

LAND OFF GROPER'S LANE, IPPLEPEN, DEVON

(NGR SX 86362 65749 to SX 85881 65892)

Results of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

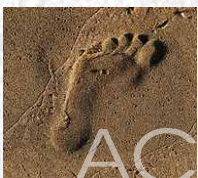
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With a contribution from:
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On behalf of:
Bridge Civil Engineering Ltd

Report No: ACD2122/1/0

Date: January 2020



archaeology

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Contribution	Naomi Payne
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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

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by AC archaeology during September and October 2019 on land off Groper's Lane, Ipplepen, Devon. The archaeological work comprised of monitoring groundworks associated with the construction of a new sewer pipeline.

The stripping of soils from the site exposed an undated stone surface and an agricultural lynchet. The surface was partially exposed consisting of large limestone slabs and large rounded beach cobbles in a rectangular arrangement. The lynchet corresponded with a previously identified linear earthwork listed on the Devon County Council Historic Environment Record, with this based on interpreted Lidar data. This consisted of a shallow terrace cut into the hillslope, and although undated, was of probable medieval origin.

One piece of worked flint was recovered from the topsoil.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeological monitoring and recording associated with the construction of a new sewer pipeline on land off Groper's Lane, Ipplepen, Devon (SX 86362 65749 to SX 85881 65892) was undertaken by AC archaeology during September and October 2019. The investigations were required following consultation with the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team.
- 1.2 The new sewer pipeline is located approximately 2km to the southeast of Ipplepen and extends for approximately 0.6km between existing sewage treatment works to the northeast of Groper's Lane and Bulleigh Barton Manor to the southwest. It extended across five arable and pasture plots on ground that slopes steeply down from elevated ground adjacent to Bulleigh Barton Manor at 80m aOD (above ordnance datum) to approximately 52m adjacent to the sewage treatment works. This underlying solid geology consists of siltstone and sandstone of the Watcombe Breccia Formation (www.bgs.ac.uk).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The west portion of the new sewer pipeline route extended through an area containing previously recorded prehistoric activity. This consisted of a series of probable Early Bronze Age cremations and worked flint finds of Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age date that were recorded adjacent to the sewage treatment works during the construction of a gas pipeline in 1989 (Devon County Council Historic Environment Record reference MDV369612 and MDV4336971). To the northwest of Groper's Lane, its route bisected a northeast to southwest aligned linear earthwork that had been previously identified from Lidar data as representing a possible former boundary of potential medieval date (MDV124927).
- 2.2 Historic mapping dating to the 19th century shows that the agricultural landscape has remained largely unchanged. No indication of a boundary corresponding with the linear earthwork is shown on the 1839 Marldon parish tithe map or subsequent Ordnance Survey editions.

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 and medieval agricultural features to be exposed by the work.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The monitoring and recording was carried out in accordance with 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 within an easement measuring 6m wide.
- 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 (*Plan Fig. 1; Plates 1-2*)

5.1 Introduction

Natural subsoil (context 1003 and 2002) consisted of weathered red breccia. It was overlain by a 0.2m to 0.65m thick mid reddish brown silty clay subsoil (1001 and 2001) and a mid reddish brown silty loam topsoil of up to 0.3m thick (1000 and 2000). One piece of worked flint was recovered from the topsoil in the plot to the northeast of Groper's Lane.

- 5.2 The groundworks exposed a surface (1002) and a lynchet (F2003). These are described below.

5.3 Surface 1002 (*Detailed plan Fig. 2a; Plates 3-4*)

Surface 1002 was partially exposed within the easement to the northwest of Groper's Lane. It extended beyond the area investigated to the north and was arranged in a sub-squared arrangement that measured 2.3m across. It was comprised of large limestone slabs, with the largest measuring 0.6m across, and rounded beach pebbles of up to 0.28m long. These were pressed into the underlying weathered breccia geology. No finds were recovered.

5.4 Lynchet F2003 (*Section Fig. 1b; Plate 4*)

A lynchet was exposed on the moderately steep sloping ground to the east of Bulleigh Barton Manor. This corresponded with the position of the northeast to southwest aligned linear earthwork previously identified from Lidar data (MDV124927). The lynchet was formed of an approximately 1m wide gradually sloping terrace cut into the hillslope and was overlain by subsoil (2001). No finds were recovered.

6. THE FINDS *by Naomi Payne*

- 6.1 A single find was recovered from context 1000, topsoil. This is a primary flint flake (10g) with pebble cortex on the dorsal surface. The flake is broadly oval and in the centre of the edge opposite the bulb of percussion there is a small area of retouch, possibly intended to create a small notch and/or point. It is likely to be of Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date.

7. COMMENTS

- 7.1 The groundworks exposed a rough stone surface (1002). This was shown to extend to the north of the area monitored. The absence of any associated features or finds, makes it difficult to provide any further interpretation on its date or function.
- 7.2 The linear earthwork previously recorded from Lidar data was shown to correspond with a simple terrace (F2003) or lynchet cut into the moderately-steep hillslope. This is likely to represent the remains of a now removed former plot boundary of probable medieval origin.

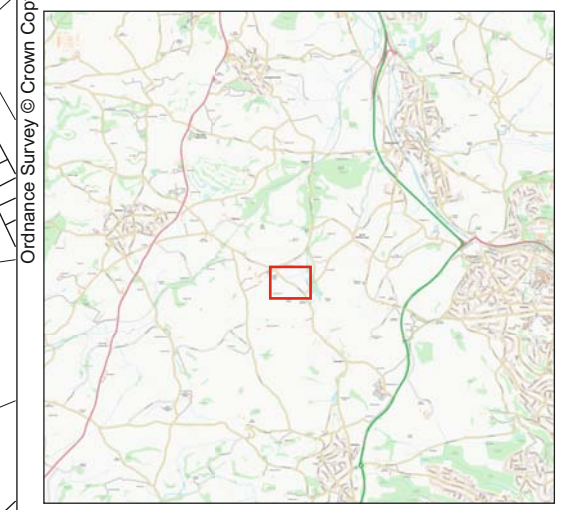
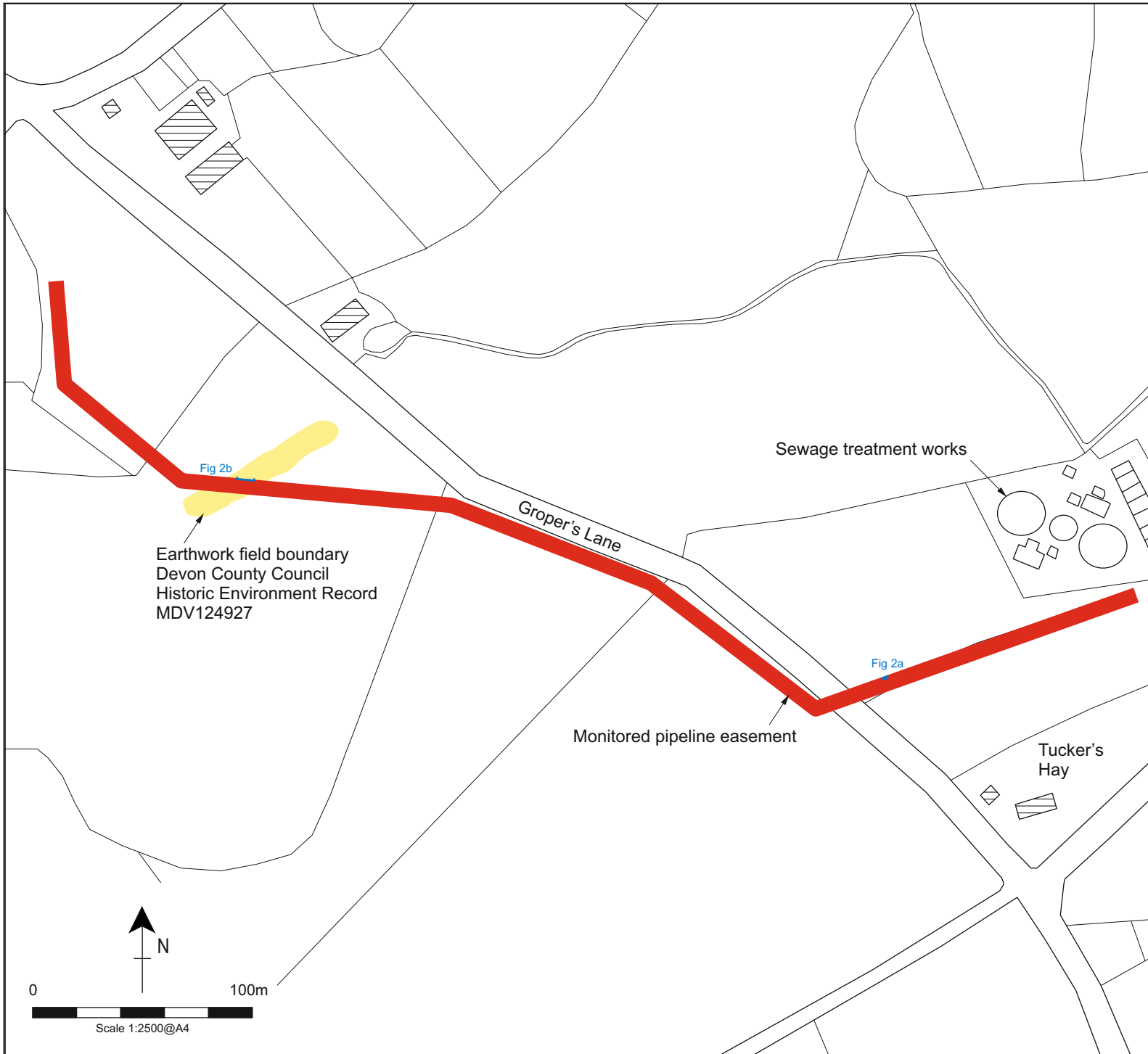
8. ARCHIVE AND OASIS

- 8.1 This report forms the sole archive for the project.
- 8.2 An online OASIS entry has been completed using the unique number **380228** which includes a digital version of this report.

9. REFERENCES

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

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

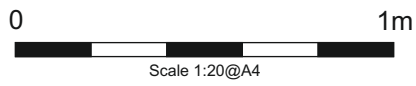
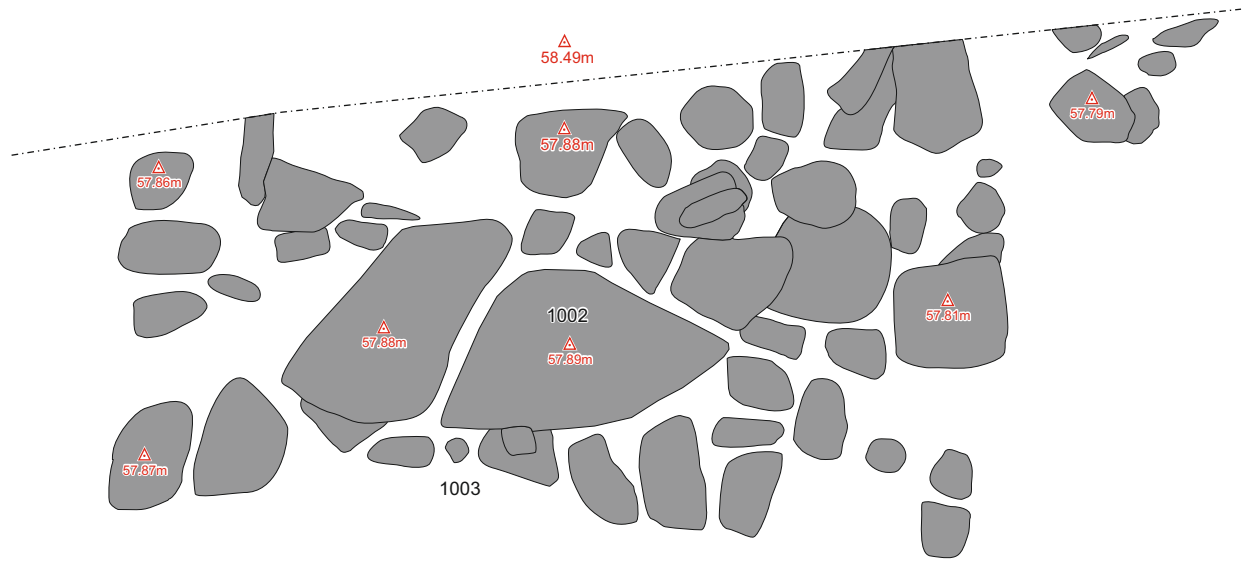


PROJECT
Land off Groper's Lane, Ipplepen,
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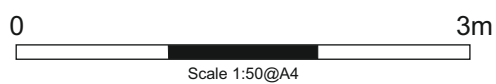
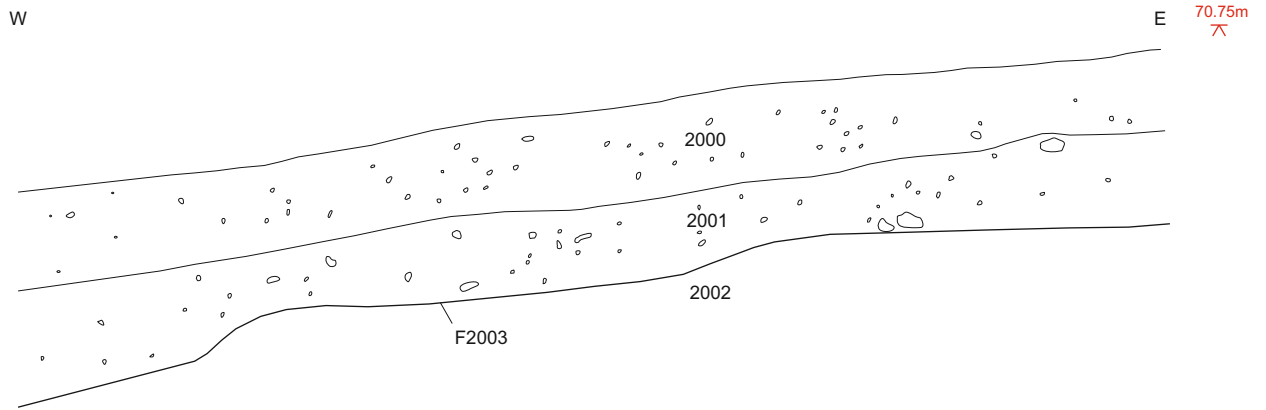
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Fig. 1: Location of site and
monitored pipeline easement



a) Plan of surface 1002



b) Section of lynchet F2003



PROJECT

Land off Groper's Lane, Ipplepen, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 2: Plan of surface 1002,
and section of lynchet F2003





Plate 1: General working view looking west towards Bulleigh Barton



Plate 2: Representative view of excavated easement to northeast of Groper's Lane (scale 1m)



Plate 3: Surface 1002, view to north (scales 1m & 0.4m)



Plate 4: Surface 1002, view to south (scale 1m)



Plate 5: Lynchet F2003, view to southeast (scale 1m)

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