

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Axminster / East Devon	National Grid Reference 330157 97341	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording during excavation of cable trench for a photovoltaic array adjacent to Little Acre Cottage, Woodbury Lane, Axminster, Devon		Photo attached? N
Planning Application no. : 10/1747/FUL	Recipient museum: No archive	
OASIS id: arrowhea1-98796	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: AA 145	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 20 October 2011	
<p>SUMMARY</p> <p>There is no indication in the archaeological record of use of the land (centred on NGR 330157/97341) prior to the construction of the photovoltaic array. There is no residual material of medieval or earlier date, and the only finds were two small sherds of post-medieval pottery.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION</p> <p>Arrowhead Archaeology was instructed by Mr Mark Wheaton to undertake archaeological works to meet the requirements of a Brief produced by Mr Stephen Reed of Devon County Council Historic Environment Service (re. Arch/dm/md/17044). Work summarised below was conducted in accordance with a corresponding WSI with map regression produced by the writer ('AA145 Little Acre WSI R0', dated 13 April 2011). The planning consent was for installation of a photovoltaic array with electricity supply cable from the array to the house called Little Acre (Fig. 1).</p> <p>Monitoring and recording took place on 20 October 2011.</p> <p>The area in which the photovoltaic array was positioned lies on pasture land with a slight gradient down to the north, following the contour of the natural slope toward the valley bottom. The photovoltaic units were mounted on concrete blocks set into the surface of the topsoil. The eastern part of the cable run (inset on Fig. 1) was along a driveway which had been disturbed during construction to a depth of at least 500 mm, and this was excluded from the area defined for monitoring in the WSI; the easternmost part of the proposed cable trench (B on the inset) was also excluded as a design revision obviated the need for a cable to be taken to the nearby pylon.</p> <p>Archaeological observation therefore comprised a watching brief on that part of the cable trench marked C on the inset in Fig. 1. The excavation of all of the 34 m length of trench was closely observed by the writer; the trench was dug by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket, and was 350 mm wide and 500-600 mm deep.</p> <p>In the cable trench, a layer of topsoil 250 mm thick overlay a layer of river gravel in a matrix of coarse sandy loam mixed with topsoil, the layer became stonier towards the bottom, and pebbles were mainly angular but very rolled chert from upper greensand with rare rolled pieces of flint. The bottom of the layer undulated, with a thickness below topsoil of 200 – 350 mm. This stony layer overlay undifferentiated tan clay with occasional lenses of small pebbles. There was no indication of an anthropogenic origin for any of the deposits in the sections of the cable trench, and the undulation in the bottom of the layer overlying natural clay is taken as periglacial in formation.</p> <p>Two small sherds of brown glazed earthenware were recovered from the topsoil (discarded), and there was a complete absence of earlier pottery or other material including stuck flint. Remains associated with the Roman fort and settlement to the west (Fig. 1) were conspicuous in their absence.</p> <p>Arrowhead Archaeology retains site records and photographs. This report is lodged on OASIS and the Devon Historic Environment Record</p> <p>ACKNOWLEDGMENTS</p> <p>I am grateful to Mark Wheaton for instructing Arrowhead Archaeology, and his co-operation throughout. The inset in Fig. 1 is based on an application drawing by P.H. Hardwill Limited, and used by kind permission of Sebastian Cope. Mike Corbin is thanked for his skilful machining and co-operation. Stephen Reed is thanked for kindly commenting on the WSI and a draft of this report.</p>		

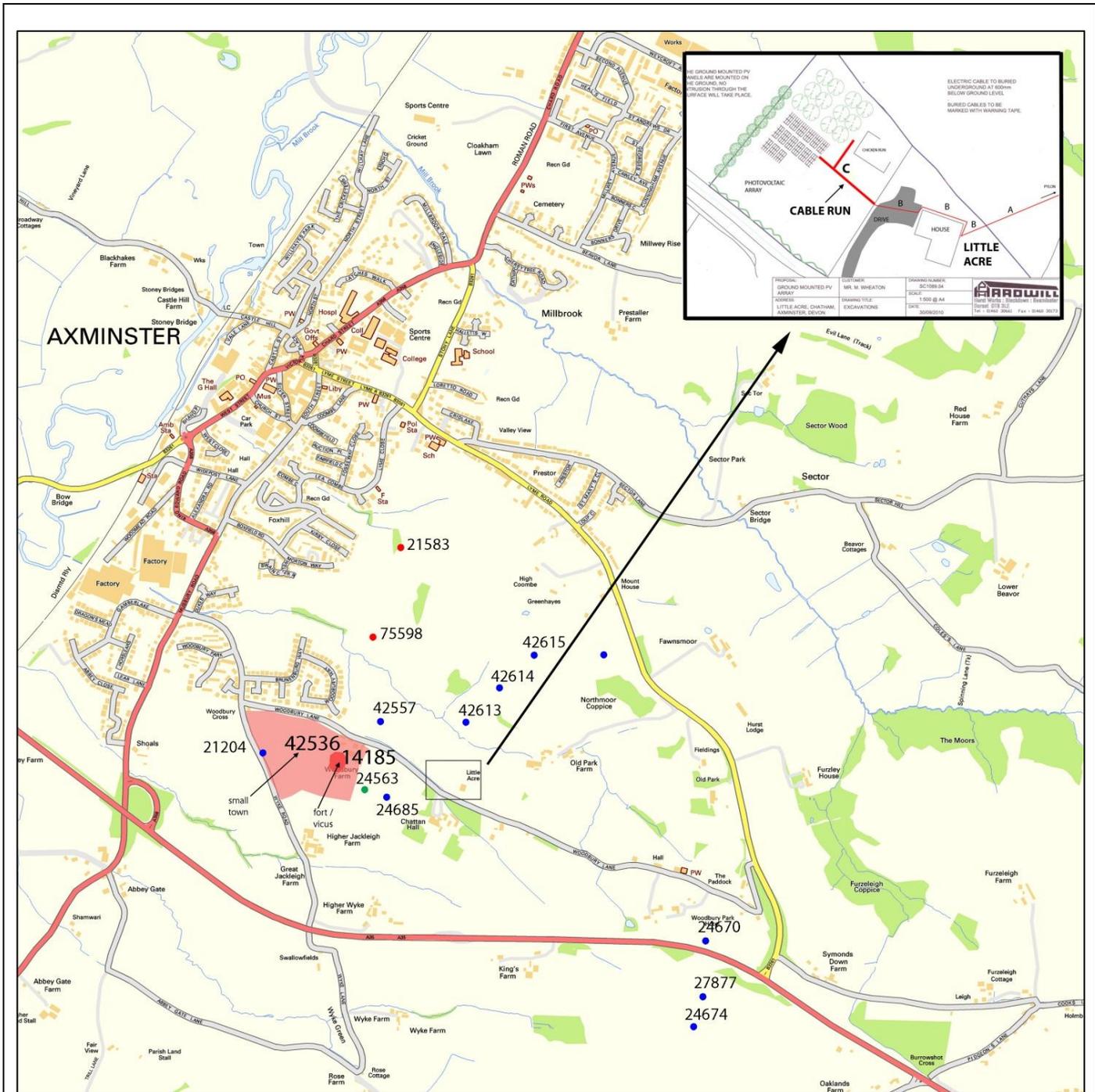


Fig. 1 . Based on OS OpenData 1:10000 Streetview mapping: contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database rights 2010. Inset is based on Hardwill drawing no. SC 1089.04

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:
28 October 2011