

Friendship Farm, Bratton Fleming, North Devon

NGR (centred on) SS 65814157

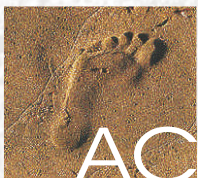
Results of an archaeological watching brief

Prepared by
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On behalf of
Mr G. Douglas

Document No: ACD46/1/0

Date: September 2009



AC archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Bratton Fleming, North Devon	National Grid Reference SS65814157	Number:
Subject: An archaeological watching brief for a new access track on land adjacent to Friendship Farm, Bratton Fleming, Devon		Photo attached Plates 1-2
Application no: 46940	Recipient museum: Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon	
OASIS ID: 63941	Museum Accession no: NDDMS 2009.16	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD46	Date fieldwork undertaken: 05/08/2009	

Introduction (Fig. 1)

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks associated with the construction of a new access track on land adjacent to Friendship Farm, Bratton Fleming, Devon. The watching brief was carried out by AC archaeology and was commissioned by the site owner Mr G. Douglas.

Friendship Farm is situated on land adjacent to the junction between the A399 and the B3358 roads. It lies within an area containing a number of scheduled Bronze Age round barrows, as well as remnants of medieval field systems. The site of the new access track lies within two fields of grass pasture on land at around 290m OD, with the underlying geology comprises Devonian sandstones and slates of the Ilfracombe Beds.

The proposed track is L-shaped in plan (Fig. 1) and will provide direct access from the main road to a single bungalow located to the west of Friendship Farm.

Methodology

Construction of the track comprised the excavation, and subsequent backfilling with hardcore, of two separate but parallel trenches, each measuring 1m wide x 0.3m deep. The watching brief was carried out during the excavation of the southern/western trench only (Plate 1). All excavations were carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket and working under constant archaeological supervision.

Results

The trench was excavated to a depth of around 0.3m onto an undisturbed clay and shale natural subsoil (103). The overlying layer sequence comprised around 0.15m of topsoil (100) over 0.15m of subsoil (104), as summarised in Table 1 below.

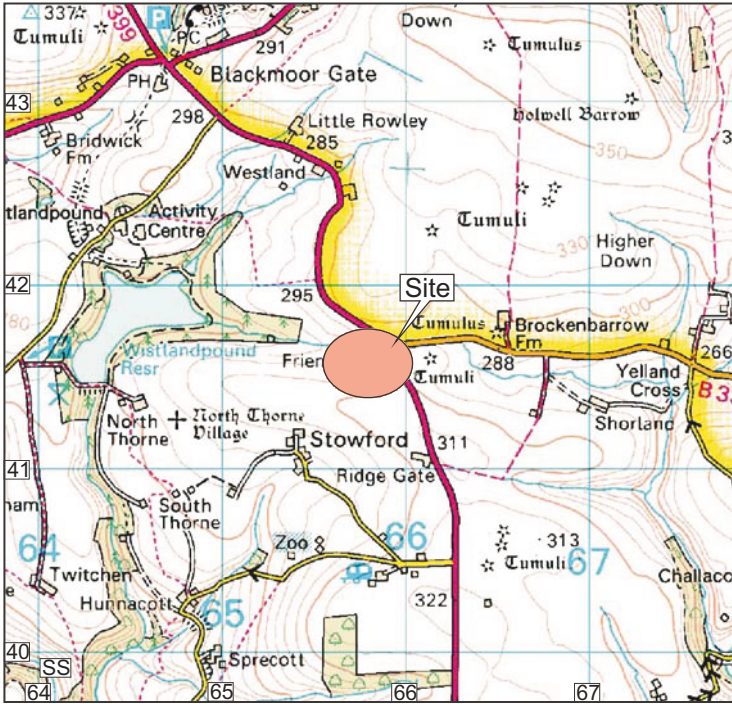
Table 1: The recorded deposit sequence

Context	Depth (b.g.s)	Interpretation	Description
100	0-0.15m	Topsoil	Mid brownish-grey friable silty clay with frequent small shale fragments <0.02m
101	0.15-0.34m	Fill of trackway F102	Mid greyish-brown friable silty clay with common small shale fragments <0.02m and occasional shale fragments >0.02m
102	0.15-0.34m	Cut of trackway	A N-S aligned linear feature measuring 2.8m wide x 0.19m deep, with gently sloping sides and an undulating base
103	0.30m+	Natural subsoil	Mid orange-brown soft sandy clay with abundant small-medium shale fragments <0.05m
104	0.15-0.30m	Subsoil	Mid brown soft silty clay with rare small shale fragments <0.02m

A single N-S aligned linear feature (F102), measuring 2.8m wide x 0.19m deep, was exposed towards the eastern end of the track (Plate 1). This was faintly visible as a shallow, negative earthwork parallel to the eastern field boundary, continuing towards a gated entrance into Friendship Farm (Fig. 1). This feature is likely to represent a former trackway providing access from the farm into the adjacent fields, and which was probably formed over a period of time as a sunken feature from the repeated use of heavy agricultural machinery.

No further archaeological features or deposits were exposed within the trench and no finds were recovered.

Recorder: R.I.Sims, AC archaeology	Date sent to HER: 2 September 2009
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Fig. 1:
Location of site and area of archaeological monitoring

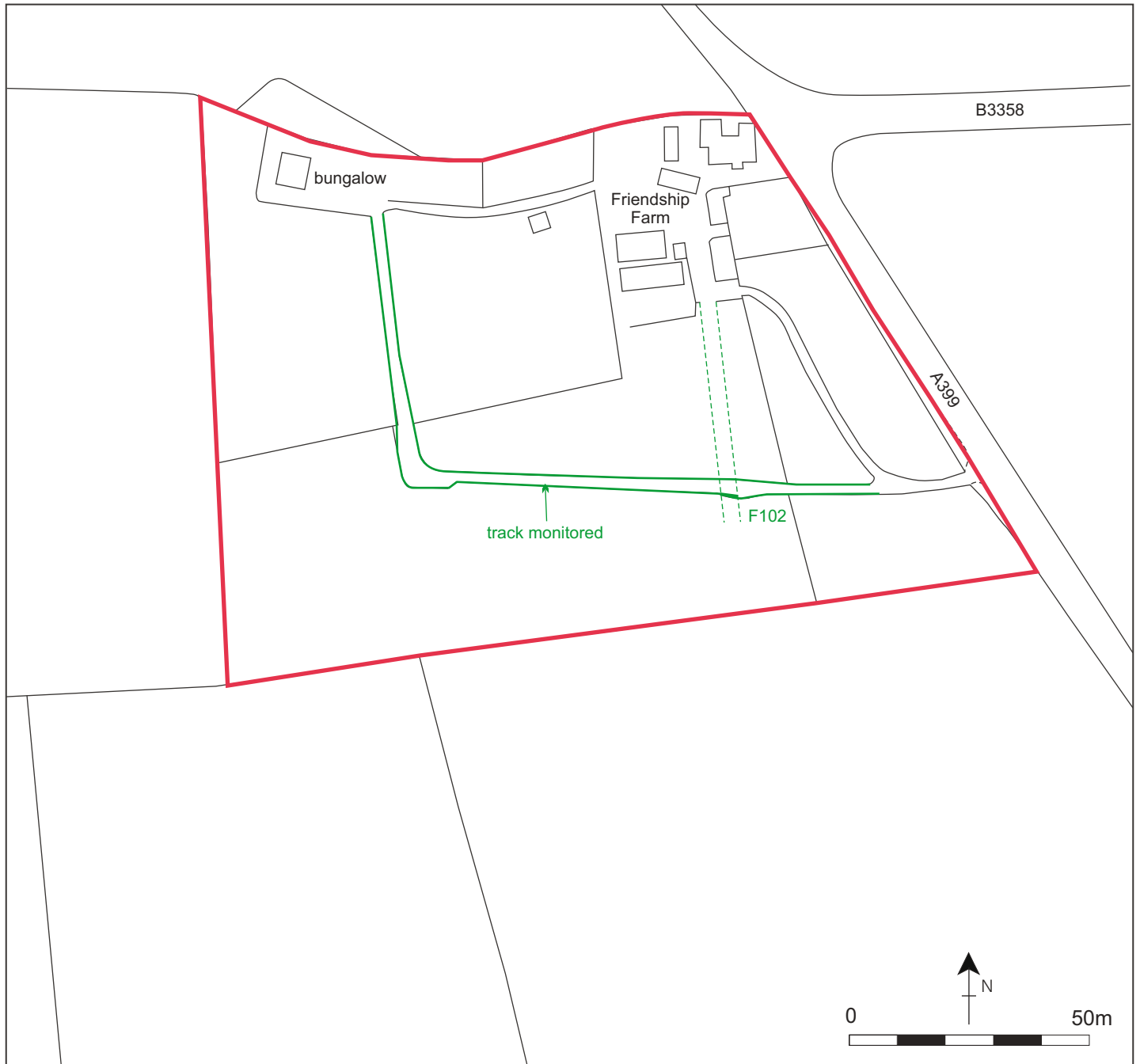




Plate 1:
General view of site with F102
in foreground, looking to west



Plate 2: Sample section, looking to north (scale 1m)

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