

Land at Okedene, Hayne Lane, Honiton, Devon

NGR SY144997

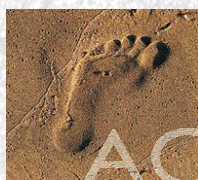
Results of archaeological trench evaluation

Prepared by:

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archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Gittisham, East Devon	National Grid Reference SY 144997	Number:
Subject: Archaeological trench evaluation on land at Okedene, Hayne Lane, Honiton		Photo attached? Yes
Planning Application no: 07/3056/MFUL	Recipient museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter	
OASIS ID: 54014	Museum Accession no: 518.2008	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD29	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 15 - 18 December 2008	
<p>Description of works</p> <p>An archaeological trench evaluation was carried out in advance of a proposed residential and commercial development on land at Okedene, Honiton, Devon. It comprised the machine-excavation of thirteen trenches totalling 240 metres in length, with each 1.6m wide (Fig.1). One trench (Tr 9) was not dug due to the presence of concrete hardstanding. The site is currently occupied partly by an existing bungalow and garden, with the remainder a parcel of land containing former chicken sheds. The topography is generally gentle or moderately sloping down to the NW, with the underlying geology comprising Head deposits overlying Mercia Mudstone.</p> <p>There are no previously recorded sites or monuments on the site itself, although it is located in an area where extensive evidence for activity dating to the prehistoric period has been previously identified. This evidence includes a large prehistoric enclosure and settlement excavated ahead of improvement to the A30 less than 300m to the southwest of the site (DCHER ref. 38873), as well as numerous scatters of worked flint recorded during various investigations in close proximity.</p> <p>The recorded soil layer sequence was generally consistent throughout the site and comprised a dark brown silty clay loam topsoil with an average thickness of 200mm, above a 200mm thick dark, slightly orange-brown silty clay agricultural subsoil containing moderate small gravels (Fig. 2b, Plates 1 and 2). This was overlying a peri-glacial head deposit, composed of a stiff red or yellow-brown clay with occasional gravels. Geotechnical test pits excavated in conjunction with this investigation established that the head material was up to 1.5m thick and directly above Mercia Mudstone.</p> <p>Some trenches did, however, contain modern disturbance and re-deposited material. Modern disturbance revealed in some trenches related to the construction of the former chicken sheds in the SW portion of the site, with the excavation of Trench 10 revealing part of a concrete floor slab throughout much of its length, along with underlying made-up ground containing asbestos sheeting (not removed). Some trenches in the northern and western parts of the site revealed a series of substantial probable drainage trenches (cutting through the topsoil), along with spreads of re-deposited natural subsoil overlying the topsoil (Fig. 2a and 2c).</p> <p>No pre-modern archaeological features or deposits were present and the only artefacts recovered were two sherds of 18th century glazed earthenware pottery (33 grams) and a single prehistoric flint waste flake (12 grams). These were collected from the spoil heap of Trench 4.</p>		
Recorder: Stephen Robinson, AC archaeology		Date sent to HER: 15 January 2009

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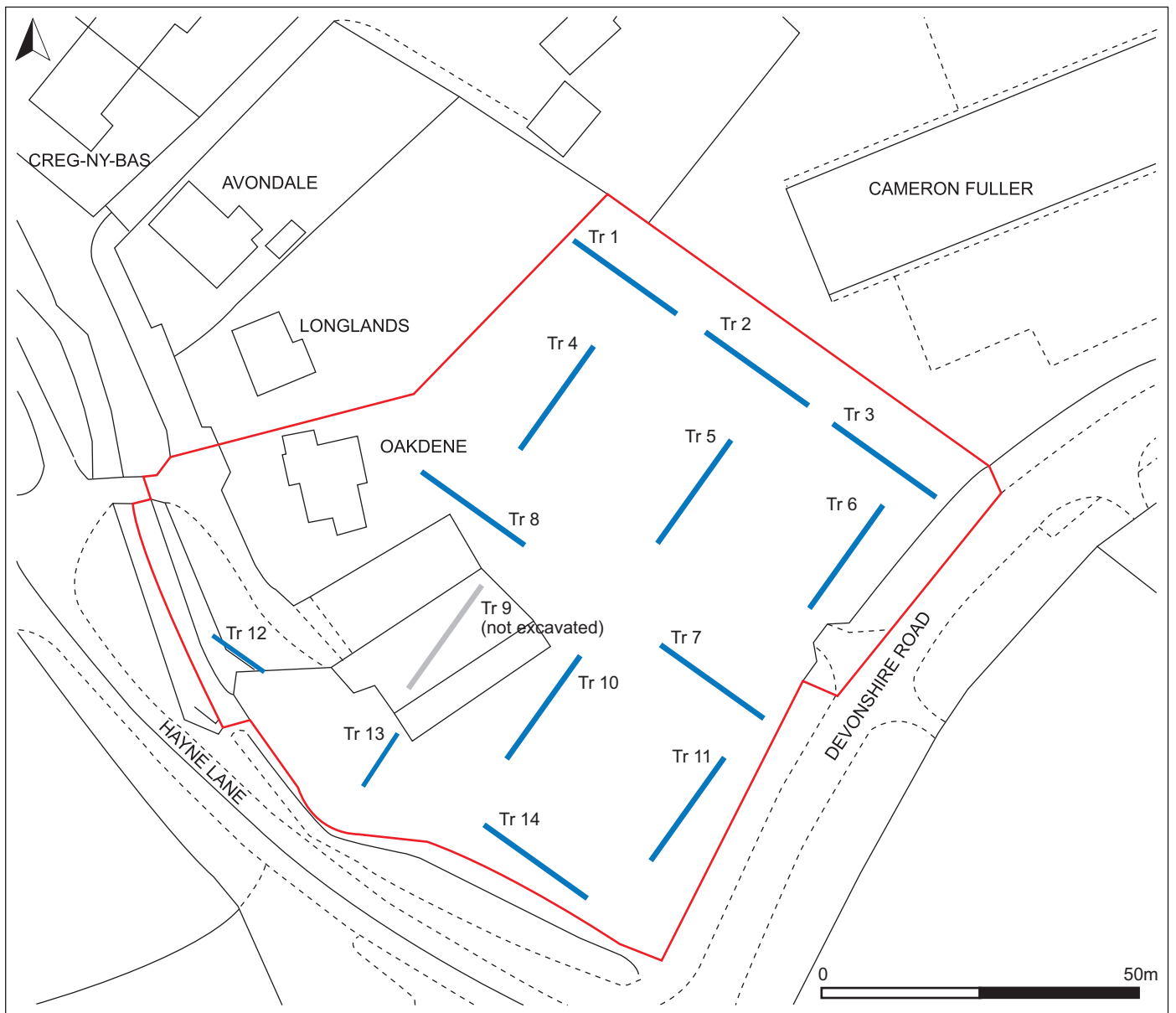


Fig. 1: Trench locations

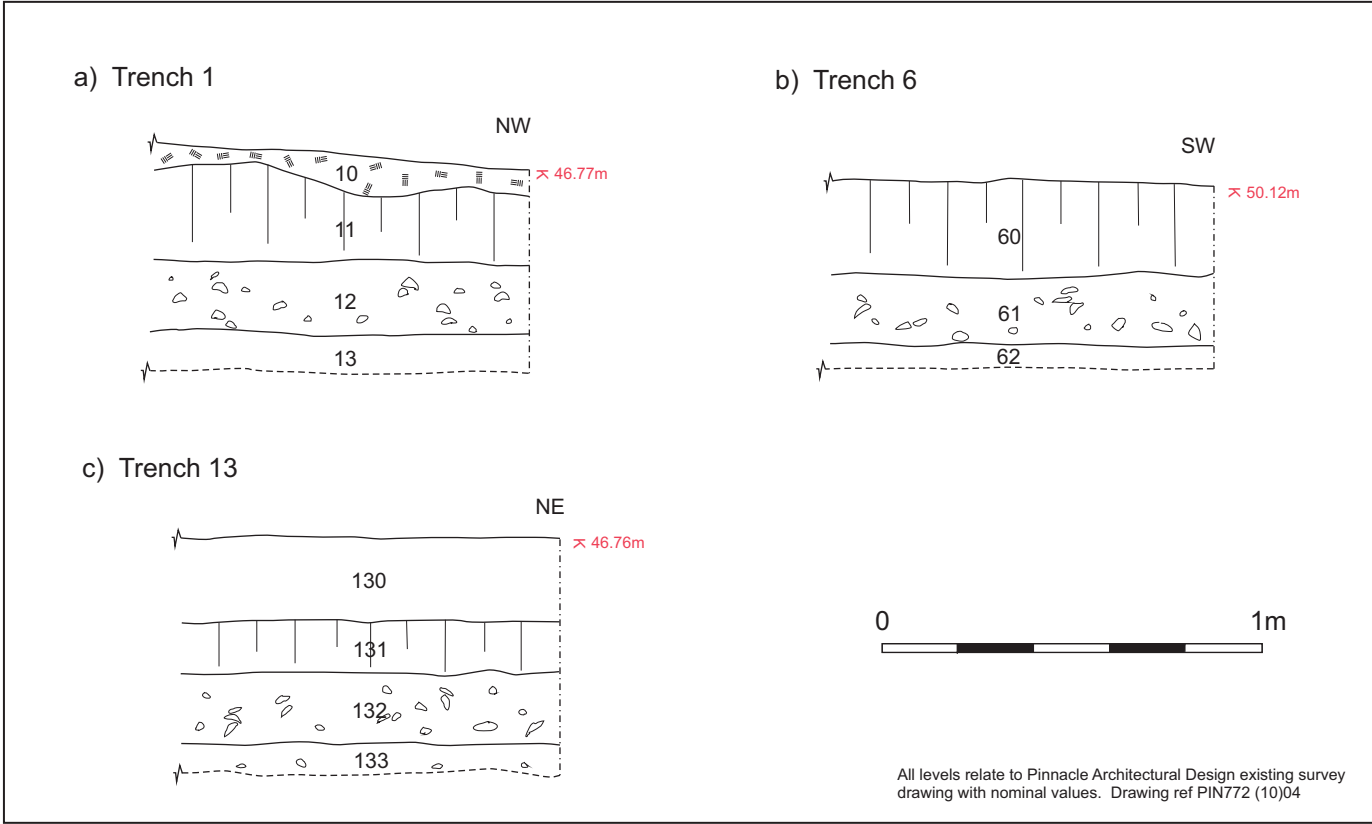


Fig. 2: Sections of Trenches 1, 6 and 13



Plate 1: Plan view of Trench 6 from NE end (scale 2m)



Plate 2: SW facing section, Trench 8 (Scale 0.5m)

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