

# Land at Oakdale, North Jaycroft, Willand, Devon

NGR ST 03957 11133

## Results of an archaeological watching brief

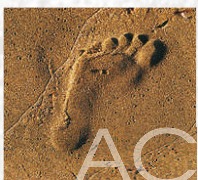
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Prepared by  
Richard Sims MA

On behalf of  
Jason Stack

Document No: ACD201/2/0

Date: January 2011



archaeology

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# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Willand, Mid Devon	<b>National Grid Reference</b> ST0395711133	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> An archaeological watching brief on land at Oakdale, North Jaycroft, Willand, Devon		<b>Photo attached</b> Plates 1 & 2
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 10/00346/FULL	<b>Recipient museum:</b> RAMM, Exeter	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> 91167	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> 162/2010	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> ACD201	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 21 October 2010	

## Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on land at Oakdale, North Jaycroft, Willand, Devon, during groundworks associated with the construction of a garage and the creation of a new access drive and parking area. The watching brief was commissioned by the site owner, Mr Jason Stack.

The site is located on the southern edge of Willand and lies within a triangular shaped plot bounded by a dismantled railway to the northeast and by North Jaycroft road to the southwest (Fig. 1). It is situated on level ground at around 50m OD and lies approximately 170m to the south of where recent excavations at the Mid Devon Business Park identified evidence for extensive prehistoric settlement, burial and field systems.

The watching brief was carried out during excavation of footings for a new detached garage located to the northwest of Oakdale (Plate 1). General ground reduction for the new access drive and parking area to a depth of around 0.15m and measuring approximately 12m long by 10m wide was not monitored during the watching brief. Instead, three northwest-southeast aligned trenches located within the footprint of the area were excavated in advance of these groundworks, with each trench measuring 10m long by 1.60m wide. Groundworks associated with the construction of a small conservatory abutting the existing bungalow were not monitored as part of the watching brief.

## Results

The foundation trench for the garage measured 0.70m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.10m into undisturbed sand and gravel natural subsoil (103), present at a depth of between 0.80-1m below ground level. The overlying layer sequence comprised a series of modern-made ground deposits (100), (101) and (102), as summarised in the table below and shown on Plate 2.

The three test trenches within the proposed access drive and parking area were excavated below the required formation level to a depth of between 0.20-0.27m, onto modern made ground (101). A sondage within Trench 2, measuring 1.60m long by 1m wide, was excavated through (101) onto natural subsoil (103), present at a depth of 0.97m below ground level (Fig. 2).

Context	Depth below ground level (m)	Description	Interpretation
100	0-0.20	Mid red brown soft silt clay with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones	Modern made ground
101	0.20-0.80	Dark red soft clay with rare-occasional small-medium sub-angular stones <0.05m. Contained a single red modern brick	Modern made ground- Railway upcast material
102	0.50-1	Mixed brown loose-soft sand, clay and gravel, observed within the western garage foundation trench	Modern made ground- Railway upcast material
103	0.80+	Light yellow grey loose sand and gravel with soft clay	Natural subsoil

The watching brief has established the presence of substantial modern-made ground deposits recorded across the site. These were recorded to a depth of between 0.80-1m and comprised a sequence of reinstated soil layer (100) over a clean red clay (101) onto a mixed deposit of gravels, sand and clay (102). A single red industrial brick was recovered from the base of layer (101), though this was not retained.

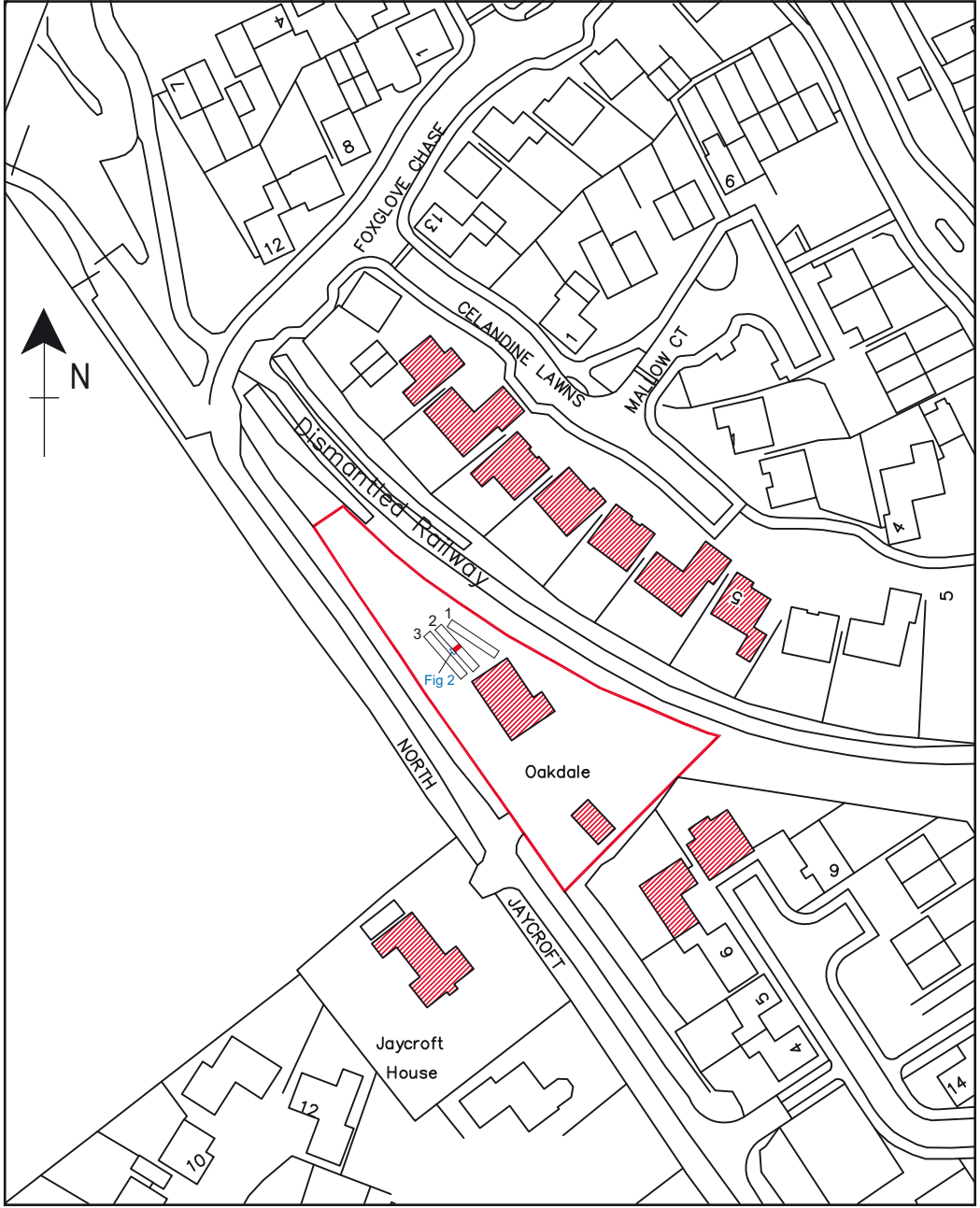
These deposits were most likely formed from the upcast material excavated during the construction of the railway line in the 19th century and which borders the northeast edge of the site. The resulting immediate landscape is one that forms a prominent raised bank onto which the existing house was constructed during the 20th century. No pre-modern archaeological deposits, features or finds were observed during the watching brief.

**Recorder:** Richard Sims, AC archaeology

**Date sent to HER:** 27 January 2011



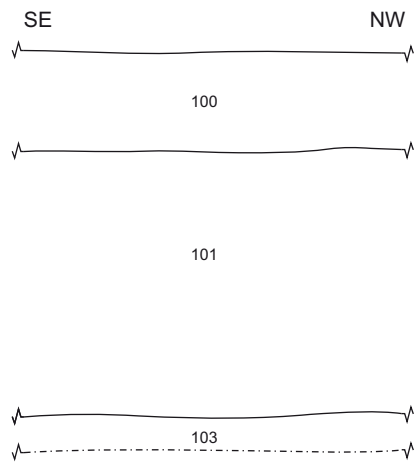
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PROJECT  
Oakdale, Willand

TITLE  
Fig 1: Location of site





PROJECT

Oakdale, Willand

TITLE

Fig 2: Northeast facing section  
within sondage







Plate 1 General view of site, facing southeast



Plate 2 Representative section within garage foundation trench, facing northwest (Scale 1m)

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