

# LAND AT CHURCHTOWN FARM, BRIDGERULE, DEVON

NGR SS 2817 0325

Results of archaeological monitoring and recording

Torridge District Council planning ref. 1/0807/2017/FUL

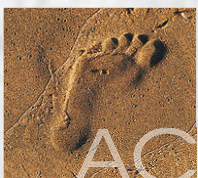
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Prepared by:  
Simon Hughes

On behalf of:  
Skinner Engineering Ltd.

Report No: ACD1687/2/0

Date: November 2017

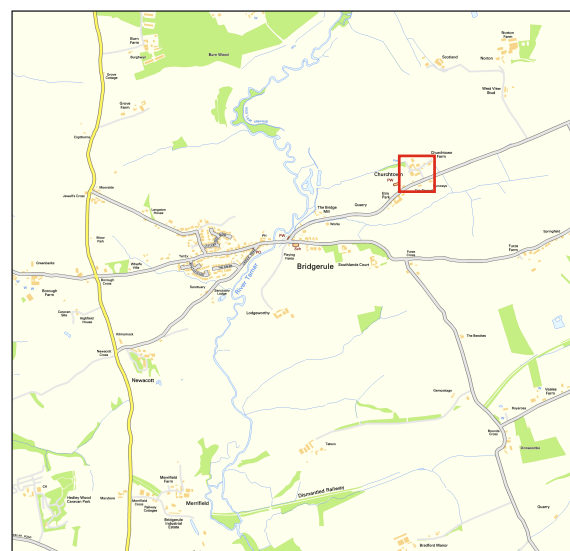


archaeology

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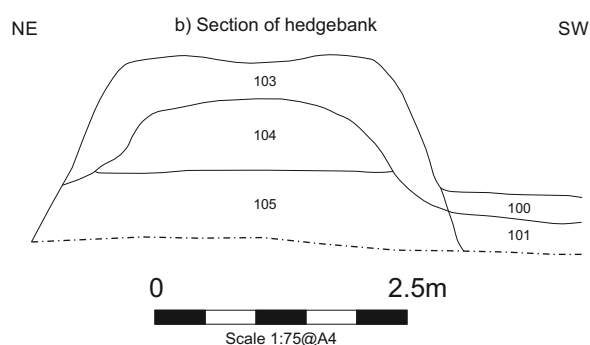
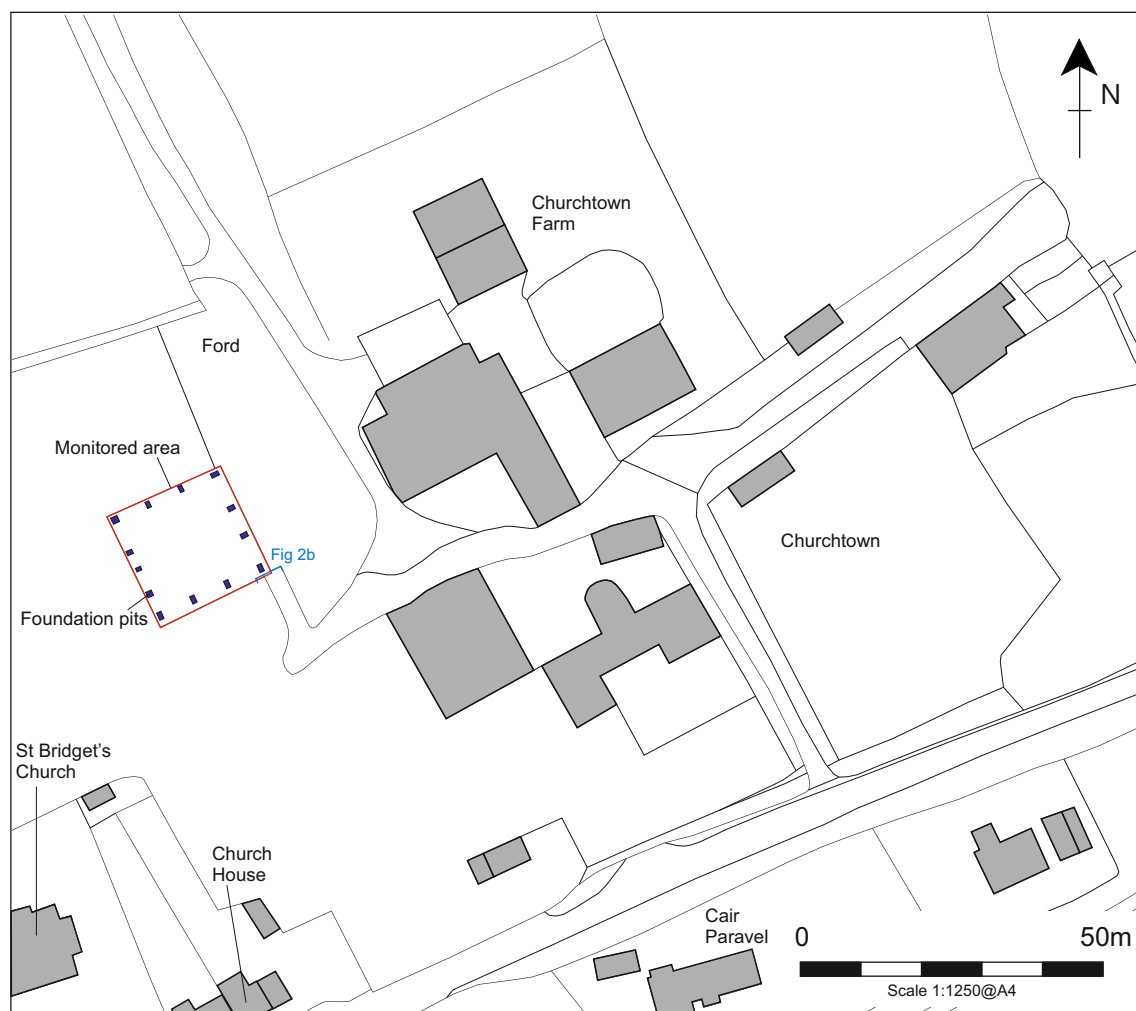
# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Bridgerule, Torridge	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SS 2817 0325	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Land at Churchtown Farm, Bridgerule, Devon: Results of an archaeological watching brief		<b>Photo attached?</b> Plates 1-3
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 1/0807/2017/FUL	<b>Recipient museum:</b> N/A	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> 301977	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> ACD1687	<b>Date fieldwork undertaken:</b> 26th September 2017	
<p><i>Introduction</i></p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out by AC archaeology during groundworks associated with the erection of an agricultural store on land at Churchtown Farm, Bridgerule, Devon (SS 2817 0325).</p> <p>The site lies approximately 1km to the northeast of Bridgerule, and with the adjacent church of St. Bridget and a small number of other properties, forms Churchtown hamlet (Fig. 1). The position of the new agricultural building lies to the west of the farmyard and is bounded by a track (Plate 1). It comprised part of a rectangular plot situated on flat ground at 135aOD (above Ordnance Datum). The underlying solid geology comprises sandstone of the Bude Formation (British Geological Survey Online Viewer).</p> <p>The principle archaeological interest in the site is its close proximity to St. Bridget's Church, which has 13th century origins and the mid-16th century neighbouring Church House. Churchtown Farm was built in the 19th century as a model farm.</p> <p><i>Results</i></p> <p>The monitored groundworks comprised the excavation of 13 foundation pits, which measured approximately 1.2m across and between 0.8m and 1.2m deep (Plate 2), and the removal of a hedgebank (Plate 3). Natural subsoil was exposed at a depth of between 0.16m to 0.60m below existing levels and comprised a mid yellow to grey silty-clay. This was overlain by a light brown silty-clay subsoil (context 101) and a 0.25m thick mid brown silty-clay topsoil (100). No archaeological features or deposits were exposed within the foundation pits.</p> <p>The breached hedgebank measured 4.2m wide and exceeded 1.75m in height, the base of which was not exposed. It was comprised of two exposed deposits (104 and 105). Basal deposit 104 comprised a light yellowish-brown silty-clay possible buried subsoil. This was overlain by 105, which consisted of 0.7m thick dump of mid brown silty-clay with abundant small to medium mudstone inclusions. This was then sealed by the topsoil horizon, which blended with the topsoil that extended to the southwest. No finds were recovered.</p> <p><i>Comments</i></p> <p>No archaeological features or deposits were exposed during the excavations for the foundations of the new agricultural building. The breaching of the hedgebank exposed a typical sequence of deposits consisting of an up cast bank sealing a probable buried soil and in turn overlain by topsoil/vegetation horizon. This was likely to have dated from the late medieval to post-medieval period.</p> <p>This report and the associated OASIS entry represent the archive for the project.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b>  Abigail Brown, AC archaeology		<b>Date sent to HER:</b>  November 2017



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a) Plan of site



PROJECT  
Land at Churchtown Farm, Bridgerule, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of site, monitored area and section of hedgebank



AC archaeology





Plate 1: View of site, looking northeast towards Churchtown Farm



Plate 2: Representative view of foundation pit, looking northeast (scale 1m)



Plate 3: Showing section through breached hedgebank, view to southeast (scale 1m)

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