

LAND AT THE THREE TUNS INN, EXETER ROAD, SILVERTON, DEVON

(Centred on NGR SS 95485 02722)

Results of archaeological monitoring and recording

Mid Devon District Council Planning Permission
Reference 16/01460/FULL (condition 3)

Prepared by:
Simon Hughes

On behalf of:
My Village Homes Ltd

Document No: ACD1653/2/1

Date: January 2018



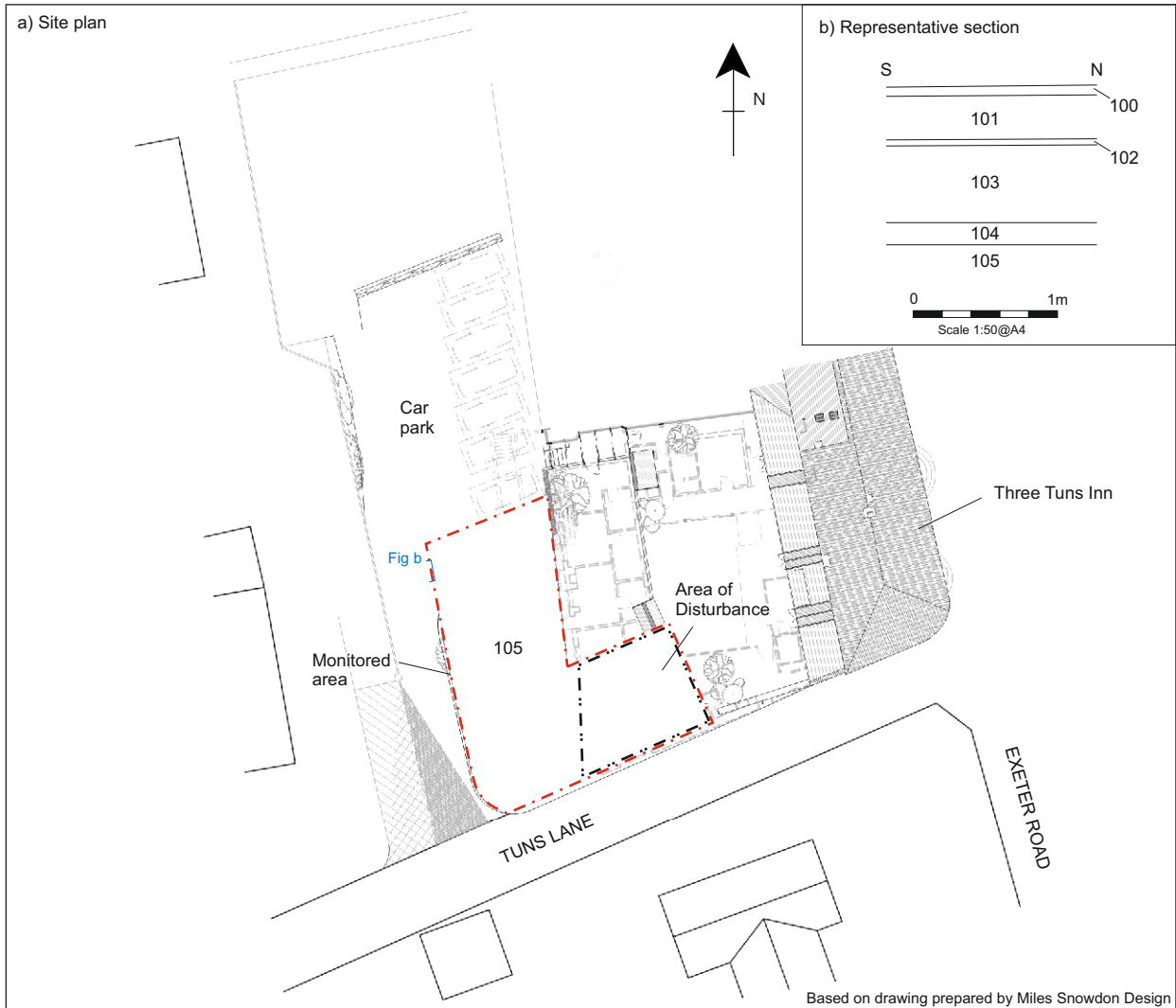
archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Silverton, Mid Devon	National Grid Reference SS 95485 02722	Number:
Subject: Land at the Three Tuns Inn, Exeter Road, Silverton, Devon: Results of archaeological monitoring and recording		Photo attached? Plates 1-3
Planning Application no: 16/01460/FULL	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS ID: 307448	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD1653	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 9th November 2017	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out by AC archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of two dwellings and land at the former Three Tuns Inn, Exeter Road, Silverton, Devon (SS 95485 02722). The site lies on the southwest side of Silverton and to the rear of the former inn, which fronts onto Exeter Road (Fig. 1 and Plate 1). It comprised an area that had been previously covered by part of an L-shaped accommodation block and part of the former associated car park to the inn; accessed from Tuns Lane. The site was positioned on ground that sloped to the south within the car park area and terraced ground in the location of the accommodation block.</p> <p>The Three Tuns Inn, which is Grade II-listed, dates from the 17th to 18th centuries and comprises a cob building with stone footings and thatched roof. The adjacent properties, Nos. 10 and 12 Exeter Road are also Grade-II listed and of a similar style. The site is located on periphery of the historic core of the village, with adjacent plots having been used during the post-medieval period as orchards. The 1842 Silverton parish tithe map depicts the position of the proposed development site as extending partially across the yard to the rear of the Three Tuns Inn and the adjacent plot to the west. This plot is named in the accompanying apportionment as 'Orchard'. By 1887, the First-Edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey map, shows the yard to the rear of the Three Tuns as occupied by the L-shaped block arranged around a courtyard.</p> <p>Results</p> <p>Monitored groundworks comprised the machine-excavation of the site to form a level terrace (Fig. 1 and Plate 2). In the western portion of the stripped area (that covered by the former carpark), natural subsoil (context 105), which comprised red gravels in a sand and grit matrix, was exposed at a depth of 0.1m adjacent to Tuns Lane, with this increasing to 1.1m below existing levels to the north.</p> <p>Where deepest, the natural subsoil was overlain by a mid brownish-red sandy loam (104) and mid reddish-brown silty-loam (103) buried subsoil and topsoil layers that measured a total of 0.7m thick (Plate 3). These were then sealed by layers associated with the former car park surface; a thin levelling layer comprised of dark brownish-grey silty-loam with crushed slate, clinker and gravels (102), gravel makeup (101), and tarmac (100).</p> <p>A single piece of post medieval pottery (51g) was recovered from buried subsoil context 104. This is a body sherd of South Somerset ware with an internal glaze and dates from the 17th or 18th century.</p> <p>In the eastern portion of the site there was evidence for extensive disturbance caused by the previous late 19th century accommodation block.</p> <p>Comments</p> <p>No archaeological features were exposed by the groundworks. The layer sequence, which increased in depth towards the north of the site, consisted of buried soils that predate the formation of the later car park area to the rear of the former inn. These have been dated to the 17th to 18th century and are likely to represent post-medieval cultivation soils present within a former orchard as depicted on the 1842 Silverton parish tithe map.</p>		
Recorder: Simon Hughes, AC Archaeology		Date sent to HER: January 2018



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PROJECT

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TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of Site with monitored area shown





Plate 1: View of site looking northeast from Tuns Lane



Plate 2: Showing monitored area. View to northeast (scale 1m)



Plate 3: Showing overlying layer sequence. View to west (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