The excavation of trial pits associated with proposed flood defence improvements at Stoke Canon, Devon

NGR SX 934 980, SX 939 978

Results of an archaeological watching brief

Prepared by
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On behalf of
The Environment Agency

Document No: ACD257/1/0

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AC archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Stoke Canon & East Devon	**National Grid Reference** SX 934 980 SX 939 978	**Number:**
Subject: The excavation of trial pits associated with proposed flood defence improvements at Stoke Canon, Devon: Results of an archaeological watching brief		**Photo attached:** Plates 1 & 2
Planning Application no: N/A	**Recipient museum:** Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter	
OASIS ID: 99680	**Museum Accession no:** TBA	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD257	**Dates fieldwork undertaken:** 22/23 March 2011	

Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AC archaeology during the excavation of ground investigation trial pits associated with proposed improvements to flood defences in Stoke Canon. The work was commissioned by The Environment Agency.

The trial pits were located to the northwest and southeast of the core of the village and alongside the River Exe, in an area where flood deposits are present and therefore the potential for the presence of palaeoenvironmental remains. There are also a number of previously recorded prehistoric sites in the area.

Results

A total of nine trial pits was excavated with their positions shown on Fig. 1 and photographs included as Plates 1 and 2. The trial pits were excavated by a JCB Mechanical excavator equipped with a 0.5m wide bucket and were approximately 1.2m long, with excavated depths ranging from 1.6m to a maximum of 2.7m.

The recorded layer sequence in the trial pits on the northwest side of the village was generally consistent and is summarised in Table 1 below. The layer sequence in trial pits on the southeast side of the village is described in Table 2.

Table 1: Trial Pit results northwest of village

Context	Thickness	Description	Interpretation
600,700 etc	0.4m	Medium yellow-brown compact silty clay, with sparse clinker and charcoal and frequent small sub-rounded gravels	Topsoil
601,701 etc	0.2-1.15m	Dark yellow-brown compact silty clay, with common large to small sized sub-rounded gravels, sparse clinker and charcoal flecks	Alluvial subsoil
602,702 etc	0.4m	Medium orange-brown, compact clay silt	Alluvial layer
603,703 etc	0.75m +	Loose, large-small sized sub-rounded river gravels	Natural river gravels

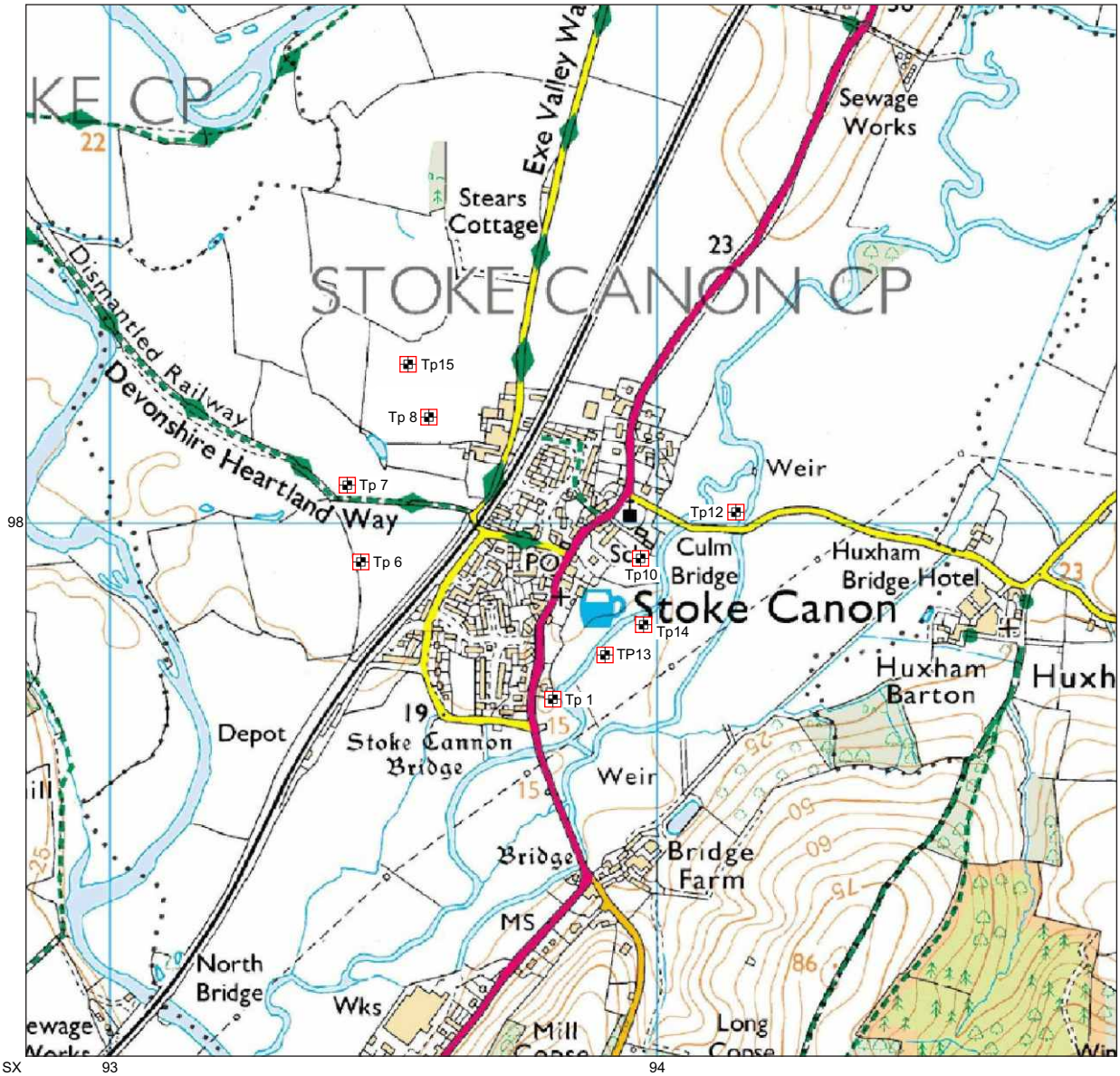
Table 2: Trial Pit results southeast of village

Context	Thickness	Description	Interpretation
100,1300 etc	0.1-0.3m	Medium yellow-brown compact silty clay, with sparse clinker and charcoal and frequent small sub-rounded gravels	Topsoil
101,1301 etc	0.2-0.85m	Dark yellow-brown compact silty clay, with common large to small sized sub-rounded gravels, sparse clinker and charcoal flecks	Alluvial subsoil
102,1302 etc	0.4m +	Loose, large-small sized sub-rounded river gravels	Natural river gravels

Trial pit 12, located on the southeast side of the river, also contained a 0.35m thick layer of mottled yellow and blue/grey gleyed alluvial clay (1203), located directly above the river gravels.

No archaeological features, artefacts or significant palaeoenvironmental deposits were present in any of the trial pits and, based on these results, it is considered unlikely that any will be encountered during the main flood defence works.

Recorder: Kerry Dean, AC archaeology	**Date sent to HER:** 03 May 2011



Tp 6 Trial Pit location

0 500m

PROJECT

Stoke Canon Flood Defence Improvements

TITLE

Fig.1: Location of site and Trial Pits

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Plate 1: north east facing section of exploratory hole 12. Viewed from the north east. (Scale 1m)

Plate 2: north west facing section of exploratory hole 8. Viewed from the north west. (Scale 1m)

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