

LAND AT BATTENS FARM, STOCKLAND, HONITON, DEVON

(Centred on NGR ST 2469 0491)

Results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation

East Devon District Council Planning Reference:
17/1578/FUL

Prepared by:
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On behalf of:
Mr Bright

Report No: ACD1675/2/0

Date: September 2017



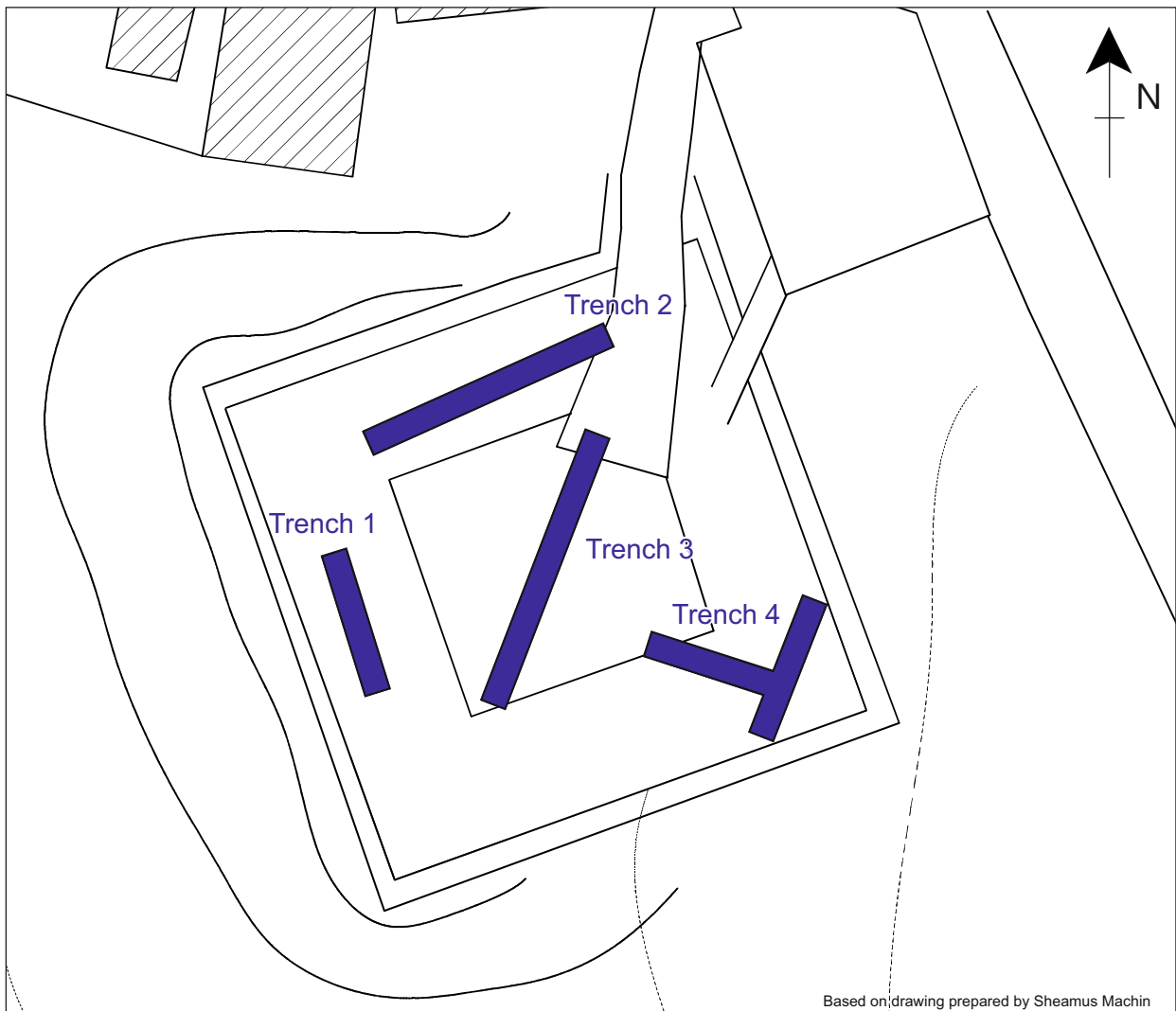
archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

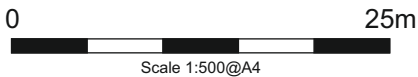
Civil Parish & District: Stockland, East Devon	National Grid Reference ST 2469 0491	Number:
Subject: Land at Battens Farm, Stockland, Devon: Results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation		Photo attached Plates 1-2
Planning permission no: 17/1578/FUL	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS ID: 296585	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD1675	Date fieldwork undertaken: 6th September 2017	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by AC archaeology in advance of the construction of a slurry lagoon on land at Battens Farm, Stockland, Devon (ST 2469 0491).</p> <p>Battens Farm is located on the northeast periphery of Stockland (Fig.1). The area investigated comprised a square block of land, forming part of a wider pasture field that is situated to the southwest of the farmyard. It lay on ground that sloped moderately-steeply to the south at around 107m aOD (above Ordnance Datum). The underlying solid geology comprised mudstone of the Branscombe Mudstone Formation.</p> <p>A previously-recorded artefact scatter comprising of 55 prehistoric worked flints and Romano-British finds including; pottery, roof tile fragments and a whetstone, had been recovered from the general position of the proposed new slurry lagoon. Further finds spots have been made to the south and east of the site including tap slag suggesting that iron smelting was being undertaken in the vicinity.</p> <p>Results</p> <p>The work comprised the machine-excavation of four trenches totalling 70m in length, with each trench 1.5m wide (Fig. 1 and Plate 1). Trenches were positioned to provide a sample coverage of the proposed development site.</p> <p>Natural subsoil, which comprised a mid red silty-clay was exposed at a depth that varied between 0.3m and 0.8m below existing levels. In Trench 2 and the north portion of Trench 1, the natural subsoil was overlain by up to a 0.4m thick light brown silty-loam colluvial soil (Plate 2). This and the natural subsoil in the remaining trenches was overlain by a 0.1m to 0.3m thick subsoil and an approximately 0.25m thick ploughsoil.</p> <p>A total of six sherds of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the subsoil in Trenches 3 and 4. These consisted of five sherds of South Somerset ware and one sherd of English stoneware. They all date from the 18th to 19th centuries.</p> <p>Comments</p> <p>No archaeological features or deposits were exposed by the work and only post-medieval finds were recovered from the overlying soils. The colluvial soil corresponded with lowest point of the site present in the northwest corner of the area investigated. No evidence for activity was exposed that could be associated with the previously-recorded prehistoric and Romano-British findspots.</p>		
Recorder: Abigail Brown, AC archaeology	Date sent to HER: September 2017	



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Based on drawing prepared by Sheamus Machin



PROJECT
Land at Battens Farm, Stockland, Honiton, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of site with trench positions shown





Plate 1: View of site looking northwest



Plate 2: Trench 2, view to southwest (scale 2x1m)

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