

HONITON SHOW GROUND, GITTISHAM, DEVON

(NGR SY 1305 9949)

Results of archaeological monitoring and recording

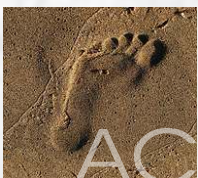
East Devon District Council planning ref. 17/0238/FUL
(condition 4)

Prepared by:
Tom Etheridge

On behalf of:
The Honiton and District Agricultural
Association

Report No: ACD1866/2/0

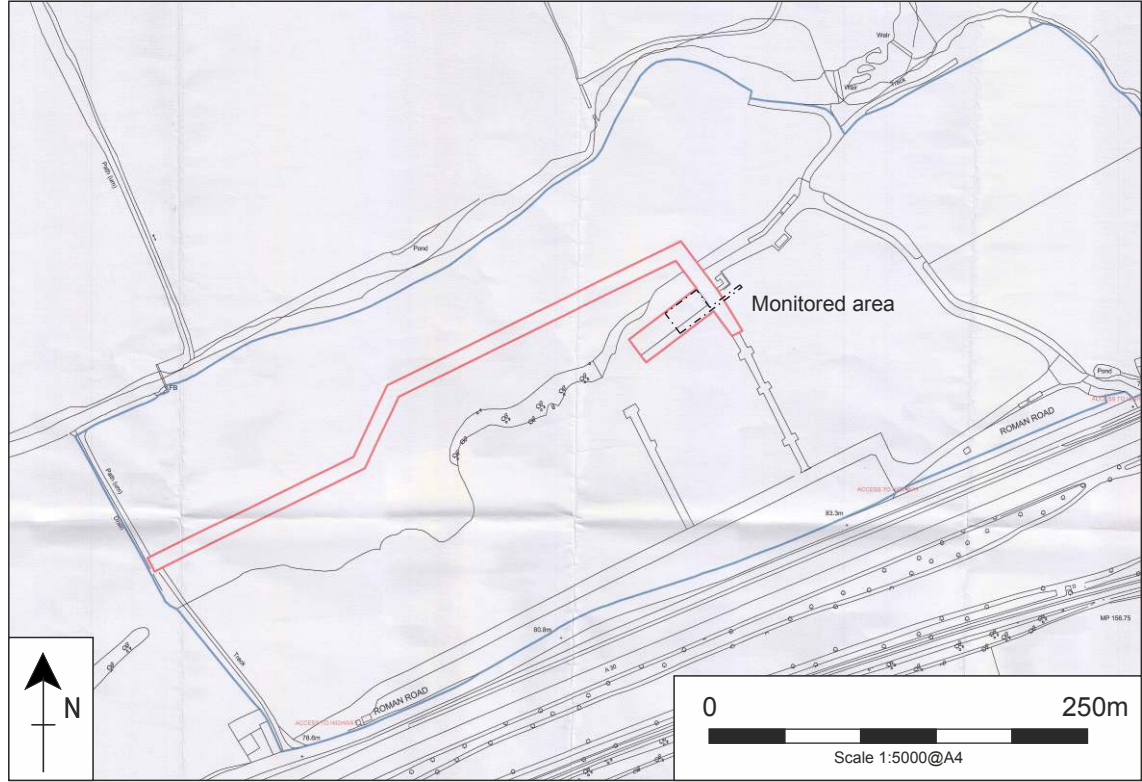
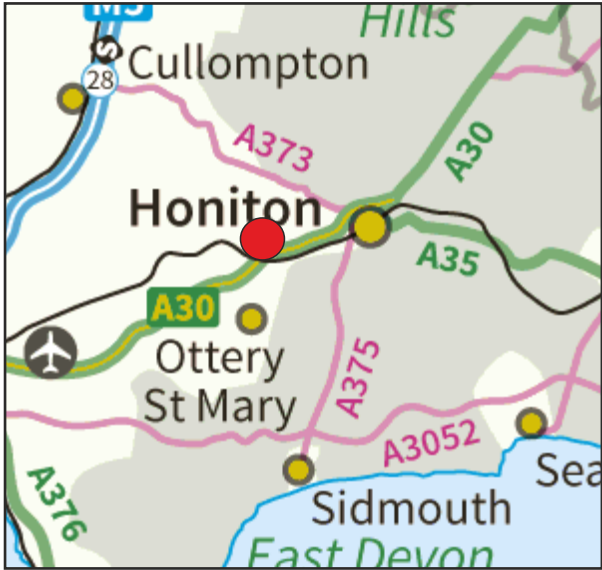
Date: June 2019



archaeology

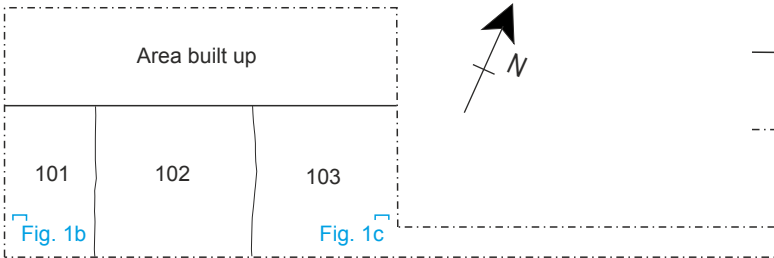
Devon Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish: Gittisham	National Grid Reference SY 1305 9949	Number:																				
Subject: Honiton Show Ground, Gittisham, Devon: Results of archaeological monitoring and recording		Photo attached? Plates 1 - 2																				
Planning Application no: East Devon District Council planning ref. 17/0238/FUL (condition 4)	Recipient museum: N/A																					
OASIS ID: 356424	Museum Accession no: N/A																					
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD1866	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 5th & 25th June 2019																					
<p>Description of works</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out by AC archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a storage building and roadway at the Honiton Show Ground (<i>Fig. 1</i>). The works were commissioned by the Honiton and District Agricultural Association and required as a condition of planning consent by East Devon District Council, following consultation with the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team. The site was situated approximately 1km to the north of Gittisham and some 2km west of Honiton and bounded to the southeast by the old A30 road, with the dual carriageway beyond and the River Otter to the northwest. The site is part of the show ground with a series of internal trackways dividing otherwise pasture fields. The site slopes gradually towards the River Otter to the northwest at around 75m aOD. Its underlying solid geology comprises mudstone of the Sidmouth Mudstone Formation, which is overlain by clay, silt, sand and gravel alluvium (www.bgs.ac.uk).</p> <p>The site lies in an area of general high archaeological potential for principally Roman remains. Part of the Pomeroy Wood Roman fort is present within the showground (DCC HER ref. MDV62750) and the fort straddles the route of the Roman road extending from Honiton to Exeter (MDV18538).</p> <p>The groundworks comprised the construction of a levelled area for the storage shed measuring 25m long by 14m wide and access track extension 25m long by 2m wide. The building platform was constructed using the cut and fill method, with approximately the north half of the levelled area being filled with deposits cut from the south approximated half which was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.6m. Natural subsoil (103) was revealed in a small area, measuring approximately 6m by 5.5m, in the southeast corner of the levelled area and in the track extension. The deposit sequence observed was as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Context no.</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Depth b.g.s.</th> <th>Interpretation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>100</td> <td>Mid greyish-brown sandy clayey loam</td> <td>0-0.3m</td> <td>Topsoil</td> </tr> <tr> <td>101</td> <td>Mid brown silty clayey loam</td> <td>0.3-0.5m</td> <td>Subsoil</td> </tr> <tr> <td>102</td> <td>Mid grey sandy silty loam</td> <td>0.5-0.6m</td> <td>Colluvium</td> </tr> <tr> <td>103</td> <td>Light brown silty clay</td> <td>0.6m+</td> <td>Natural</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The new, larger, roadway, approaching the new building from the north required turf stripping only and was not further monitored or recorded.</p> <p><i>Comment</i></p> <p>No features, deposits or finds of archaeological interest were exposed. No evidence for Roman activity spreading into this area was identified, although the low impact of the groundworks with only a small area of the natural subsoil exposed means that there was only limited potential for exposing cut features beneath the overlying deposits.</p>			Context no.	Description	Depth b.g.s.	Interpretation	100	Mid greyish-brown sandy clayey loam	0-0.3m	Topsoil	101	Mid brown silty clayey loam	0.3-0.5m	Subsoil	102	Mid grey sandy silty loam	0.5-0.6m	Colluvium	103	Light brown silty clay	0.6m+	Natural
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Recorder: Tom Etheridge, AC archaeology		Date sent to HER: June 2019																				

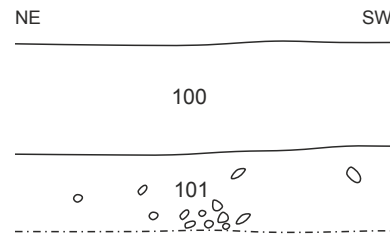


Drawing provided by Woods Design

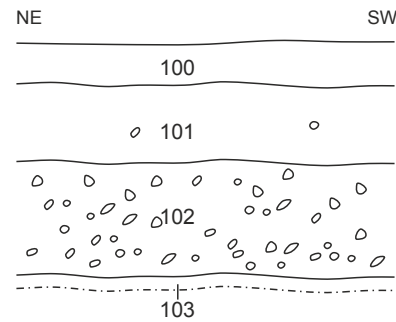
a) Plan of monitored area



b) Representative section



c) Representative section



PROJECT
Honiton Show Ground, Gittisham,
Devon

TITLE
Fig. 1: Site location, area monitored,
plan and representative sections



AC archaeology



Plate 1: General view of the site, looking north



Plate 2: View of the groundworks, looking northeast 1m scale



Plate 3: View of groundworks extension, work in progress, looking northeast

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