

Historic Environment Record

Parish Topsham	National Grid Reference SX 9593 8867	Number (Leave blank)	
Subject Watching brief during construction of extensions at Windwhistle, Retreat Drive, Topsham	Measurements See attached location plan and sketch plan and section.		
Description <i>History, field notes and other information. (Please use a separate form for ea</i> <p>A watching brief was undertaken on this development, as it lies in an area which has previously produced Roman material – mostly during the construction of the housing & services during the 1930s and subsequently. In this particular case, because of the small scale residential nature of the development, monitoring was undertaken by the ECC Archaeology Officer via a condition on the planning permission (ECC 08/1826/03). Two visits were made in June 2009; one after the excavation of the strip footings for the new dining room extension, and one after the excavation of those for the new study.</p> <p>Dining room extension – 400mm of disturbed topsoil and modern building rubble overlay natural gravels; no archaeological features or finds were identified.</p> <p>Study extension – topsoil and slab from demolished building reduced in level to just above natural gravels, and new foundation trench dug along line of new SW wall; no trenches required elsewhere. Excavated prior to site visit.</p> <p>c. 400mm of mixed topsoil and modern building rubble overlay the natural gravels. Three cut features were visible within the sides of the trench (see attached sketch sections and plan). These were:</p> <p>a) a c. 500mm deep pit visible in the SW side of the trench but not in the NE side. Lower fill – brown loam with occas charcoal fleck; upper fill – more pebbly similar loam with v occas v. small Roman tile frag. Overlain by a very fine loam (poss turf?) which partly filled the top of the pit, and continued northwards as a layer. No other finds.</p> <p>b) a small 220mm deep cut sealed by the fine loam layer described above. Clean brown loam fill, no inclusions or finds.</p> <p>c) a posthole, partly cut by the trench, and excavated and recorded in plan where it survived on the NE edge of the trench. Had deliberate packing of quarried reddish grey local Dawlish sandstone (which underlies the river terrace deposits in Topsham). Post pipe filled with dark brown humus, with some pottery in its upper fill. No pottery however from under, within or behind the packing.</p> <p>Other fragments of pottery were recovered from a location c. 2m to the NE of this posthole, within the reduced footprint of the extension. However, this area was covered by residual topsoil and other material, and was not going to be reduced further. The lack of time and resources to further reduce the area by hand, and the fact that any remains would be left in situ below the formation level for the new slab, precluded further investigation. No other features or deposits were evident in this area.</p>		Reference for each piece of information	Date of each entry 22.04.10

The pottery was identified by J. Durrant of RAM Museum as follows: Group date mid 1st/early 2nd C. Context 6 (posthole fill) – oxidised coarseware, unidentified fabric, jar rim. Context 7 (2m to NE of posthole) – two flagons, oxidised wares, unidentified fabrics. All these fabrics are very likely to local products, but are not in the H+B (Holbrook & Bidwell) fabric series. The archive and finds have been deposited in the RAMM under accession no. 95/2010.

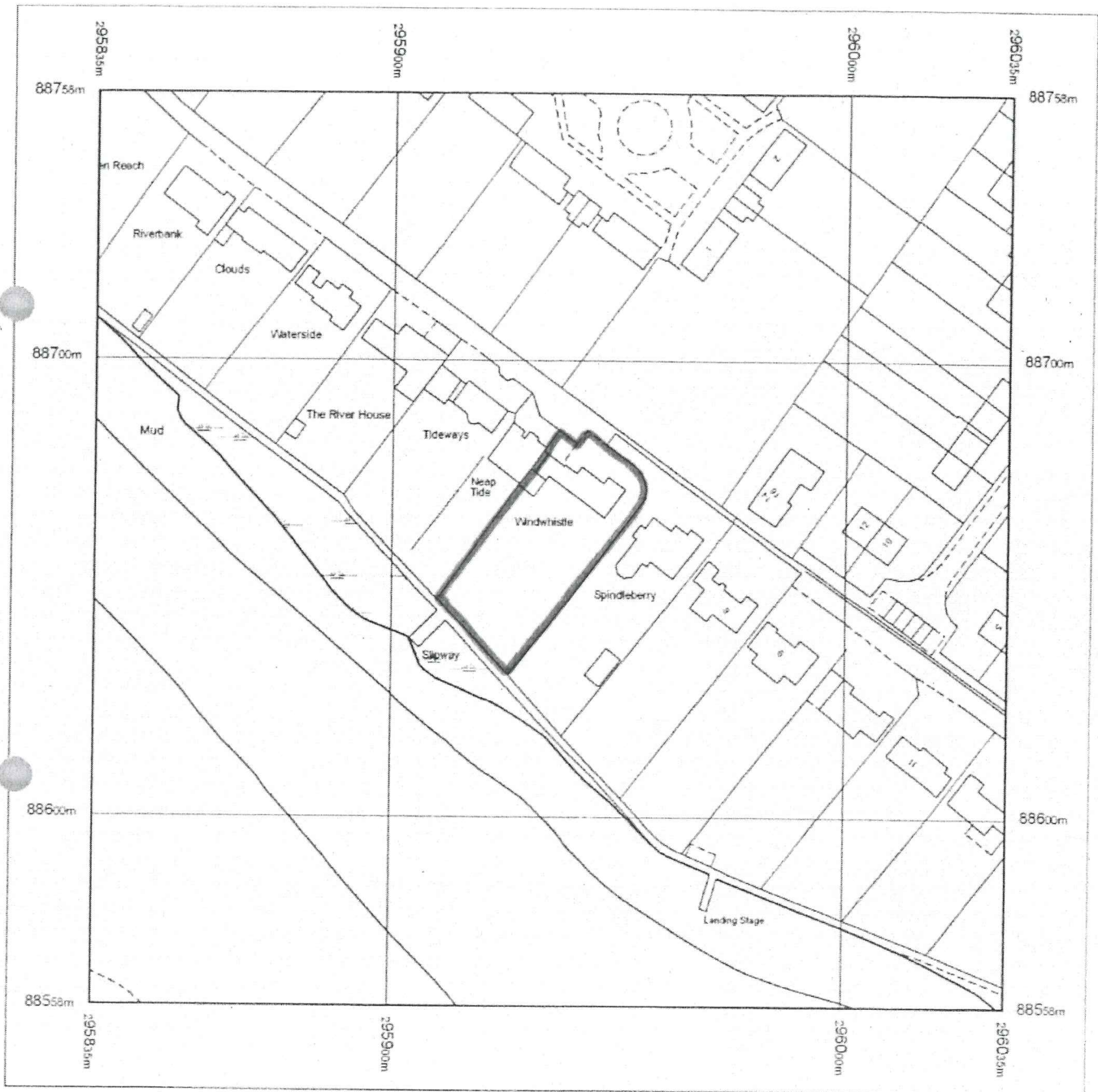
Conclusion – A further indication of Roman activity in this area. The dimensions of the post pipe and the hint of another feature c2m away suggest it was part of a fence line rather than any substantial structure. Lack of buried soil overlying the gravels (except for the fine loam in the upper part of the pit) suggests a degree of truncation by subsequent cultivation and more modern development activity.

Owner/Tenant

Recorder

Andrew Pye, ECC Archaeology Officer.

Please return completed form to: archaeol@devon.gov.uk



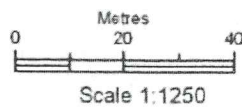
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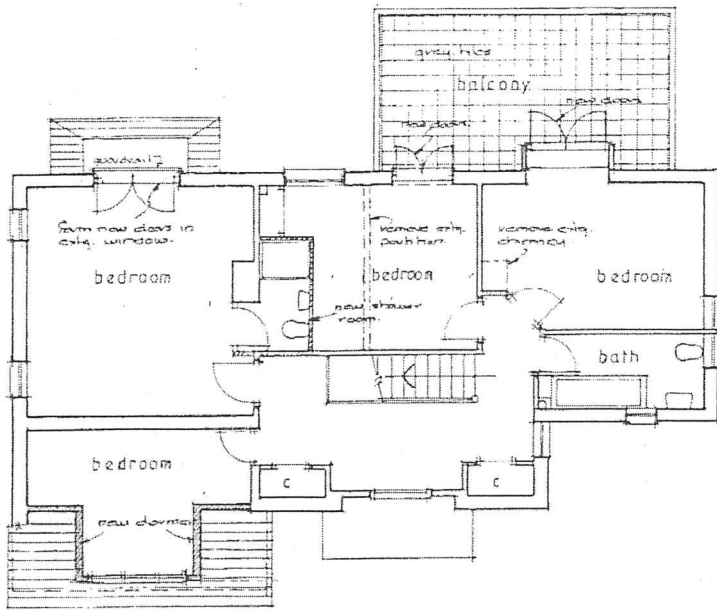
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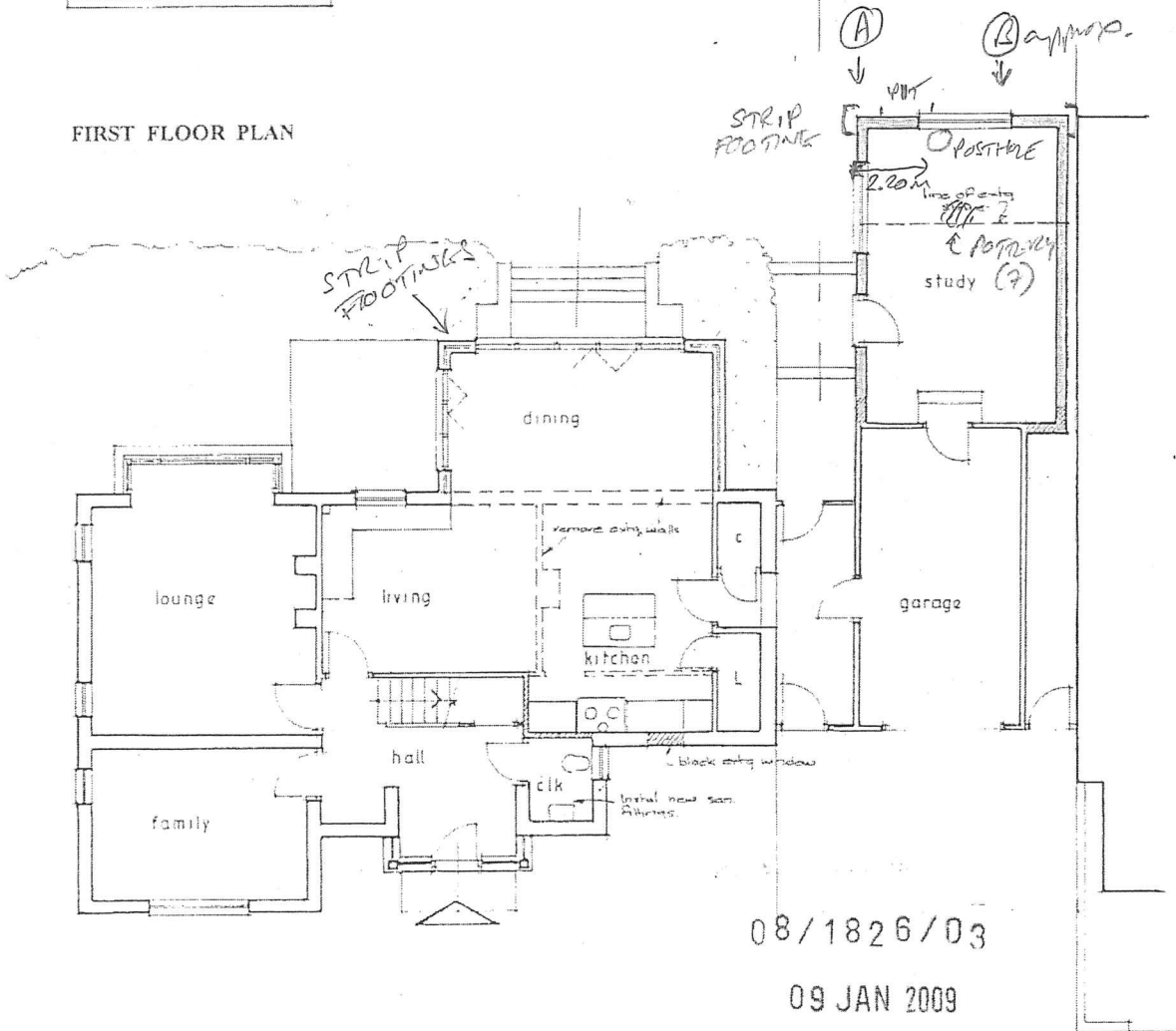
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Further information can be found on the OS Sitemap Information leaflet or the Ordnance Survey web site:
www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk

08/1826/03
 10 SEP 2008



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

08/1826/03

09 JAN 2009

WINDWHISTLE
RETREAT DRIVE - TOPSHAM

PROPOSED EXTENSION
&
ALTERATIONS

SCALE	DATE	DRG No.
1:100	NOV. 2008	3639.5A
SOUTH WESTERN DESIGN PARTNERSHIP 16 CLYST VALLEY ROAD, CLYST ST MARY, EXETER, DEVON EX5 1DD 01392 877566		

"MINDBASTIE", KETTERATS DRIVE, TRASHMAN
 (SEE LOCATION MAPS) COND 2009. A.M.E.

S (A)

(B) N

1:20

Sketch.

N₂₀

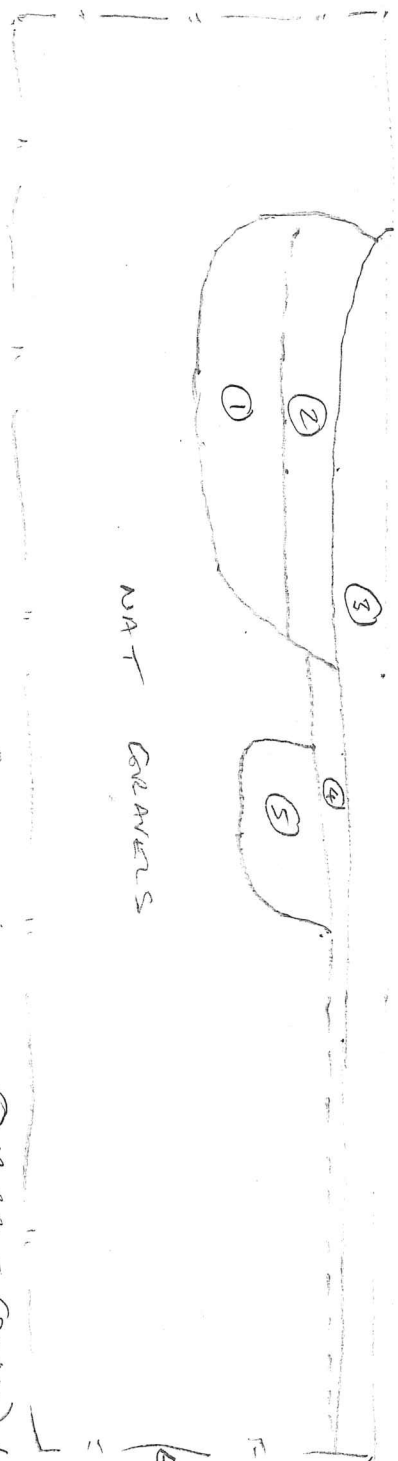
datum.

Depth b.g.!

topsoil + mixed rubble

NAT GRAVELS

← LIMIT OF FOUNDATIONS MEASURED



- ① Brown loam, cracks crumbles pieces
- ② Reddish brown loam, cracks & small pebbles
- ③ Yellow loam (some pebbles layer?)
- ④ Yellow (small) loam (not surface)
- ⑤ Yellow brown loam fill.

N S

RENCH ASST

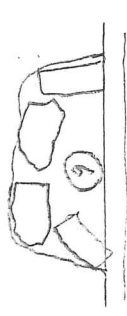
ESIDE OF TRENCH

DEPTH 25cm

DIA OF CUT = 60cm

DIA OF PIPE = 20-25cm

N₂₀
 DRAIN
 SECTION



- ⑥ MOUND OF CONCRETE SANDSTONE BEDS
 MARKED - DARK BROWN HUMIC LOAM,
 OCCAS NOTABLY (POST-RIVE FILL).

95/2010