

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Axminster, East Devon	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SY 32210 98466	<b>Number:</b> (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
<b>Subject:</b> Shiles Farm, Sector Lane, Axminster, EX13 5SE		<b>Photo attached?</b> Y
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 15/2862/FUL	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Royal Albert Memorial Museum	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> contexto1-260105	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> 16/31	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b>  C1/EVA/16/SFA	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b>  31/08/2016	
<p><b>Description of works.</b></p> <p>Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out a programme of archaeological evaluation relating to a development proposal for a single dwelling on land at Shiles Farm, Sector Lane, Axminster, Devon (the 'Site') (<b>Figure 1</b>), on 31 August 2016. The project was commissioned and funded by Mr David Vining of D.M.V Services. The programme of archaeological works was required by Mr Stephen Reed (Archaeologist, Devon County Council Historic Environment Team) in advance of full approval of a planning application (reference number: 15/2862/FUL) for the development of a residential dwelling with associated access and infrastructure, and the demolition of an existing bungalow in the south of the Site. The work was carried out in compliance with the Devon Historic Environment Team's specification for archaeological field evaluation.</p> <p>COAS previously carried out a desk-based assessment of the Site (Prestidge 2016) and the findings of this assessment are summarised as follows:</p> <p><i>"The Site is not covered by any statutory designations, although a heritage asset comprising a purported Friends (Quaker) burial ground is recorded within the boundary of the Site. It is also apparent that the Site sits within a medieval agricultural landscape probably relating to monastic use, with some evidence of post-medieval mineral extraction and quarrying recorded in the vicinity. Analysis of historic mapping shows that the Site comprised an area of enclosed agricultural land until the late 18th century, and the first evidence of the cemetery appears on the 1890 Ordnance Survey (OS) map, by which time it had already fallen out of use. Documentary evidence discounts the cemetery as having been used by the Quakers, and it seems more likely that it was used for a short period of time by another unidentified non-conformist group, despite the lack of a meeting house within the direct vicinity. Aerial photographs have identified a number of cropmarks within the Site boundaries, which may represent small enclosures. These likely pre-date available historic mapping and therefore may be associated with the purported cemetery, although they may also have earlier or later agricultural origins. These cropmarks are not visible in the south of the Site, where the proposed development is located, and the groundworks for the extant adjacent dwelling in the 1980s did not uncover any archaeological remains. However, due to the intrusive nature of the footings for the proposed development, there is the possibility of disturbing potential archaeological features that might not be visible on historic mapping or aerial photographs."</i></p> <p>The evaluation strategy comprised the excavation of two trenches measuring 1.50m wide x 10m long (Trench 1), and 1.50m wide x 12m long (Trench 2). In the event, the presence of a buried service prompted the shortening of Trench 2 to 10m in length. Trench 1 was increased in size to 12m in length to compensate for this. The trenches were excavated by a machine equipped with a 0.90m toothless bucket to remove topsoil/ploughsoil, which continued until the natural geology was encountered. In the absence of archaeological features and deposits, a representative section was then recorded to define the sequence of deposits using COAS <i>pro forma</i> evaluation trench sheets in digital format. A digital photograph was also taken of each section as well as the long axis of each trench. All photographs included an appropriate scale.</p> <p>No archaeological features or finds were encountered during the monitoring programme.</p> <p>In all trenches, the upper part of the stratigraphic sequence consisted of:</p> <p>(001) Very dark grey sandy silt (5YR 3/1) - topsoil          (002) Light reddish brown silty clay (5YR 6/3) - subsoil</p>		

**Trench 1 (Plates 1 and 2)**

0 - 0.40m (100) Very dark grey (5YR 3/1) sandy silt - topsoil

0.40m - 0.60m (101) Light reddish brown (5YR 6/3) silty clay - subsoil

0.60m-0.90m (102) Reddish yellow (5YR 7/8) clay with frequent angular flint - natural

**Trench 2 (Plate 3 and 4)**

0 - 0.30m (200) Very dark grey (5YR 3/1) sandy silt - topsoil

0.30m - 0.70m (201) Light reddish brown (5YR 6/3) silty clay - subsoil

0.70m-0.90m (202) Reddish yellow (5YR 7/8) clay with frequent angular flint - natural

The evaluation trenches confirmed the absence of archaeological remains within the development footprint and no evidence for the purported Friends (Quaker) burial ground was encountered.

**A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.**

**Recorder: Orlando Prestidge**

**Context One Archaeological Services Ltd.**

**Date sent to HER:**

08/09/2016

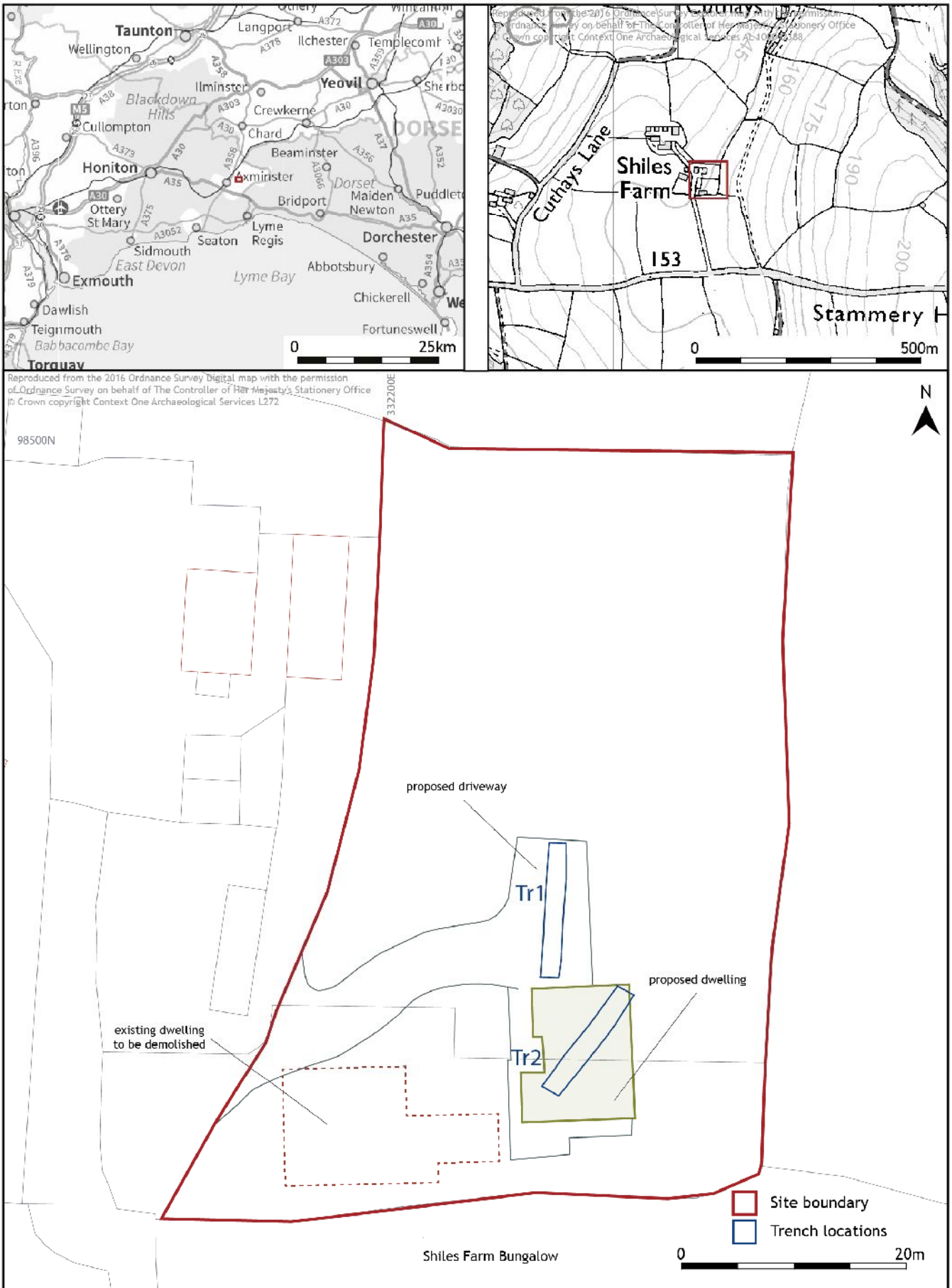


Figure 1: Site location and setting showing proposed development area and evaluation trenches



Plate 1. Trench 1 (from N; 2 x 1m scales)



Plate 2. Trench 1 profile (from W; 1m scale)



Plate 3. Trench 2 (from NE; 2 x 1m scales)



Plate 4. Trench 2 profile (from NW; 1m scale)

Please email completed form to: [archaeol@devon.gov.uk](mailto:archaeol@devon.gov.uk) or post to County Archaeology Service, Environment Directorate, Matford Lane Offices, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QW. Information recorded on this form will be added to the Historic Environment Record, and made available to all researchers. Any plans or photographs embedded within or attached to this form remain the copyright © of the recorder, and must not be reproduced in any publication without the explicit consent of the copyright holder.