

An archaeological watching brief on land at Summerhayes Farm, Cotleigh, near Honiton, Devon

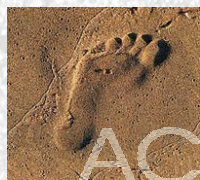
Centred on NGR ST2107002041

Prepared by:
Richard Sims

On behalf of:
Mr D Findley

Document No: ACD94/1/0

Date: September 2009



archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Cotleigh, East Devon	National Grid Reference ST2107002041	Number:																
Subject: An archaeological watching brief on land at Summerhayes Farm, Cotleigh, near Honiton, Devon		Photo attached Plates 1 & 2																
Planning Application no: 09/1511/FUL	Recipient museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter																	
OASIS ID: 64938	Museum Accession no: 351/2009																	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD94	Date fieldwork undertaken: 8 September 2009																	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was carried out on land at Summerhayes Farm, Cotleigh, Devon, during groundworks associated with the construction of a new stable block and associated access drive. The work was carried out by AC archaeology on behalf of the site owner Mr D. Findley.</p> <p>Summerhayes Farm is located approximately 0.5km east of the village of Cotleigh. The new stable block is situated within a single plot of grass pasture to the south of the farm (Fig.1 and Plate 1). It is situated close to the southern edge of the Blackdown Hills in an area containing evidence for ironworking dating from the Romano-British period through to the present day. Several slag findspots have been indentified within the area and includes tap slag discovered within the farm itself. There are also a number of prehistoric worked flint and chert scatters recorded nearby.</p> <p>Methodology</p> <p>The watching brief was carried out during ground reduction within the area of the new stable block, which measured 15m x 12m, and within a 9m x 1.6m sample trench excavated along the length of the access track (Fig. 1). Due to the slope of the ground, both the stable block and access track were to be constructed into a terrace excavated to a maximum depth of around 1.5m within the western half of the site and levelling off to ground level towards the eastern end. All excavations were carried out by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket and working under constant archaeological supervision.</p> <p>Results (Plate 2)</p> <p>The footprint of the stable block and the trench along the access track were initially excavated to a depth of 0.35m below ground level, through a layer sequence (Table 1) comprising 0.20m of topsoil (100) above 0.15m of subsoil (101). Undisturbed natural subsoil (102) was exposed at this depth. The clarity of the exposed natural subsoil surface was good, meaning that no further monitoring of ground reduction to formation level was undertaken.</p> <p>Table 1: The recorded layer sequence</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Context</th> <th>Depth below ground level (m)</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Interpretation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>100</td> <td>0-0.20</td> <td>Light greyish-brown friable silt with frequent small-medium sub-angular stones <0.05m</td> <td>Topsoil</td> </tr> <tr> <td>101</td> <td>0.20-0.35</td> <td>Light orange-brown soft silty clay with common small-medium sub-angular stones <0.05m and occasional stones >0.05m</td> <td>Subsoil</td> </tr> <tr> <td>102</td> <td>0.35+</td> <td>Light orange-brown firm clay with common medium-large sub-angular flints <0.10m</td> <td>Natural subsoil</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Comment</p> <p>No archaeological deposits, features or finds were exposed during groundworks associated with the construction of either the stable block or within the sample trench excavated along the access track.</p>			Context	Depth below ground level (m)	Description	Interpretation	100	0-0.20	Light greyish-brown friable silt with frequent small-medium sub-angular stones <0.05m	Topsoil	101	0.20-0.35	Light orange-brown soft silty clay with common small-medium sub-angular stones <0.05m and occasional stones >0.05m	Subsoil	102	0.35+	Light orange-brown firm clay with common medium-large sub-angular flints <0.10m	Natural subsoil
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Recorder: R.I.Sims, AC archaeology		Date sent to HER: 1 October 2009																

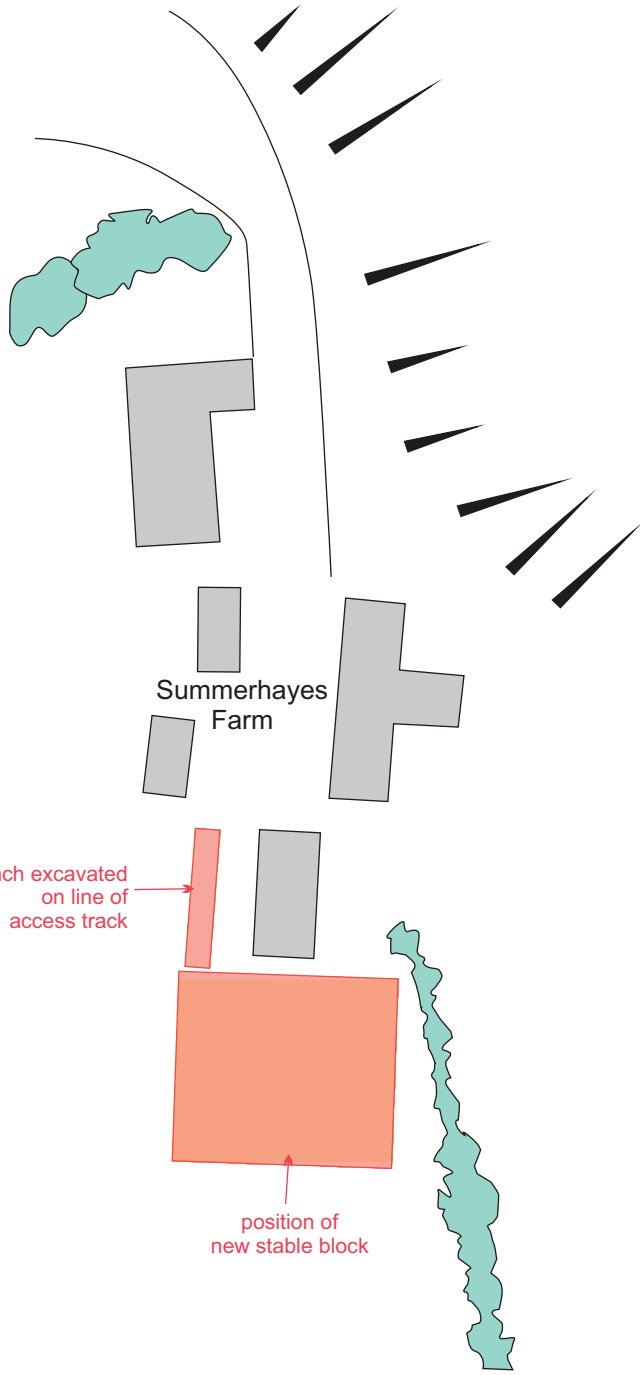
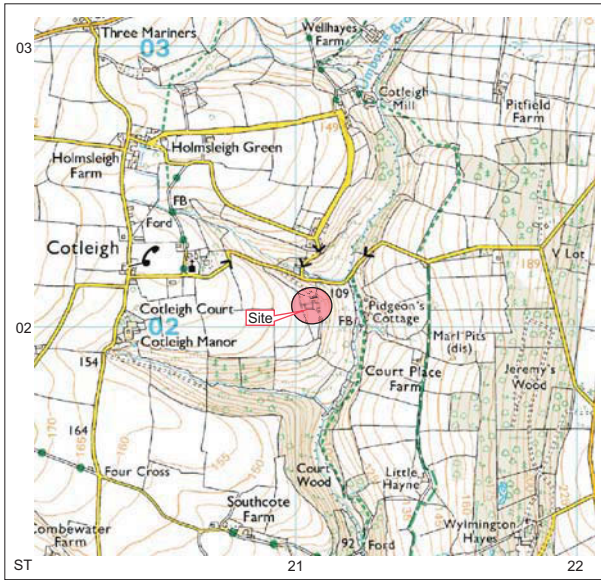




Plate 1: General view of site, looking to northwest



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

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