

LAND TO THE WEST OF MOSSHAYNE LANE, CLYST HONITON, DEVON

(NGR SX 9777 9427)

Results of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

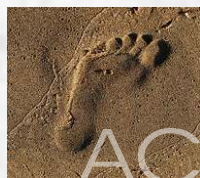
East Devon District Council Planning Reference:
17/1143/FUL

Prepared by:
Abigail Brown
and
Paul Bracken

On behalf of:
Western Power Distribution

Report No: ACD1690/2/0

Date: May 2018



archaeology

LAND TO THE WEST OF MOSSHAYNE LANE, CLYST HONITON, DEVON

(NGR SX 9777 9427)

Results of archaeological monitoring and recording

East Devon District Council planning reference 17/1143/FUL

Client	Western Power Distribution
Report Number	ACD1690/2/0
Date	3 May 2018
Status	Version 1
Report Author	Abigail Brown and Paul Bracken
Contributions	-
Checked by	Paul Rainbird
Approved by	Simon Hughes

Acknowledgements

The evaluation was commissioned by Nick Porter of Western Power Distribution and co-ordinated for AC archaeology by Simon Hughes. The site works were carried out by Paul Bracken, Abigail Brown, and Laszlo Lichtenstein, with the illustrations for this report prepared by Leon Cauchois. The advice of Bill Horner, Devon County Council Historic Environment team, is gratefully acknowledged.

The views and recommendations expressed in this report are those of AC archaeology and are presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information currently available.

Copyright

AC archaeology Ltd shall retain full copyright of any report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the Client for the use of the report by the Client in all matters directly relating to the project. Any document produced to meet planning requirements may be freely copied for planning, development control, education and research purposes without recourse to the Copyright owner subject to all due and appropriate acknowledgements being provided.

© AC archaeology Ltd 2018

CONTENTS

Summary

1.	Introduction	1
2.	Archaeological background	1
3.	Aims	1
4.	Methodology	2
5.	Results	2
6.	Comments	3
7.	Archive and OASIS entry	3
8.	References	3

List of figures

- Fig. 1: Location of site and monitored area
Fig. 2: Foundation pad pits 1 and 4, plans and sections

List of plates

- Plate 1: General working view of site, looking northeast
Plate 2: Possible ditch F104. View to southwest
Plate 3: Possible ditch F106. View to east
Plate 4: Showing section through foundation pad pit 4. View to northeast

Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording on land to the west of Mosshayne Lane, Clyst Honiton, Devon (SX 9777 9427) was undertaken by AC archaeology between October 2017 and January 2018. The work comprised the monitoring of groundworks associated with the erection of a replacement electricity pylon.

The excavation of foundation pad pits revealed a series of alluvial deposits associated with the adjacent Pinn Brook watercourse. Three possible small ditches, of which two represented parts of the same feature, were exposed by the work. These were undated, but based on their position as sealed by an alluvial soil, were unlikely to have been of recent origin.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of archaeological monitoring and recording associated with the erection of a replacement 132kv pylon tower on land to the west of Mosshayne Lane, Clyst Honiton, Devon (SX 9777 9427). The work was required as condition 2 of planning permission (reference 17/1143/FUL) granted by East Devon District Council, following consultation with the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (hereafter DCCHE).
- 1.2 The site lies approximately 1km to the northwest of Clyst Honiton and 300m to the west of Mosshayne Lane (Fig. 1). It is located on low-lying flat pasture land at 14m aOD (above Ordnance Datum) adjacent to the Pinn Brook watercourse. The underlying solid geology comprises sandstone of the Dawlish Sandstone Formation, which is overlain by clay, silt sand and gravel alluvium (www.bgs.ac.uk).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site lies in an area which has been subject to a number of recent archaeological investigations associated with the installation of services or development of land. The principal archaeological interest in the site is its close proximity to a large probable enclosure, which was identified from aerial photographs as extending either side of the Pinn Brook some 400m to the west (Devon County Council Historic Environment Record MDV28622). Part of this enclosure was investigated in 2011 during the construction of a new water main (AC archaeology forthcoming). During this work, the perimeter ditch to the enclosure was exposed as well as a pit furnace representing iron working. These were dated to the later Iron Age / Romano-British periods. Further recent work carried out to the south of the Pinn Brook exposed part of the enclosure, with exposed remains dated to the Iron Age and medieval periods.
- 2.2 As part of the work carried out in 2011 a series of trial trenches were excavated along the route of the new water main. One of these was positioned adjacent to the Pinn Brook immediately to the north of the site. In this trench, a simple sequence of alluvial subsoil and topsoil overlying alluvial clays was exposed.

3. AIMS

- 3.1 The aim of the archaeological monitoring was to preserve by record any archaeological features or deposits exposed during groundworks associated with the scheme. This was with particular reference to the potential for prehistoric activity to be present on the site.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The monitoring and recording was carried out in accordance with a project design prepared by AC archaeology (Hughes 2017) and with reference to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014).
- 4.2 All groundworks were undertaken using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading/ditching bucket, working under constant archaeological supervision. This comprised the monitoring of a topsoil strip and the excavation of foundation pad pits (Fig. 1).
- 4.3 Where archaeological features and deposits were exposed, they were cleaned, examined and recorded. All features and deposits revealed were recorded using the standard AC archaeology *pro forma* recording system, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, and in accordance with AC archaeology's *General Site Recording Manual, Version 2* (revised August 2012). Detailed sections and plans were produced at a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate.

5. RESULTS (Fig 1; Plate 1)

- 5.1 Natural subsoil (context 103), which consisted of a mid reddish-brown alluvial sandy-clay with manganese fleck inclusions, was exposed in the four foundation pad pits at a depth of approximately 0.65m below existing levels. It was overlain by an intermittent light greyish-brown sand alluvial deposit (109). This was then sealed by a 0.2m to 0.3m thick light-reddish-grey sandy clay alluvial soil (102), a 0.2m thick mid brownish-red agricultural subsoil (101), and, a clayey-silt loam topsoil (100).
- 5.2 The entire site was bulk-reduced to approximately 0.4m below existing levels, a depth that was maintained within agricultural subsoil 101. Within the stripped area the four foundation pad pits were excavated measuring between 3m x 3m and 4m x 4m in area.
- 5.3 The excavation of the foundation pad pits exposed three possible ditches (F104, F106 and F110). These are described below.

Possible ditch F104 (Detailed plan Fig. 2a and section Fig. 2b; Plate 2)

Possible ditch F104 extended approximately east to west and was partially exposed in the south corner of foundation pad pit 1. It cut into alluvial layer 109 and measured 0.38m deep with moderately-steep stepped sides. It contained a mid brownish-grey sandy-clay fill (105) that had formed in wet to standing water conditions. No finds were recovered.

Possible ditch F106 (Detailed plan Fig. 2a and section Fig. 2c; Plate 3)

Possible ditch F106 was exposed to the north of ditch F104 in foundation pad pit 1. It measured 0.8m wide and 0.14m deep, with an irregular profile. It contained a mid brownish-red sandy-clay fill (107) with manganese fleck inclusions. No finds were recovered.

Possible ditch F110 (Detailed plan Fig. 2d and section Fig. 2e; Plate 4)

Possible ditch F110 was exposed in foundation pad pit 4. It cut into alluvial layer 109 and measured 0.6m wide and 0.06m deep with a shallow concave profile. It contained a mid brownish-red sand fill (111) that had manganese fleck inclusions. No finds were recovered.

6. COMMENTS

- 6.1 The monitoring of groundworks exposed a sequence of undated alluvial deposits associated with the adjacent Pinn Brook watercourse.
- 6.2 The three possible ditches exposed in the foundation pad pits were undated. Nevertheless, as they were all sealed beneath alluvial soil 102, it is likely that they were not of recent origin. Each of the features contained sterile wet-lain fills suggesting that they probably represented simple small agricultural ditches or drains of unknown date.
- 6.3 Although the fills of ditches F106 and F110 were varied, based on their position, it was likely that they were parts of the same overall feature.

7. ARCHIVE AND OASIS

- 7.1 An online OASIS entry has been completed, using the unique identifier **312599** which includes a digital copy of this report.

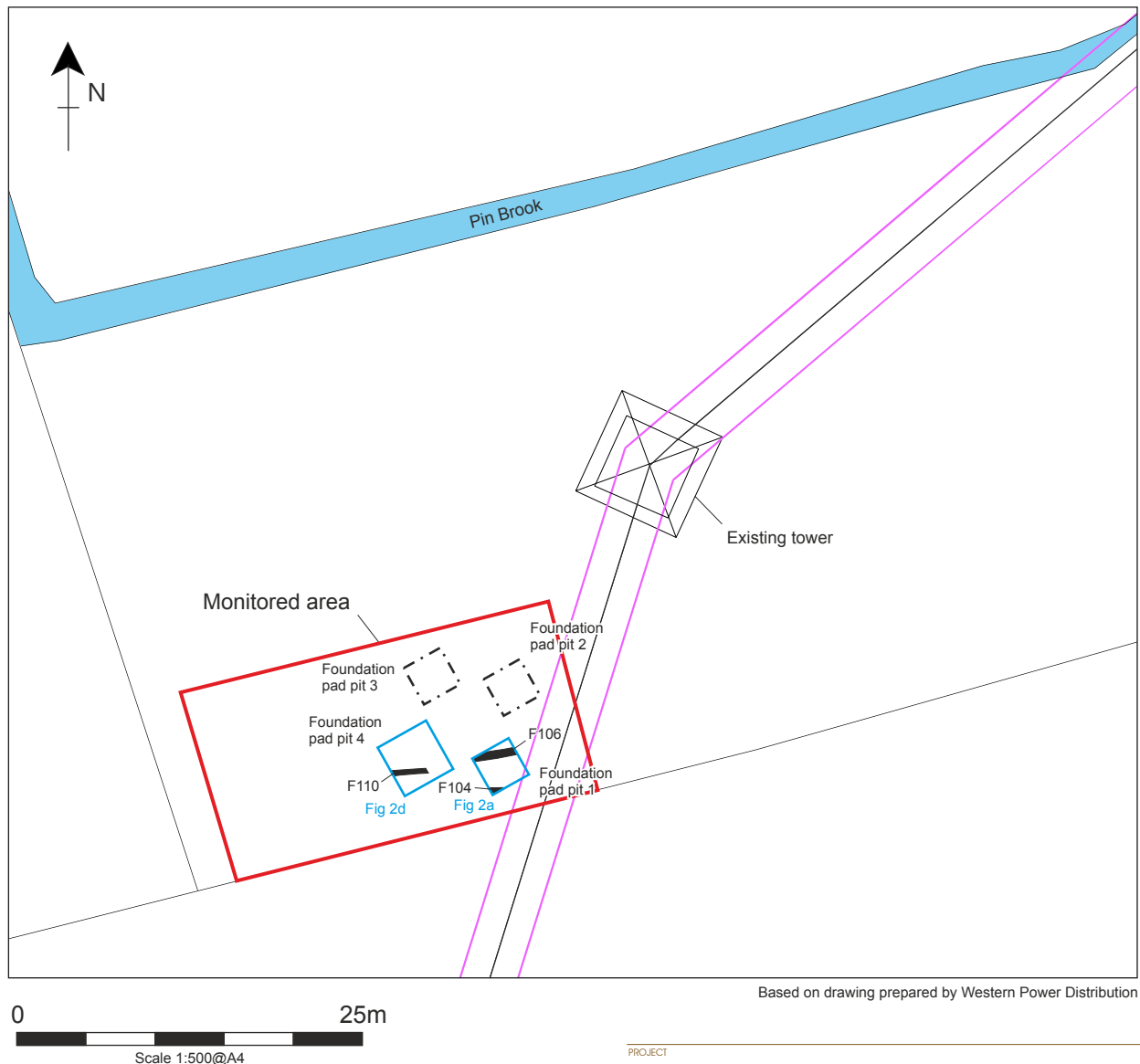
8. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey Online Viewer, www.bgs.ac.uk.

Hughes, S., 2017, *Land to the west of Mosshayne Lane, Clyst Honiton, Devon: Project design for archaeological monitoring and recording*. Unpublished AC archaeology document ref. ACD1690/1/0



Ordnance Survey © Crown Copyright 2015. All rights reserved. Licence number 100022432

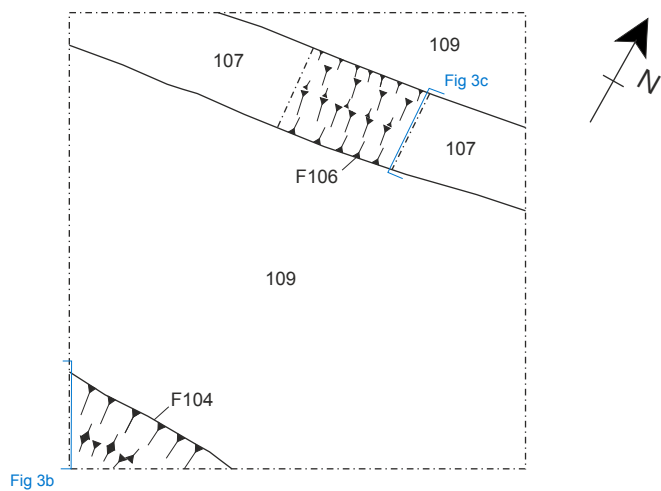


PROJECT
Land to the west of Mosshayne Lane,
Clyst Honiton, Devon

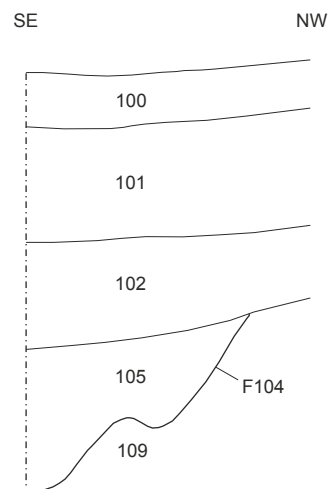
TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of site and area monitored

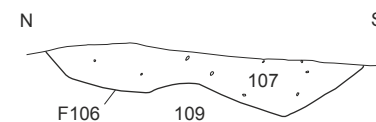
a) Plan of foundation pad pit 1



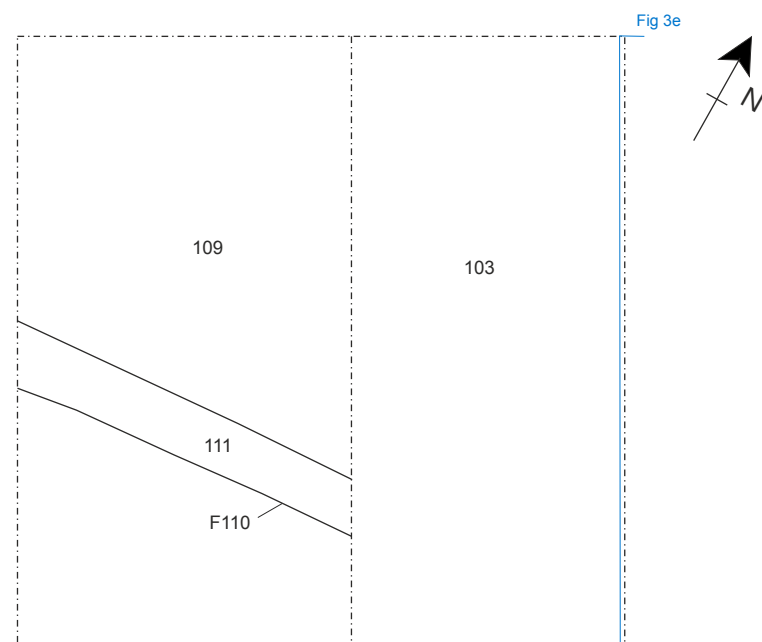
b) Section of possible ditch F104



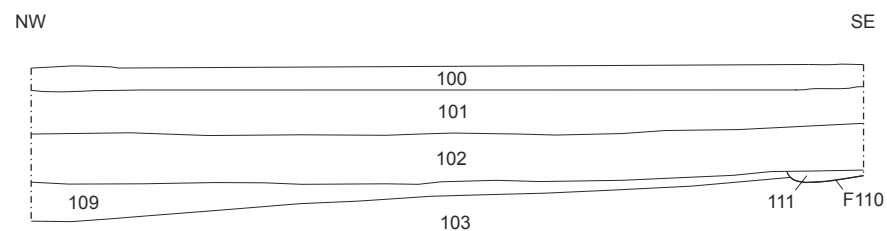
c) Section of possible ditch F106



d) Plan of foundation pad pit 4



e) Section of foundation pad pit 4



PROJECT

Land to the west of Mosshayne Lane,
Clyst Honiton, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 2: Foundation pad pits 1 and 4,
plan and sections





Plate 1: General working view of site, looking northeast



Plate 2: Possible ditch F104. View to southwest (scale 0.5m)



Plate 3: Possible ditch F106. View to east (scale 0.5m)



Plate 4: Showing section through foundation pad pit 4. View to northeast (scale 0.5)

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