

58 ASHFORD ROAD, TOPSHAM, EXETER

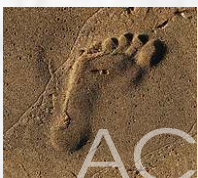
(Centred on NGR SX 96204 88438)

Results of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

Prepared by:
Simon Hughes

Report No: ACD2000/1/0

Date: August 2019

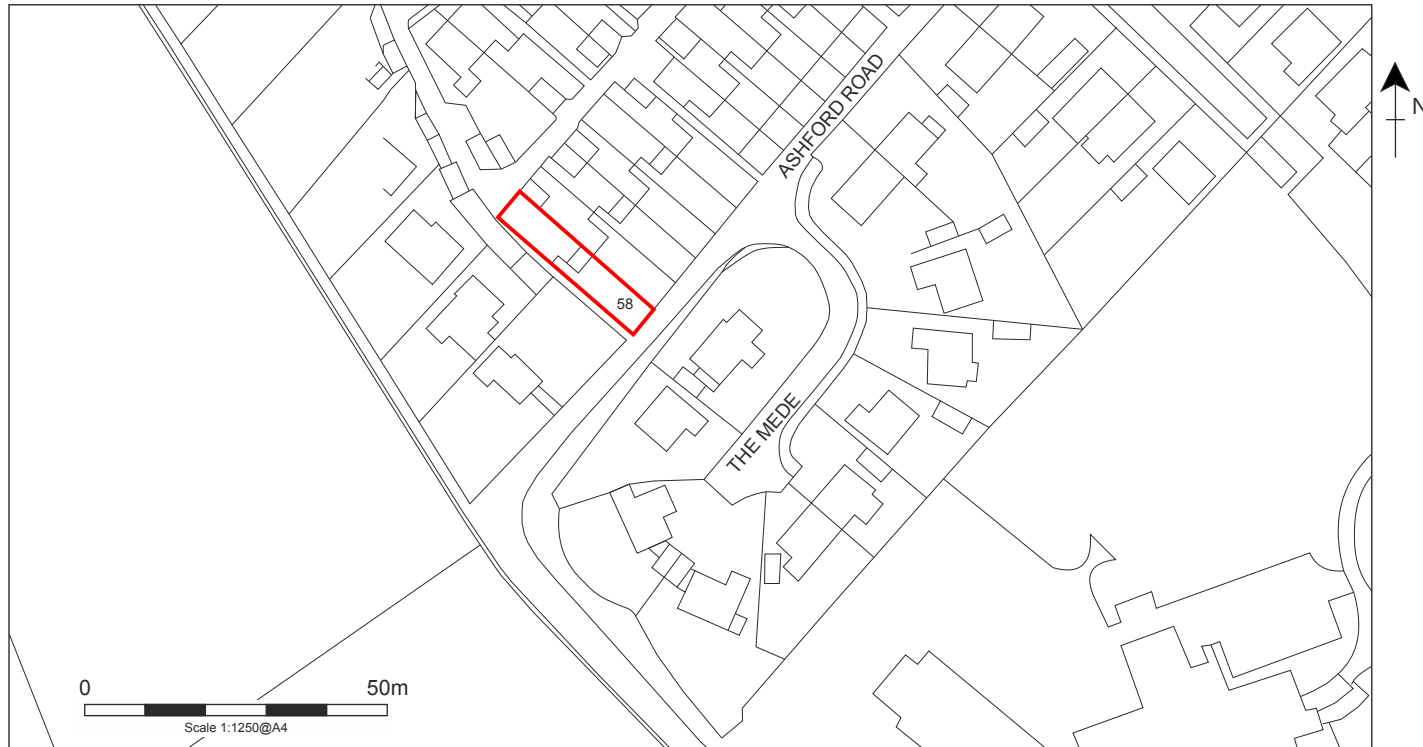


archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Topsham, Exeter	National Grid Reference SX 96204 88438	Number:
Subject: 58 Ashford Road, Topsham, Exeter: Results of archaeological monitoring and recording		Photo attached Plates 1-2
Planning Application no: 18/1737/FUL	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS ID: 362761	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD2000	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 7–11 March 2019	
<p>Introduction (Fig. 1; Plate 1) Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out by AC archaeology during groundworks associated with a ground floor rear extension to 58 Ashford Road, Topsham, Exeter, Devon (SX 96204 88438). Ashford Road lies on the northwest side of Topsham between Exeter Road to the northeast, with Ferry Road and the River Exe to the southwest. No. 58 is located on the northwest side of the road and comprises an end of terrace property situated at 11m aOD (above Ordnance Datum). It is situated adjacent to more steeply-sloping ground extending towards the River Exe flood plain below. The extension area lay to the rear of the property; partially across the footprint of a former extension and lawn to the northwest.</p> <p>The site lies close to the projected extent of a Roman military base that was partially exposed during the construction of Topsham School to the southeast. Further Roman features were also exposed in the adjacent The Mede cul-de-Sac during works on services and an extension to a property. These consisted of Roman pottery and tile recovered from a possible pit within the projected enclosure and a ditch that was perhaps associated with its perimeter. The 1843 Topsham parish tithe map shows Ashford Road, with the position of the site within a broad wooded perimeter to an open plot to the north. This area is listed in the accompanying tithe apportionment as '<i>Plantation and pleasure grounds</i>' that were part of the grounds of Retreat house to the northwest. The current terraced properties were built during the early 20th century.</p> <p>Results (Fig. 1; Plate 2) Groundworks comprised the machine-excavation of footings trenches. These measured between 0.3m and 0.6m wide and were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.55m below existing levels. The excavations exposed the top of natural subsoil (context 102) at a depth of 0.68m below existing levels. This comprised an alluvial light reddish-brown silty-sand, which sealed river terrace gravels and grit in a light brownish-red clayey-sand matrix (103).</p> <p>The natural subsoil was cut by a probable terrace (F104). This measured 0.87m deep with a steeply sloping side and a flat base. The terrace continued beyond the extent of the site to the southwest and it contained a dark brown silty loam fill with patches of re-deposited natural subsoil. (105). A fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem and two ceramic tile fragments were recovered. The terrace was sealed by a mid-brown sandy-loam subsoil (101) beneath a dark brown silty-loam topsoil (100).</p> <p>The finds by Naomi Payne A small quantity of finds was recovered from context 105, fill of terrace F104. The finds include two pieces (48g) of ceramic tile and a clay tobacco-pipe fragment (5g). The clay pipe is just a stem fragment so it cannot be closely dated other than between the 16th and 19th centuries. The tile fragments are abraded with little indication of their original form; however, the fabrics and hardness would not be out of place for tile of Roman date.</p> <p>Comments The monitoring exposed a single large terrace that extended to the southwest of the site and, based on the single undiagnostic fragment of clay tobacco pipe, was of post-medieval date. The function of this was no clear but given its position as having previously been within grounds of Retreat House, it may have related to an associated landscaping feature. No evidence for <i>in situ</i> Roman activity was exposed. However, the presence of probable Roman tile fragments as residual finds within later terrace F104, relates to the known activity in the immediate vicinity.</p> <p>This report represents the archive for the project.</p>		
Recorder: Simon Hughes, AC archaeology	Date sent to HER: 12 August 2019	

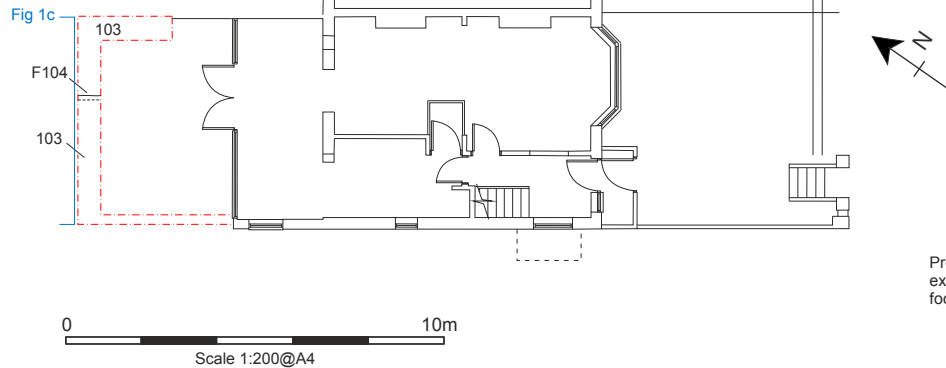
a) Site location



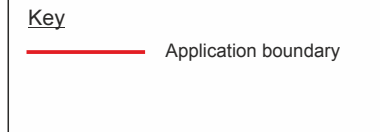
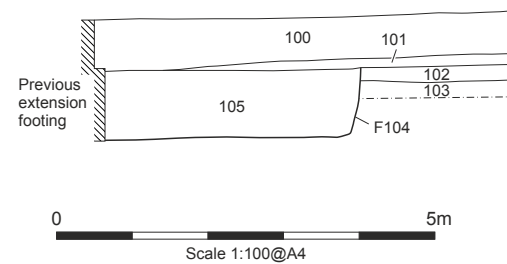
Based on drawing prepared by Darrell Willcocks



b) Plan



c) Section of terrace F104



PROJECT
 58 Ashford Road, Topsham, Exeter, Devon

TITLE
 Fig. 1: Location of site and plan and section of terrace F104





Plate 1: General working view of site, looking southeast



Plate 2: Showing terrace F104. View to north (scale 1m)

Devon Office

AC archaeology Ltd
Unit 4, Halthaies Workshops
Bradninch
Nr Exeter
Devon
EX5 4LQ

Telephone: 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