

LAND TO THE REAR OF 5 FORE STREET, HOLSWORTHY, DEVON

(NGR SS 34405 03834)

Results of an archaeological trench evaluation

Torridge District Council Planning reference:
1/0652/2019/FUL (Condition 4)

Prepared by:
Simon Hughes

On behalf of:
TSG Construction

Report No: ACD2151/2/0

Date: November 2019



AC archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Holsworthy, Torridge	National Grid Reference: SS 34405 03834	Number:
Subject: Land to the rear of 5 Fore Street, Holsworthy, Devon: Results of an archaeological trench evaluation		Photo attached: Plates 1-2
Planning Application no: 1/0652/2019/FUL	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS ID: 369828	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD2151	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 14 October 2019	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>An archaeological trench evaluation was undertaken by AC archaeology in advance of proposed development of land to the rear of 5 Fore Street, Holsworthy, Devon (SS 34405 03834). The site is located within the centre of Holsworthy and comprises one of a group of properties extending east from Fore Street, which is bounded by Belle View to the south and Church Lane to the north (Fig. 1). Prior to commencement, the site comprised what was a lawn bisected by a drive to the east of the street frontage property.</p> <p>The site is situated within the historic core of the town, with a settlement recorded at Holsworthy in the Domesday Survey of 1086, indicating pre-medieval origins. 5 Fore Street comprises an early 19th century town house, later adapted into a commercial property. It occupies what is probably one of several burgrave plots extending from Fore Street that are likely to be of medieval origin. The site therefore had the potential for associated settlement and small-scale industrial activity in the form of buildings, rubbish pits, former property boundaries etc. The 1843 Holsworthy parish tithe map shows the site as an open plot. It is named in the accompanying tithe apportionment as 'Walled Garden'.</p> <p>Results (Fig. 1; Plates 1-2)</p> <p>The work comprised the machine excavation of two trenches totalling 18m in length, with each trench measuring 1.2m wide. Both trenches were excavated onto natural subsoil, which comprised a light-yellow clay. This was present at a depth of 0.62m in Trench 1 and 0.86m in Trench 2. In both trenches the natural subsoil was overlain by a 0.27m to 0.5m thick mid greyish brown silty clay subsoil and a dark greyish brown silty loam topsoil. No archaeological features or deposits were present in either of the trenches. Trench 1 contained an area of disturbance caused by undated vegetation growth.</p> <p>The finds <i>by Naomi Payne</i></p> <p>The only finds came from the subsoil in Trench 2. They include a rim sherd from a North Devon Gravel-tempered chamber pot dating from the 17th or 18th century, two fragments of clay tobacco-pipe stem and two animal bones. The animal bones are a complete meta-tarsal and a complete meta-carpal, both from adult sheep.</p> <p>Comments</p> <p>The trial trenches exposed deep cultivation soils, which was consistent with the site's historic use as a garden. No evidence for medieval activity was present within the trial trenches while finds recovered from the subsoil have been dated to the 18th to 19th century</p> <p>This report represents the archive for the project.</p>		
Recorder: Simon Hughes, AC archaeology		Date sent to HER: 7th November 2019



Plate 1: General view of site looking west towards 5 Fore Street.



Plate 2: Representative section of overlying soils in Trench 2 (1m scale)

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