

# LAND AT LITTLE WALRONDS, SHORTLANDS LANE, CULLOMPTON, DEVON

(Centred on NGR ST 01902 07300)

Results of an Archaeological Trench Evaluation

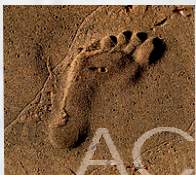
Planning Reference: Mid Devon District Council  
19/01333/HOUSE (condition 4)

---

Prepared by:  
Christopher Blatchford

Report No: ACD2413/2/0

Date: December 2020

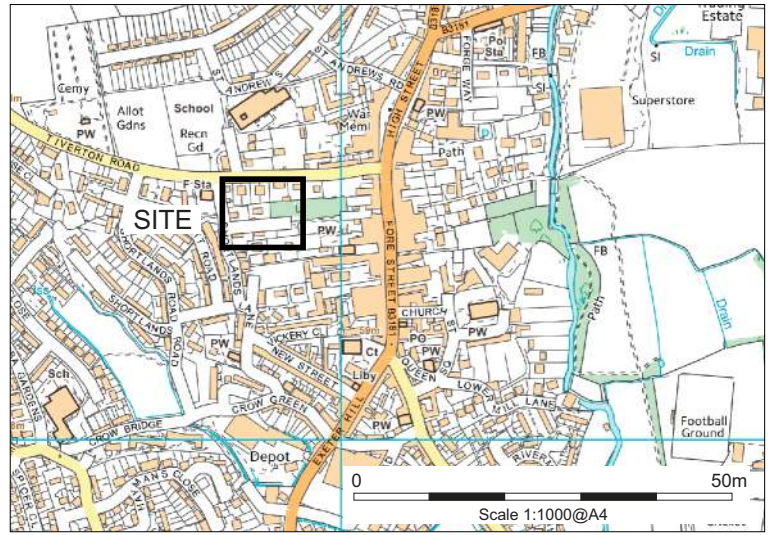


archaeology

---

# Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Cullompton, Mid Devon	<b>National Grid Reference</b> ST 01902 07300	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Land at Little Walronds, Shortlands Lane, Cullompton, Devon: Results of an archaeological trench evaluation		<b>Photo attached:</b> Plates 1-2
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 19/01333/HOUSE (Condition 4)	<b>Recipient museum:</b> N/A	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> 410131	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> ACD2413	<b>Date fieldwork undertaken:</b> 11 December 2020	
<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>An archaeological trench evaluation was carried out by AC archaeology as retrospective archaeological mitigation following the construction of a double garage/garden store on land at Little Walronds, Shortlands Lane, Cullompton. The evaluation was required by Mid Devon District Council, as advised by the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team and comprised the machine-excavation of a single trench (Fig. 1). The site lies on generally level ground at around 64m above Ordnance Datum, with the underlying solid geology comprising sandstone of the Cadbury Breccia Formation (British Geological Survey Online Viewer 2020).</p> <p><b>Archaeological background</b></p> <p>The site is located to the west of the historic core of Cullompton and to the rear of medieval burgage plots fronting onto the High Street. The main archaeological interest for the site is that it is situated close to Shortlands Lane, which could conceivably represent the course of a Roman road leading to a 1st century AD Roman military fort on St Andrew's Hill (National Heritage List for England [NHLE] ref. 1019543). Recent excavations on a housing development approximately 30m to the southwest of the present site recorded a Middle Iron Age ditch, as well as extensive evidence for Romano-British settlement and funerary remains (Devon Historic Environment Record (HER) ref. MDV114945). Recent investigations immediately south of the site identified a probable re-cut ditch and a shallow gully, both of Romano-British date (HER ref. MDV124360). Finds recovered comprised large and unabraded pottery sherds of both native and imported wares spanning throughout the Romano-British period, as well as two pieces of hypocaust tile. It is therefore likely that the ditch and gully represented evidence for small-scale plot division of Romano-British date.</p> <p><b>Results</b></p> <p><u>Trench 1</u></p> <p>This was aligned approximately east-west and measured 5m long by 1.2m wide. It was located directly to the north of the new double garage/garden store (Fig. 1; Plates 1 and 2). A simple layer sequence was exposed, comprising a topsoil (100) of dark grey silty clay 0.42m thick above a cultivated garden soil (101) of dark reddish brown silty loam which was 0.34m thick and directly overlying the natural subsoil (102). This was composed of light brownish yellow silty sand which was exposed at a depth of 0.76m below ground surface. A single sherd of post-medieval pottery weighing 17 grams was recovered from garden soil context 101. This is a body sherd of South Somerset type earthenware dating from the 18th or 19th century. No archaeological features were present.</p> <p><b>Comments</b></p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed in the evaluation trenches. Despite the close proximity of the site to evidence for Roman settlement no finds or features were found to indicate that remains of this date survive on this site.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> Christopher Blatchford, AC archaeology		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 18 December 2020



Based on plan supplied by the client



Fig. 1: Location of site and trench



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking east 1m scale



Plate 2: Representative section of Trench 1, looking south 1m scale

### 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](http://www.acarchaeology.co.uk)