

Land adjacent to Knowle Terrace, Walkhampton, Devon

Centred on NGR SX53236969

Results of an archaeological trench evaluation

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On behalf of:
Dartmoor National Park Authority

Document No: AC124/2/0

Date: December 2009



archaeology

LAND ADJACENT TO KNOWLE TERRACE, WALKHAMPTON, DEVON (CENTRED ON NGR SX53236969)

RESULTS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRENCH EVALUATION

CONTENTS

	Summary	
1.	Introduction.....	1
2.	Archaeological background	1
3.	Aims.....	1
4.	Methodology.....	1
5.	Results.....	2
6.	Conclusions.....	2
7.	Archive and OASIS.....	2
8.	Acknowledgements.....	2
9.	References.....	2

List of figures

Fig. 1: Site and trench locations

Fig. 2: Sections, Trenches 1 and 2

List of plates

Plate 1: View of site, looking to northwest

Plate 2: View of Trench 1, looking to southwest (scale 0.3m)

Summary

An archaeological trench evaluation on land adjacent to Knowle Terrace, Walkhampton, Devon (NGR SX53236969), was undertaken by AC archaeology during December 2009. The site is located on the northeast side of the village adjacent to the Black Brook stream. The work comprised the hand-excavation of two trenches, each 2m long and 0.5m wide, with these positioned where a hedge was to be translocated and where it was thought a historic leat might be present.

No pre-modern archaeological features or deposits were recorded in either of the trenches and only a small quantity of 18th century and later finds was recovered. No evidence for a leat channel was identified.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trench evaluation on land adjacent to Knowle Terrace, Walkhampton, Devon, was undertaken by AC archaeology during December 2009. The work was commissioned by Dartmoor National Park Authority (hereafter DNPA) and was undertaken in advance of the translocation of a hedge.
- 1.2 The site is situated on the northeast side of the village, in an area of new residential development, on what was until recently a pasture field adjacent to the Black Brook stream. It lies at around 150m OD and the underlying geology comprises superficial alluvial sands, gravels and clays above granite.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site is located close to the historic core of the village on the south side of the stream. The former medieval manor at Knowle and adjacent mill lie to the northwest, and it was thought that the alignment of an associated leat extended along the inner side of the southwest boundary to the site. Previous archaeological investigation undertaken by the DNPA Archaeologist along its possible line failed to establish its presence.

3. AIMS

- 3.1 The aim of the evaluation was to establish the presence or absence, extent, depth, character and date of any archaeological features, deposits or finds within the site, with particular reference to establishing if buried remains relating to the putative leat are present.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a method statement prepared by AC archaeology (Valentin 2009), submitted to and approved by DNPA prior to commencement on site. It comprised the hand-excavation of two trenches, each measuring 2m long and 0.5m wide and located along the line of the putative leat and where the hedge was to be translocated.
- 4.2 Both trenches were hand cleaned and recorded in accordance with the AC archaeology pro-forma recording system, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, and with reference to AC archaeology's *General Site Recording Manual, Version 1*. Sections of trenches were drawn at 1:20 and all levels have been related to Ordnance Datum.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1** Both trenches were excavated onto natural subsoil, which comprised a light brown silty clay (contexts 102 and 202), present at depths of between 0.37m and 0.12m below ground level. At the southwest end of each trench (close to the existing hedge line) the natural subsoil had been disturbed and discoloured by root growth (101 and 201). This disturbance was a maximum of 0.08m thick. The natural subsoil was directly below a 0.2m thick layer of mid brown clayey silt topsoil (100 and 200).
- 5.2** With the exception of a modern cable trench at the southwest end of Trench 1, no archaeological features or deposits were present. Finds recovered from topsoil layers 100 and 200 comprised one sherd of 18th century lead-glazed slipware pottery, one sherd of 19th to 20th century porcelain and a fragment of 20th century clear bottle glass.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1** There was no evidence for *in situ* pre-modern archaeological features or deposits in either trench. A small quantity of finds was recovered from the overlying topsoil, with these dating to the 18th century and later. Adjacent to the existing hedge line roots had disturbed the natural subsoil.
- 6.2** There was no evidence for a leat channel in this location and, if one did lead to or from the former manor house and mill, then it must be located elsewhere.

7. ARCHIVE AND OASIS

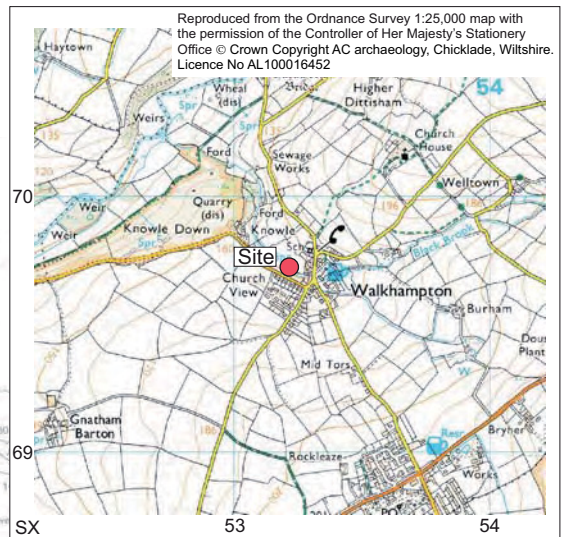
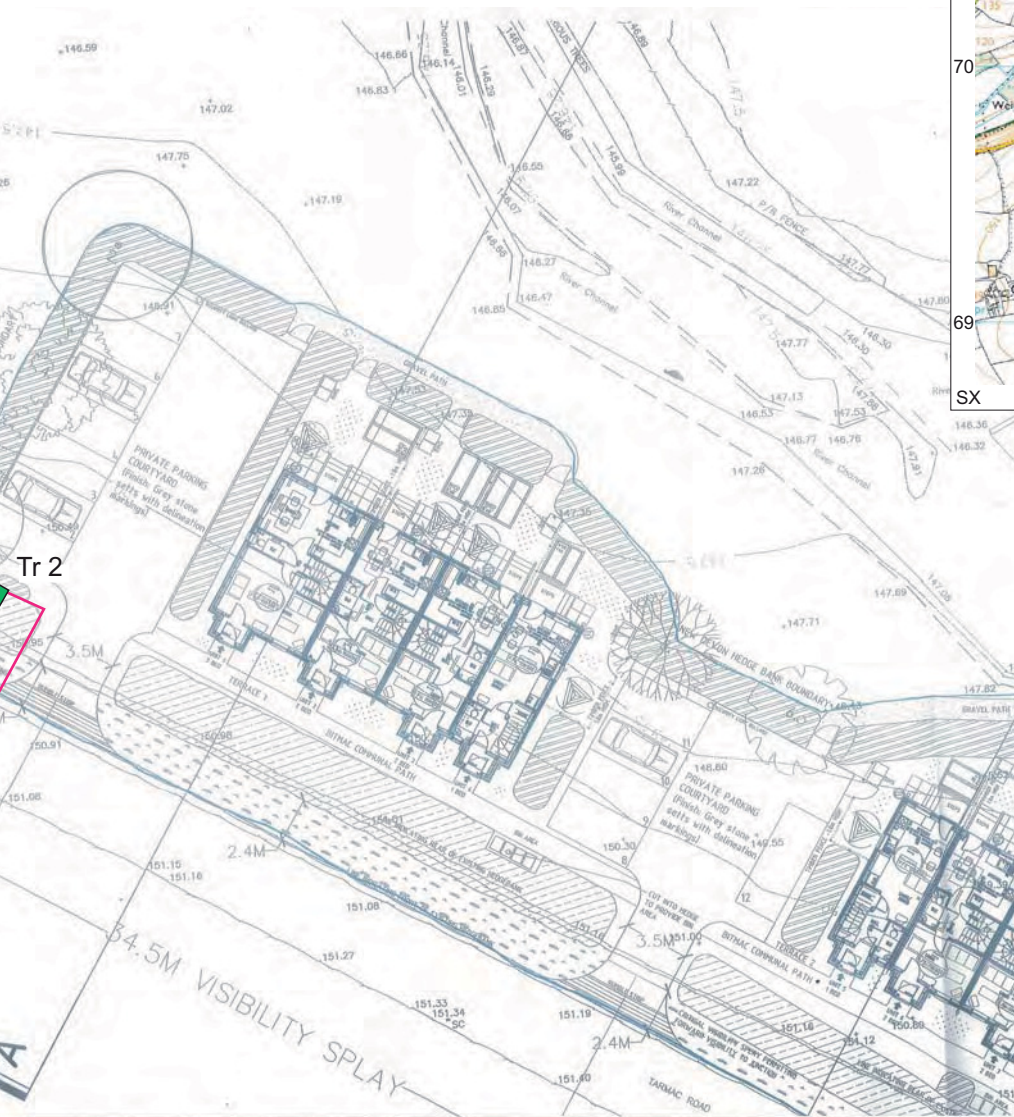
- 7.1** The paper and digital archive and finds are currently held at the offices of AC archaeology Ltd, at 4 Halthaies Workshops, Bradninch, near Exeter, Devon, EX5 4LQ. They will be deposited at the Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery, Plymouth.
- 7.2** The OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS) number for this project is 69094.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The evaluation was commissioned by Andrew Crabb on behalf of Dartmoor National Park Authority. The site investigation was undertaken by Simon Hughes and Kerry Dean and the illustrations for this report were prepared by Sarah Cottam.

9. REFERENCES

Valentin, J., 2009, *Land adjacent to Knowle Terrace, Walkhampton, Devon: Method statement for an archaeological trench evaluation*. Unpublished AC archaeology document, ref. ACD124/1/1.



PROJECT

Knowle Terrace, Walkhampton

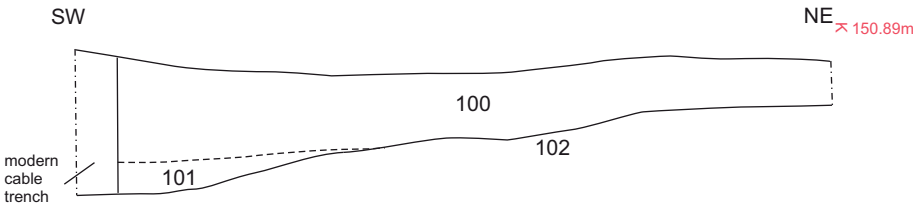
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Fig. 1:
Site and trench locations

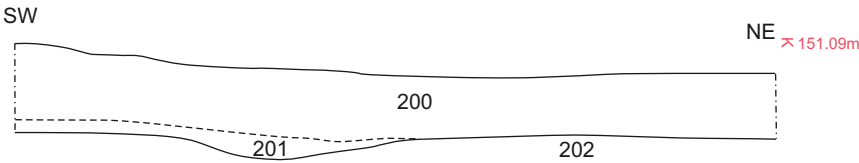


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a) SE facing section, Trench 1



b) SE facing section, Trench 2



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Knowle Terrace, Walkhampton

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Fig. 2: Sections of Trenches 1 and 2



Plate 1:
View of site, looking to northwest



Plate 2:
View of Trench 1, looking to southwest
(scale 0.3m)

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