

## Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Harpford, East Devon	<b>National Grid Reference:</b> SY 0890 9030	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording at the Harpford River Footbridge, Harpford, Devon.		<b>Photo attached:</b> Y
<b>Planning Application no:</b> n/a	<b>Recipient museum:</b> n/a	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> oakforda1-404189	<b>Museum Reference no:</b> n/a	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> OA1718	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 28/09-29/09/2020	
<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology for Devon County Council in September 2020 during works to the western abutment of the Harpford over the River Otter, Harpford, Devon (SY 0890 9030). The work was required by the local planning authority East Devon District Council (EDDC), as advised by the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>The site (Fig. 1) lies in an area of high archaeological potential. Although the current bridge is modern it is built on the site of a natural ford with evidence of an 18<sup>th</sup> century long bridge. In addition, there is a record of a findspot of a mammoth tooth - recovered from collapsed material on the adjacent riverbank - that has been dated to between 70,000-20,000 years BP.</p> <p><b>Description of the works</b></p> <p>A watching brief was maintained during the excavation of shallow foundations for the rock armour being extended around the western abutment of the footbridge (Fig. 2, pls. 1-3). The works entailed the excavation of a foundation trench totalling c.7m in length, 1m wide and 0.2m deep, removing recent sediment above coarse clastic (gravels) and finer-grained stratified sands. Although the riverbank was not impacted by the works a small section was cleaned and recorded. This exposed silts and gravels (100) at a depth of c.2.28m below current ground level. This was overlain by a c.9m wide and 0.73m deep probable former river channel [101] filled with mid to dark grey clayey sand (102). This was in turn sealed underneath a 0.18m thick mid reddish-brown clayey sand (103). This was overlain by a 0.09m thick layer of light grey clayey sand (104) sealed below a 0.01m thick mid reddish-brown clayey sand (105). This was overlain by a 0.02m thick light to mid reddish-brown clayey sand deposit (106) which was in turn overlain by a 0.03m thick mid reddish brown clayey sand layer (107). This was sealed underneath seemingly homogeneous 0.9m light to mid reddish-brown clayey sand (108), although this section had been exposed to the elements for some time and heavily bleached by the sun. Finally the sequence was sealed by a 0.3m thick dark brown clayey sand topsoil (102).</p> <p>Due to the lack of additional Palaeolithic ecofacts or faunal remains, it was agreed with DCHET that no geoarchaeological on-site assessment and analysis was necessary. This is the only report on these works.</p> <p><b>OASIS entry</b></p> <p>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>		
<b>Recorder:</b> M. Steinmetzer (Oakford Archaeology)		<b>Date sent to HER:</b>

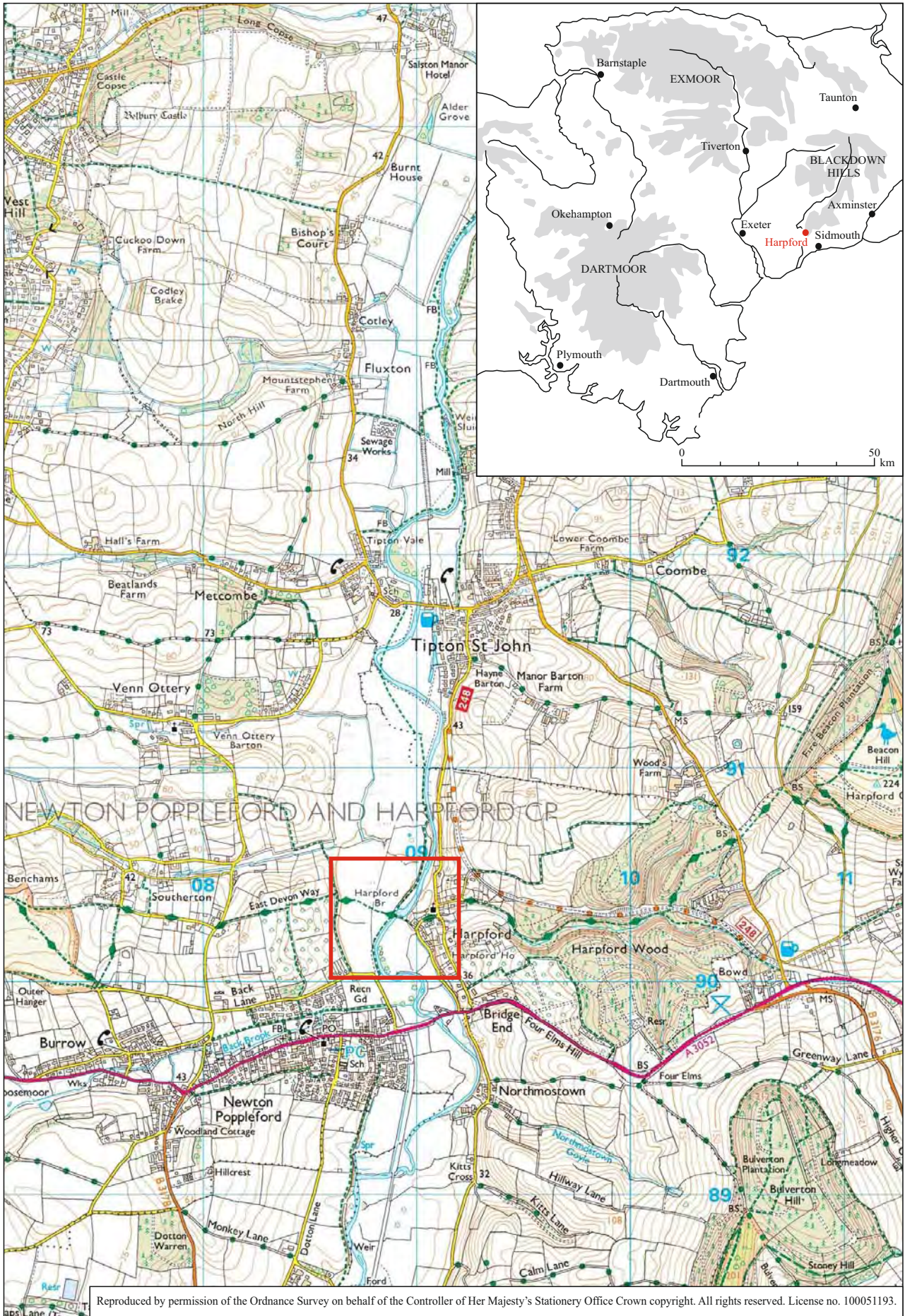
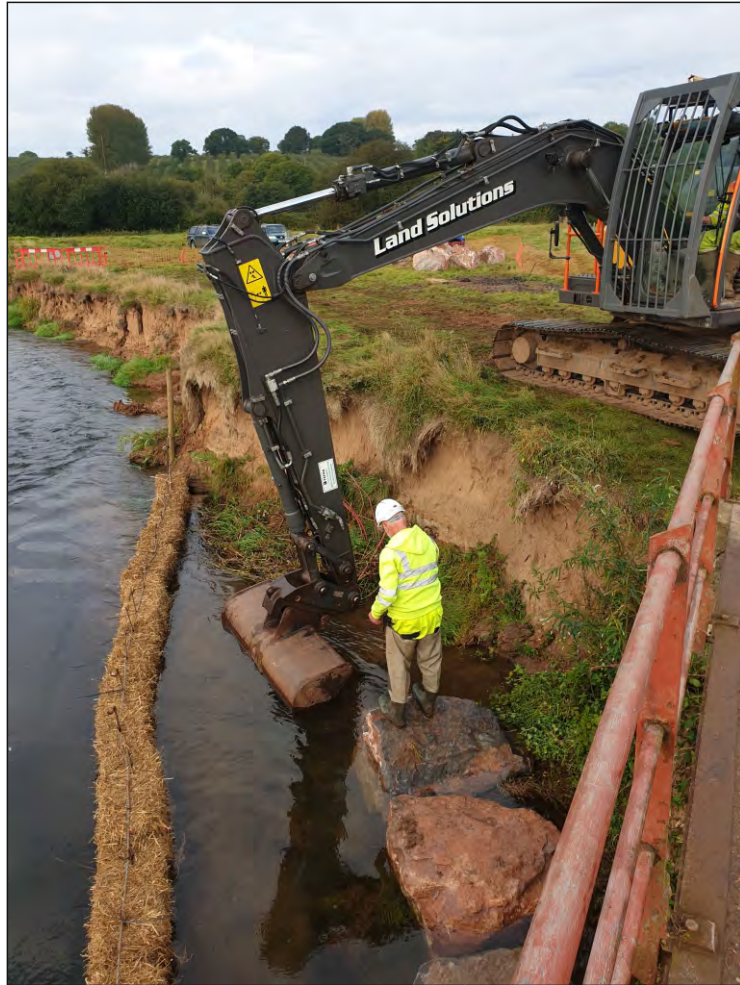


Fig. 1 Location of site.

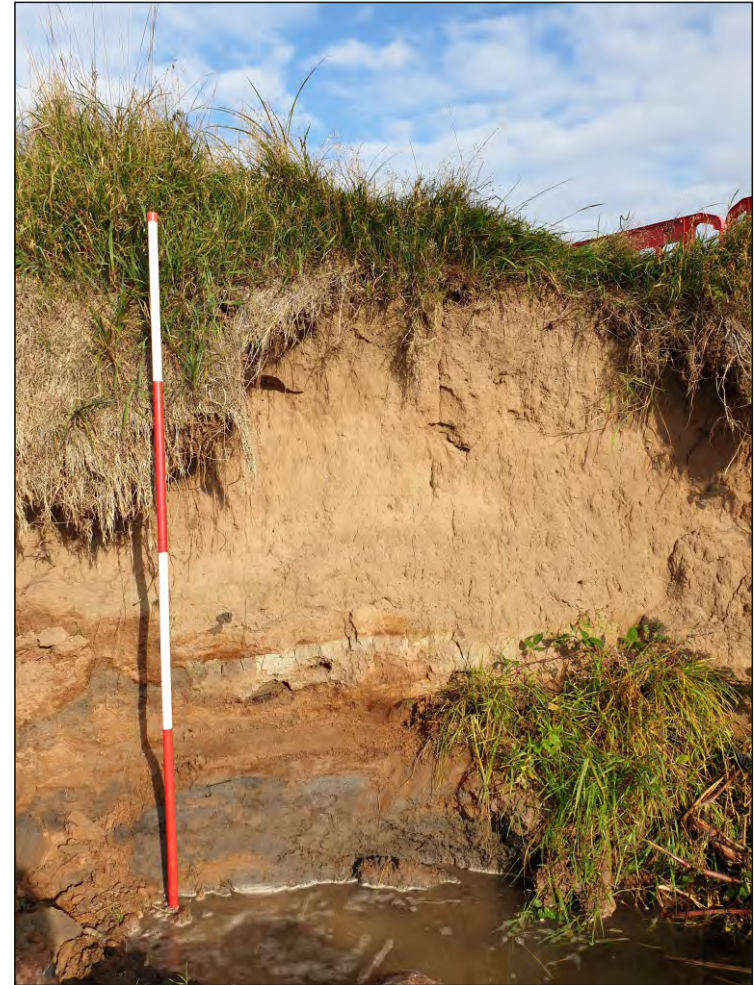




Fig. 2 Plan showing location of observations.



Pl. 1 General view of the limited excavations within the riverbed. Looking southwest.



Pl. 2 General view of the riverbank section showing deposit sequence with remains of former river channel at base. 2m scale. Looking west-northwest.