

# New gas main at Forches Cross, Teigngrace, Devon

NGR SX8369973912 - SX8427873288

Results of an archaeological watching brief

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Prepared by:  
Simon Hughes

On behalf of:  
RSK Environment Ltd

Document No: ACD99/2/0

Date: May 2010



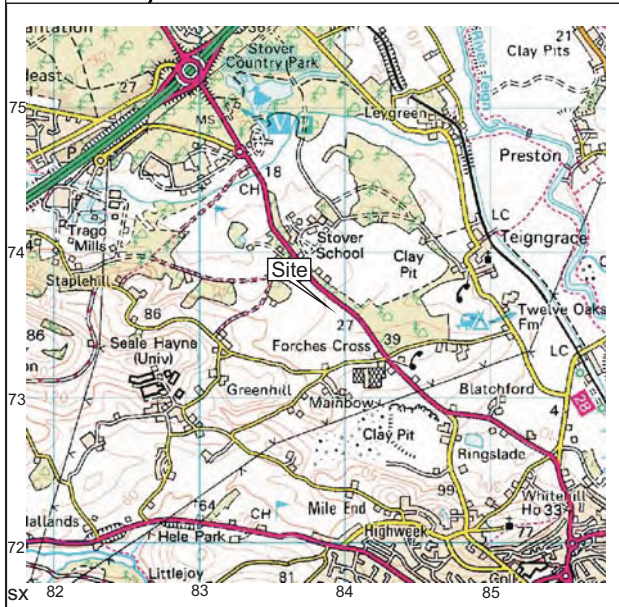
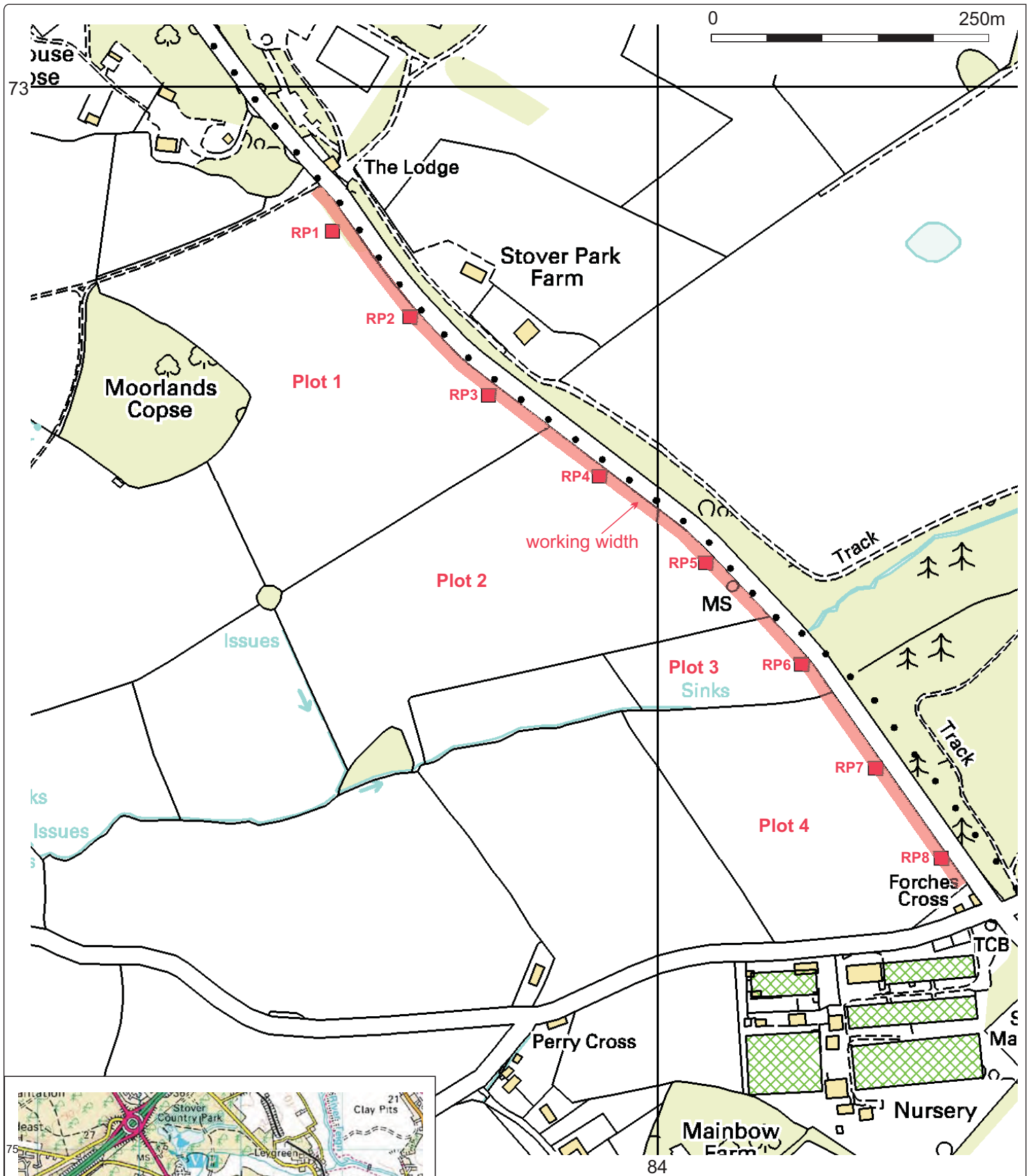
archaeology

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# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District</b> Teigngrace, Teignbridge	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SX8369973912 to SX8427873288	<b>Number</b>
<b>Subject;</b> New gas main at Forches Cross, Teigngrace, Devon: Archaeological watching brief		<b>Photo attached</b> Plates 1 and 2
<b>Planning Application no:</b> N/A	<b>Recipient museum:</b> RAMM, Exeter	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> 74714	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> 60/2010	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> ACD99	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 16 <sup>th</sup> September to 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2009	
<p><b>Description of works</b> An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AC archaeology at Forches Cross, Teigngrace, Devon, during groundworks associated with the construction of a new gas main. The work was commissioned by RSK Environment Ltd. The new gas main extended alongside the A392 road over four arable fields for a distance of around 800m from its southern point at Forches Cross to land adjacent to Stover School at its northern end. The pipeline route is located in an area where cropmarks have been recorded which indicate the presence of possibly prehistoric settlement and agricultural remains on and in the immediate vicinity of the route. There are linear cropmarks recorded on the line of the route itself (Devon County Historic Environment ref. 74894) and a possible settlement enclosure is recorded to the southwest (9121).</p> <p><b>Results</b> Groundworks initially comprised the machine-excitation of topsoil intermittently onto natural subsoil within a working width of 7m along the pipeline route (Fig. 1 and Plate 1). This was not of sufficient clarity for the recognition of archaeological features or deposits. A series of eight receptor pits measuring a maximum of 4.8m long and 3.7m wide and positioned along the route within the four plots was subsequently excavated (RP1 – RP8 on Fig 1). The results of the eight pits are summarised below.</p> <p><i>Plot 1</i> Receptor pits RP1 to RP3 were excavated to a maximum depth of 2m. In these, natural subsoil, which comprised a mid reddish-brown silty-clay, was recorded at a depth of between 0.3m and 0.55m below the former ground level. The natural subsoil was overlain in pits RP2 and RP3 by a 0.15m to 0.25m thick layer of mid brown silt subsoil layer, which was sealed by a 0.3m thick dark brown silt topsoil layer. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were recorded from the pits in Plot 1.</p> <p><i>Plot 2</i> Receptor pits RP4 and RP5 were excavated to a maximum depth of 2m into natural subsoil that was present at a depth of 0.6m below former ground level. This was below 0.3m of light brown sandy-clay subsoil that was overlain by topsoil. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were recorded.</p> <p><i>Plot 3 (Plan and section Fig. 2a and b; Plate 2)</i> Receptor pit RP6 was excavated to a depth of 2m into natural subsoil (602) that comprised a light brown to light grey clay, present at a depth of 0.5m. The natural subsoil was overlain by a mid brown clay subsoil (601), which was cut by a possible pit or posthole (F604). This was 0.39m wide and 0.55m deep with vertical sides and a shallow concave base. The feature contained a homogenous dark brown silty-clay fill (603) with rare small to medium stone inclusions. No finds were recovered.</p> <p><i>Plot 4 (Plan and section Fig. 2c and d)</i> Receptor pit RP7 was excavated to a depth of 2m into natural subsoil (704), which comprised a mixed light grey to light brown clay. The natural subsoil was overlain by a mid brown clay subsoil that was cut by a possible pit or posthole (F702). This was 1.1m wide and 0.2m deep, with moderately-sloping sides and a shallow concave base. It contained a homogenous dark brown silt fill (701) with occasional small to medium stone inclusions. No finds were recovered. Receptor pit RP8 was excavated to a depth of 2m into natural subsoil, which was present at a depth of 0.4m under a 0.1m thick layer of mid brown clay subsoil. No features or finds were present.</p> <p><b>Comments</b> The soil strip was not of sufficient quality to enable the recognition of archaeological features, although scanning of the exposed surface did not reveal any artefact concentrations. Further groundworks were limited to small receptor pits, with two of these revealing archaeological features (RP6 and RP7). These were two undated possible pits or postholes, but their positions immediately below the topsoil and the nature of their fills (similar to topsoil), suggests a relatively recent date.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> Simon Hughes, AC archaeology		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 11 May 2010



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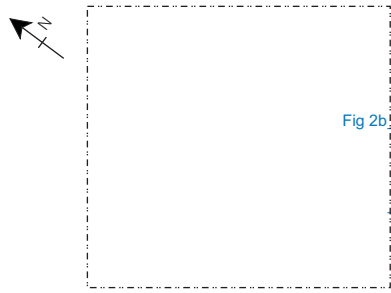


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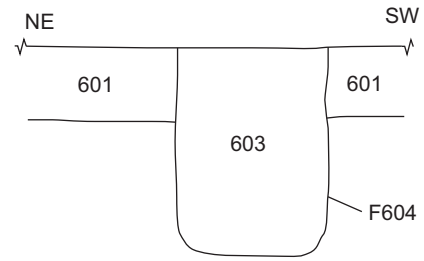
Fig. 1: Location of plots and receptor pits

RP6

a) Plan



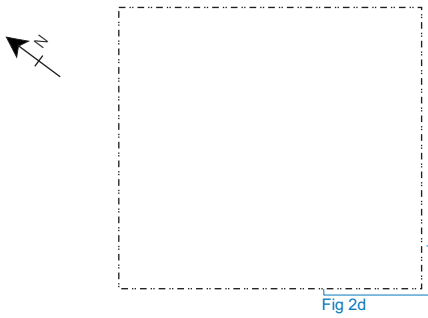
b) Section, F604



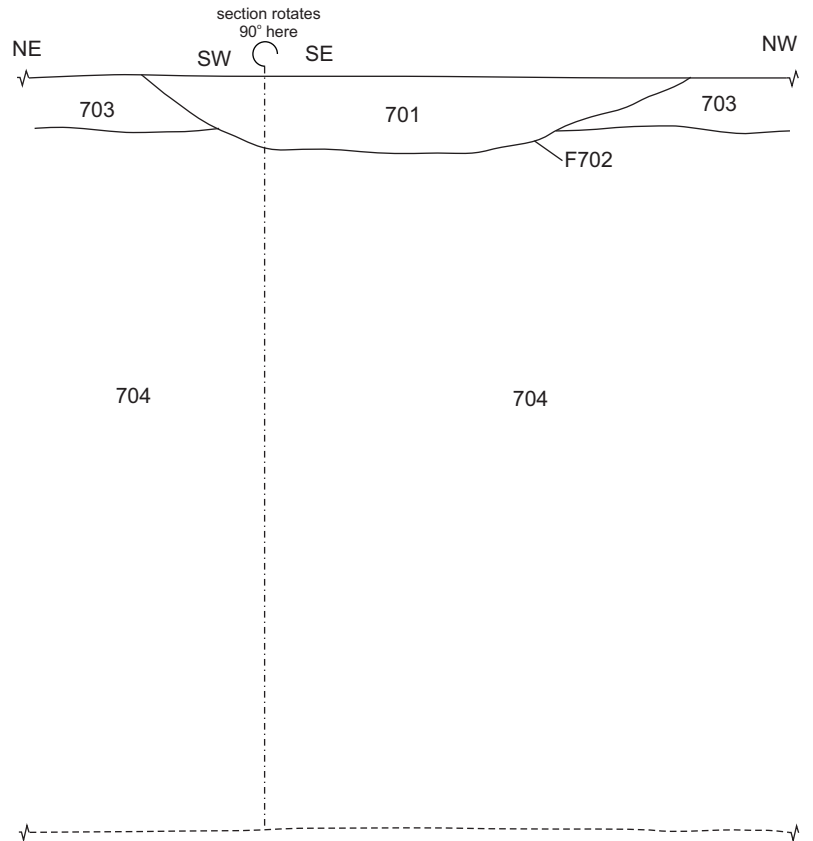
602

RP7

c) Plan



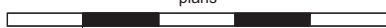
d) Section, F604



704

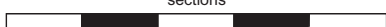
704

0 5m



plans

0 1m



sections



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Fig. 2: Sections of receptor pits RP6 and RP7





Plate 1: General view of route, looking northwest from Plot 4



Plate 2: Receptor pit RP6. Feature F604, southeast facing section. View to northwest.  
Scale 1m

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