

LAND AT DOVECOTE, GRANGE ROAD, BUCKFAST, DEVON

NGR SX 7399 6745

Results of archaeological monitoring and recording

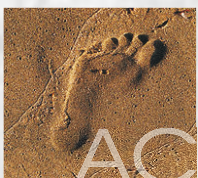
Dartmoor National Park Authority planning ref. 0510/15

Prepared by:
Paul Cooke

On behalf of:
The Trustees of Buckfast Abbey

Report No: ACD1523/1/1

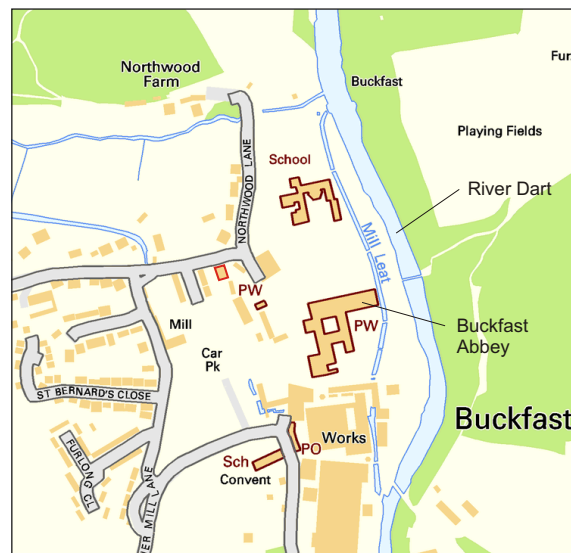
Date: January 2017



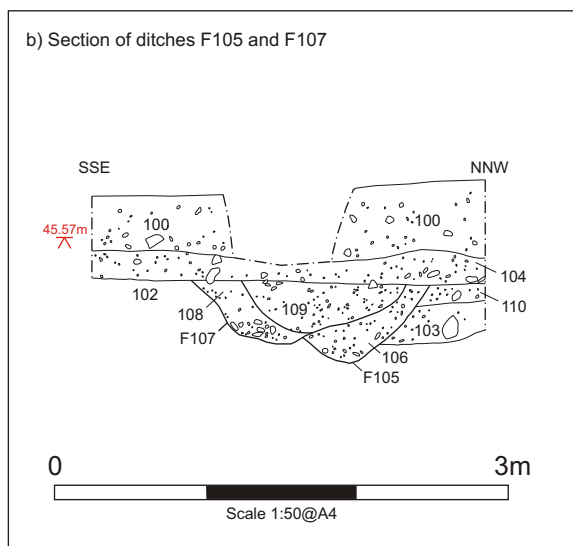
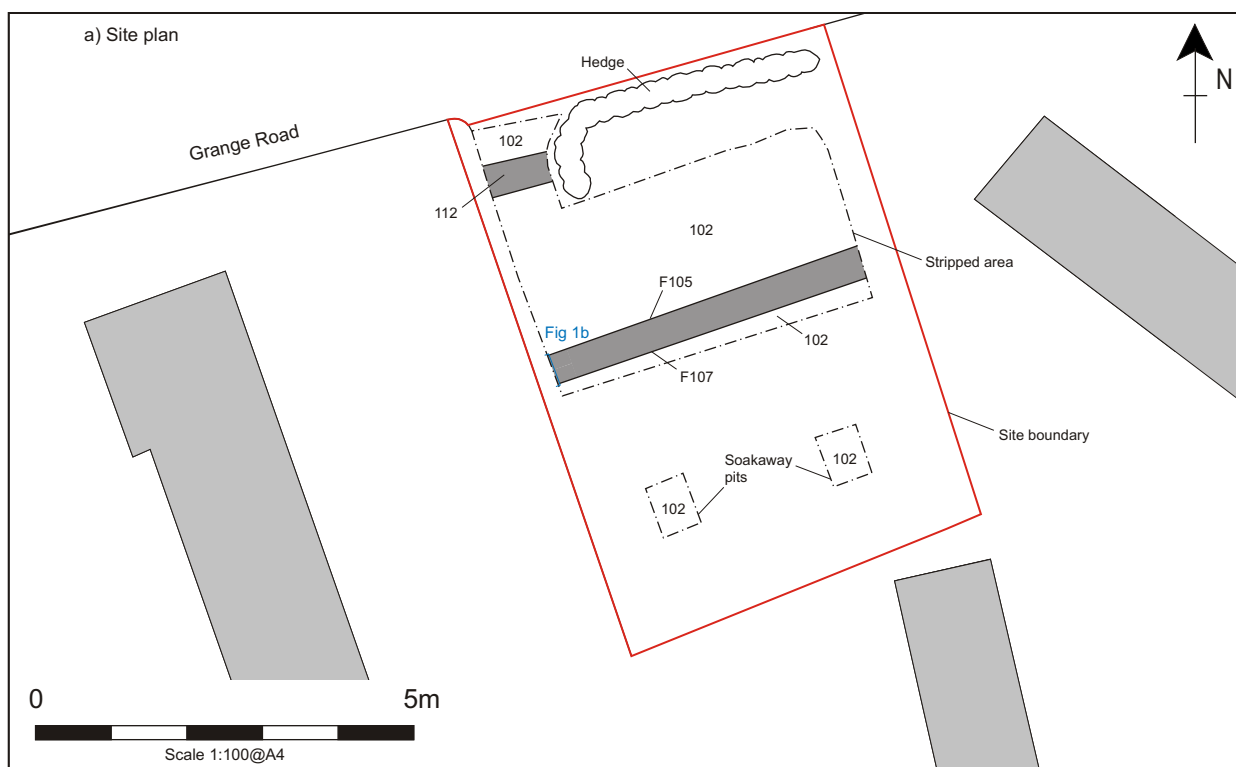
archaeology

Dartmoor National Park Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Buckfastleigh, Dartmoor	National Grid Reference SX 7399 6745	Number:
Subject: Land at Dovecote, Grange Road, Buckfast: Results of archaeological monitoring and recording		Photo attached Plates 1-3
Planning permission no: 0510/15	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS ID: 273292	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD1523	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 12th to 20th December 2016	
<p>Introduction (Fig. 1) Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out by AC archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of three terraced houses on land at Dovecote, Grange Road, Buckfast, Devon (SX 7399 6745). The site comprised a rectangular plot of land, which prior to commencement was occupied by a 19th century bungalow, garage and associated gardens.</p> <p>The principal archaeological interest in the site was its close proximity to Buckfast Abbey, (Scheduled Monument No. 1019607), with the plot located 50m from its 12th to 13th century North Gate. Its position was therefore within the outer court of the abbey, where agricultural and industrial buildings would have been situated.</p> <p>Results (Fig. 1; Plates 1-3) The monitored work comprised the bulk-reduction of an area measuring approximately 17m by 10m in the north-western half of the plot using a tracked machine. An access drive linking it to Grange Road and two soak-away pits were also excavated.</p> <p>Natural subsoil (context 102), which consisted of river terrace gravels in a light yellow silty-clay matrix, was present at a depth of between 0.55m and 1.05m below existing levels. It was overlain by a light reddish-brown silty-clay loam subsoil, which measured up to 0.26m thick and was present throughout the northwest portion of the stripped area. Subsoil 103 was overlain towards the WSW extent of the stripped area by a 0.14m thick light yellowish-brown clayey-loam buried soil (110).</p> <p>The groundworks exposed a re-cut ditch (F107 and F105) and a second ditch alignment to the northwest (112). ENE to WSW aligned ditch F105 cut through buried soil 110 and measured at least 0.85m wide by 0.5m deep, with steeply-sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a mid-yellowish brown clayey-loam fill (106). Ditch re-cut F107 measured 1.42m wide and 0.4m deep with moderately-steep sloping sides and a flattish base. It contained a light brown silty-clay basal fill (108), which was overlain by a mid yellowish-brown silty-clay loam (109). No finds were recovered from ditches F105 or F107.</p> <p>Probable ditch 112 measured 1.6m wide and was associated with the extant road-side hedgebank fronting Grange Road It contained a modern dumped deposit that included 20th century material.</p> <p>The overlying deposits across the site consisted of a mid-yellowish brown silty-clay loam subsoil (104), which was sealed to the southeast of the site by garden topsoil or to the northwest by recent demolition and levelling (100).</p> <p>Comments The monitoring of groundworks principally exposed an undated re-cut ditch which extended across the middle of the plot. The position of the ditch corresponded with a variation in soil depth through which it also cut. The deeper soils to the northeast were likely to represent the remains of a lynchet formed through cultivation: the extent of which was then demarcated on at least two occasions by the excavation of the ditch sequence. The absence of this boundary on the Buckfastleigh parish tithe map or indeed later mapping suggests that, given its location, it had the potential to be medieval in origin. A previously-recorded ditch, which extended on a perpendicular alignment to the west of the site, had been considered to be part of the wider grounds of the abbey. It is therefore possible that the ditch alignment exposed during these works formed an associated boundary in the abbey grounds landscape.</p>		
Recorder: Paul Cooke, AC archaeology		Date sent to HER: January 2017



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PROJECT

Dovecote, Grange Road, Buckfast, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of site with plan and section of archaeological features exposed



AC archaeology



Plate 1: View of the site looking southeast towards Buckfast Abbey



Plate 2: Intercutting ditches F107 and F105. View to southwest (Scale 2m)



Plate 3: View of access drive strip with ditch 112, looking southeast (Scale 1m)

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