

Results of a trench evaluation at 3 Broadway, adjacent to Hemyock Motors, Culmstock Road, Hemyock, Devon

Centred on NGR ST1364413291

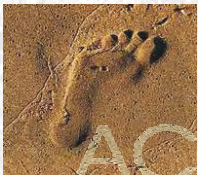
Interim Archaeological Statement

Planning reference: Mid Devon DC 09/01576/FULL

Prepared by:
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archaeology

RESULTS OF A TRENCH EVALUATION AT 3 BROADWAY, ADJACENT TO HEMYOCK MOTORS, CULMSTOCK ROAD, HEMYOCK, DEVON (CENTRED ON ST1364413291)

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1. Introduction

An archaeological trench evaluation on land at 3 Broadway, adjacent to Hemyock Motors, Culmstock Road, Hemyock, Devon, was undertaken by AC archaeology during December 2009. The work comprised the machine-excavation of two trenches totalling 9.6m in length, with each trench 2m wide. The trenches were positioned in areas to be affected by groundworks associated the construction of a single detached dwelling (Fig. 1).

2. Archaeological background

The site is located within the historic core of the village, immediately opposite the parish church of St Mary's. A settlement at Hemyock is likely to have been present during the Saxon period. A trench evaluation and subsequent watching brief have been previously undertaken on the area immediately adjoining the site (Hughes 2009). This established that to the north and west of the present site only 19th century and later archaeological remains were present, although a small quantity of residual 16th-century pottery was recovered from overlying layers. Investigations to the southwest, close to the road frontage, revealed two phases of archaeological activity, with the later phase comprising two pits, one of which contained late 16th or early 17th-century pottery. These features were sealed by an infilling layer which contained a moderate quantity of pottery, ranging in date from the late 16th to the early 19th century. Within this group there were some waster sgraffito dishes dating to between 1580-1620, with their decoration of a type not hitherto identified in the South West.

3. Results

Trench 1 (section Fig. 2a, Plate 1)

This trench was 5.8m long and was orientated approximately east to west. It was excavated onto yellow clay natural subsoil (context 103), present at a depth of 1.04m below existing ground level. The natural subsoil was overlain by a series of three soil layers that comprised a dark grey silty-clay alluvium (102) sealed by a mid brown clayey-silt subsoil (101) and a final garden soil (100).

No archaeological features were present, but a total of seven sherds of post-medieval pottery including lead-glazed earthenware, slip-decorated earthenware, slip-coated sgraffito and salt-glazed stoneware was recovered from overlying layers 100 and 101. Two pieces of iron smelting tap slag were recovered from layer 101.

Trench 2 (plan and sections Fig. 2b-d, Plate 2)

This trench was 3.8m long and orientated approximately east to west. It was excavated to a depth of 1m into natural subsoil (203). The natural subsoil was overlain by a layer of dark grey silty-clay alluvium (202), which was cut by a ditch (F204) and a posthole (F206) located towards the east end of the trench.

Ditch F204 was 1.1m wide and 0.3m deep with moderate sloping sides and a flattish base. It contained a dark brownish-grey silty-clay fill (205). One sherd of green-glazed 15th to 16th century pottery and three pieces of iron smelting slag, including tap and furnace slag, were recovered from its fill.

Circular posthole F206 was located adjacent to the ditch and was 0.33m in diameter and 0.09m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a shallow concave base. It contained a dark greyish-brown silty-clay fill (207) and four pieces of iron furnace slag were recovered from this.

Sealing the fills of the two features was a layer of mid brown clayey-silt subsoil (201) which was overlain by a garden soil (200). A total of six sherds of post-medieval pottery, including unglazed and lead-glazed earthenwares, slip-decorated earthenware and glazed white stoneware, was recovered from layers 200 and 201. Two pieces of iron tap slag were also recovered from layer 201.

4. The finds

Quantifications for all finds categories are set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Finds quantification (Weight is in grams).

Context	Context description	Pottery		Fe Slag	
		No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.
100	Garden soil	4	159		
101	Buried soil layer	3	139		
200	Garden soil	2	13		
201	Buried soil layer	4	71	2	123
205	Fill of ditch F204	1	9	3	112
207	Fill of posthole F206			4	228
Totals		14	391	9	463

The pottery

The assemblage consists of 14 sherds of pottery recovered from six contexts (Table 1). The majority of the pottery is 18th century and later and comprises lead glazed and unglazed earthenwares, slip decorated earthenwares, a slip coated sgraffito sherd and stoneware sherds. A 15th to 16th century rim sherd from a green-glazed jug recovered from ditch fill 205 is the earliest piece present. The Fe slag recovered is from the smelting process.

5. Comments

The ditch and posthole present in Trench 2 were present at a depth of 0.8m below ground level and cut alluvial layer 202. Both features contained iron smelting slag, with a small sherd of late medieval/early post medieval recovered from the ditch. It is likely that the ditch is a former boundary feature, with the proximity of the posthole to this indicating that it might be part of an associated fence line.

The number of iron furnace and tap slag pieces recovered from the posthole, ditch and the overlying soil layers, would suggest that ironworking was being undertaken in the vicinity of the site. No features associated with this activity were exposed in the evaluation trenches.

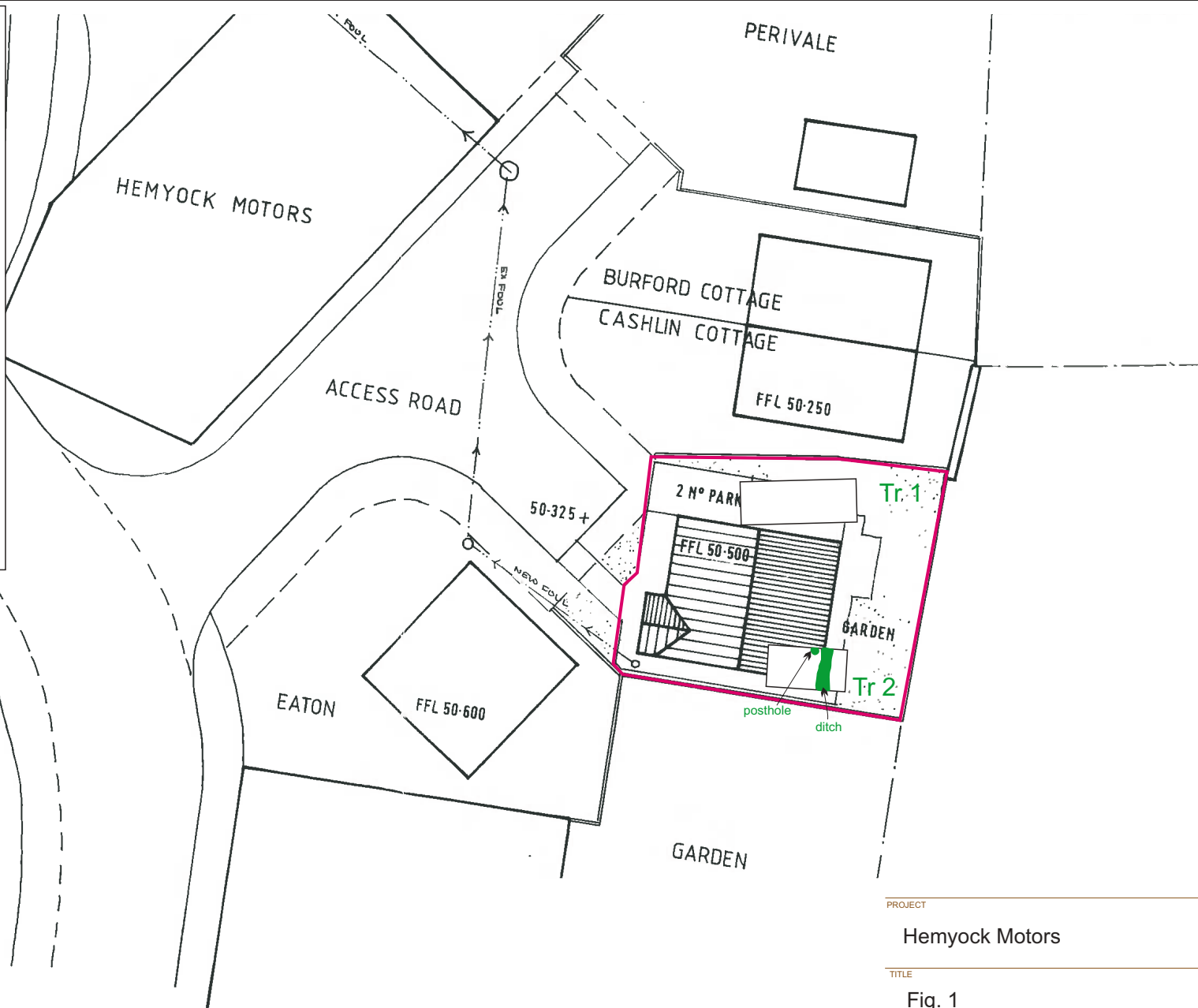
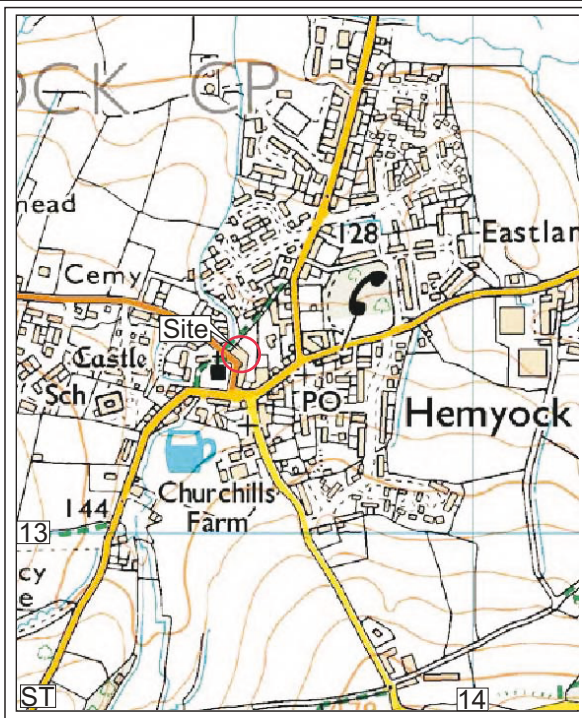
The small quantity of pottery recovered from the overlying layers was of similar date to the material found on the adjacent site (Hughes 2009), but no waster pieces are present.

6. Impact and mitigation

The evaluation trenches were located in the area where a detached house is proposed, with the foundations for this comprising traditional strip footings. The archaeological features exposed at a depth of 0.8m below current levels, as well as any other associated remains present, are likely to be impacted upon by groundworks. The features exposed appear to be of low density and of only local importance and it is considered unlikely that more significant remains will be present in this small plot. A comprehensive watching brief during groundworks will allow for the further recording of those features identified and any other remains present, as well as for the recovery of pre-modern finds from overlying layers.

7. References

Hughes, S., 2009, *Results of a trench evaluation on land at Hemyock Motors, Culmstock Road, Hemyock, Devon: Interim Archaeological Statement*. Unpublished AC archaeology report for client, ref. ACD44/2/0.



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Fig. 1
Site and trench locations

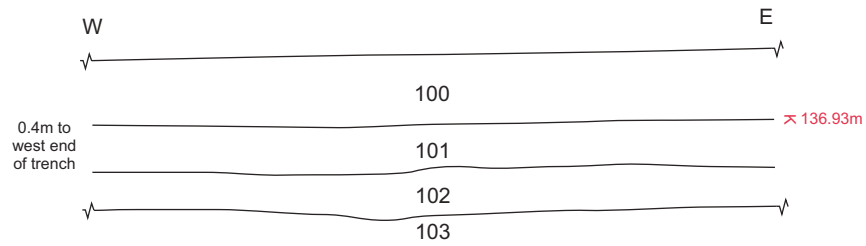


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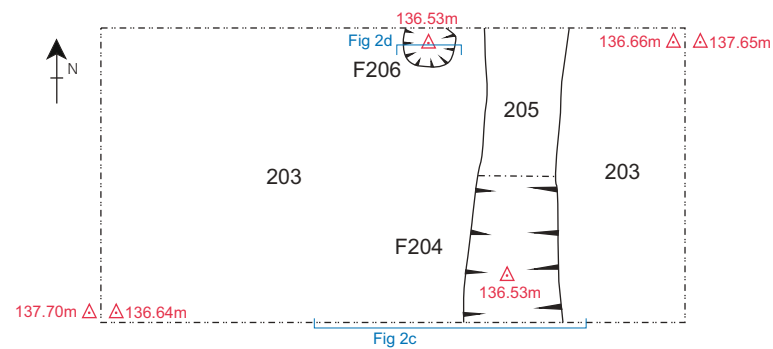
Trench 1

a) Representative section

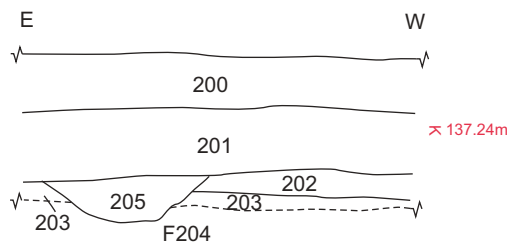


Trench 2

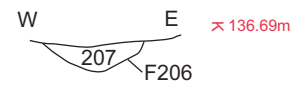
b) Plan



c) Section, F204



d) Section, F205



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Fig. 2: Plan and sections, Trenches 1 and 2



Plate 1: Trench 1, south facing section (scales 2m and 1m)



Plate 2: View of Trench 2, looking east towards ditch F204 (scale 1m)

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