

# LAND TO THE REAR OF 7 HIGH STREET, HATHERLEIGH, DEVON

(Centred on NGR SS 5421 0445)

Results of an archaeological trench evaluation

Planning Reference: West Devon Borough Council  
234/17/FUL (Condition 7)

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Prepared by:  
Simon Hughes

On behalf of:  
Mr Richard Davies

Report No: ACD1698/2/0

Date: November 2017



archaeology

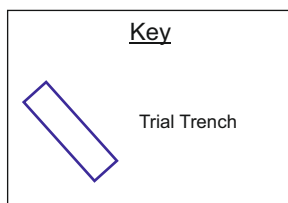
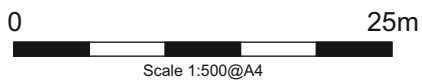
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# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Hatherleigh, West Devon	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SS 5421 0445	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Land to the rear of 7 High Street, Hatherleigh, Devon: Results of an archaeological trench evaluation		<b>Photo attached</b> Plates 1-3
<b>Planning permission no:</b> 234/17/FUL	<b>Recipient museum:</b> N/A	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> 299942	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> ACD1698	<b>Date fieldwork undertaken:</b> 30 October 2017	
<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>An archaeological trench evaluation was carried out by AC archaeology in advance of a residential development on land to the rear of 7 High Street, Hatherleigh, Devon (SS 5421 0445). The site comprised a grass, scrub and demolition rubble-covered 0.2 hectare plot on the north side of High Street (Fig. 1 and Plates 1-2). It was positioned on flat ground at 84m aOD (above Ordnance Datum), with the underlying solid geology comprising breccia of the Bow Breccia Formation.</p> <p>The site is located in the historic core of the town, with Hatherleigh likely to have been established in the 10th century AD. The town is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086, where it was referred to as Hadreleia. It is situated in one of a series of linear burgage plots extending to the rear of properties fronting the High Street. The site abuts the source of a spring named locally as <i>The Buddle Spring</i>, which feeds a fountain head on the street frontage.</p> <p><b>Results</b></p> <p>The work comprised the machine-excavation of two trenches totalling 16m in length, with each trench 1.4m wide. Trenches were positioned to provide a sample coverage of the proposed development site.</p> <p>Natural subsoil, which comprised light red gravels in a silty-clay matrix, was exposed at a depth below existing levels that ranged between 0.45m in Trench 1 and 0.58m in Trench 2. In both trenches a consistent overlying layer sequence was exposed (Plate 3). The natural subsoil was overlain by a 0.13m to 0.2m thick dumped layer of stone rubble and gravels, which was sealed by a 0.08m to 0.17m thick mid red-silty clay levelling layer. This was then overlain by a dark greyish-brown clayey-loam topsoil mixed with modern brick and concrete demolition rubble. In Trench 2 a concrete wall footing and a ceramic land drain were present.</p> <p>A single piece of post medieval pottery and three pieces of bottle glass were recovered from the stone rubble layer overlying the natural subsoil. The pottery is industrial white wear dating from the 19th or 20th century. The glass consists of two green wine bottle bases and a small body shard. One of the bases from the layer in Trench 1 is late 16th or early 17th century and the other base from Trench 2 dates from the late 17th or early 18th century.</p> <p><b>Comments</b></p> <p>The overlying layers exposed in both trenches have been dated to the post-medieval period and no activity or finds pre-dating this period were exposed. Based on the immediate topography, the site was likely to have been terraced flat into the gentle gradient as evident in the adjoining plots. In both trenches a high water table was encountered which may have related to the adjacent spring. The overlying layers are likely to have represented levelling deposits, with the stone rubble deposit perhaps providing a buffer from the high water table. Based on finds recovered, the levelling is likely to have taken place during the 19th to 20th centuries, perhaps in preparation for the modern structures that previously occupied the site.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> Simon Hughes, AC archaeology		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> November 2017



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PROJECT

Land at the rear of 7 High street, Hatherleigh, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Site and trench location plan







Plate 1: View of site looking south with Trench 1 in foreground



Plate 2: View of site looking east



Plate 3: Trench 1, showing representative section of overlying layers. View to northeast (scale 1m)

### Devon Office

AC archaeology Ltd  
Unit 4, Halthaies Workshops  
Bradninch  
Nr Exeter  
Devon  
EX5 4LQ

Telephone/Fax: 01392 882410

### Wiltshire Office

AC archaeology Ltd  
Manor Farm Stables  
Chicklade  
Hindon  
Nr Salisbury  
Wiltshire  
SP3 5SU

Telephone: 01747 820581  
Fax: 01747 820440

[www.acarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.acarchaeology.co.uk)