

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Cullompton, Mid Devon	National Grid Reference 301995/106838	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording of construction of a new pre-school at Brook Road, Cullompton, Devon EX12 2HF		Photo attached? N
Planning Application no: DCC/3055/2010	Recipient museum: RAMM	
OASIS id: arrowhea1-78765	Museum Accession no: 146/2010	
Contractor's reference number/code: AA 129	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 3-4 August 2010	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>References: DCC HES ref: Arch/cm/md/16546</p> <p><u>SUMMARY</u> There is no indication in the archaeological record of use of the land (centred on NGR 301995/106838) prior to the digging of a gully which was backfilled in the late 19th century. There is no residual material, and the earliest finds are pottery and glass of late 18th century or later date.</p> <p><u>DESCRIPTION</u> Arrowhead Archaeology was instructed by Mr Tony Hartley of NPS South West to undertake archaeological works to meet the requirements of a Brief produced by Ms Helen Rance of Devon County Council Historic Environment Service (re. Arch/cm/md/16546). Work summarised below was conducted in accordance with a corresponding WSI with map regression produced by the writer ('AA129 Cullompton pre school WSI', dated 20 July 2010). The planning consent was for construction of a replacement pre-school building and demolition of the existing (Fig. 1).</p> <p>Monitoring and recording took place on 3-4 August 2010. Ms Rance conducted a monitoring visit on 4 August 2010.</p> <p>Approximately 0.05 ha of topsoil was stripped over the footprint the new pre-school building (Fig. 1) by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket, under the supervision of the writer. Topsoil removal was to a depth of c. 25 cm. exposing fine brown sand natural subsoil. Areas of subsoil were cleaned by trowel, particularly in the northern part of the stripped area.</p> <p>Subsoil had been cut in numerous places by the installation of play equipment for the existing pre-school, and showed frequent shallow disturbances also associated with playground activity including digging. Occasional finds were present in the surface of these shallow disturbances, including polythene and plastic, and other material of probable late 19th or early 20th century date (context 4, below).</p> <p>Archaeological features were absent with the exception of a gully (F1, Fig. 1), 70-80 cm wide and terminating near the south-western corner of the existing pre-school. It was investigated by means of a 60 cm segment, where it was 20 cm deep (Section 1, Fig. 1); it was filled with an ashy loam (context 2) containing common pebbles, gradually becoming very ashy and with pieces of coal present towards the bottom (below the dashed line on section 1.1). Finds were abundant throughout; their date (below) suggests that the gully was infilled in the mid-19th century or later.</p> <p>Variations in the subsoil occurred in the northern part of the sampled area (context 3 on Fig. 1); these were rather amorphous patches of mid yellowish brown silt loam and redeposited natural sand. The sampled disturbance was 10 cm deep where sampled, with irregular sides and uneven bottom (Section 2, Fig. 1). Finds from the excavated segment consisted of rare glass and pottery (3, below), however rare finds recovered from this context troweling over the area included modern window glass and asbestos board.</p>		

Finds

All finds were retained and washed. These were examined by John Allan on 10 August 2010, whose identifications and dating are summarised below. All finds were discarded after identification.

Context 2 (fill of gully F1): Bottle glass (11 pieces), window glass (1), pottery (18 sherds, mainly plain and transfer printed whitewares, with occasional stoneware marmalade jar). Some bottle glass could possibly be late 18th century, however a date for the group of mid-19th century or later is probable.

Context 3: 1 piece green bottle glass (19th century) and one sherd transfer printed whiteware (c. 1770 – 1820).

Disturbances context 4: one sherd pantile, slate, coal, pottery (3 sherds, one each of transfer-printed white earthenware, plain white earthenware and Creamware), and 19th century bottle glass. None of the material is earlier than late 18th century: group probably late 19th century.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am grateful to the following: Tony Hartley of NPS South West instructed Arrowhead Archaeology; Fig. 1 is an NPS application drawing; Sam Borrill of ROK assisted during fieldwork; Helen Rance monitored the work; John Allan kindly identified and dated the finds.

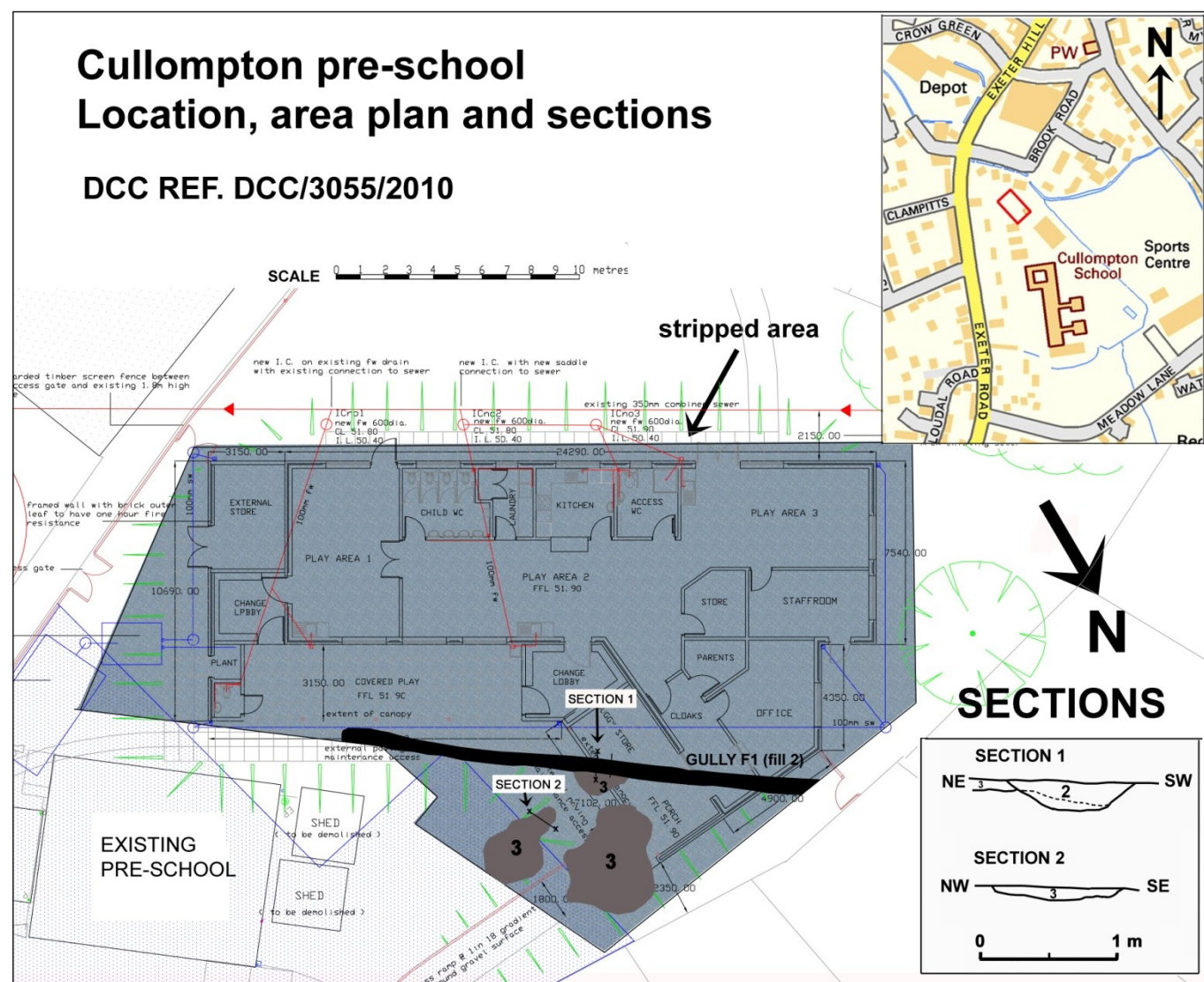


Fig. 1 Stripped area over base plan (NPS South West drawing no. WD2-002) showing existing and proposed pre-schools. Gully F1 and disturbances (3) shown; sections 1 and 2 included.

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:

C.P. Clarke (Arrowhead Archaeology)

Date sent to HER:

19 August 2010

Please email completed form to: 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.

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