

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District Beer Head, Beer	National Grid Reference: SY 2279 8879	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording at Beer Head Car park, Beer, Devon.		Photo attached: Y
Planning Application no: 19/0500/FUL	Recipient museum: n/a	
OASIS ID: oakforda1-373971	Museum Reference no: n/a	
Contractor's reference number/code: OA1574	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 28/10 and 04/11/2019	
<p>Background An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology for Beer Parish Council between October and November 2019 during excavations for the creation of a Memorial Avenue and associated works at Beer Head, Devon (SY 2279 8879). The site (Fig. 1) is located to the southwest of the historic core of the village of Beer, in an area of extensive prehistoric activity. The work was therefore required by the local planning authority East Devon District Council (EDDC), as advised by the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>Description of the works A watching brief (Fig. 1, Pls. 1-2) was maintained during the extensive landscaping, consisting of cut-and-fill, and the excavation of 30 tree pits. The works revealed a simple deposit sequence consisting of a light to mid yellow-brown clay natural subsoil with abundant flint inclusions. This was overlain by a 0.25m thick mid reddish-brown silty-clay subsoil with frequent flint inclusions which was in turn sealed by a 0.1m thick mid to dark-brown clayey-loam topsoil. Because of the prevailing topography, with the land falling away sharply to the east, only a very small area of natural subsoil was exposed within the excavations. The landscaping extended to a maximum depth of 0.25m below ground level along the western side of the development area, well within the subsoil in most areas. The eastern row of tree pits was located entirely within the made ground, while the western row, because of the small nature of the trees used, whips rather than more mature specimens, was contained within the subsoil.</p> <p>Conclusion: No deposits, features or dating evidence indicative of archaeological activity was found. The lack of pottery and other artefacts from the site, despite examination of spoil heaps, further indicates that the site is archaeologically sterile. This is the only report on these works.</p> <p>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: M Wootton (Oakford Archaeology)		Date sent to HER:

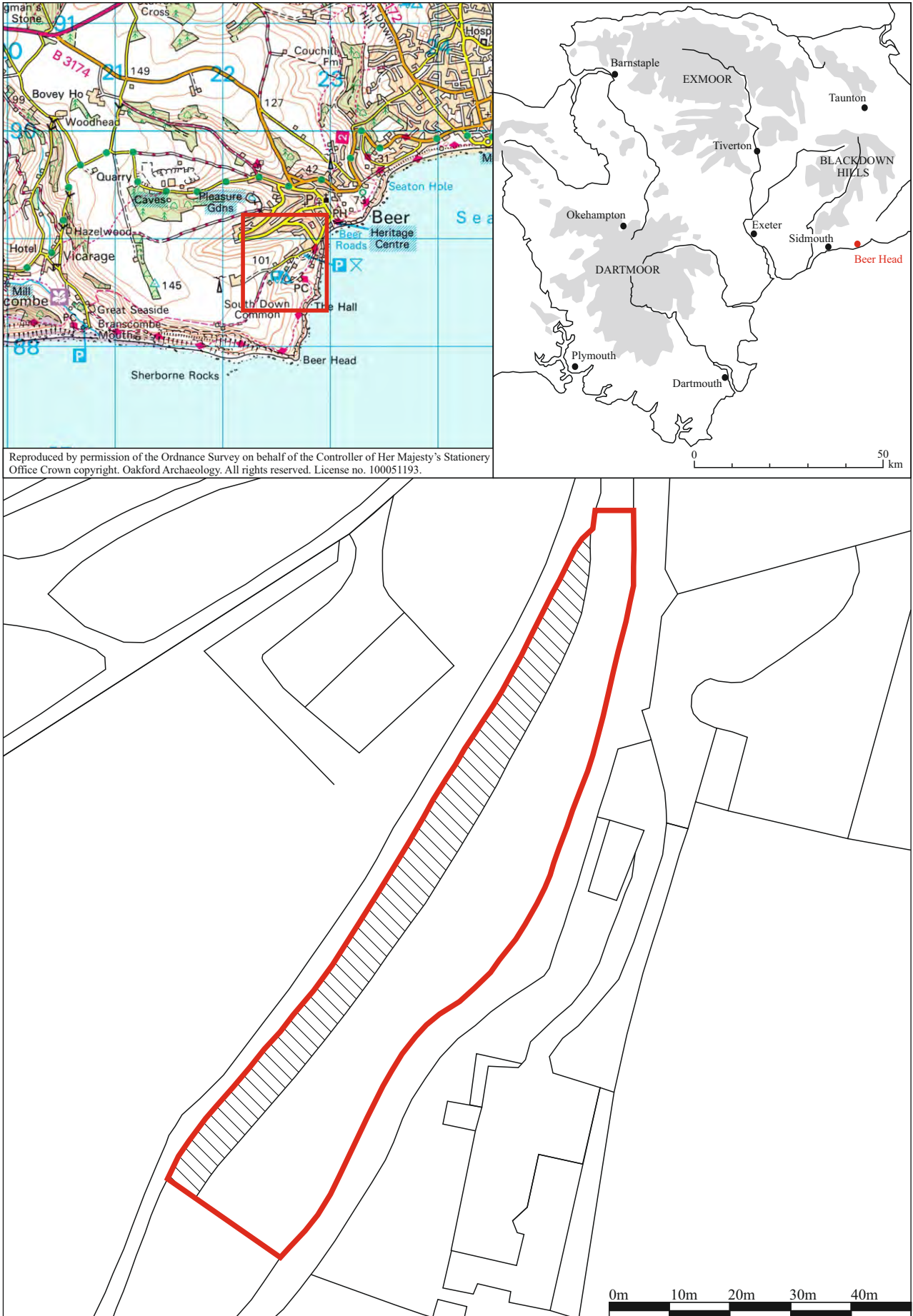


Fig. 1 Location of site.



Pl. 1 General view of excavations. Looking northeast.



Pl. 2 General view of excavations showing depth of tree pit. 0.5m scale. Looking southwest.