

LAND AT SUNNY CROFT, HEMYOCK, DEVON

(Centred on NGR ST 13493 13235)

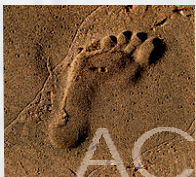
Results of an Archaeological Trench Evaluation

Planning Reference: Mid Devon District Council
20/01443/HOUSE

Prepared by:
Christopher Blatchford

Report No: ACD2412/2/0

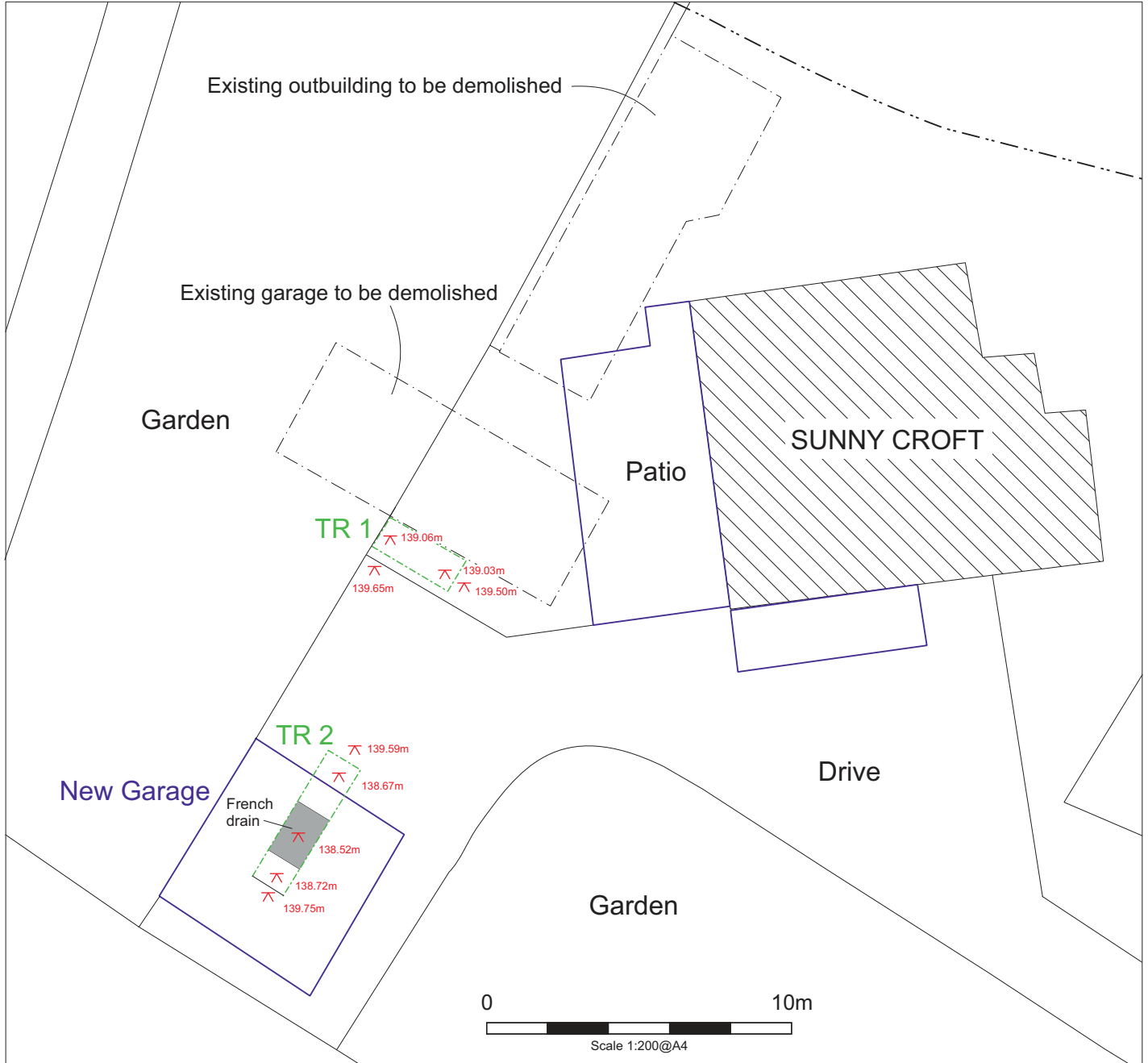
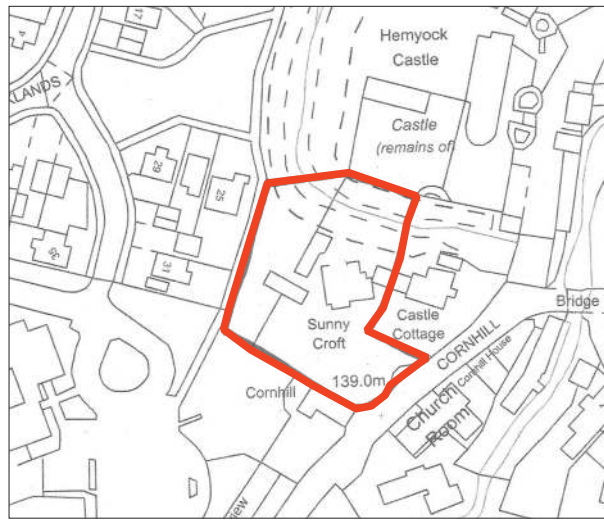
Date: December 2020



archaeology

Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Hemyock, Mid Devon	National Grid Reference ST 13493 13235	Number:
Subject: Land at Sunny Croft, Hemyock, Devon: Results of an archaeological trench evaluation		Photo attached: Plates 1-3
Planning Application no: 20/01443/HOUSE	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS ID: 410101	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD2412	Date fieldwork undertaken: 11 December 2020	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>An archaeological trench evaluation was carried out by AC archaeology to inform a planning application for the erection of extensions and alterations to dwelling, erection of a garage following demolition of existing garage and outbuilding on land at Sunny Croft, Hemyock. The evaluation was required following consultation with the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team and comprised the machine-excavation of two trenches (Fig. 1). The site lies on level ground at around 140m above Ordnance Datum, with the underlying solid geology comprising mudstone of the Mercia Mudstone Group (British Geological Survey Online Viewer 2020).</p> <p>Archaeological background</p> <p>The site is located immediately to the south of Hemyock Castle scheduled monument (National Heritage List for England [NHLE] ref. 1004583). The castle is thought to have been built in the 14th or 15th century and survives as a rectangular area enclosed by curtain walls, circular angle towers, interval towers, and a gatehouse all surrounded by a moat. The surrounding moat also crosses into the gardens of Sunny Croft. A settlement at Hemyock is likely to have been present during the Saxon period. Recent archaeological work within the village includes the excavation of early medieval ironworking and late-medieval/early post medieval pottery production sites in various locations.</p> <p>Results</p> <p><u>Trench 1</u></p> <p>This was aligned northwest-southeast and measured 3m long by 1.5m wide. It was located to the immediate southwest of the current garage (Plates 1 and 2). A simple layer sequence was exposed comprising a topsoil (context 100) of dark greyish brown silty clay sitting directly above the natural subsoil (101) which was a mottled yellow/red/grey clay exposed at a depth of 0.55m below the ground surface. No archaeological features were present and there were no finds.</p> <p><u>Trench 2</u></p> <p>This was aligned northeast-southwest and measured 5m long by 1.2m wide. It was located within the footprint of the proposed new garage at the southwest end of the garden (Plate 3). The layer sequence exposed comprised a topsoil (200) to a depth of 0.4m, overlying a cultivation subsoil (201) of mid greyish brown silty clay which was 0.6m thick and overlay the natural subsoil (202) and the partial remnants of a French drain at a depth of 1m below ground surface. The cultivation subsoil (201) in Trench 2 contained five pieces (62g) of modern pottery and a fragment (63g) of modern ceramic building material (CBM). The pottery comprises three base/body sherds from 19th century redware vessels and two sherds of Staffordshire-type white wares, one of which, a plate rim sherd, has black transfer-printed and orange hand-painted decoration indicating a date in the early 20th century. The CBM fragment, which appears to derive from a drainage pipe, has a slight curve and a longitudinally corrugated external surface. No <i>in situ</i> archaeological features were present.</p> <p>Comment</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed in the evaluation trenches. There were no finds recovered relating to the local post-medieval pottery industry nor slag from early ironworking.</p>		
Recorder: Christopher Blatchford, AC archaeology		Date sent to HER: 18 December 2020



Based on a plan supplied by the client

Key

-  Site
-  Proposed new development
-  Trench

PROJECT

Land at Sunny Croft, Hemyock, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of site and trenches





Plate 1: Trench 1, work in progress, looking northwest



Plate 2: Trench 1, following excavation, looking northwest 1m scale



Plate 3: Trench 2, following excavation, looking northeast 1m scale

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