

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Willand, Mid Devon	National Grid Reference: ST 0384 1169	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording at Muxbeare Orchard, Willand, Devon.		Photo attached: Y
Planning no: 13/00111/FULL	Recipient museum: n/a	
OASIS ID: oakforda1-188008	Museum Accession no: n/a	
Contractor's reference number/code: OA1091	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 07-07-2014	
<p>Description of works: An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology in June 2014 at Muxbeare Orchard, Willand, Devon (ST 0384 1169). The site (Fig. 1) lies in an area shown on the 1840's Tith map to contain three buildings to the south of the extant barn. Although the age of these dwellings is not known, Muxbeare is recorded in the 1086 Domesday survey as '<i>Mochelesberia</i>', when it was held by Ansgar of Montacute. Before the Norman Conquest the manor was held jointly by five thanes from Brictric, a great Anglo-Saxon lord who possessed considerable lands in the west. The place-name is believed to mean 'Mucel's wood'.</p> <p>A watching brief was maintained during works (Fig. 2) associated with the construction of a new pond extended to a depth of 0.6m, while groundworks for the reed bed system extended to a depth of up to 1.3m.</p> <p>Results: Inspection of the area showed no evidence of archaeological features. The removal of 0.3m thick mid reddish brown silty clay topsoil (100) exposed a 1m thick, heavily mixed deposit (101) consisting of mid to dark brown silty clay. This contained frequent fragments of 19th century brick, slate and stone rubble. This in turn overlay a 0.2m thick light reddish brown silty clay subsoil (102) which in turn overlay an orange yellow clay natural subsoil (103).</p> <p>Conclusion: No features, deposits or dating evidence were found to indicate archaeological activity within the area of the development.</p> <p>Project archive and OASIS entry Due to the limited nature of the findings a project archive will not be produced. A summary of the investigations has been submitted to the on-line archaeological database OASIS (Online Access to the Index of archaeological InterventionS).</p>		
Recorder: MFR Steinmetzer (Oakford Archaeology)		Date sent to HER:

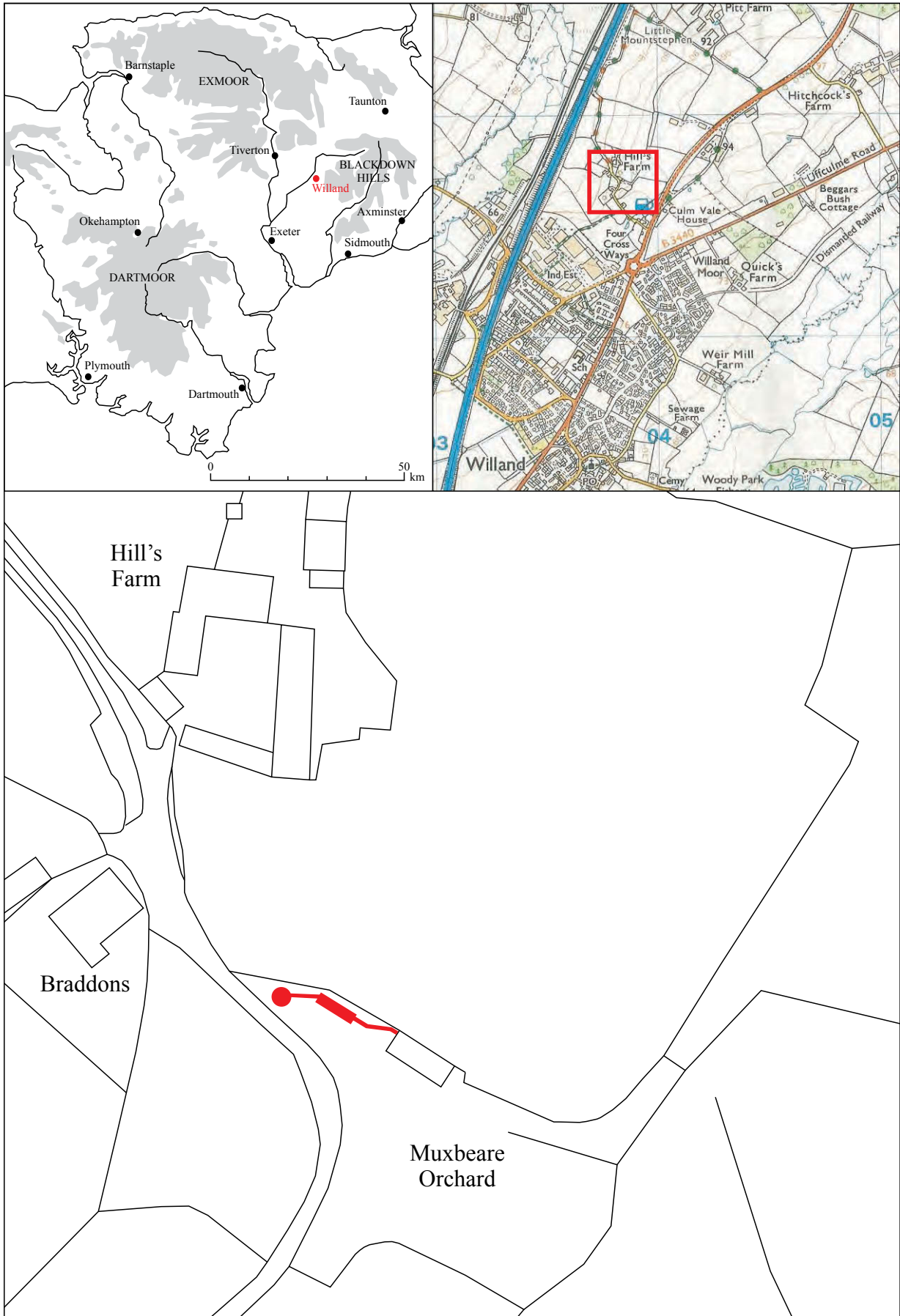


Fig. 1 Location of site.



Pl. 1 General view of pond showing depth of excavations. Looking northeast.



Pl. 2 General view of reed bed system showing depth of trenching. Looking northeast.



Pl. 3 Section through reed bed system showing typical deposit sequence. Looking north.