

LAND AT RED LINHAY, CROWN HILL, HALBERTON, DEVON

(Centred on NGR SS 99558 12905)

Results of an Archaeological Trench Evaluation

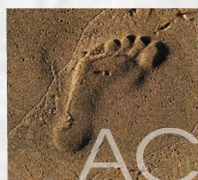
Planning Reference: Mid Devon District Council
21/00397/FULL

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Report No: ACD2508/2/0

Date: May 2021



archaeology

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(NGR SS 99558 12905)

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Client	Site owner
Report Number	ACD2508
Date	12 May 2021
Status	Version 1
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Checked by	John Valentin
Approved by	John Valentin

Acknowledgements

The evaluation was commissioned by XL Planning on behalf of the site owner. The site works were carried out by Stuart Randall and Laurence Vinnells, with the illustrations for this report prepared by Leon Cauchois. The advice and collaboration of Stephen Reed, Senior Historic Environment Officer, Devon County Council, 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.

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Summary

An archaeological trench evaluation was undertaken by AC archaeology during May 2021 on land at Red Linhay, Crown Hill, Halberton, Devon (NGR SS 99558 12905). Work comprised the machine-excavation of three trenches totalling 60m long, with each trench 2m wide.

No archaeological features were present and only a single prehistoric worked flint flake was recovered from overlying soils.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 An archaeological trench evaluation was carried out to inform a planning application for the construction of a concrete storage area, on land at Red Linhay, Crown Hill, Halberton, Devon (NGR SS 99558 12905; Fig. 1 and Plate 1). The evaluation was commissioned by XL Planning on behalf of the site owner and followed consultation with the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (hereafter DCCHET).

1.2 The site is located on the southeast side of a larger agricultural field and occupies an area of approximately 0.25 hectares. It is situated on generally level ground at around 90m aOD (above Ordnance Datum), with the underlying solid geology comprising sandstone of the Tidcombe Sand Member, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 252 to 299 million years ago in the Permian Period. (British Geological Survey Online Viewer 2021).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The site was included under the wider Tiverton Eastern Urban Expansion scheme (Valentin 2009). A geophysical survey within the same field and immediately to the west identified a possible rectangular enclosure-type anomaly of late prehistoric or Roman form, as well as two circular anomalies which may represent ploughed-out barrows of Bronze Age date (see Fig. 1). In addition, linear anomalies were recorded, one of which extended into the area of the present site.

2.2 Also located nearby are a number of artefacts found during various small-scale archaeological interventions (e.g. Devon Historic Environment Record [HER] refs MDV111019 and MDV119413).

3. AIMS

3.1 The aim of the evaluation was to establish the extent, depth, character and date of any archaeological features, deposits or finds within the site, with particular reference to evidence for prehistoric occupation or artefact scatters. The results of the work, as set out in this report, will inform the determination of the planning application.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 All work was undertaken in accordance with a Project Design prepared by AC archaeology (Valentin 2021), the DCCHET document *Specification for Archaeological Field Evaluation* and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' document, *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation* (revised 2020). It comprised the machine excavation of three trenches totalling 60m in length, with each trench 2m wide. Trench locations are shown on Fig. 1 and were positioned to provide a sample coverage of the site.

4.2 The removal of soils within the trenches was undertaken in 20cm spits (maximum) under the control and direction of a site archaeologist. Stripping by mechanical excavator ceased at the level at which archaeological deposits or natural subsoil was exposed.

4.3 All features and deposits exposed were recorded using the standard AC archaeology proforma 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 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate. All site levels relate to Ordnance Datum.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Introduction (Plan Fig. 1)

No archaeological features were recorded in the three trenches. The results from Trenches 1, 2 and 3 are described below, with each trench described by context in Appendix 1.

Natural subsoil, which comprised a light reddish brown silty sand, was exposed at a depth that ranged between 0.4m and 0.46m below existing ground levels. The natural subsoil was generally overlain by a consistent light reddish brown sandy silt subsoil and a mid reddish brown sandy silt topsoil.

5.2 Trench 1 (Plate 2)

This trench was located in the northwest corner of the site and its northeast end extended over a possible linear geophysical anomaly (Fig. 1). It was excavated through a topsoil deposit (100) and subsoil (101) onto natural subsoil (102), which was present at a depth of 0.44m below existing ground level. The trench contained no archaeological features and careful cleaning of the trench section and base did not locate the linear geophysical anomaly. A single worked flint was recovered from agricultural subsoil layer 101.

5.3 Trench 2 (Plate 3)

This trench was located in the central part of the site. Natural subsoil (202) was exposed at a depth of 0.4m below a thin subsoil deposit (201), with this overlain by mid reddish brown sandy silt topsoil (200).

5.4 Trench 3 (Plate 4)

Trench 3 was situated on the eastern side of the site. Natural subsoil (302) was reached at a depth of 0.46m above existing ground level and was overlain by a thin subsoil deposit (301) and mid reddish brown sandy silt topsoil (300).

6. THE FIND by *Charlotte Coles*

6.1 Worked flint

A single piece of worked flint (1g) was recovered from context 101 (subsoil) in Trench 1. This is a small waste flake and not diagnostic of a particular period.

7. DISCUSSION

7.1 The trench evaluation recorded no archaeological features in any of the trenches.

7.2 The linear geophysical anomaly in the vicinity of Trench 1 was not present, despite careful cleaning of the trench sections and base to confirm if this was the case. The single worked flint recovered from the subsoil provides limited evidence of prehistoric occupation in the general area, being found close to an enclosure-type anomaly and curvilinear features recorded by the adjacent geophysics.

8. ARCHIVE AND OASIS

- 8.1 The find, paper and digital archive is currently held at the offices of AC archaeology Ltd, at 4 Halthaies Workshops, Bradninch, near Exeter, Devon, EX5 4LQ under the unique project code of **ACD2411**. On completion of all archaeological work the find and paper archive will be offered to the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM), Exeter and, if they are considered worthy of retention, then they will be transferred to the museum under an allocated accession number with the agreement of the landowner. Material not retained by the museum or the landowner will be discarded within three months from acceptance of this report. Also at this stage, if required a digital archive will be compiled in accordance with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) standards, guidelines and the *AC archaeology Data Management Plan for Digital Archives* (Coles 2018).
- 8.2 An online OASIS entry has been completed, using the unique identifier **420957**, which includes a digital copy of this report.

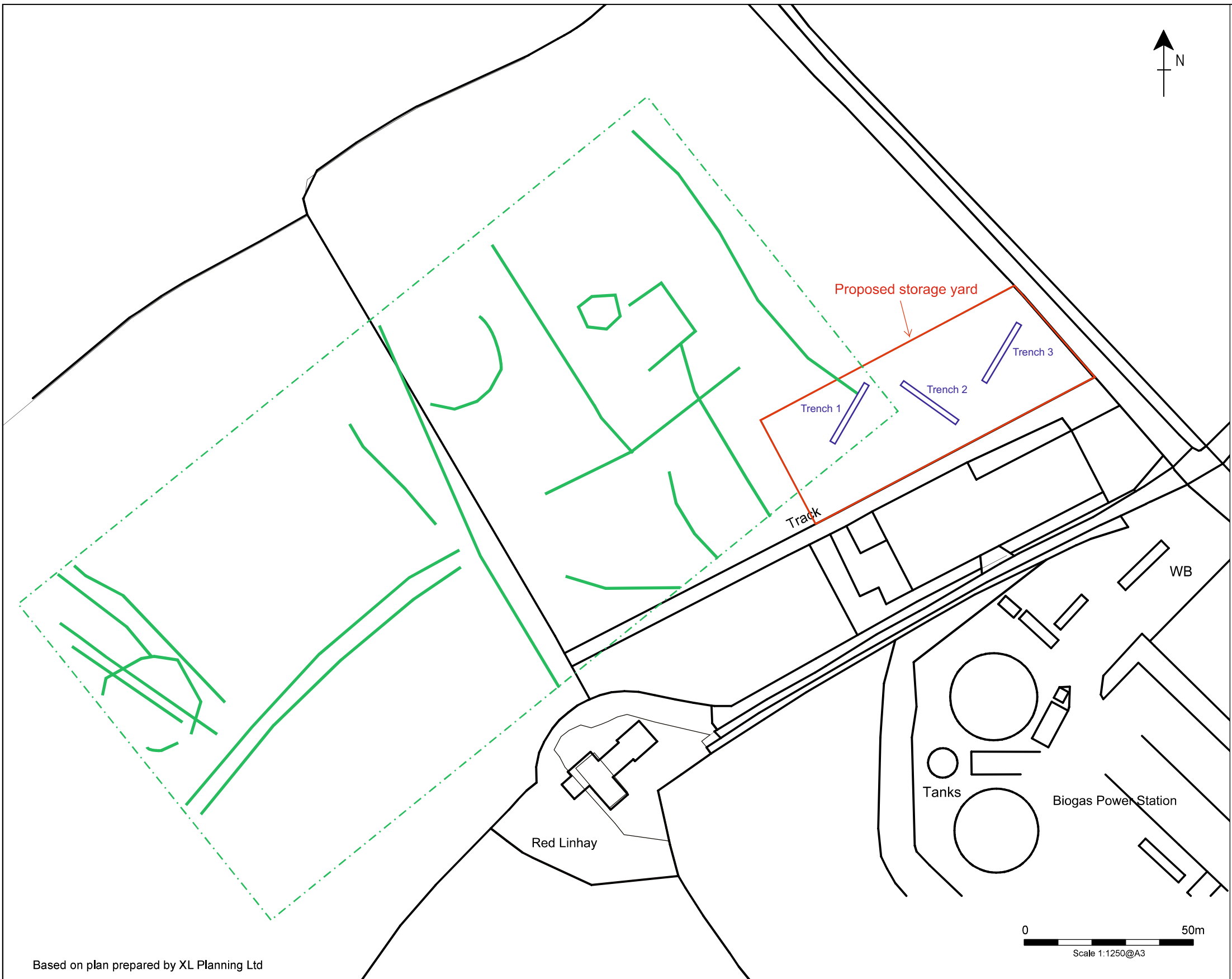
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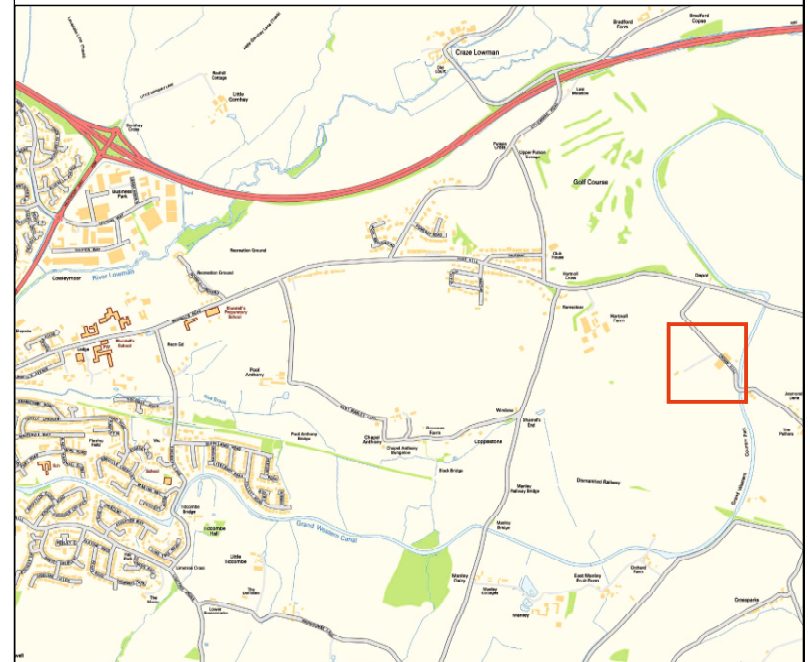
Valentin, J, 2021, *Land at Red Linhay, Crown Hill, Halberton, Devon: Project Design for an Archaeological Trench Evaluation*. Unpublished AC archaeology document ref. ACD2508/1/0.



Based on plan prepared by XL Planning Ltd

Key

- Site
- Probable archaeological anomalies
- Excavated trenches



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PROJECT
Land at Red Linhay, Crown Hill, Halberton, Devon

TITLE
Fig. 1: Location of site, geophysics interpretation and excavated trenches



Plate 1: General view of site looking west



Plate 2: Trench 1 looking southwest (1m scale)



Plate 3: Trench 2 looking northwest (1m scale)



Plate 4: Trench 3 looking northeast (1m scale)

Appendix 1

Tabulated Context Descriptions by Trench



APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS BY TRENCH

Trench 1		Length 20m	Width 2m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth b.g.s	Interpretation	
100	Mid reddish brown sandy silt	0 - 0.31m	Topsoil	
101	Light reddish brown sandy silt	0.31 - 0.44m	Agricultural subsoil	
102	Light reddish brown silty sand	0.44m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 2		Length 20m	Width 2m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth b.g.s	Interpretation	
200	Mid reddish brown sandy silt	0 - 0.34m	Topsoil	
201	Light reddish brown sandy silt	0.34 - 0.45m	Agricultural subsoil	
202	Light reddish brown silty sand	0.45m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 3		Length 20m	Width 2m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth b.g.s	Interpretation	
300	Mid reddish brown sandy silt	0 - 0.32m	Topsoil	
301	Light reddish brown sandy silt	0.32 - 0.46m	Agricultural subsoil	
302	Light reddish brown silty sand	0.46m+	Natural subsoil	

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