

# Land adjacent to Grey Gables, Bampton, Devon

NGR SS9529722419

Results of an archaeological evaluation  
Planning ref. Mid Devon District Council 09/01854/OUT

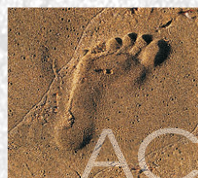
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Prepared by:  
John Valentin

On behalf of:  
Mr and Mrs Fagg

Document No: ACD216/2/0

Date: October 2010



archaeology

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# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Bampton, Mid Devon	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SS9529722419	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> An archaeological trench evaluation on land adjacent to Grey Gables, Bampton, Devon		<b>Photo attached:</b> Plates 1 and 2
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 09/01854/OUT	<b>Recipient museum:</b> RAMM, Exeter	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> 84708	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> 210/2010	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> ACD216	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 14th October 2010	

## Introduction

An archaeological trench evaluation was undertaken by AC archaeology prior to groundworks associated with the construction of two dwellings and garages, as well as associated access and other works. The work was commissioned by the site owners, Mr and Mrs Fagg.

The site is situated in a garden area and part of a larger plot of currently grazing land immediately to the west of Grey Gables (Fig 1). It lies at around 150m OD on ground that slopes moderately down to the south (Plate 1), with the underlying solid geology comprising the Bampton Limestone Group, composed of cherts, limestones and mudstones.

The main archaeological interest in the site is that it is located close to the site of the medieval chapel of St. Luke's, which is first recorded in 1258 (DCHER ref. 12376). The 1842 Bampton parish tithe map shows the area of proposed development as within a linear strip of land on the north side of the present High Street. The accompanying apportionment names the field as 'Little Rag', with the land-use at that time arable. The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1890 shows the immediate layout of fields as identical to that shown on the tithe map. It does show the 'Site of' St Luke's Chapel to the west of the present site.

## Results

The evaluation comprised the machine-excavation of five trenches totalling 40m in length, with each trench 1.2m wide and positioned, where possible, within the proposed house footprints and associated access routes (Fig. 1). The presence of trees and existing structures limited the areas available for investigation.

The trenches were excavated to depths of between 0.2m-0.4m onto natural subsoil, which comprised a mid brownish-red silty clay with abundant sub-angular limestone and mudstone inclusions. Natural subsoil was overlain by 0.1m-0.2m of mid reddish-brown silty clay colluvial subsoil, which was sealed by 0.1m-0.2m of mid reddish-brown silty-clay topsoil (Plate 2). No archaeological features or deposits were present in any of the trenches.

Finds recovered from the subsoil and topsoil layers from the trenches are itemised in Table 1 below. These date from the late post-medieval through to the modern period. The small number of pottery sherds include colour coated, unglazed and lead glazed earthenwares, as well as North Devon grit tempered ware, Stafford/Bristol comb decorated slipware, industrial white-wares, salt-glazed stoneware and blue and white transfer-printed ware.

Table 1. Finds summary (weight is in grams; CBM = Ceramic building material)

Trench	Context 100	Context type	Post-medieval to modern pottery		Clay tobacco pipe		Bottle glass		CBM	
			No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
1	100	Topsoil	1	3	2	11	1	61		
2	200	Topsoil	4	19						
2	201	Subsoil	18	177	10	34			1	14
3	300	Topsoil	4	15	2	7				
4	400	Topsoil	1	7						
5	500	Topsoil	2	9					1	10
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>30</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>24</b>

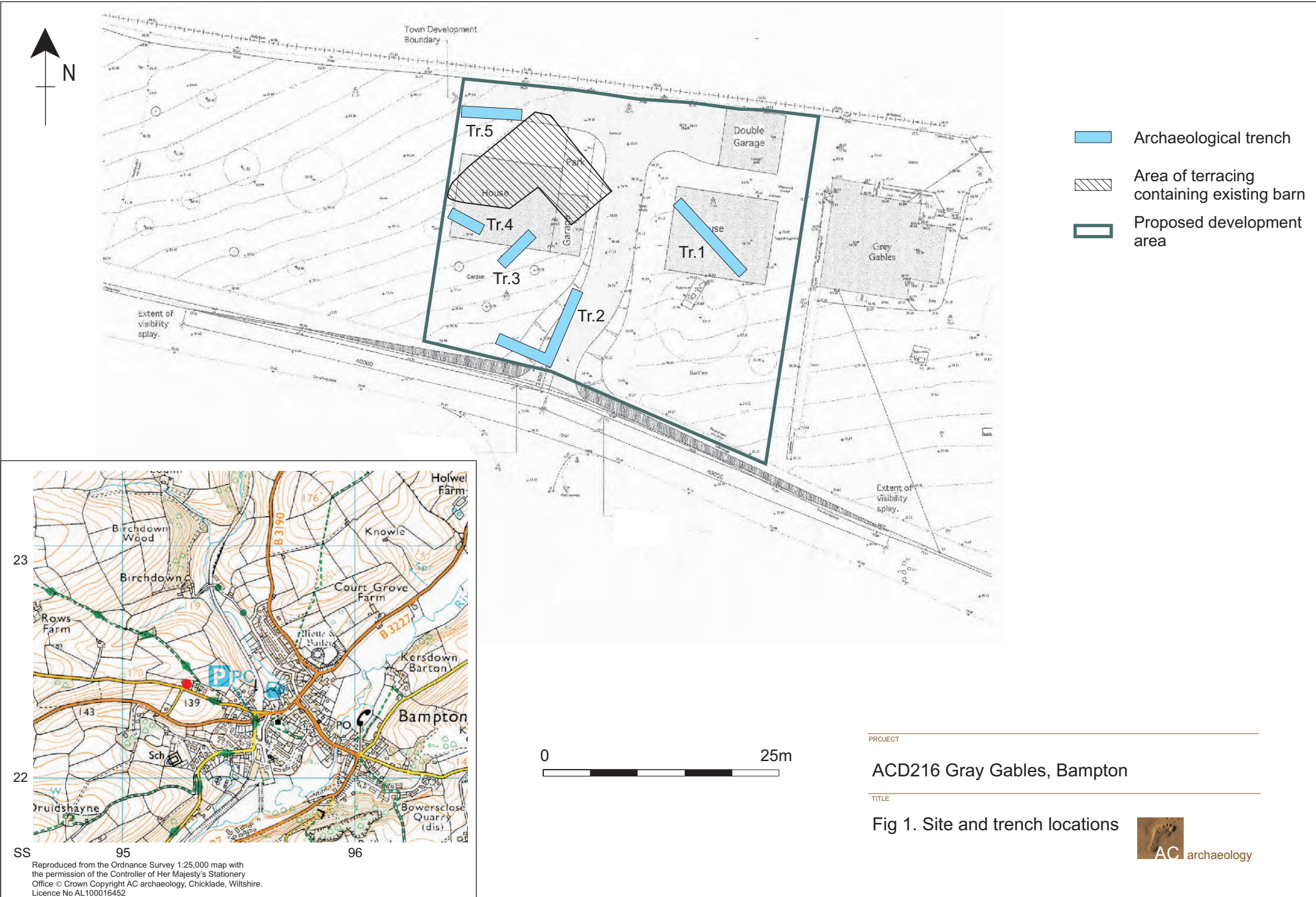
## Comments

There were no archaeological features or deposits present within the excavated trenches and no evidence for activity associated with the medieval chapel of St Luke's was identified during the work. The finds recovered from subsoil and topsoil layers broadly date from the 18th to 20th centuries.

Based on the results from this evaluation, it is considered unlikely that any significant archaeological features or deposits are present within the remainder of the proposed development area.

**Recorder:** Simon Hughes, AC archaeology

**Date sent to HER:** 28 October 2010



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Plate 1. General view of western plot, looking southeast



Plate 2. Trench 2, sample section. Looking south (scale 1m)

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