

LAND TO THE REAR OF 9 FORE STREET, CULLOMPTON, DEVON

(NGR ST 02116 07316)

Results of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

Mid Devon District Council planning permission ref.
16/00262/FULL (condition 3)

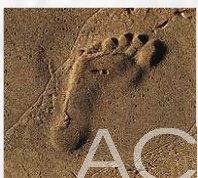
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With a contribution from:
Naomi Payne

On behalf of:
Ms Juna and Ms Gunnell

Report No: ACD1631/2/0

Date: June 2018



archaeology

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Client	Ms Juna and Ms Gunnell
Report Number	ACD1631/2/0
Date	20 June 2018
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Acknowledgements

The monitoring and recording was commissioned Ms Juna. The site works were carried out by Abigail Brown with the illustrations for this report prepared by Leon Cauchois. The advice and collaboration of Stephen Reed, Devon County Council Historic Environment Team is duly acknowledged.

The views and recommendations 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 May 2018 on land to the rear of 9 Fore Street, Cullompton, Devon (ST 02116 07316). The work comprised the monitoring of topsoil stripping and the excavation of footings trenches associated with the construction a new dwelling.

The groundworks exposed two large pits that were dated to the 18th to 19th centuries. A stone wall was also exposed, which was considered to be of a similar date and represent a possible sub-division of the garden area.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeological monitoring and recording (controlled watching brief) was undertaken during May 2018 during groundworks associated with the construction a new dwelling on land to the rear of 9 Fore Street, Cullompton, Devon (ST 02116 07316). The work was required by Mid Devon District Council as condition 3 of planning permission reference 16/00262/FULL, following consultation with the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team.
- 1.2 The site lies in the town centre and occupies a sub-rectangular plot on the east side of Fore Street (Fig. 1). Bounded to the south by Middle Mill Lane, the plot comprises what was a largely wooded garden plot with garage in the southwest corner. It is situated on flat ground at 63m aOD (above Ordnance Datum), with the underlying solid geology comprising sandstone of the Cadbury Breccia Formation beneath a Diamicton colluvial superficial deposit (www.bgs.ac.uk).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site lies in the historic core of the town. A settlement at Cullompton is recorded as early as AD880, when it was 'Columntune'. Throughout most of the medieval period it was a royal holding. The parish church dates to the 15th century, but is probably the site of an earlier complex dating to the late Saxon period.
- 2.3 A number of historic buildings line Fore Street. Perhaps one of the most important of these buildings, The Walronds (National Heritage List for England number 1105902), is located opposite number 9. This Grade-I listed property comprises a large high-status detached townhouse that was completed in 1605. To the rear of The Walronds and a number of the adjacent properties are the sites of a series of, largely now developed, medieval burgage plots (Devon County Council Historic Environment Record ref. MDV7307).
- 2.4 The earliest map depicting the location of the site is an estate map that dates from 1633 (DRO 26502/1). On this, the proposed development area is positioned within a possible orchard plot to the rear of properties fronting Fore Street. The 1841 Cullompton parish tithe map shows the site in more detail as comprising a rectangular plot similar to the current extent of the proposed development site. The first-edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey map of 1887 depicts the same arrangement as shown on the tithe map, but with the addition of a building in the position of the current garage.

3. AIMS

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

the scheme. This was with particular reference for potential evidence for medieval and post-medieval remains to be present on the site.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1** The monitoring and recording was carried out in accordance with a project design prepared by AC archaeology (Hughes 2017) and with reference to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014).
- 4.2** All groundworks were undertaken using a mechanical excavator working under constant archaeological supervision. This comprised the monitoring of bulk reduction of soils and the excavation of footings trenches (Plate 1).
- 4.3** All features and deposits revealed were recorded using the standard AC archaeology *pro forma* recording system, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, and in accordance with AC archaeology's *General Site Recording Manual, Version 2* (revised August 2012). Detailed sections and plans were produced at a scale of 1:20 and 1:50 as appropriate.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Introduction (Plan Fig. 1)

Natural subsoil (context 102), which consisted of mixed mid yellow and red clay and sand, was exposed at a depth of between 0.35m and 0.55m below existing levels. It was overlain by a mid brown sandy-silt loam subsoil (101) and a dark brown silty-loam garden topsoil (100). Three sherds of post-medieval pottery and six fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered from the subsoil.

The groundworks exposed two pits (F103 and F107) and a stone wall footing (S112) within a construction cut (F111). These are described below.

5.2 Pit F103 (Plan Fig. 1 and section Fig. 2a; Plate 2)

Pit F103 was exposed on the south side of the footings trench. It measured 2.96m wide by 2.2m deep, with steeply sloping to vertical stepped sides and a flat base. The pit contained three dumped silty to sandy-clay mixed fills (104, 105 and 106). A total of six sherds of post-medieval pottery and a fragment of glazed tile were recovered.

5.3 Pit F107 (Plan Fig. 1 and sections Figs 2b-c; Plate 3)

Pit F107 was present in the northeast corner of the monitored footings trench. It measured 3.4m across and 1.45m deep with steeply-sloping sides, which stepped up on the north side to a shallow flat-based terrace. The pit contained two dumped silty-clay fills (108 and 109), which were overlain by a further dump of stone rubble and lime mortar (110). Two sherds of post-medieval pottery and a piece of glazed tile were recovered.

5.4 Wall S112 (Plan Fig. 1 and elevation Fig. 2d; Plate 4)

Wall S112 was north to south aligned and exposed in the southwest side of the footings trench. It measured 0.3m wide and 0.3m high and was constructed from roughly-faced and lime mortar bonded limestone. The wall was within a construction cut (F111) which was dug into the natural subsoil and could be traced in section above the height of the wall through the subsoil suggesting that the wall had been either robbed or had been capped in cob.

6. THE FINDS *by Naomi Payne*

6.1 Introduction

All finds recovered on site 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 collection of finds is summarised in Table 1 below.

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

Context	Context Description	Post-medieval pottery		Clay tobacco-pipe		CBM	
		No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt
101	Subsoil	3	96	6	31		
104	Fill of pit F103	1	310				
105	Fill of pit F103	5	133			1	24
108	Fill of pit F107	2	17			1	30
Totals		11	556	6	31	2	54

6.2 Post-medieval pottery

11 sherds (556g) of post-medieval pottery were recovered from four contexts. This material includes three sherds of South Somerset-type coarse glazed earthenware, two sherds of North Devon Gravel Tempered ware, four sherds of industrially produced white ware and single sherds of cream ware and porcelain. The assemblage dates from the 18th and 19th centuries.

6.3 Clay tobacco pipe

Six pieces (31g) of clay tobacco pipe were recovered from the subsoil. All six are stem fragments and cannot therefore be closely dated.

6.4 Ceramic building material (CBM)

Two fragments of post-medieval/modern glazed tile were recovered from pits F103 and F107.

7. COMMENTS

7.1 A small number of archaeological features were recorded during the monitoring and recording. The two pits that were exposed have been dated to the 18th to 19th centuries and contained dumped deposits. These were both large features that were around 3m in diameter with steep but stepped profiles and were probably used for disposing of domestic waste associated with the adjacent Fore Street property. It is possible that they were initially used for the extraction of the clay and sand geology for construction purposes.

7.2 Wall footing S112 was undated. However, as its associated construction cut (F111) was visible through the post-medieval subsoil, it suggests that it was of a comparable date to the pits. Its function was not clear and its position does not correspond with any structures shown on historic mapping. However, despite its absence in the footings trench to the north – i.e., it is not continuous across the site - it probably represented a sub-division of the garden plot.

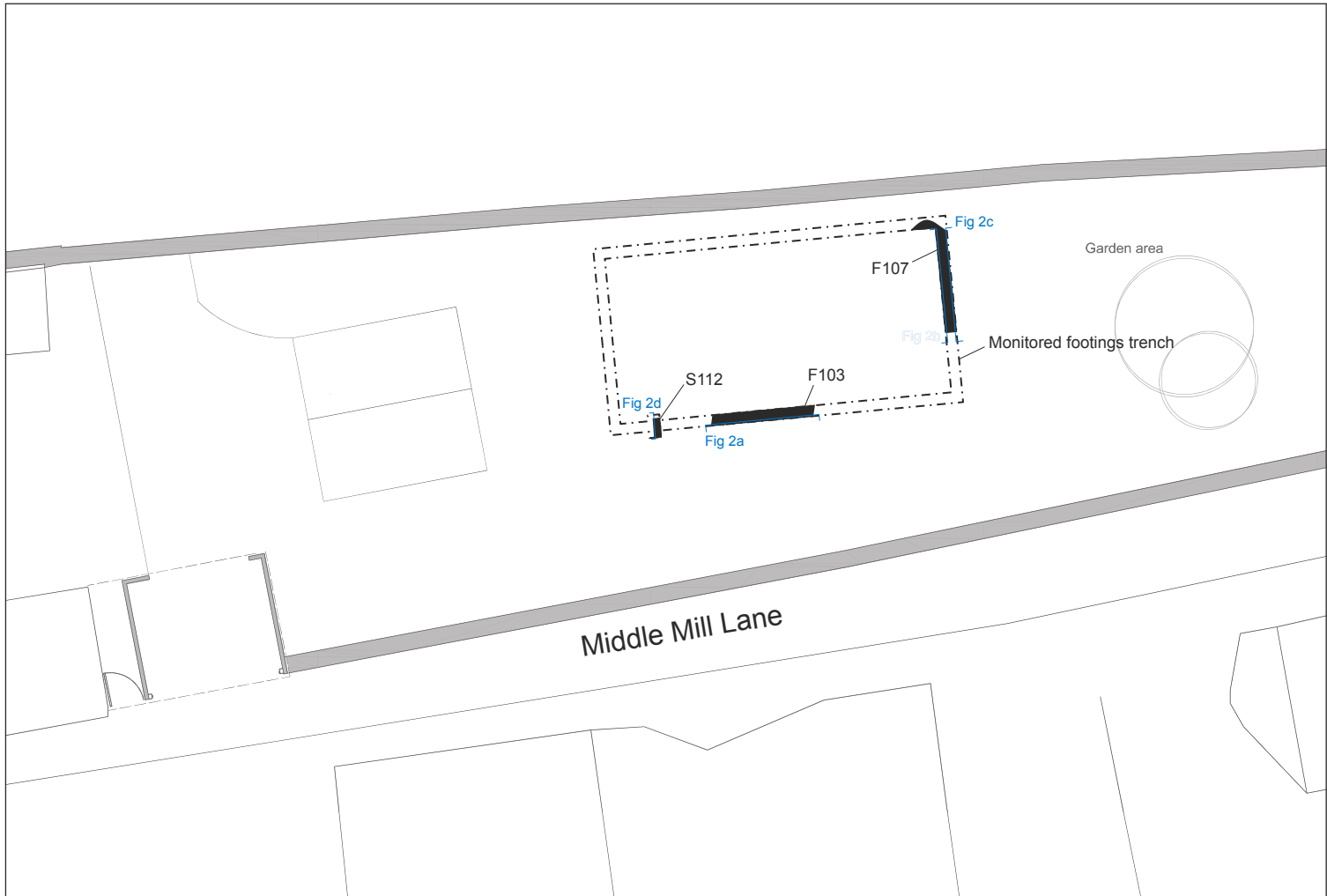
8. ARCHIVE AND OASIS

- 8.1 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 **ACD1631** and temporary reference number **RAMM: 17/31** received from the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM) Exeter. It will be offered to the museum and dealt with under their current accession policy.
- 8.2 An online OASIS entry has been completed, using the unique identifier **287449**, which includes a digital copy of this report.

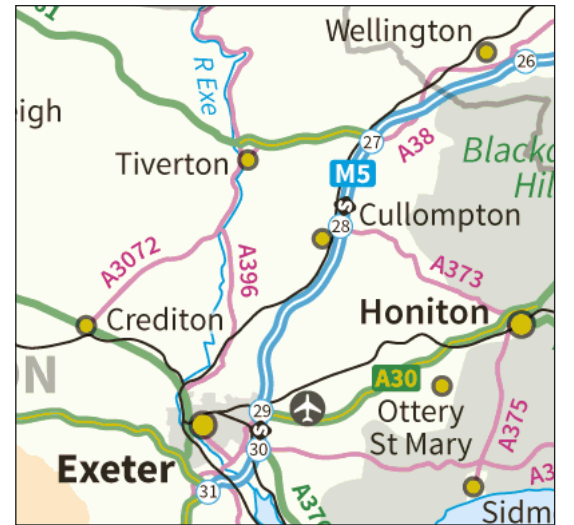
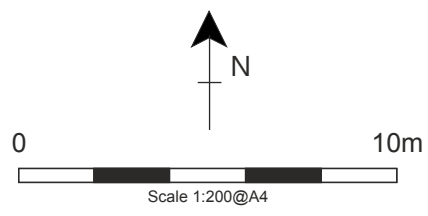
9. REFERENCES

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

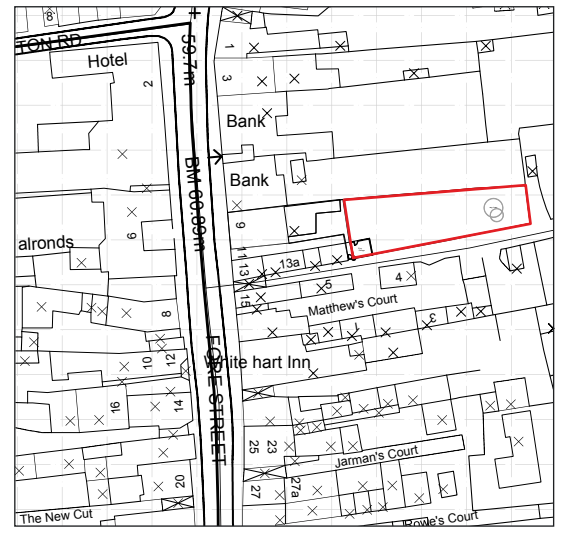
Hughes, S., 2017, *Land to the rear of 9 Fore Street, Cullompton, Devon: Project design for archaeological monitoring and recording*. Unpublished AC archaeology document ref. ACD1631/1/0



Based on drawing prepared by M Farmer Architectural Services



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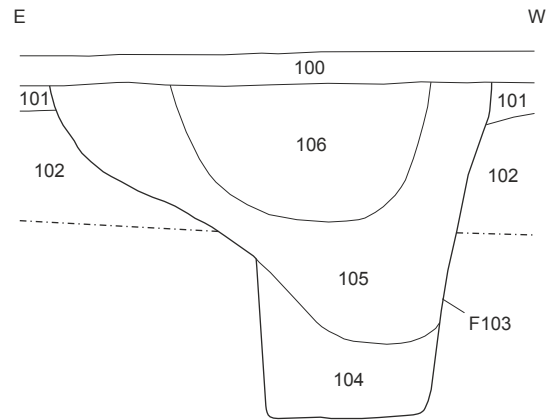
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PROJECT
**Land to rear of 9 Fore Street,
 Cullompton, Devon**

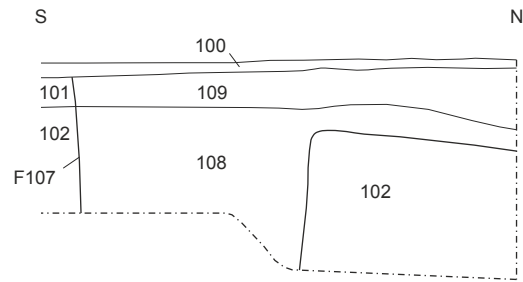
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**Fig. 1: Location of site and monitored
 groundworks with archaeological
 features shown**



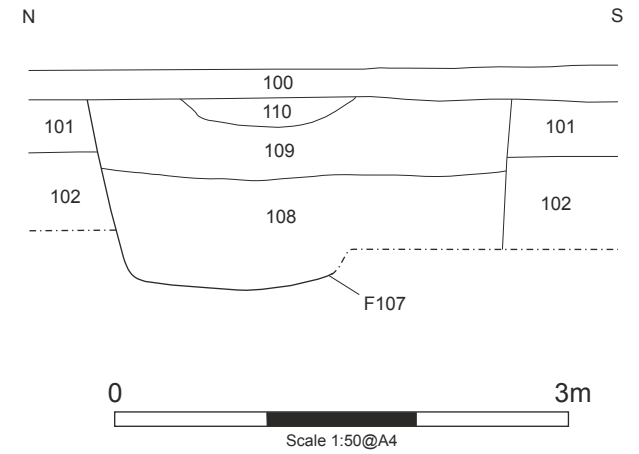
a) Section of pit F103



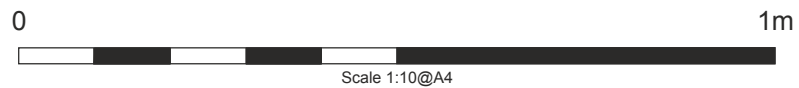
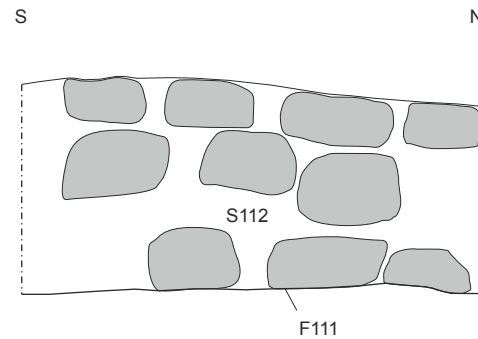
b) Section of pit F107



c) Section of pit F107



d) Elevation of wall S112



PROJECT

Land to rear of 9 Fore Street,
Cullompton, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 2: Sections of pits F103 and
F107 and wall S112 elevation



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Plate 1: View of site looking west
(scale 1m)



Plate 2: Pit F103, view to southwest (scale 1m)



Plate 3: Pit F107, view to west
(scale 1m)



Plate 4: Wall S112, view to east (scale 0.4m)

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