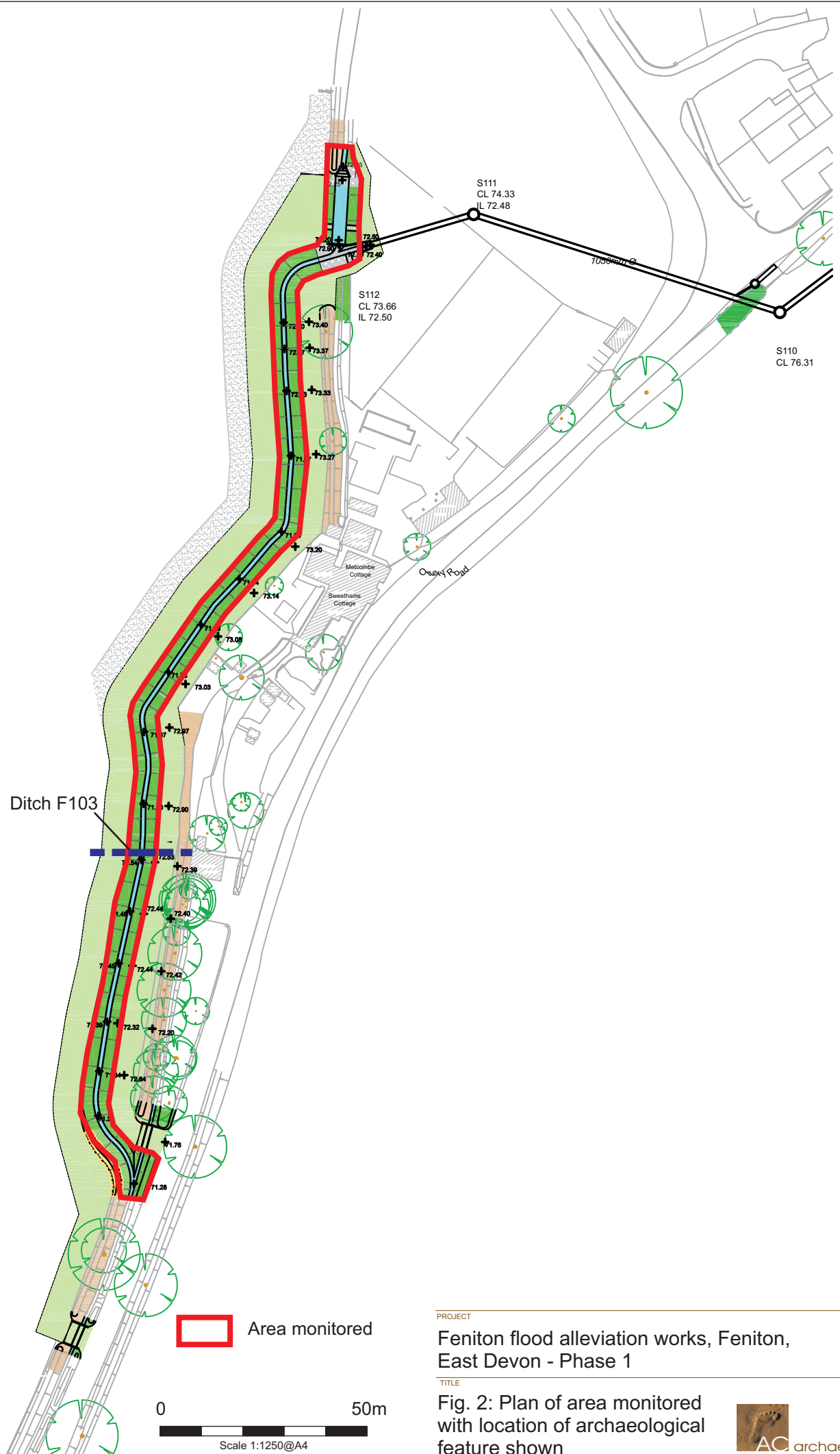


Fig.1: Site location



PROJECT

Feniton flood alleviation works, Feniton, East Devon - Phase 1

TITLE

Fig. 2: Plan of area monitored with location of archaeological feature shown





Plate 1: General view of flood alleviation channel, looking NNE



Plate 2: View of ditch F103, looking west (1m scale)

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