

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish: Starcross	National Grid Reference SX 96886 79581	Number: (Leave blank)
Subject: Cofton Country Holiday Park, Cofton Lane, Cofton, Starcross, Devon: Archaeological Evaluation		Plan/Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 20/00298/FUL	Recipient museum: No archive	
OASIS ID: contexto1-392320	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference code: C1/EVA/20/CSD	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 25/08/20	
<p>Introduction:</p> <p>Context One Heritage and Archaeology (C1) carried out an archaeological evaluation through trial trenching to accompany a planning application for improvement works at Cofton Country Holiday Park (Figure 1). The project was commissioned by Drake Project Management on behalf of their client, Cofton Country Holidays Limited. Archaeological investigations were requested by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Teignbridge District Council (TDC) on the advice of the county Historic Environment Service (HES). In a reply to an email consultation request from Ms Kelly Grunnill (Case Officer, TDC) on 9 March 2020, Mr Stephen Reed, Senior Historic Environment Officer, Devon County Council (DCC) stated:</p> <p>“The proposed development lies in an area of archaeological potential with regard to known prehistoric activity in the wider landscape, demonstrated by finds of flint tools. In addition, there are indications of industrial activity indicated by ‘kiln’ field-names recorded in the mid-19th century Tithe Apportionment in the surrounding landscape that suggest a pottery industry potentially operating somewhere in this area. To the north-west of the site a series of mounds have been identified through aerial photographs and LiDAR data; while these could be geological in origin they could potentially have archaeological origins or have acted as focusses for activity in the prehistoric period.”</p> <p>A geophysical survey was carried out in June 2020 and identified a rectilinear/rectangular anomaly measuring roughly 35m x 20m. As the character of this anomaly could not be determined, the HES requested targeted trial trenching in accordance with the original consultation response. A Written Scheme of Investigation set out the project strategy and a desk-based appraisal of relevant recorded archaeological and historical data; this was approved by Mr Reed on 21 May 2020. In addition to the potential outlined above, the Site also sits within a medieval landscape (the nearby settlement of ‘Schiterton’ is mentioned in 1277), with find spots from the Roman and prehistoric periods.</p> <p>Results:</p> <p>The works comprised the excavation of a single ‘L’-shaped trench measuring 20m x 20m x 1.6m, and 0.80-1.25m deep (Figure 1). A single profile was logged which showed a deposit sequence of five layers. A 0.40m deep modern topsoil of dark reddish brown (5YR 3/3) sandy silt (100), sealed a large depression [102] measuring up to 0.60m deep and filled (101) with red (2.5YR 5/6) sand and sandstone (101). The edges of the depression were recorded at 4.40m from the NE end of the N arm and 7.00m from the SW end of the S arm; on either side of the depression was a discrete 0.16m deep compacted layer (103) of reddish brown (5YR 4/4) sandy silt. Below was 0.15m of subsoil (104) comprising dark reddish brown (5YR 3/4) soft silty sand with occasional chert fragments and charcoal. This covered the natural (105), a dark reddish brown (5YR 3/4) soft sand with small chert and sandstone fragments. A sondage excavated at the SW end established that this exceeded a depth of 0.58m.</p> <p>No archaeological features or deposits were present and no finds were observed. The large depression was visible in living memory (<i>pers comm.</i> from client) and therefore infilled in recent times utilising locally derived sand and sandstone. The geophysical anomaly may relate to the compacted layer (103) at the edges of the large depression, possibly formed by trampling during the infilling.</p>		
Recorder: Cheryl Green, Context One Heritage and Archaeology		Date sent to HER: 26/08/20

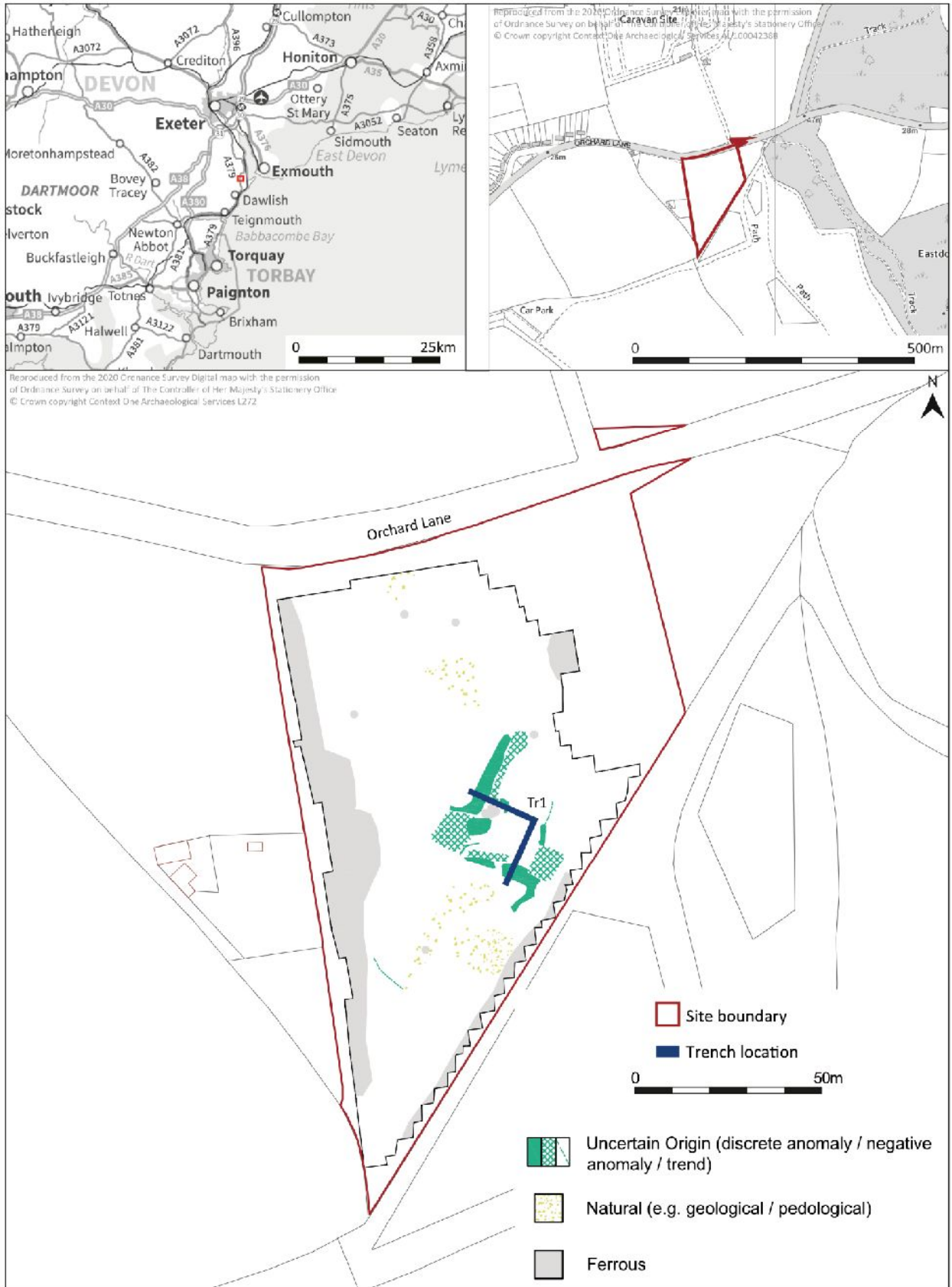


Figure 1. Site setting showing L-shaped trench & geophysical anomalies



Figure 2. Representative profile in N arm showing W edge of modern sand-filled depression (101) [102] (facing NE)



Figure 3. N arm of Tr1 showing modern sand-filled depression (101) [102] (facing NW)



Figure 4. S arm of Tr1 showing S edge of modern sand-filled depression (101) [102] & sondage (facing NE)

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