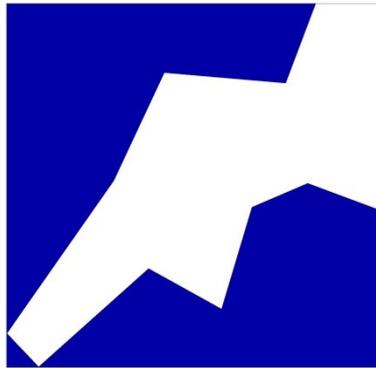


LAND AT BUTLAND FARM
MODBURY
DEVON

Results of an Archaeological
Desk-based Assessment

INTERIM REPORT



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Land at Butlands Farm Modbury

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Introduction

Peninsula Archaeology received a brief from the Devon County Historic Environment Service (DCHES) specifying archaeological work at the above site in order to ensure fulfilment of a planning condition on proposed works, namely the construction of a milking parlour with an access road to the south (South Hams planning reference 35/0959/12/F). The programme of archaeological work was to include an element of desk-based appraisal in order to place any archaeological features found during the ground works in their historical and archaeological context. Such an appraisal was to be based on study of cartographic material held at the Devon and West Devon Record Offices as well as examination of records and aerial photographs held by DCHES. At the time of the study the West Country Studies Library was closed while it was being incorporated into the Devon Records Office but some map data was available from the latter source. The desk-based appraisal was carried out during October 2012 by Martin Tingle.

Summary

The site at Butlands Farm is located within a two fields approximately 500 metres east of Sherlangstone, between Modbury and Kingston (Fig 1). In 1992, aerial photography revealed a cropmark enclosure in the adjacent field 150 metres to the north east of the proposed development which may be indicative of an early medieval or prehistoric enclosure. One kilometre to the south east of the development, a second cropmark enclosure was noted on an RAF aerial survey of 1950 which was subsequently observed and recorded by DCHES. Immediately opposite the proposed road access to the site, two fields are named on the Modbury tithe map of 1841 as “Higher and Lower Castle Stone”, a possible reference to former earthwork.

Site Description and Topography

The site at Butlands Farm is approximately 2 kilometres south west of Modbury, situated on a block of upland between the estuaries of the Avon and the Erme, and about 4.5 kilometres from the coast. It is located on a flat hill top approximately 130 metres AOD. The underlying geology is composed of slate, siltstone and sandstone of the Dartmoor Group cut through by an unnamed dyke of Permian felsite (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience/>).

Cartographic History

The earliest cartographic representation of the site is contained in the Ordnance Survey Surveyor's Draft map of c.1804 (Fig. 2). This is followed by the Modbury Tithe map of 1841 (DRO 6969A/P8/4/1), the Ordnance Survey First Edition 1:2500 map, surveyed in 1884 and published in 1889 and the Second Edition 1:2500 and 1:10,000 maps published in 1904 (Fig 3). In addition there are two plans from land sale particulars dating from 1865 and 1896 (DRO Z18/72 and PWDRO 899/14) showing the location of the development (Fig 4) All of these show a group of field boundaries which remain essentially unchanged from the early nineteenth century to the late 20th century (<http://www.old-maps.co.uk/maps.html>). The most recent mapping of the area shows that some fields particularly those immediately to the north of Sherlangstone Farm have been amalgamated.

Current Archaeological Record

Devon County HER MDV20158 records a crop mark enclosure approximately 150 metres to north east of the proposed development on 5 oblique air photos taken in 1992 (dp vm/2-6). It comprises of an pronounced inner sub-circular enclosure surrounded by a less distinct, possibly incomplete outer enclosure, approximately 170 metres in diameter.

Immediately to the south of the proposed development, on the other side of the road between Shelangstone and Modbury two fields listed on the 1841 Tithe Apportionment are named “lower and higher castle stone”(MDV 20158). The use of the name “castle “ as a field name is often associated with prehistoric or later earthworks and in this case may even refer to the enclosure above.

Approximately one kilometre to the south west of the development HER MDV 50108 records a second substantial sub-circular enclosure cut by a road near Seven Stones Cross. It was initially recorded on an RAF vertical photograph of 1950 (CPE UK3079) and then subsequently on three oblique aerial photos in 1992 (DAP VL)

Approximately 300 metres to the south west of the development, a single mottled grey flint scraper was found on the field surface.

Archaeological Implications of the Proposed Works

Although there is no direct evidence for archaeological deposits within the area of the proposed development, there is a substantial cropmark enclosure less than 200 metres from it. This is likely to be prehistoric in date and may well have other features associated with it, such as field systems, which could easily extend within the area of the proposed development. However, evidence of nineteenth century land use from the two sale particulars indicate a history of arable cultivation in the area, which may have reduced any of the more ephemeral archaeological deposits. Finds of prehistoric flint and other stone tools will nevertheless survive within the ploughsoil.

Bibliography and References

Devon Record Office:

Modbury Tithe Map 1841 DRO6969A/P8/4/1
Modbury Tithe Apportionment 1840
Document Z18/72 1865 Land sale particulars

Plymouth City Library:

Ordnance Survey First Edition map at 1:2500, Devon sheet
Ordnance Survey Second Edition map at 1:10,000, 1904, Devon

Plymouth and West Devon Records Office

Document 899/14 1896 Land sale particulars

HER 16128, 62837
Aerial photograph CPE/UK/1890: 10 Dec 46 58 SQDN 2066
Aerial Photograph DAP/SS 6

Websites:

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience/>

<http://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlineex/ordsurvdraw/m/zoomify82138.html>
<http://www.old-maps.co.uk/maps.html>

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The Staff of the West Country Studies Library
The Staff of DCHES

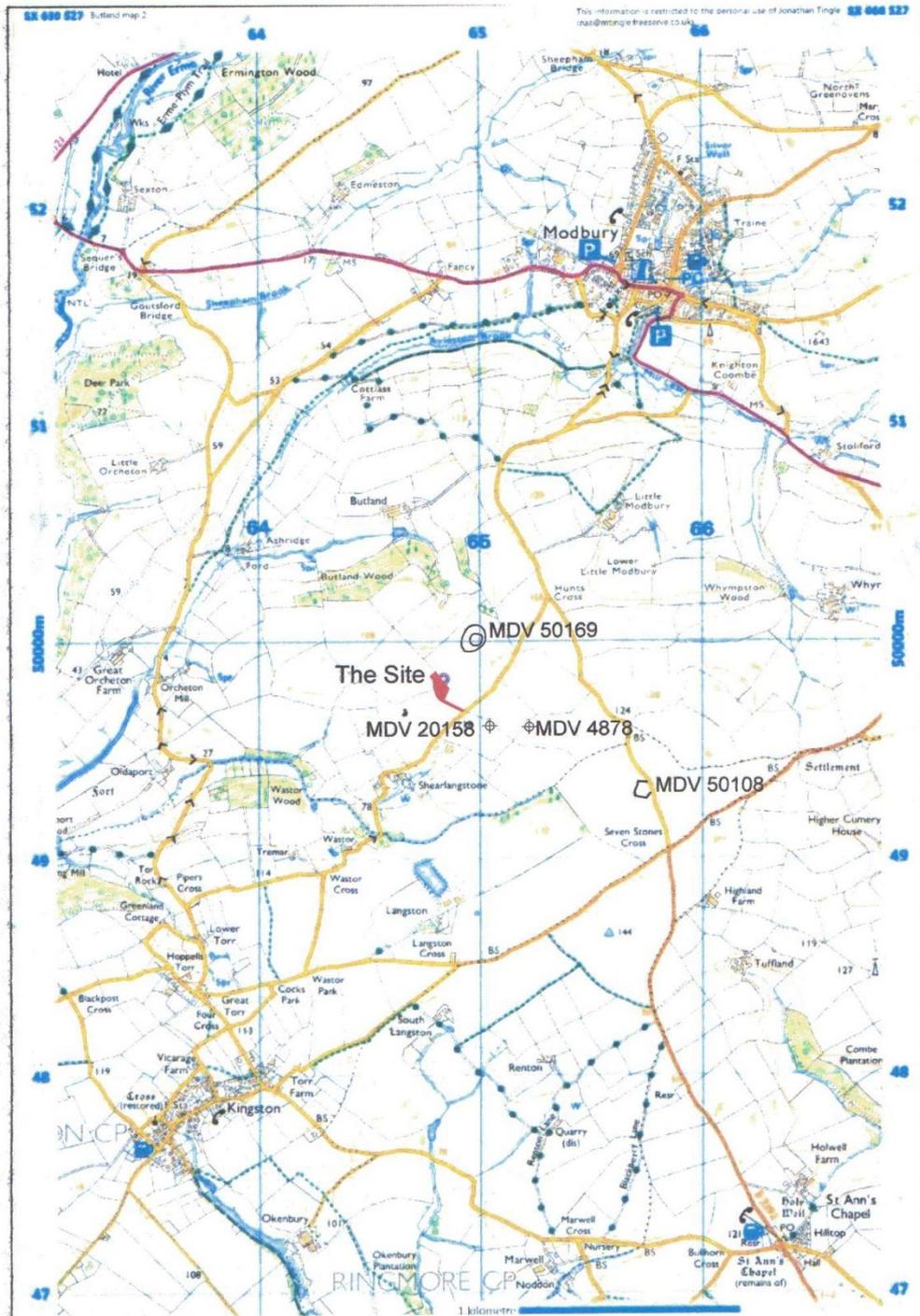


Fig 1 Location of proposed development on land at Butlands Farm and surrounding known archaeological sites. Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence No. WL10895

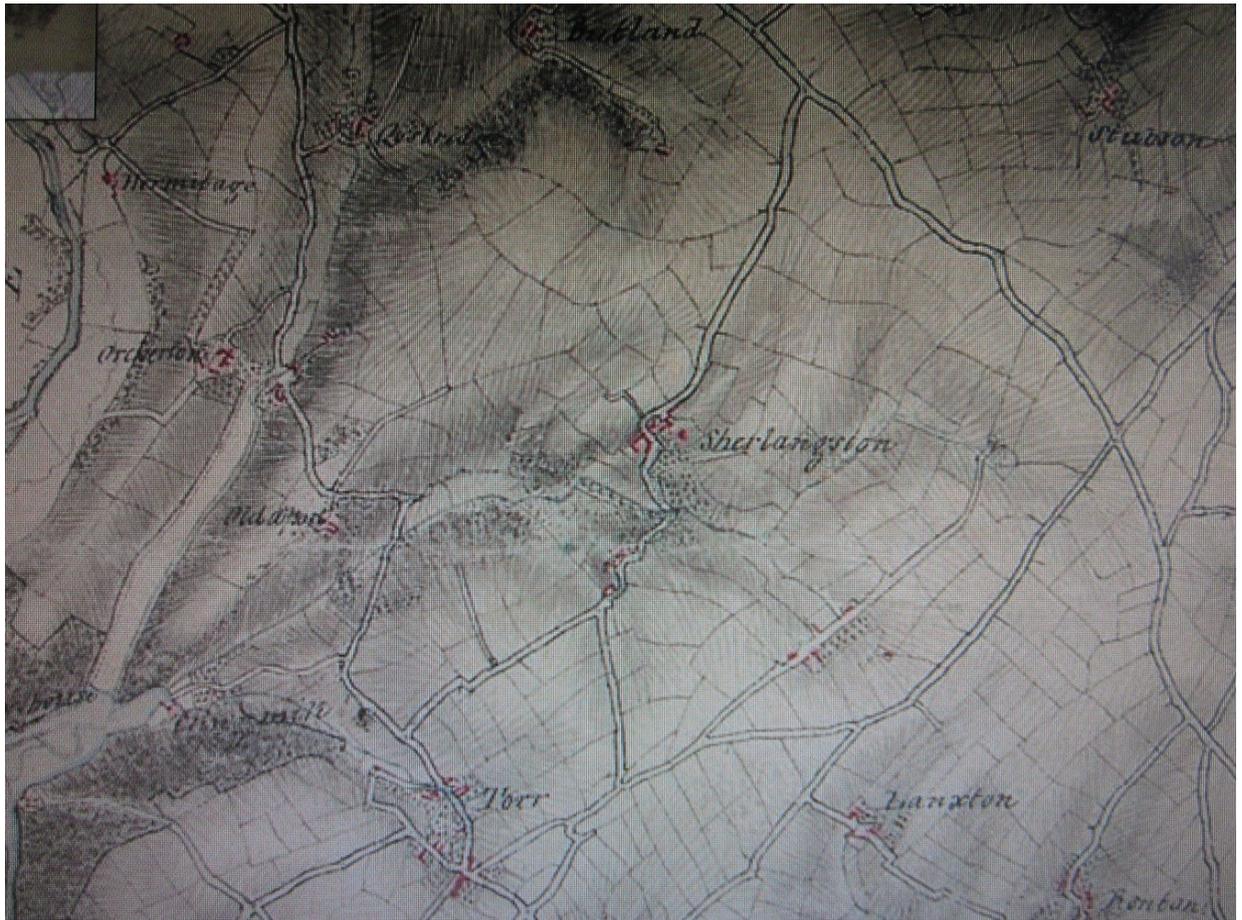


Fig 2 The 1840 Ordnance Survey, Surveyors Draft



Fig 3. The 1841 Tithe Map



Fig 4 Plan from an auction details of the Butland, Huntsmoor and Ruffaton Estates 1865



Fig 5. The 1906 Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1: 10,000

Appendix A

Devon Historic Environment Record (HER)

HER MDV50159

Form: Cropmark

Type: MONUMENT

NGR: SX6492/4997

OS Map: SX64NE

Historic Parish: Modbury

Civil Parish: Modbury

Broad Period: Prehistoric

Description. Double Enclosure with possibly incomplete outer ditch visible on aerial photos dap/vm 2-6

HER MDV 20168

Form: Earthwork

Type: MONUMENT

NGR: SX652/498

OS Map: SX64NE

Historic Parish: Modbury

Civil Parish: Modbury

Broad Period: Unknown

Description. Possible earthwork inferred from field names "lower and higher castle stone" form 1841 Tithe map

HER MDV 50108

Form: Cropmark

Type: MONUMENT

NGR: SX 6571/4926

OS Map: SX64NE

Historic Parish: Kingston

Civil Parish: Kingston

Broad Period: Prehistoric

Description. Irregular single ditched enclosure visible on aerial photos CPE/UK 3079 and dap/vl 33

HER MDV4878

Form: Find spot

Type: FIND SPOT

NGR: SX652/469

OS Map: SX64NE

Historic Parish: Modbury

Civil Parish: Modbury

Broad Period: Prehistoric

Description. Mottled grey flint Scraper found on field surface