

An archaeological trench evaluation on land at 4 Wotter Bungalows, Wotter, Shaugh Prior, Devon

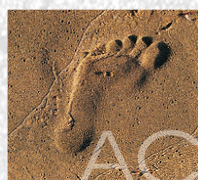
NGR SX5570361785

Prepared by:
Richard Sims

On behalf of:
Mr Ryan Best

Document No: ACD209

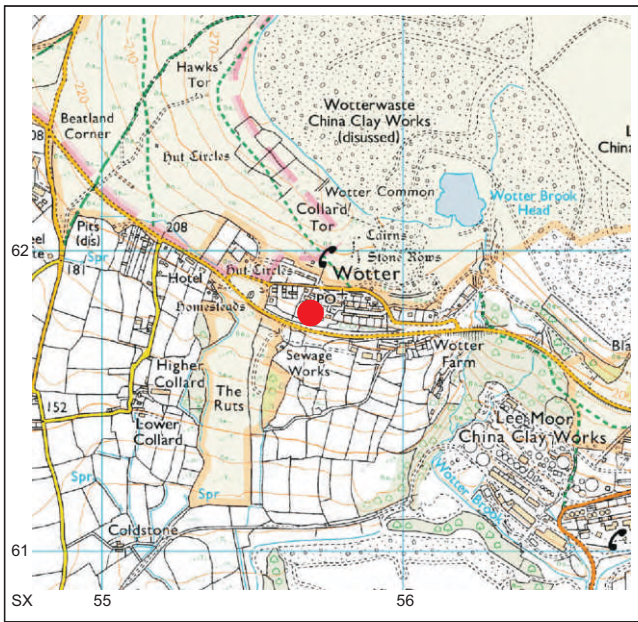
Date: September 2010



archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Shaugh Prior, South Hams	National Grid Reference SX5570361785	Number:																				
Subject: An archaeological trench evaluation on Land at 4 Wotter Bungalows, Wotter, Shaugh Prior, Devon		Photo attached Plates 1 & 2																				
Planning Application no: 42/1321/10/F	Recipient museum: Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery																					
OASIS ID: 83116	Museum Accession no: AR.2010.30																					
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD209	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 9 September 2010																					
<p>Introduction</p> <p>An archaeological trench evaluation was undertaken by AC archaeology on behalf of Mr Ryan Best as a condition of planning permission for the construction of a replacement bungalow.</p> <p>The site is located in an area where previous survey and investigation have identified extensive evidence for prehistoric settlement, religious and agricultural activity. A probable Bronze Age enclosure and two roundhouses are recorded to the north and there are numerous cairns, lynchets, roundhouses, reaves and cists surrounding the site. The village of Wotter, including the present bungalow, was constructed in the first part of the 20th century by the Dartmoor China Clay Company to house its workmen.</p> <p>The presence of concrete hardstanding meant it was not possible to excavate a trench in the position of a proposed new garage, while previous ground disturbance meant that Trench 1 was moved further to the northeast from its agreed position. The location of the trench as excavated is shown on Fig. 1.</p> <p>Results</p> <p>A single T-Shaped trench (Trench 1) measuring 15m long by 1.6m wide, was excavated using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket and working under constant archaeological supervision. The trench was excavated onto undisturbed sandy clay natural subsoil (102), generally present at a depth of 0.50m below ground level, through a general overlying layer sequence comprising 0.20m topsoil (100), over 0.30m of colluvial subsoil (101). An additional deposit of modern made ground (103), up to 0.30m thick, was present within the northern section of the trench above topsoil. The recorded layer sequence is tabulated in Table 1 and relevant photographs included as Plates 1 and 2.</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>Humic dark grey soft clay silt with occasional small-medium sub-rounded stones <0.05m</td> <td>Topsoil</td> </tr> <tr> <td>101</td> <td>0.20-0.50</td> <td>Mid-dark brown soft sandy clay silt with occasional-rare small-large sub-rounded stones <0.10m</td> <td>Colluvial subsoil</td> </tr> <tr> <td>102</td> <td>0.50/0.80+</td> <td>Light yellowish-brown friable sandy clay with frequent small-large sub-angular stones <0.10m</td> <td>Natural subsoil</td> </tr> <tr> <td>103</td> <td>0-0.30</td> <td>Mixed dark greyish-brown and light grey silty clay with loose medium-large gravels</td> <td>Modern made ground</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Comment</p> <p>No <i>in situ</i> pre-modern archaeological features or deposits were exposed within the evaluation trench. A small quantity of 20th pottery and general building debris was present within the excavated spoil, but this was not retained. The area surrounding the existing bungalow, particularly along its northern side, has been mostly terraced away to a depth of up to 1.50m prior to its construction sometime during the first half of the 20th century and, as such, any archaeological deposits or features within this area are likely to have been previously removed. Groundworks associated with construction are unlikely to impact upon any archaeological features or deposits.</p>			Context	Depth below ground level (m)	Description	Interpretation	100	0-0.20	Humic dark grey soft clay silt with occasional small-medium sub-rounded stones <0.05m	Topsoil	101	0.20-0.50	Mid-dark brown soft sandy clay silt with occasional-rare small-large sub-rounded stones <0.10m	Colluvial subsoil	102	0.50/0.80+	Light yellowish-brown friable sandy clay with frequent small-large sub-angular stones <0.10m	Natural subsoil	103	0-0.30	Mixed dark greyish-brown and light grey silty clay with loose medium-large gravels	Modern made ground
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Recorder: Richard Sims, AC archaeology		Date sent to HER: 23 September 2010																				



Trench 1 location



Footprint of proposed buildings



Footprint of building to be demolished



AC archaeology

PROJECT

ACD 209, 4 Wotton Bungalows

TITLE

Fig 1. Site and trench location



Plate 1. View of Trench 1, looking to northwest (Scale 1m)



Plate 2. Representative section, northwest end of Trench 1 (Scale 1m)

Wiltshire Office

AC archaeology Ltd
Manor Farm Stables
Chicklade
Hindon
Nr Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP3 5SU

Telephone: 01747 820581
Fax: 01747 820440

Devon Office

AC archaeology Ltd
Unit 4, Halthaies Workshops
Bradninch
Nr Exeter
Devon
EX5 4LQ

Telephone/Fax: 01392 882410

www.acarchaeology.co.uk