

LAND AT COLERIDGE FARM COTTAGE, COLERIDGE LANE, CHILLINGTON, DEVON

(NGR SX 79515 44087)

Results of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

South Hams District Council Planning Reference:
0204/19/FUL

Prepared by:
Simon Hughes

On behalf of:
JA Darke Ltd

Report No: ACD2141/2/0

Date: November 2019



archaeology

LAND AT COLERIDGE FARM COTTAGE, COLERIDGE LANE, CHILLINGTON, DEVON

NGR SX 7969 4420

Results of archaeological monitoring and recording

South Hams District Council planning ref. 0204/19/FUL

Client	JA Darke Ltd
Report Number	ACD2141/2/0
Date	14 November 2019
Status	Version 1
Report Authors	Simon Hughes
Checked by	Paul Rainbird
Approved by	Simon Hughes

Acknowledgements

The monitoring and recording was commissioned JA Darke Ltd and coordinated for AC archaeology by Simon Hughes. The site works were carried out by George Gandham, with the illustrations for this report prepared by Leon Cauchois. The advice of Stephen Reed, Devon County Senior Historic Environment Officer, 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.

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.

CONTENTS

Summary

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

List of figures

- Fig. 1: Location of site with monitored area and ditch F114 shown
Fig. 2: Plan and sections

List of plates

- Plate 1: General working view looking northwest
Plate 2: View looking northeast of stripped area
Plate 3: Ditch F114, segment 102. View to northwest
Plate 4: Ditch F114, segment 107. View to southeast
.

Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by AC archaeology during October 2019 on land at Coleridge Farm Cottage, Coleridge Lane, Chillington, Devon (SX 7969 4420). The archaeological works were comprised of monitoring groundworks associated with the construction of a new slurry store.

The stripping of soils from the site exposed a single undated ditch. Where deepest, the ditch contained redeposited natural subsoil dumping over initial silting, indicating that it was in part deliberately backfilled. While nearby cropmark sites suggest the presence of prehistoric activity in the area, its alignment broadly corresponded with the existing field pattern, which is of probable medieval origin. Although an earlier date for the ditch could not be discounted, it was considered that the ditch may have formed part of a former medieval strip field system.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeological monitoring and recording associated with the construction of a new slurry store on land at Coleridge Farm Cottage, Coleridge Lane, Chillington, Devon (SX 7969 4420) was undertaken by AC archaeology during October 2019. The investigations were required as a condition of planning consent 0204/19/FUL granted by South Hams District Council, following consultation with the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team.
- 1.2 Coleridge Farm is located approximately 1km to the north of Chillington. The position of the proposed new slurry store is situated to the north of the farm complex and separated by the road extending between Stokenham and Sherford. It occupies part of a wider arable field situated on an elevated position on ground that slopes down to the north between 104m and 90m aOD (above ordnance datum). Its underlying solid geology consists of slate, siltstone and sandstone of the Meadfoot Group (www.bgs.ac.uk).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The field to the west of site contains a possible enclosure of unknown date (Devon County Council Historic Environment Record reference MDV65367). This was identified as a possible cropmark interpreted from an aerial photograph. More certain evidence for archaeological activity that dates to the prehistoric period is situated to the northeast of the site. This includes a further cropmark representing an 80m diameter round enclosure positioned on elevated ground (MDV42919) and Slapton Castle, a scheduled univallate fort (National Heritage List for England ref 1019236), both of which are of likely Iron Age date.
- 2.2 The 1843 Stokenham parish tithe map shows the wider field in which the site is located as divided into two, with the line of the former division outside of the monitored area.

3. AIMS

- 3.1 The aim of the archaeological monitoring and recording 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 2019) 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 working under constant archaeological supervision. This comprised the monitoring of the stripping of soils of an area measured approximately 100m by 70m.
- 4.3** 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 1:20 and 1:50 as appropriate. Levels relate to height aOD.

5. RESULTS (Detailed plan Fig. 2a; Plates 1-2)

5.1 Introduction

Natural subsoil (context 101), which consisted of weathered slate in a mid-brownish red silty-clay matrix was present at a depth of 0.2m to 0.3m beneath topsoil. The stripping exposed a northwest to southeast aligned ditch (F114).

5.2 Ditch F114 (Plan Fig. 2a and Sections 2b-e; Plates 3-4)

Ditch F114 measured between 0.74m wide to the northwest and increased to 1.78m to the southeast. A total of four segments were hand-excavated into the ditch (102, 104, 107 and 111) in which it measured between 0.35m (segment 102) and 1.08m (segment 111) in depth, with generally steeply sloping sides and a narrow concave base. The variation in the dimensions of the ditch across the site meant that the levels on the base of the ditch maintained approximately the same height aOD.

- 5.3** At its northwest extent in segment 102 the ditch contained a single mid-reddish brown silty-clay fill (103) with frequent slate fragment inclusions, while to the southeast, deeper segment 111 contained five fills (112-116). These consisted of three mid-reddish brown, dark greyish brown and light reddish-brown clayey silt-loam lower fills (112, 113 and 114). The lower fills were overlain by a dump of redeposited natural subsoil (115) and an accumulation of light reddish-brown clayey-silt loam (116). This general deposit sequence was similar in segment 107, where accumulated clayey-silt loam fills (108 and 110) were separated by a deposit rich in redeposited natural subsoil (109). No finds were recovered from the ditch.

6. COMMENTS

- 6.1** The stripping of soils from the site exposed a single undated ditch (F114) that was shown to increase in dimensions to the southeast. Where deepest, the ditch contained redeposited natural subsoil dumping over initial silting, indicating that it was in part deliberately backfilled.
- 6.2** While nearby cropmark sites suggest the presence of nearby prehistoric activity, its alignment broadly corresponds with the existing field pattern. This is described in the Devon County Council Historic Landscape characterisation as of post-medieval date but probably based on a medieval origin (Devon County Council Environment Viewer).

Although an earlier date for the ditch cannot be discounted, it may suggest that the ditch represented part of a former medieval strip field system. Indeed, a 1946-49 RAF aerial photograph of the site shows a possible linear cropmark broadly on the same alignment to the southeast.

7. ARCHIVE AND OASIS

7.1 This report forms the sole archive for the project.

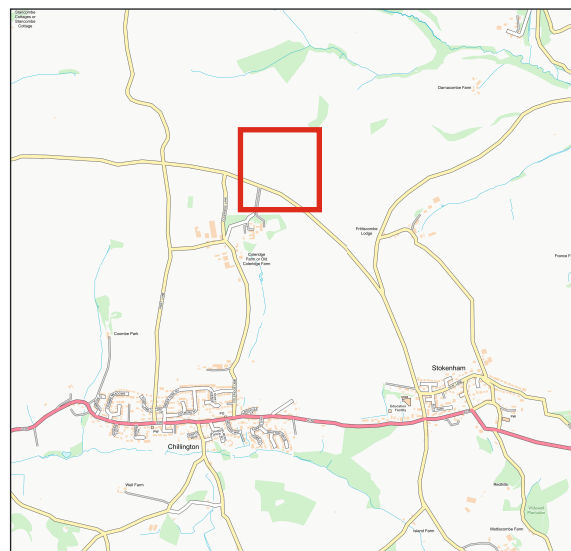
7.2 An online OASIS entry has been completed using the unique number **368823**, which includes a digital version of this report.

8. REFERENCES

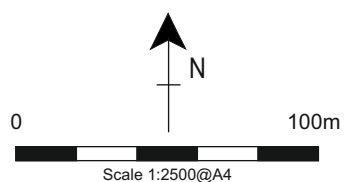
British Geological Survey Online Viewer, www.bgs.ac.uk.

Devon County Council Environment Viewer <http://map.devon.gov.uk/dccviewer/>

Hughes. S., 2019. *Coleridge Farm Cottage, Chillington, Devon: Project design for archaeological monitoring and recording*. Unpublished AC archaeology document No. ACD2141/1/0



Ordnance Survey © Crown Copyright 2019. All rights reserved. Licence number 100022432



PROJECT

Coleridge Farm Cottage, Coleridge Lane,
Chillington, Devon

TITLE

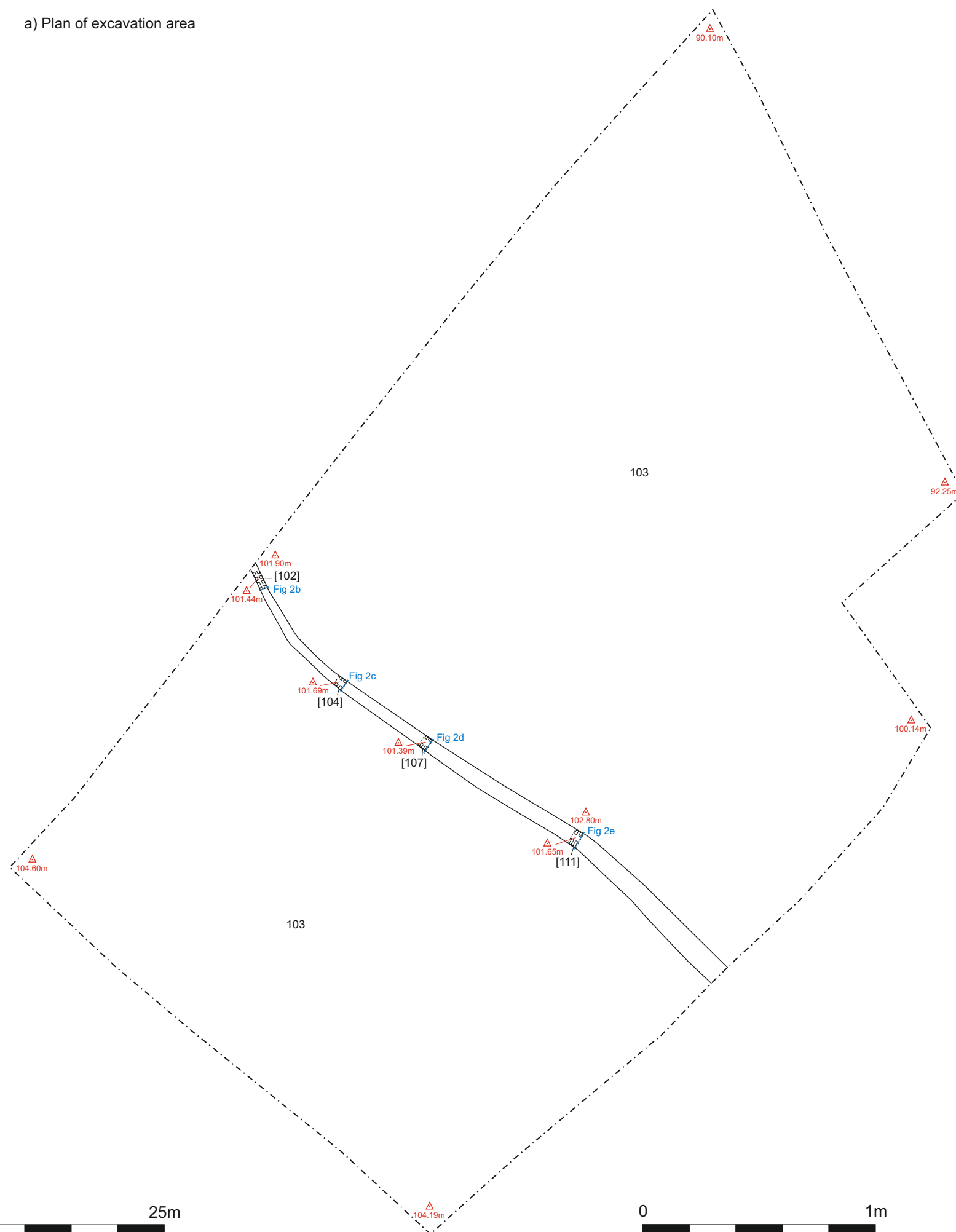
Fig. 1: Location of site with
monitored area and ditch
F114 shown



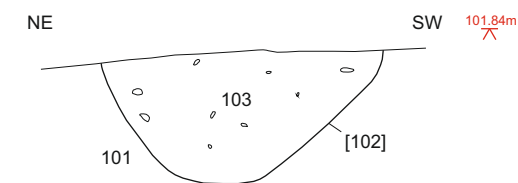
AC archaeology



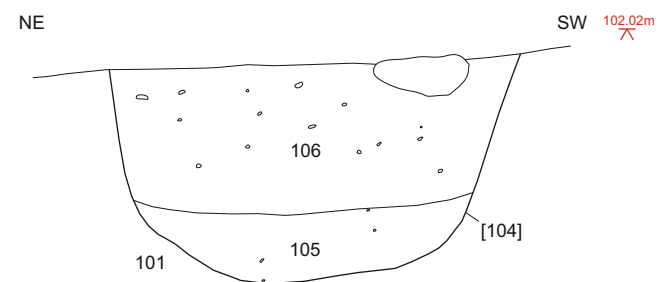
a) Plan of excavation area



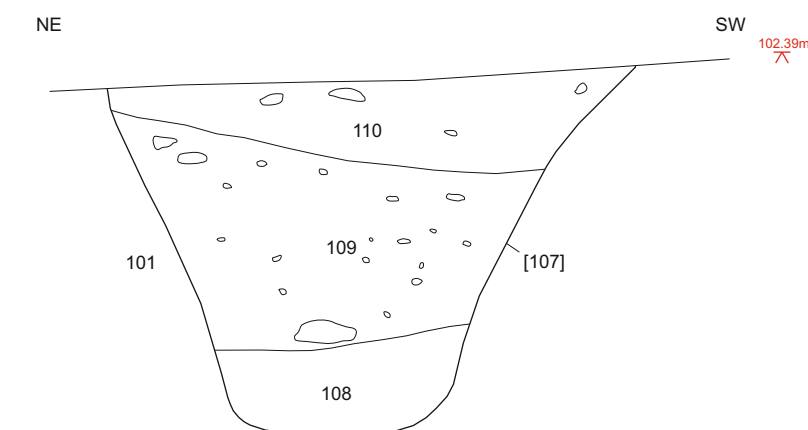
b) Section of ditch F114, segment [102]



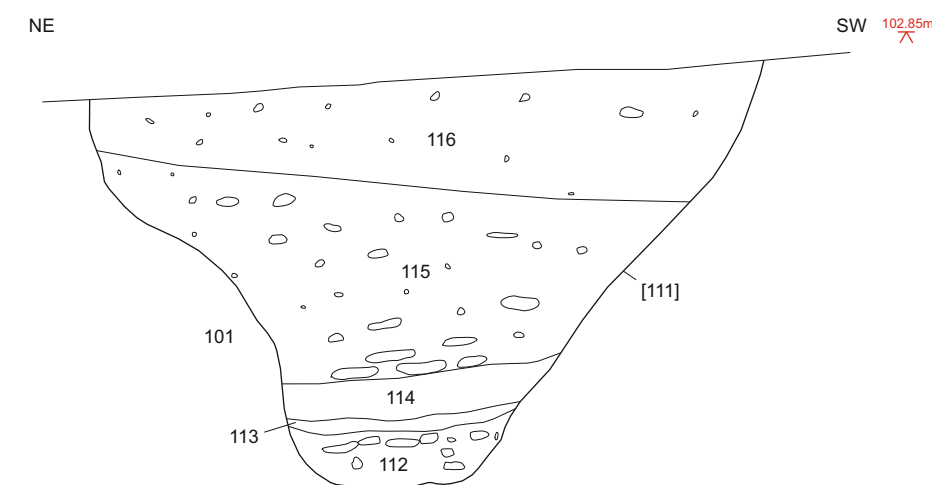
c) Section of ditch F114, segment [104]



d) Section of ditch F114, segment [107]



e) Section of ditch F114, segment [111]



PROJECT
Coleridge Farm Cottage,
Coleridge Lane, Chillington, Devon
TITLE
Fig. 2: Plan and sections

0 25m
Scale 1:500@A3
Plan

0 1m
Scale 1:20@A3
Sections



Plate 1: General working view looking northwest



Plate 2: View looking northeast of stripped area (scale 1m)



Plate 3: Ditch F114, segment 102. View to northwest (scale 0.5m)



Plate 4: Ditch F114, segment 107. View to southeast (scale 1m)

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