

Land at Tilebarn, West Hill, Ottery St Mary, Devon

NGR SY 0745 9397

Results of an archaeological evaluation

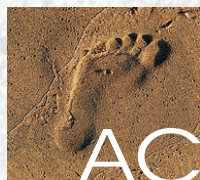
Planning ref. East Devon District Council 10/1191/FUL

Prepared by
John Valentin Bsc MIfA

On behalf of
Mr and Mrs Sainsbury

Document No: ACD283/2/0

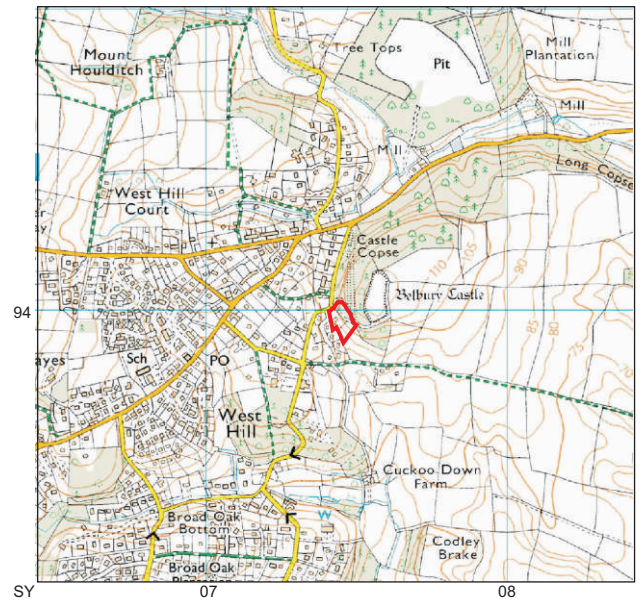
Date: April 2011



AC archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

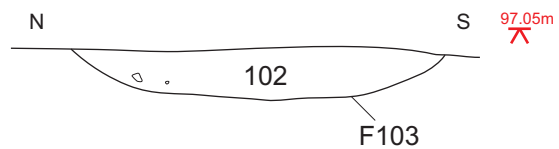
Civil Parish & District: Ottery St Mary, East Devon	National Grid Reference SY 0745 9397	Number:
Subject: Land at Tilebarn, West Hill, Ottery St Mary, Devon: Results of an archaeological evaluation		Photo attached: Plates 1 & 2
Planning Application no: 10/1191/FUL	Recipient museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter	
OASIS ID: 98518	Museum Accession no: TBA	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD283	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 5 April 2011	
<p>Description of works</p> <p>An archaeological trench evaluation was undertaken by AC archaeology as the first stage of a programme of archaeological works associated with the construction of three detached dwellings. The work was commissioned by Paul Humphries Architects Ltd on behalf of the site owners, Mr and Mrs Sainsbury. The site occupies approximately 0.6 hectares of land on the east site of West Hill (Fig. 1). It currently comprises a single house and garden, located on ground which slopes gently down to the southwest. It lies at around 97m OD, with the underlying solid geology comprising sandstone of the Otter Formation.</p> <p>The main archaeological interest in the site is that it is located immediately to the southwest and on the slopes of Belbury Castle, a univallate hillfort overlooking the River Otter. The hillfort is a Scheduled Monument (SM ref. 29639). Approximately 40m to the northeast of Tilebarn a linear dyke earthwork is present. This is probably also prehistoric in date, and likely to be associated with the adjacent hillfort. The Ottery St Mary parish tithe map of 1843 shows the site as undeveloped and partly within an agricultural field and partly in plantation. These were part of the Great Salstone holding and were owned by the Rev. Bishop Colridge and occupied by William Carnell. The site is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 25-inch maps of 1888 and 1903 as part of Castle Farm.</p> <p>Results</p> <p>The evaluation comprised the machine-excavation of four trenches totalling 70m in length with each 1.2m wide. The trenches were positioned on the locations of the proposed new dwellings and associated access road (Fig. 1).</p> <p>Trench 1 (Plan and sections Fig. 2; Plate 1) was excavated to a depth of 0.24m onto natural subsoil (101), which comprised a mid reddish-yellow clayey-sand with common sub-round gravels and was immediately under a dark brown silty-loam topsoil (100). The trench contained two linear features (F103 and F104).</p> <p>East to west aligned probable ditch F103 was 0.98m wide and 0.14m deep, with gradual sloping sides and a flattish base. It contained a dark brownish-grey root-disturbed sandy-loam fill (102). A fragment of 19th to 20th century ceramic roof tile was recovered (not retained).</p> <p>Northeast to southwest aligned probable ditch F104 was 1.02m wide and 0.13m deep, with gradual sloping sides and a flattish base. It contained a dark greyish-brown root-disturbed sandy-loam fill (105). A fragment of 19th to 20th century machine-made brick or ceramic roof tile was recovered (not retained).</p> <p>Trenches 2 and 3 (Plate 3) were excavated on sloping ground through topsoil layers (200 and 300) onto consistent natural subsoils (201 and 301) of mid yellowish red sandy-clay, which were present at a depth of 0.52m and 0.43m respectively. These trenches contained no archaeological features or deposits. A fragment of 19th century bottle glass and two sherds of 19th century pottery comprising blue and white transfer print and industrial white ware were recovered from topsoil 300, Trench 3 (not retained).</p> <p>Trench 4 was positioned within a flat terraced lawn area to the southeast of the current house. Natural subsoil (401) was present at a depth of 0.31m under topsoil. The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits and no finds were recovered.</p> <p>Comments</p> <p>The evaluation recorded largely negative results. There was no evidence of features associated with the adjacent hillfort or dyke and no pre-modern finds recovered. The two ditch features present in Trench 1 were dated to the 19th to 20th century and are likely to represent former agricultural boundaries.</p>		
Recorder: Simon Hughes, AC archaeology		Date sent to HER: 18 April 2011



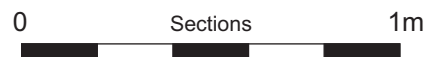
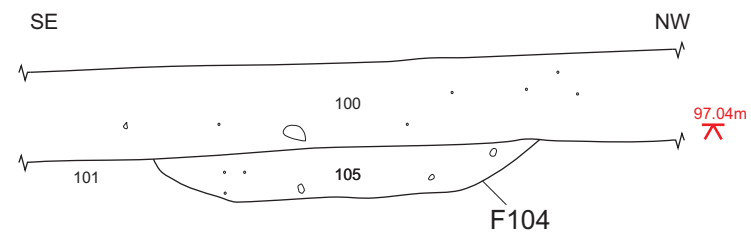
a) Plan of Trench 1



b) Section of feature F103



c) Section of feature F104



PROJECT

Tilebarn, West Hill

TITLE

Fig.2: Plans and sections



Plate 1. General view of Trench 1, looking southeast (scale 1m)



Plate 2. General view of site from Trench 3, looking southwest

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