

**Devon County Sites and Monuments Register**

<b>Parish:</b> Topsham	<b>NGR:</b> SX 9617 8860	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> 10 Hamilton Road, Topsham. Watching brief during construction of new car port etc in 2003, and of new extension to house in 2004.		
<b>Description:</b>  <p>A watching brief was undertaken on these developments, as they lie in an area which has previously produced Roman material – mostly during the construction of the housing &amp; services during the 1930s and subsequently. In this particular case, because of the small scale residential nature of the development in a council estate, monitoring was undertaken by the ECC Archaeology Officer via a condition on the planning permissions. A total of four visits were made, two to each development.</p> <p>The store, car port, and boundary walls were constructed in 2003, and consisted of strip foundations 1.20-1.40m deep. At intervals, these cut into, or exposed, a natural gravels/silty clay mix in the base, which in the trenches marked A on the plan were overlain by a c.0.20m thickness of darker soil (probably a buried soil), which in turn was overlaid by up to 1m thickness of undifferentiated brown pebbly topsoil, topped by turf. In the trenches marked B, the depth was not sufficient to expose the gravel and only occasionally exposed possible buried soil.</p> <p>The fragment of samian ware was recovered from the buried soil; the remainder of the finds were recovered from the spoil heaps, and are therefore of uncertain context.</p> <p>The new extension was constructed in 2004 in area C, upslope from the car port. Natural gravels were exposed at the base of all the foundation trenches, and within the upper SE part of the terrace cut into the slope to accommodate the building. They were overlain throughout by up to 1m depth of undifferentiated topsoil, and no buried soil was observed or finds recovered.</p> <p>Conclusion – the ground slopes steeply down at this point from Hamilton Road NW down into Gordon Road, forming a coombe running up from the river. The new store/car port is near the bottom of this coombe, although the levels will have been affected by the construction of the estate and roads. The buried soil only survives at the base and lower slope of the coombe, and has probably been truncated to the SE by terracing in for the houses and for Hamilton</p>	<b>Ref:</b>	<b>Dates:</b>

<p>Road, and by previous agricultural/horticultural activity perhaps. The material overlying the presumed buried soil may be a mixture of colluvium, agricultural/horticultural topsoil, and material spread around during the construction of the housing. Apart from the presumed buried soil, no features or deposits of interest were identified, though the gravels were not exposed throughout all of trenches A.</p> <p>The finds were examined by John Allan &amp; Graham Langman, and consisted of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 sherd of Roman black burnished ware</li> <li>- 1 sherd of Central Gaulish Samian, 2<sup>nd</sup> cent date</li> <li>- 3 fragments of crucible/refractory type material</li> <li>- 1 possible Roman roof tile frag</li> <li>- 1 sherd of Roman fine ware, possibly a flagon, 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> cent date.</li> </ul> <p>Those meriting retention have been deposited at the RAM Museum.</p>		
<p><b>Client:</b></p>	<p><b>Recorder:</b></p> <p>Andrew Pye, ECC Archaeology Officer</p>	



Location Plan

10 Hamilton Road  
Topsham

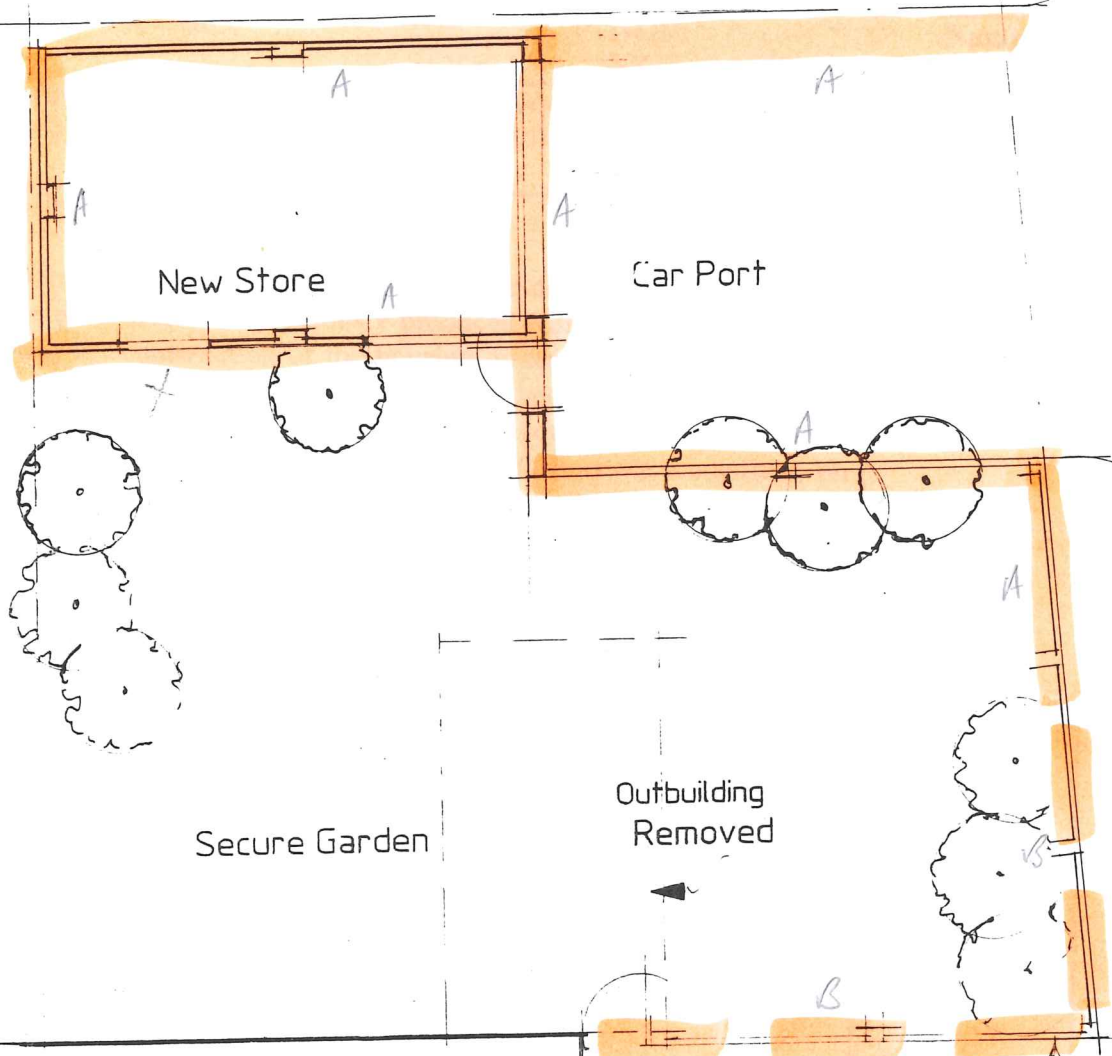
04/09  
JULY 2004

**Peter K Tolman** M.B.I.A.T.  
Architectural + Technical Services  
10 Lincoln Rd Foxhayes Exeter.  
EX4 2DZ Tel + Fax 01392 671267

Scale: 1:1250  
Date: May 2004

Drng No. 04.31 : 2.





New Crossover

New Store

Car Port

Secure Garden

Outbuilding  
Removed

1000 High Block Wall  
(Rendered) with  
1000 High Trellis over



No. 10  
Hamilton Road,  
Tisbury

SX96178860



(Based on plans with planning  
application No. 02/0575/03)

1:100