

# LAND AT THE REAR OF PYNES CLOSE, EAST BUDLEIGH, DEVON

(NGR SY 0666 8487)

## Results of an Archeological Trench Evaluation

East Devon District Council Planning Reference:  
18/0954/FUL (Condition 3)

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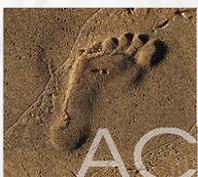
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With contributions from:  
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On behalf of:  
Devondale Developments Ltd

Report No: ACD1883/2/0

Date: November 2018



archaeology

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Report Author	Stuart Randall
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Approved by	Simon Hughes

## Acknowledgements

The evaluation was commissioned by Ara Architecture on behalf of Devondale Developments Ltd. The site works were carried out by Stuart Randall, with assistance from Sean Johnson. Illustrations for this report were prepared by Leon Cauchois. The advice and collaboration of Stephen Reed, Senior Historic Environment Officer, Devon County Council, is duly 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.

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## Summary

*An archaeological trench evaluation was undertaken by AC archaeology during October 2018 on land at the rear of Pynes Close, East Budleigh, Devon (NGR SY 0666 8487). Work comprised the machine-excavation of four trenches totalling 60m long, with each trench 1.6m wide.*

*The trench evaluation recorded the profile through a historic hedgebank boundary, which had, until recently, divided the site into two plots. This consisted of a simple bank and ditch that was shown to have been infilled during the 19th century. A group of probable 19th century postholes and possible pits were also present. Two pieces of prehistoric worked flint and a sherd of later Iron Age or early Roman pottery were found in later deposits dated to the post-medieval period. These provided some limited evidence for earlier activity in the vicinity of the site.*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trench evaluation carried out ahead of a residential development on land at the rear of Pynes Close, East Budleigh, Devon (NGR SY 0666 8487) was undertaken by AC archaeology during October 2018. The work was required under condition 3 of planning consent reference 18/0954/FUL granted by East Devon District Council, following consultation with the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team.
- 1.2 The site, which lies in the centre of East Budleigh village, is bounded by the rear of properties fronting High Street to the west and the Pynes Close to the east (Plates 1 - 2). It occupies a rectangular parcel of land, which was, prior to commencement, scrub and tree covered. The site lies on ground that slopes moderately-steeply to the south between 24m and 22m aOD, with the underlying solid geology comprising sandstone of the Helsby Sandstone Formation ([www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)).

### 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site lies within the historic core of East Budleigh and close to the Grade-I listed All Saints Church, which has 13th century origins (National Heritage List for England reference 1204468). High Street, also to the west, is lined by a number of historic buildings, many of which are Grade-II listed and date to between the 16th and 19th centuries. Amongst the earliest of these is the Sir Walter Raleigh Public House, which bounds the southwest corner of the site (NHLE ref. 1204515). This was originally a 16th century house that was modified in the 18th century before being converted to a pub in the 20th century. Located adjacent to the northwest corner of the site are the similarly-dated numbers 38 and 40 High Street (NHLE refs 1204552 and 1097546). These properties, which were largely re-built during the 17th century, were divided from a single house during the late 18th or early 19th century.
- 2.2 The 1845 East Budleigh parish tithe map depicts the site as divided into two plots and with an L-shaped building shown in the southwest corner. This is named in the accompanying 1842 tithe apportionment as 'House and Courtlage' (plot 1459), with this listing also incorporating the adjacent High Street property. This property is likely to correspond with the former 16th century house described above and now the Sir Walter Raleigh Public House. The two plots to the north of this that make up the remainder of the current site (Nos 1448 and 1455) are named in the accompanying apportionment as 'Orchard' and 'Garden'. These and plot 1459 are listed as under the

same ownership of John Hayman and occupant, James Austin. Subsequent 25-inch Ordnance Survey maps show the building as a single northwest to southeast range by 1889. The building is then shown as absent by the mid-20th century, while elements of the footings may have been retained as bounding parking and yard areas to the south of the current site.

### **3. AIMS**

- 3.1** The aim of the trial trench evaluation was to establish the presence or absence, extent, depth, character and date of any archaeological features, deposits or finds within the site. This was with particular reference for the potential for medieval and post-medieval remains to be present on the site.

### **4. METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1** All work was undertaken in accordance with a Project Design prepared by AC archaeology (Hughes 2018) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' document, *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation* (revised December 2014). It comprised the machine excavation of four trenches totalling 60m in length, with each trench 1.6m wide. Trench locations are shown on Fig. 1 and were positioned to provide a sample coverage of the site.
- 4.2** The removal of soils within the trenches was undertaken in 20cm spits (maximum) under the control and direction of a site archaeologist. Stripping by mechanical excavator ceased at the level at which archaeological deposits or natural subsoil was exposed.
- 4.3** All features and deposits exposed 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. All site levels relate to Ordnance Datum.

### **5. RESULTS**

#### **5.1 Introduction (Plan Fig.1)**

Archaeological features comprising a small number of postholes, possible pits or postholes and a former field boundary were recorded in Trenches 1 and 3. No evidence for structural remains were present in Trench 4, which was positioned in the vicinity of the building shown on the 1885 parish tithe map. The results from Trenches 1 and 3 are described below, with each trench described by context in Appendix 1.

Natural subsoil, which comprised a mid red silty-sand, was exposed at a depth that ranged between 0.55m and 0.9m below existing levels. The natural subsoil was generally overlain by a consistent mid reddish-brown sandy-silt loam subsoil and a dark greyish-brown silty-loam topsoil. In Trench 1, the topsoil was overlain by a localised dumped soil.

#### **5.2 Trench 1 (Detailed plan Fig. 2a and sections Figs 2b-e; Plate 3)**

Trench 1 was located in the northeast corner of the site. It was excavated through a dumped soil (context 100), topsoil (101) and subsoil (102) onto natural subsoil (111),

which was present at a depth of 0.55m below existing levels. The trench contained two possible pits or postholes (F103 and F106) and two postholes (F107 and F109) that all cut into subsoil 102. Ten sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from the subsoil.

Adjacent possible pits or postholes were located in the north portion of the trench. Possible pit or posthole F103 measured 0.5m across and 0.4m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flattish base. It contained a mid brownish-grey sandy-silt loam fill (104) from which one sherd of post-medieval pottery and one fragment of clay tobacco pipe were recovered. Possible pit or posthole F105 measured 0.28m across and 0.06m deep with a concave profile. It contained a mid brownish-grey sandy-clay fill (106). An undiagnostic iron object was recovered from F105.

Postholes F107 and F109 were square in plan and measured approximately 0.25m across and 0.5m deep. Posthole F107 contained the remains of a post. Four sherds of post-medieval pottery, two pieces of iron slag, three pieces of animal bone and fragments of brick or tile, slate and mortar were recovered from the postholes.

### **5.3 Trench 3** (Detailed plan Fig. 2f and sections Fig. 2g; Plate 4)

Trench 3 was located in the southeast portion of the site and extended across the line of the former hedgebank shown on the historic mapping. Natural subsoil (300) was exposed at a depth of 0.57m below a root-disturbed topsoil (302). The remains of a north to south aligned hedgebank (301) with associated ditch (F306) were exposed in the position of the former field boundary.

Hedgebank deposit 301 measured 0.33m high and 1.4m wide and was comprised of a mid brownish-red silty-sand redeposited natural subsoil. Ditch F306 measured 0.9m wide and 0.15m deep with a shallow concave profile. It contained a dump of mixed gravels, brick fragments and mortar pieces in its base (304), with this overlain by a dark grey sandy-silt loam (305). Five sherds of post-medieval pottery, a piece of iron strap, a fragment of window glass and two residual pieces of prehistoric worked flint were recovered from the ditch.

## **6. THE FINDS** *by Naomi Payne with a contribution from Charlotte Coles*

### **6.1 Introduction**

All finds recovered on site during the evaluation have been retained, cleaned and marked where appropriate. They have been quantified according to material type within each context and the assemblage examined to extract information regarding the range, nature and date of artefacts represented. The collection of finds is summarised in Appendix 2.

### **6.2 Late Iron Age/Roman pottery**

A single sherd (11g) of late Iron Age or early Roman pottery was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 2. This is a body sherd in a fine sandy micaceous fabric. It has reduced brown/black surfaces and an oxidised buff/orange core and margins. There are hints of burnishing and patches of residue on the external surface. The curvature of the sherd suggests it is from a bead-rim bowl.

### **6.3 Post-medieval pottery**

31 sherds (684g) of post-medieval pottery were recovered from ten contexts. The pottery is summarised in Table 1 below. The earliest sherd is a body sherd produced at Hemyock during the 16th century. The remainder of the assemblage dates from the

17th to 19th centuries and includes red earthenwares from South Somerset and North Devon, flowerpot, industrial white wares and single sherds of Westerwald and Border ware.

Table 1. Summary of post-medieval pottery by context

Context	Context Description	Border ware	Hemyock	North Devon	South Somerset	Westerwald	Flowerpot	Industrially made	Forms
100	Trench 1, dumped soil							1	
102	Trench 1, subsoil		1		8	1			SS bowl/pan rim with lid seat, SS cup rim, SS ointment pot rim, base sherd from a Westerwald chamber pot
104	Fill of posthole F103				1				SS bowl rim
108	Fill of posthole F107				2		1		
110	Fill of posthole F109				1				
200	Trench 2 topsoil				1				
201	Trench 2 subsoil				1				SS plate or dish rim with line sgraffito
301	Trench 3 subsoil							4	
302	Trench 3 topsoil				3		1		SS plate or dish rim with combed sgraffito, SS jug handle, SS pancheon rim
304	Fill of ditch F306	1		1	2			1	SS bowl rim, body sherd from border ware drug jar
<b>Totals</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	

#### 6.4 Metalwork

Two post-medieval iron fragments were recovered from Trench 1 and Trench 3. Pit F105 contained a tear-drop shaped lump which is broken at the narrow end. Ditch F306 fill 304 contained an iron strap fragment.

#### 6.5 Animal Bone by Charlotte Coles

Eight pieces (192g) of animal bone were recovered from four contexts in Trenches 1 and 3. These are all unidentifiable apart from a cattle calcaneus with an unfused proximal end from context 102, a sheep/goat maxillary tooth from context 302 and a complete dog tibia also from context 302. The tibia has a greatest length of 138.7mm. None of the animal bones have butchery marks.

#### 6.6 Clay tobacco pipe

Four fragments of clay tobacco-pipe were recovered from four contexts in Trench 1. The fragments include three stem fragments and one blunt spur. The latter piece dates from the 18th or 19th century.

#### 6.7 Building materials

Four small fragments (4g) of lime mortar were recovered from posthole F109 and a fragment of possible roof slate was recovered from the fill of posthole F107. The same feature also contained a small undiagnostic piece of ceramic building material

(CBM). Three further CBM fragments were recovered from the topsoil in Trench 3. They include two pieces of tile, one of which has an original thickness of 14.6mm and the other has an original facet on one surface with an angle of 135 degrees, and a fragment from a salt-glazed stoneware sewer pipe.

#### **6.8 Worked wood**

A degraded piece of worked wood with a large iron bolt through it (233g) was recovered from posthole F107. This is likely to be part of a post erected in this post hole. The form and preservation of the bolt indicate that it is of recent date.

#### **6.9 Lithics**

Two lithic items (9g) were recovered from ditch fill 304. One is a tertiary flake of mottled mid-grey flint which has been retouched along two edges at the distal end. The other is a broken greensand chert flake. The lithics are not strongly diagnostic of a particular period but are likely to be later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age in date.

#### **6.10 Slag**

Two pieces (26g) of slag were recovered from the fill of posthole F107. The slag includes one piece of undiagnostic ironworking slag and one piece of clinker.

#### **6.11 Shell**

Three small fragments (5g) of oyster shell were recovered from the subsoil in Trench 1.

#### **6.12 Glass**

Four fragments (56g) of glass were recovered from three contexts in Trench 1 and 3. This includes three pieces of slightly frosted window glass and a base sherd from an English green glass wine bottle of 18th or 19th century date.

### **7. DISCUSSION**

**7.1** The trench evaluation recorded a small number of features and a subsoil layer that have been dated to the post-medieval period. Nevertheless, the inclusion of two pieces of prehistoric worked flint and a sherd of later Iron Age or early Roman pottery as residual finds in the assemblage provides some limited evidence for earlier activity in the vicinity of the site.

**7.2** The features exposed in Trench 1 all cut through a thick subsoil dated to the 17th to 19th century. Finds recovered from the features provide a similar date range and represent probable fence division or other limited activity.

**7.3** Trench 3 exposed the profile of the boundary that had is depicted on the 1845 parish tithe map and subsequent Ordnance Survey editions. This comprised a simple bank (301) and ditch (F306) that was infilled during the 19th century.

**7.4** No evidence for the building shown in the southwest portion of the site was exposed in Trench 4. It is likely that the building occupied the lower yard area to the south; an area outside of the proposed development.

### **8. CONCLUSIONS**

**8.1** The trench evaluation recorded the profile through a historic hedgebank boundary, which had until recently divided the site into two plots. This consisted of a simple bank and ditch that was shown to have been infilled during the 19th century. A group of

probable 19th century postholes and possible pits were also present that cut through a subsoil dated to the post-medieval period.

## 9. ARCHIVE AND OASIS

9.1 The finds, paper and digital archive is currently held at the offices of AC archaeology Ltd, at 4 Halthaies Workshops, Bradninch, near Exeter, Devon, EX5 4LQ under the unique project code of **ACD1883** and longer-term storage arrangements will be made with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM) Exeter under the temporary reference number **RAMM: 18/30**. It will be held until the need for any further archaeological work on the site is established.

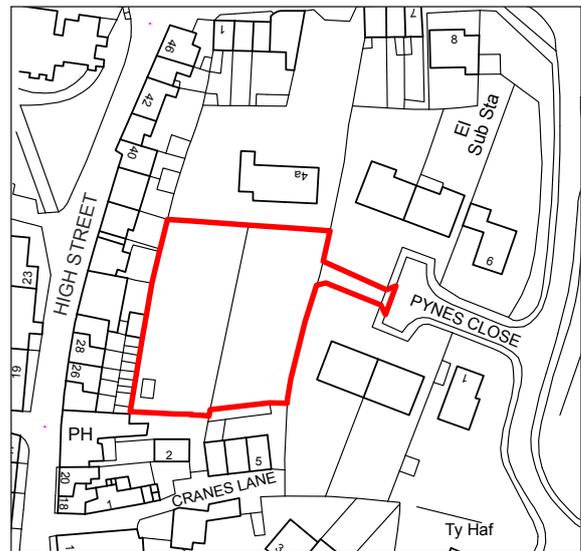
9.2 An online OASIS entry has been completed, using the unique identifier **332485**, which includes a digital copy of this report.

## 10. REFERENCES

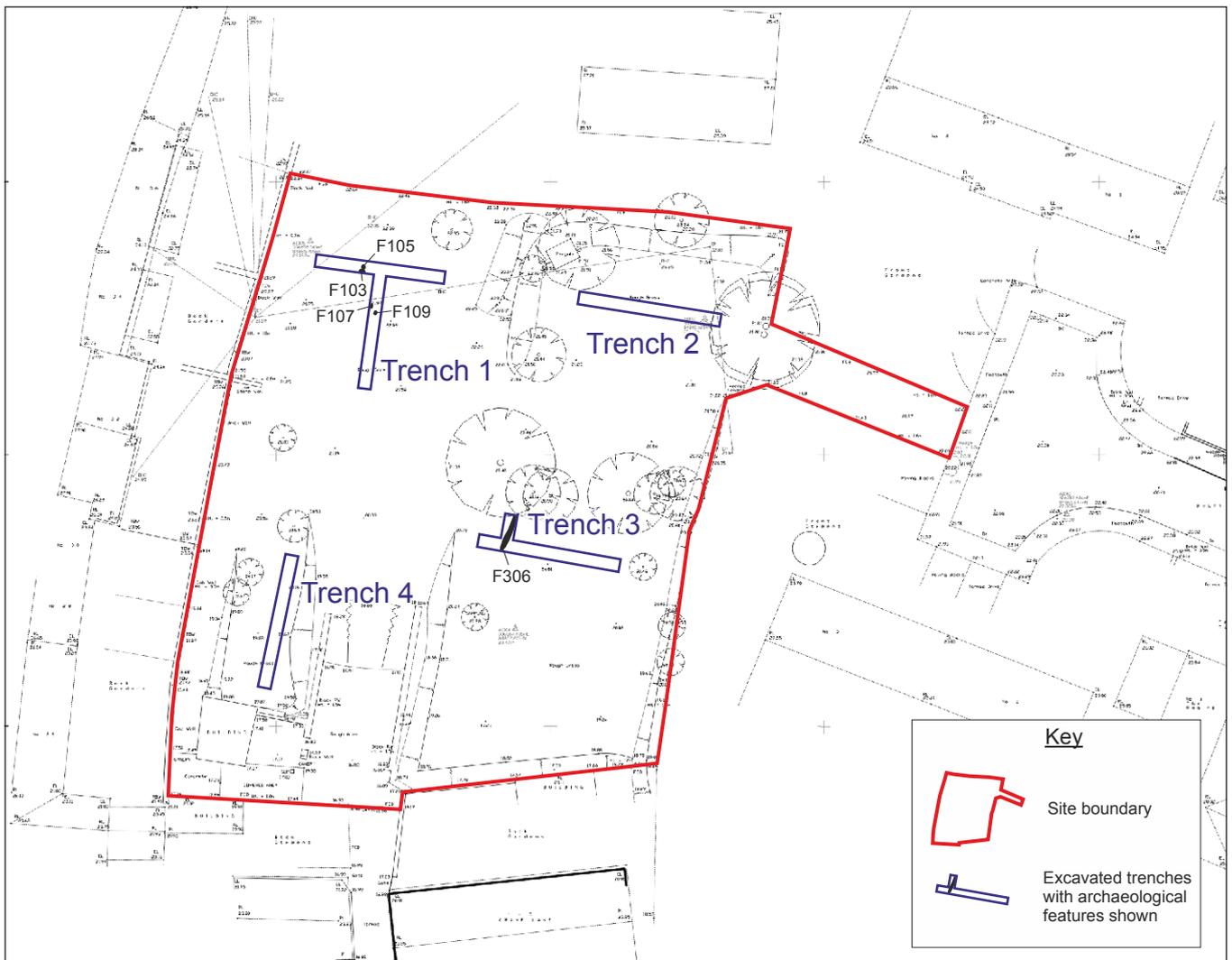
British Geological Survey online viewer [www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)

Hughes, S, 2018, *Land to the rear of Pynes Close, East Budleigh, Devon: Project Design for a Programme of Archaeological Work*. Unpublished AC archaeology document ref. ACD1883/1/0

Ordnance Survey 25-inch Devonshire Sheet 93.12, surveyed 1888, published 1889



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Based on drawing supplied by Ara Architecture



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Scale 1:500@A4

PROJECT

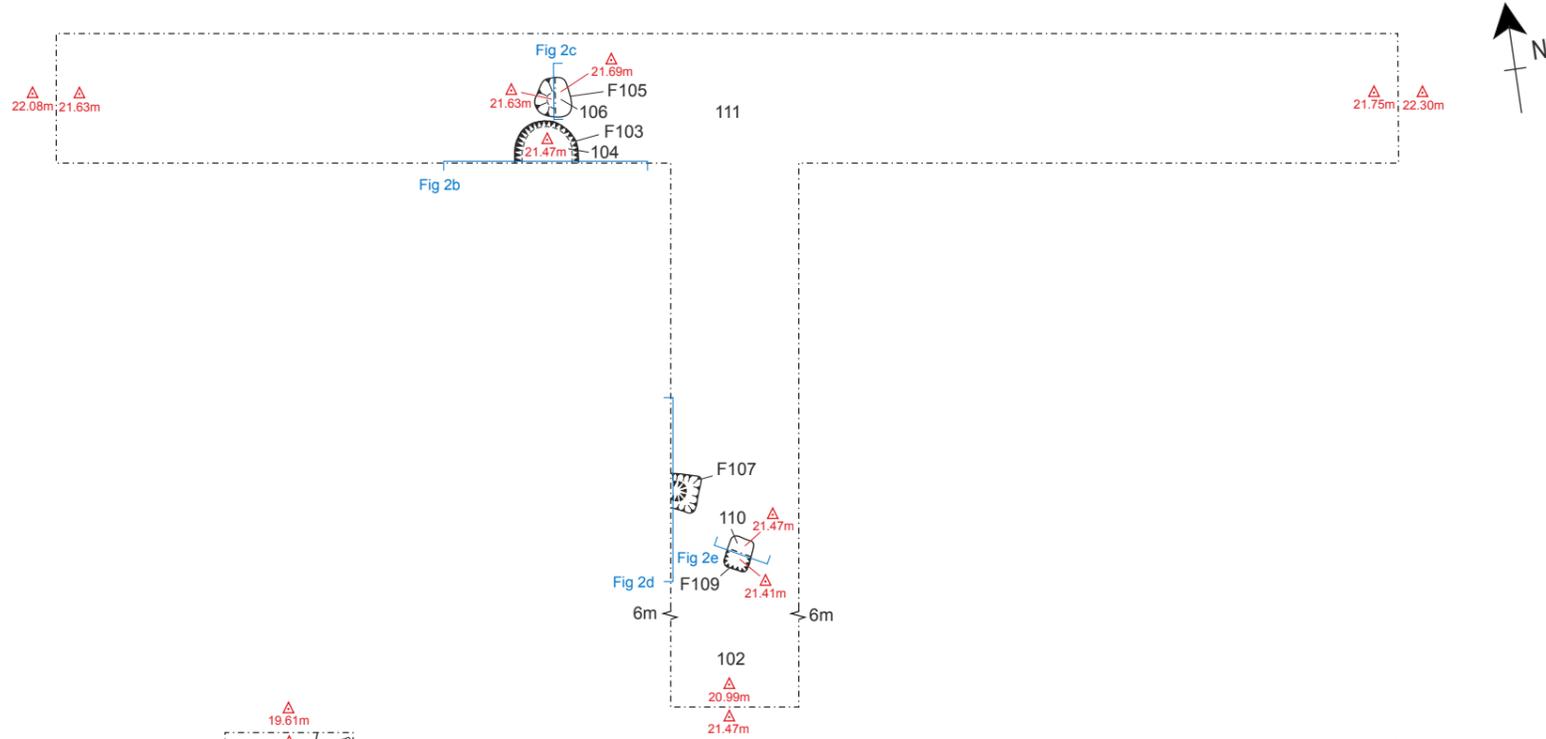
Land to the rear of Pynes Close,  
East Budleigh, Devon

TITLE

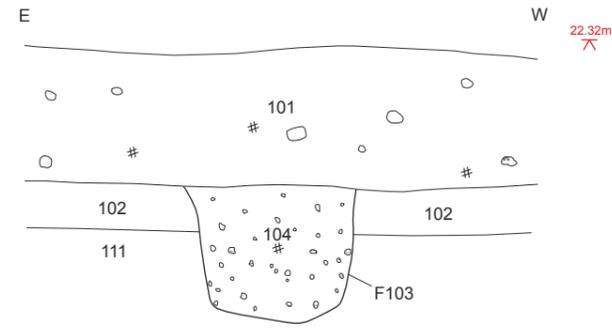
Fig. 1: Location of site and  
trial trenches



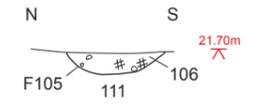
a) Plan of Trench 1



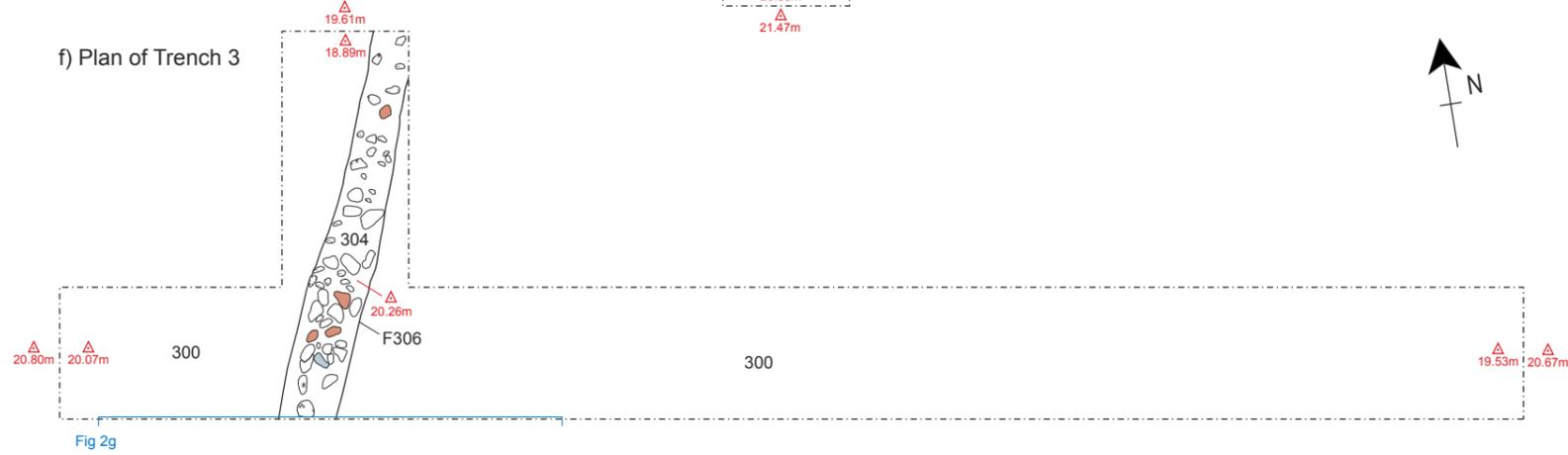
b) Section of pit or posthole F103



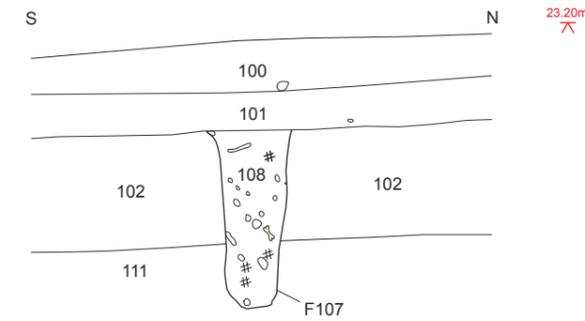
c) Section of pit or posthole F106



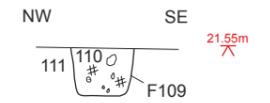
f) Plan of Trench 3



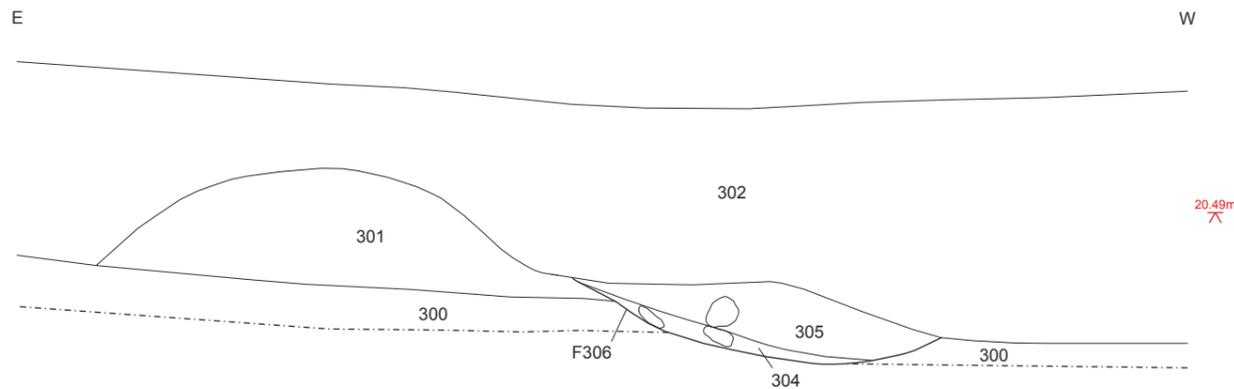
d) Section of posthole F107



e) Section of posthole F109



g) Section of hedgebank 301 and ditch F306



Key			
	Stones		CBM
	Charcoal		Slate
	Lime mortar		Animal bone

PROJECT  
Land to the rear of Pynes Close,  
East Budleigh, Devon  
TITLE  
Fig. 2: Trenches 1 and 3, plans  
and sections



Plate 1: General view of site looking northwest towards All Saints Church



Plate 2: General view of site looking southwest with Trench 4 in the foreground



Plate 3: Trench 1, posthole F107, view to west (scale 0.5m)



Plate 4: Trench 3, bank 301 and ditch F306. View to south (scale 1m & 0.5m)

# Appendix 1

Tabulated Context Descriptions by Trench



## APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS BY TRENCH

Trench 1		Length 10x10m	Width 1.6m	Alignment N-S x E-W
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
100	Mid greyish-brown clayey-loam	0-0.2m	Made ground	
101	Dark brownish grey sandy-silt loam	0-0.4m	Topsoil	
102	Mid reddish-brown sandy-silt loam	0.4m- 0.55m	Subsoil	
F103	Sub-round, 0.5m across and 0.4m deep with steep to vertical sides	0.4m- 0.77m	Cut of possible pit or posthole	
104	Mid brownish-grey sandy-silt loam	0.5m	Fill of possible pit or posthole F103	
F105	Sub round, 0.28m across and 0.06m deep with moderately-steep concave profile	0.55m- 0.61m	Cut of possible pit or posthole	
106	Mid brownish grey sandy-silt loam	0.07m	Fill of possible pit or posthole F105	
F107	Sub-square, 0.22m wide and 0.5m deep with vertical sides	0.25-0.5m	Cut of posthole	
108	Dark brownish grey sandy-silt loam	0.5m	Fill of posthole F107	
F109	Sub-square, 0.18m across and 0.14m with vertical sides	0.55-0.69m	Cut of posthole	
110	Mid brownish grey sandy-silt loam	0.14m	Fill posthole F109	
111	Mid red silty-sand	0.55m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 2		Length 10m	Width 1.6m	Alignment E-W
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
200	Dark greyish-brown silty-loam	0-0.3m	Topsoil	
201	Reddish brown sandy silt	0.3-0.9m	Subsoil	
202	Mid red silty-sand	0.9m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 3		Length 10x10m	Width 1.6m	Alignment N-S x E-W
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
300	Mid red silty-sand	0.57m+	Natural subsoil	
301	Mid brownish-red silty-sand	0.25-0.57m	Hedge bank	
302	Dark grey loose silt loam	0-0.57m	Topsoil	
304	Mix of lime mortar, CBM, slate and rounded pebbles	0.64m- 0.58m	Fill of ditch F306	
305	Dark grey sandy-silt loam	0.5m- 0.64m	Fill of ditch F306	
F306	Linear, 0.92m wide and 0.2m deep	0.5m- 0.64m	Cut of ditch	

Trench 4		Length 10m	Width 1.6m	Alignment N-S
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
400	Dark greyish-brown silty-loam	0-0.25m	Topsoil	
401	Mid reddish-brown sandy-silt loam	0.25-0.65m	Subsoil	
402	Mid red silty-sand	0.65m+	Natural subsoil	

# Appendix 2

## Finds Quantification

**APPENDIX 1: FINDS QUANTIFICATION**

Table 1. Summary of finds by context (weights in grams)

Context	Context Description	Late prehistoric/ Roman pottery		Post-medieval pottery		Iron		Slag		Lithics		Glass		Clay tobacco-pipe		Mortar		Slate		CBM		Worked wood + iron		Animal bone		Shell		
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
100	Trench 1, dumped soil			1	9																							
101	Trench 1, topsoil											2	11	1	2										1	2		
102	Trench 2, subsoil			10	185									1	6										1	104	3	5
104	Fill of pit or posthole F103			1	28									1	1													
106	Fill of pit or posthole F105					1	27							1	1													
108	Fill of posthole F107			3	23			2	26									1	90	1	7	1	233	3	39			
110	Fill of posthole F109			1	3												4	4										
200	Trench 2, topsoil	1	11	1	35																							
201	Trench 2, subsoil			1	41																							
302	Trench 3, topsoil			8	307							1	6							3	189			3	47			
304	Fill of ditch F306			5	53	1	38			2	9	1	39															
<b>Totals</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	

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