

# LAND WEST OF MEAD PARK, FREMINGTON, DEVON

(Centred on NGR SS 5265 3257)

Results of an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

North Devon District Council Planning Application

Reference No. 60985, Appeal Reference:

APP/X1118/W/16/3154193 (Condition 8)

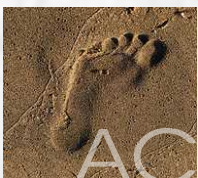
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On behalf of:  
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Document No: ACD1287/1/0

Date: January 2018

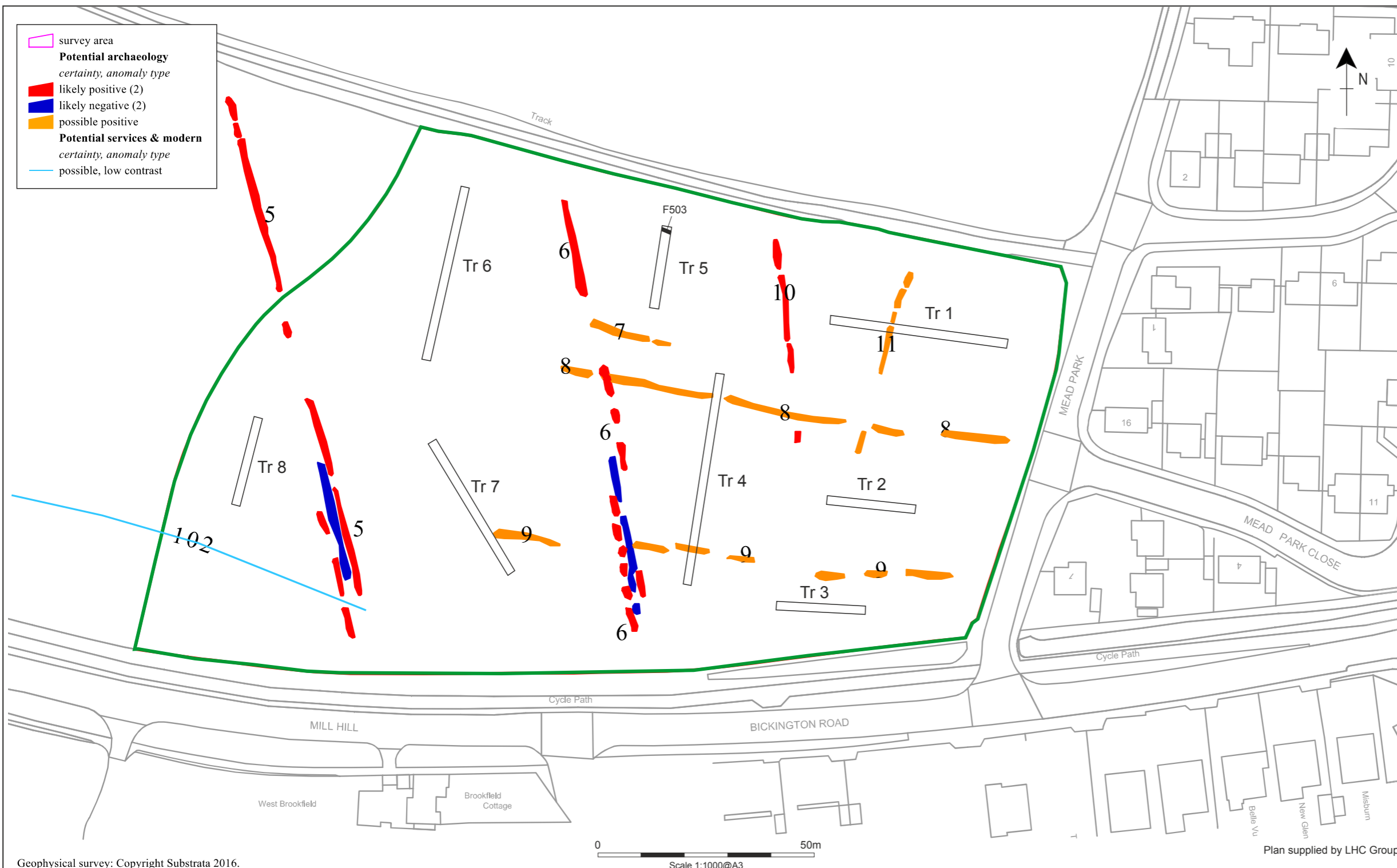


archaeology

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# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Fremington, North Devon	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SS 5265 3257	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Land west of Mead Park, Fremington, Devon: Results of archaeological trial trench evaluation		<b>Photo attached:</b> Plates 1 and 2
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 60985, Appeal ref. APP/X1118/W/16/3154193 (Condition 8)	<b>Recipient museum:</b> N/A	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> 306605	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b>  ACD1287	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b>  16-17th January 2018	
<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>An archaeological trench evaluation on land west of Mead Park, Fremington, was undertaken by AC archaeology during January 2018. The evaluation was required by North Devon Council. The new development will comprise the construction of up to 61 dwellings, including affordable housing, areas of open space and landscaping, a new vehicular access and associated site infrastructure. The site covers approximately 2 ha and is situated within a larger pasture field to the west of Mead Park and north of Bickington Lane, in-between the villages of Fremington to the west and Bickington to the east (<b>Plate 1</b>). It is on ground which slopes gently down to the southwest, at a height of c. 24m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying solid geology comprises mudstone and siltstone of the Crackington Formation, with overlying superficial deposits of till, Mid Pleistocene Diamicton (British Geological Survey online 2018).</p> <p>The site is located in a general area that contains documented evidence for post-medieval and modern pottery and brick manufacture, as well as the extraction of clay for pottery production in Barnstaple and Bideford. A geophysical survey identified 11 magnetic anomaly groups representing possible archaeological deposits or structures (see <b>Fig. 1</b>). Of these, four are likely to represent former field boundaries mapped on the 1843 Fremington tithe map and on historical Ordnance Survey maps. The remainder are typical of anomalies representing former field and enclosure boundaries of unknown origin and possibly of more than one phase of land enclosure. No magnetic 'hotspots' were recorded to indicate <i>in situ</i> ceramic production.</p> <p><b>Results</b></p> <p>Eight trenches totalling 250m in length, with each trench 1.8m wide were excavated (<b>Fig. 1</b>). Across the site, the recorded layer sequence comprised a topsoil of dark brown sandy silty loam, above a mid brown sandy silty loam agricultural subsoil. A colluvial deposit sitting on top of the natural subsoil was present in trenches 4, 7 and 8. The natural subsoil largely comprised light yellowish-brown, sandy clay, with frequent angular and sub-angular gravel and pebbles. The natural subsoil was present at a depth of between 0.5m and 0.78m below the current ground surface. With the exception of Trench 5, the remaining trenches were negative. Trench 5 contained a shallow east-west aligned gully (F503), which measured 0.58m wide by 0.12m deep with concave sides and concave base (<b>Figs 1b-c; Plate 2</b>). F503 had a single fill (504) composed of mid brown silty loam, but contained no finds.</p> <p>The only finds from the site comprised three sherds of post-medieval pottery and a fragment of unidentified mammal bone from overlying deposits. These are well-worn and probably derived from agricultural manuring of the site.</p> <p><b>Comments</b></p> <p>The trial trench evaluation provided largely negative results. The paucity of features and finds indicates that the area has been in agricultural throughout historic times and there is no indication for settlement or use of the site prior to this. The single gully is consistent with being a former field boundary running parallel with the lie of the extant field boundary to its north.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b>  László Lichtenstein	<b>Date sent to HER:</b>  18-01-2018	

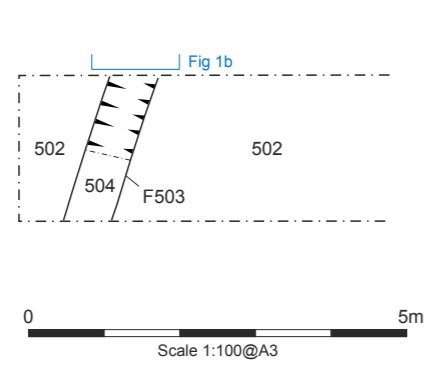


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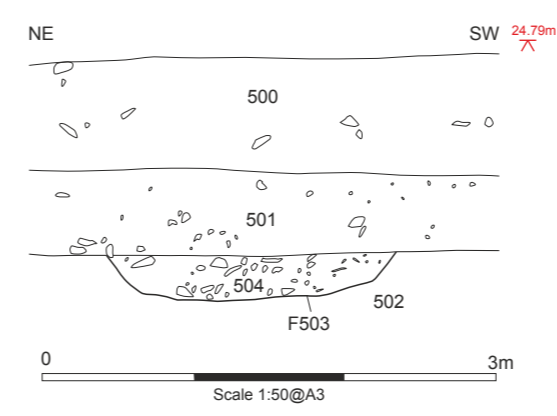
**Legend**

- Site boundary
- Trenches

a) Plan of gully F503



b) Section of gully F503



PROJECT  
Land at Mead Park, Fremington, Devon

TITLE  
Fig. 1: Location of site and trenches, showing the archaeological feature and the geophysics interpretation





Plate 1: General view of the site, looking northeast



Plate 2: Trench 5, gully F503, looking southwest (scale 1m)

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