

# LAND AT ASHE FARM, MUSBURY, AXMINSTER, DEVON

(NGR SY 2758 9578)

Results of an archaeological trench evaluation

East Devon District Council planning references:  
17/1868/FUL, 17/1869/FUL and 17/1901/FUL

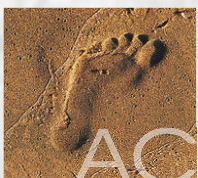
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On behalf of:  
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Document No: ACD1758/2/1

Date: March 2018

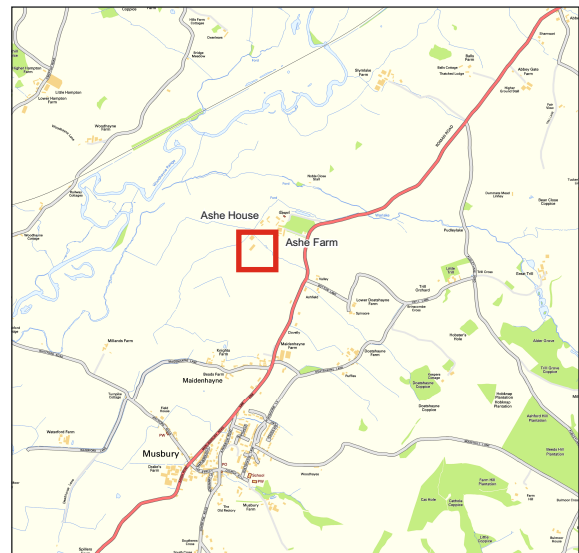


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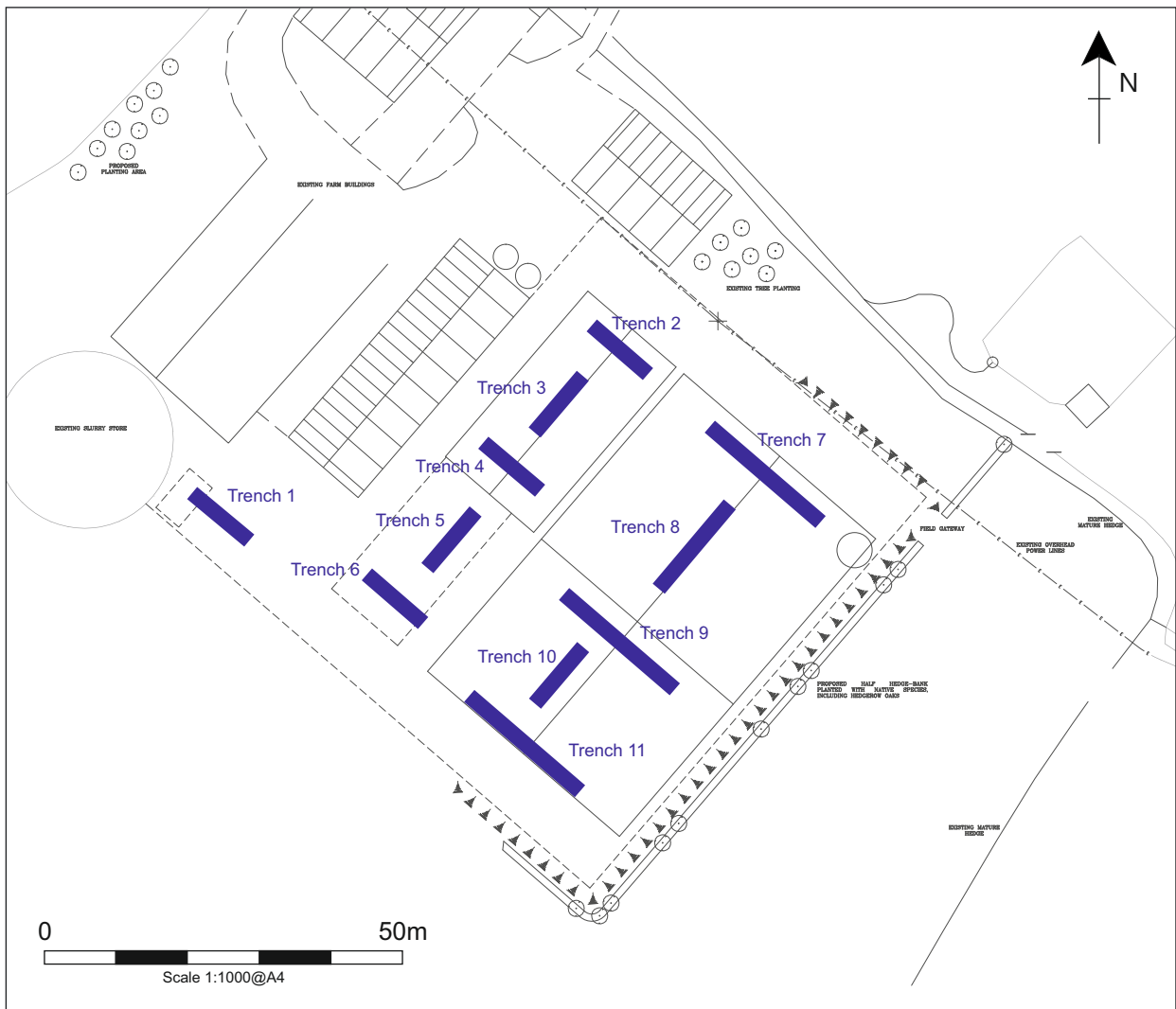
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# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

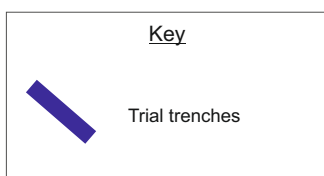
<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Musbury, East Devon	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SY 2758 9578	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Land at Ashe Farm, Musbury, Axminster, Devon: Results of an archaeological trench evaluation		<b>Photo attached</b> Plates 1-2
<b>Planning permission nos:</b> 17/1868/FUL, 17/1869/FUL and 17/1901/FUL	<b>Recipient museum:</b> N/A	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> 309882	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A	
<b>Site code:</b> ACD1758	<b>Date fieldwork undertaken:</b> 15 February 2018	
<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>An archaeological trench evaluation was undertaken by AC archaeology during February 2018, on land at Ashe Farm, Musbury, Axminster, Devon. It was undertaken in advance of the construction of livestock buildings, milking parlour, bulk feed hopper, slurry channels and reception pit. The site lies approximately 1.2km to the north of Musbury and 3.5km to the southwest of Axminster on agricultural land to the northwest of the A358 road (Fig. 1). It formed part of a wider pasture plot positioned to the southwest of the main farm complex, Ashe House and chapel (Plate 1).</p> <p>Ashe House was first documented in 1289, although settlement on the site is considered to have possible Saxon origins. The potential for earlier activity on the site was based on records of prehistoric flint scatters in the vicinity. These had been recovered c.250m to the southeast and c.300m to the northeast of the site during archaeological monitoring of a pipeline construction. The route of the A358 is thought to represent the line of the Roman Fosse Way extending for the section between Seaton and Axminster.</p> <p>The trench evaluation comprised the machine excavation of 11 trenches totalling 145m in length, with each trench 1.5m wide. These were positioned to provide a sample coverage of the areas of proposed development (Fig. 1).</p> <p><b>Results</b></p> <p>Natural subsoil, which consisted of a mid yellowish brown silty-sand with abundant sub-rounded pebble inclusions, was exposed at a depth of between 0.2m and 0.42m below existing levels (Plate 2). In each of the trenches, the natural subsoil was overlain by a mid yellowish-brown, silt-loam topsoil with frequent sub-rounded gravel and pebble inclusions.</p> <p><b>Comments</b></p> <p>No archaeological features or deposits were exposed within the trenches and no pre-modern finds were recovered.</p> <p>There was no evidence for activity on the site and no residual finds that could be related to the known prehistoric, Romano-British or medieval activity in the vicinity of the site.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> Chris Caine, AC archaeology		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> February 2018



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Based on drawing prepared by Michael Goff, Agricultural Planning, Design & Project Management



PROJECT  
Land at Ashe Farm, Musbury, Axminster, Devon

TITLE  
Fig. 1: Location of site and trial trenches





Plate 1: General view of site looking north towards Ashe House



Plate 2: Trench 7, representative section showing overlying topsoil. View to northeast (scale 1m)

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