

Umborne Lodge, The Crest, Wilmington, Devon

NGR SY 22108 99912

## Results of an archaeological watching brief

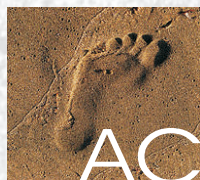
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Prepared by  
John Valentin Bsc MIfA

On behalf of  
Mr and Mrs Millward

Document No: ACD296/2/0

Date: April 2011



AC archaeology

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# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Shute, East Devon	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SY 22108 99912	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Umborne Lodge, The Crest, Wilmington, Devon: Results of an archaeological watching brief		<b>Photo attached:</b> Plates 1 & 2
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 10/2437/FUL	<b>Recipient museum:</b> RAMM, Exeter	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> 99527	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> TBA	
<b>Contractor's site code:</b> ACD296	<b>Date fieldwork undertaken:</b> 8 April 2011	

## Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during ground investigations in advance of the construction of a single storey dwelling and garage. The work was undertaken on behalf of the site owners, Mr & Mrs Millward.

Umborne Lodge lies to the east of the village of Wilmington and is straddled between Wilmington Lane and railway line to the north and the A35 to the south, approximately 6km to the east of Honiton. The area of the proposed development lies within the northern extent of the site and includes the construction of a new bungalow with detached garage and driveway (Fig. 1). The site is characterised by a prominent embankment which forms the northeastern boundary, which slopes down steeply to the southwest onto a raised building platform for the existing dwelling (Plate 1). The natural ground level beyond this area slopes down gently towards the southwest from approximately 86m to 81m OD. The underlying natural layer sequence consists of superficial deposits of Head sand with clay and gravel, over a solid geology of mudstone of the Branscombe Mudstone Formation.

The site lies to the south and directly adjacent to the Roman road that runs between Axminster and Honiton. The late 19th century Ordnance Survey map shows the Roman road on an embankment into which the extant property is built.

## Results

A total of three trenches was excavated across the site, as shown in Fig. 1. Trenches 1 and 2 were located along the northeastern and southeastern wall of the proposed dwelling within the raised building terrace. These were each 0.8m wide and measured 2.2m and 4.5m long, respectively. Trench 3 was L-Shaped in plan, measured 9.3m in total length, and was located within the footprint of the proposed garage within the embankment along the northeastern boundary.

### Trench 1

Trench 1 was excavated to a depth of 2.10m below ground surface onto the top of natural subsoil (104). The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.10m of topsoil (102), over 1.30m of made ground (100), over 0.70m of undisturbed subsoil (103).

### Trench 2

Trench 2 was excavated to a depth of 1.9m below ground surface onto the top of natural subsoil (104). The overlying layer sequence comprised 0.2m of topsoil (102), over 1.2m of made ground (100), over 0.5m of undisturbed subsoil (103).

### Trench 3

Trench 3 was excavated to a depth of between 1.4-2.2m into natural subsoil (101). The overlying layer sequence comprised between 0.2-0.6m of topsoil (102), over 0.9-1.2m of made ground (100) (Plate 2).

Table 1: Summary of contexts

Context	Thickness (m)	Description	Interpretation
100	0.90-1.30	Mixed light yellow brown soft silt clay with abundant medium-large sub-angular stones <0.10m and with redeposited natural subsoil	Modern bank embankment material and raised ground deposits
101	-	Mid red brown firm clay	Natural subsoil
102	0.10-0.60	Mid grey brown soft silt clay with moderate small-medium sub-angular stones <0.05m	Re-instated Topsoil for existing ground level
103	0.50-0.70	Light brown soft clay silt with occasional small-medium sub-angular stones <0.05m	Agricultural subsoil
104	-	Light yellow brown firm clay with abundant medium-large sub-angular stones >0.05	Natural subsoil

**Summary**

The watching brief has established the presence of substantial modern-made ground deposits exposed across the site of the proposed development. These include between 0.1-0.6m of re-instated topsoil (102), over between 0.9-1.3m of mixed raised ground layer (100). The presence of subsoil layer (103) was only observed within Trenches 1 and 2, while the natural subsoil was shown to vary from mid red brown clay (101) observed in Trench 3 within the embankment, to one that comprised light yellow brown clay (104) further downhill within Trenches 1 and 2. The depth onto the top of these natural subsoil clay deposits show an original ground surface that slopes gently down towards the southwest.

The prominent embankment along the northeast boundary was most likely built when the railway line was constructed during the 19th century in order to raise the road level over the railway line itself. Excavation of Trench 3 across this embankment clearly exposed substantial modern deposits and did not disturb any elements of the fabric of a Roman road, or associated features.

The raised ground deposits observed within Trenches 1 and 2 are clearly later in date than the embankment and were likely laid prior to the construction of the existing bungalow as a building platform with associated level garden area.

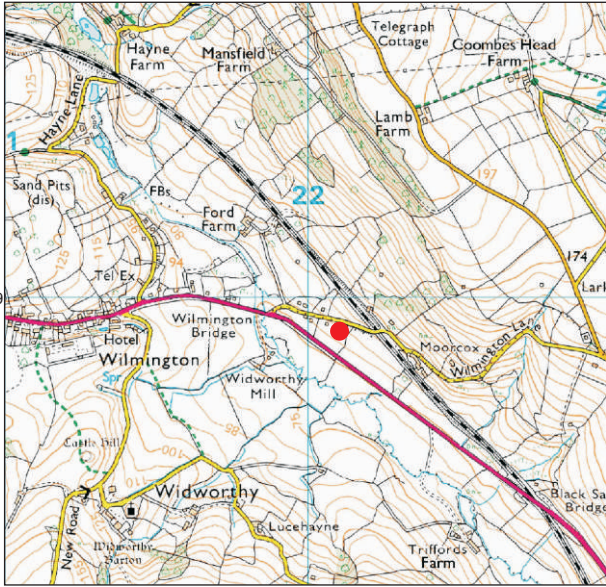
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**Recorder:**

Richard Sims (AC archaeology)

**Date sent to HER:**

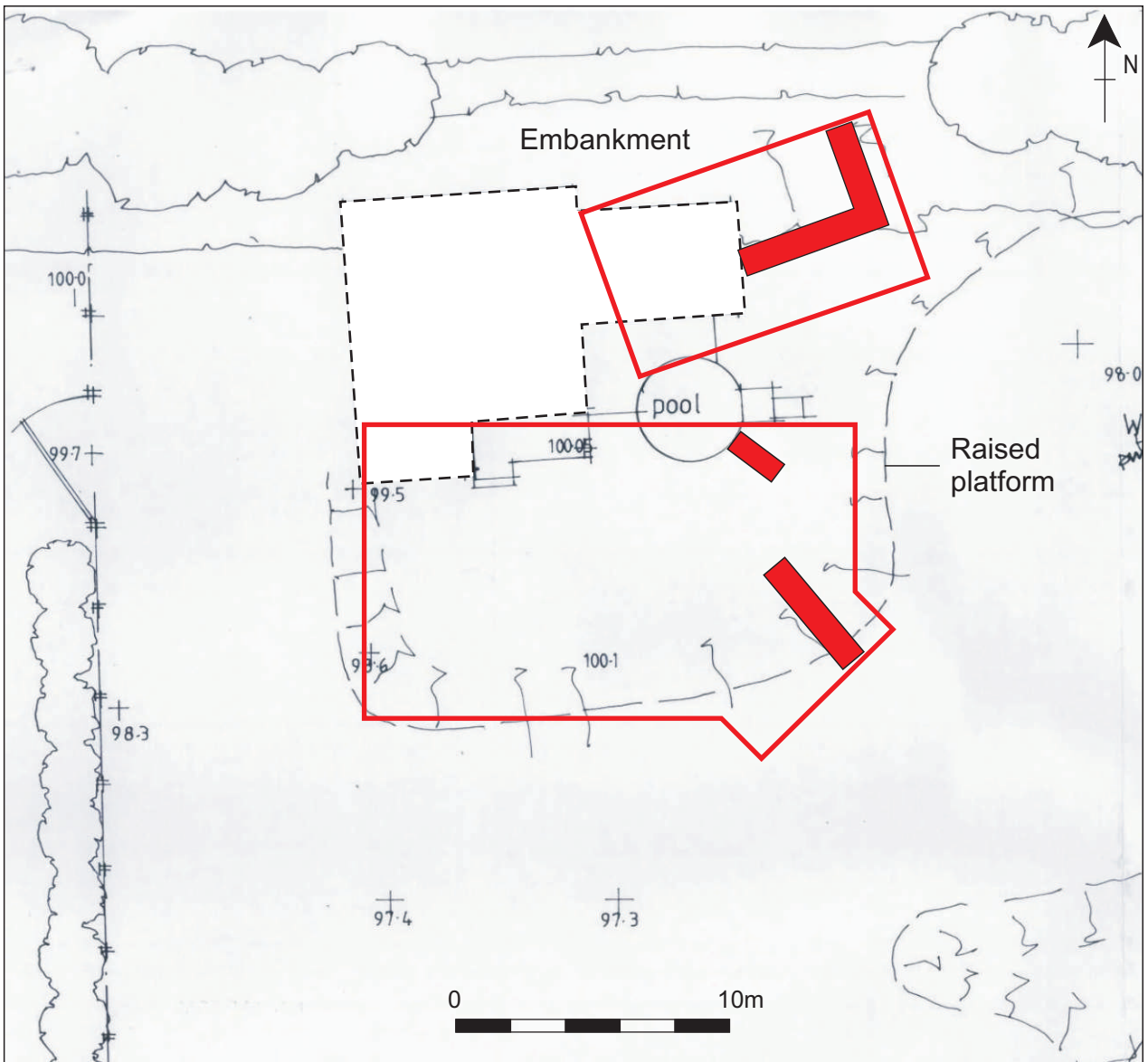
18 April 2011



SY 22



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- Trench location
- Location of former building
- Location of proposed buildings

PROJECT

Umborne Lodge, Wilmington

TITLE

Fig.1: Location of site, proposed buildings and trenches





Plate 1 General view of site showing embankment and raised platform, facing northwest



Plate 2 Section through embankment, Trench 3, facing north (Scale:1m)

### Devon Office

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

Telephone/Fax: 01392 882410

### Wiltshire Office

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

Telephone: 01747 820581  
Fax: 01747 820440

[www.acarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.acarchaeology.co.uk)