

## Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Thurlestone, South Hams	<b>National Grid Reference:</b> SX 6639 4376	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological works and recording at Bantham Ham, Thurlestone, Devon.		<b>Photo attached:</b> Y
<b>Scheduled Monument Consent No:</b> n/a	<b>Recipient museum:</b> n/a	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> oakforda1-406651	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> n/a	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> OA1730	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 30/11/2020	
<p><b>Background:</b> An archaeological investigation was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology in November 2020 in connection with the installation of three information boards at Bantham Ham, Thurlestone, Devon (SX 6639 4376). The site (Fig. 1) lies in an area of high archaeological potential within the Roman and post-Roman settlement site at Bantham Ham. The monument (Scheduled Monument 1019322), includes a large Roman and post-Roman settlement site with evidence for earlier and later occupation, buried by sand dunes at the mouth of the River Avon. The work was therefore required by Historic England (HE) as part of scheduled monument consent.</p> <p><b>Description of the works and results:</b> A series of six small pits (Fig. 1, Pl. 1-12) were hand-dug in association with the installation of three information boards. The excavations were 0.25m long, 0.20m wide and 0.40m deep. Bulk samples were taken from each of the postholes and dry-sieved with mesh sizes 1mm to 4mm for charred plant remains, small animal bones and/or small artefacts. The samples from (300) and (400) yielded shells from two species of mollusc, while the remaining bulk samples were sterile.</p> <p>Posthole 1 100 0-0.1m mid brown silty clay (topsoil) 101 0.1m+ loose grey shale (bedrock)</p> <p>Posthole 2 200 0-0.1m mid brown silty clay (topsoil) 201 0.1m+ loose grey shale (bedrock)</p> <p>Posthole 3 300 0-0.4m pale yellowish brown sand (natural wind-blown dune)</p> <p>Posthole 4 400 0-0.4m pale yellowish brown sand (natural wind-blown dune)</p> <p>Posthole 5 500 0-0.4m pale yellowish brown sand (natural wind-blown dune)</p> <p>Posthole 6 600 0-0.4m pale yellowish brown sand (natural wind-blown dune)</p> <p><b>Conclusion:</b> The small nature of the works meant that areas of archaeological activity were not identified. Postholes 1 and 2 were cut through an area of topsoil immediately above bedrock, while the deposits identified in postholes 3-6 are related to the yearly accretion of wind and tide-driven sands with no evidence for</p>		

human activity. This is the only report on these works.

**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).

**Recorder:**

M Wootton (Oakford Archaeology)

**Date sent to HER:**



Fig. 1 Location of site





Pl. 1 General view showing location of board prior to installation. Looking southwest.



Pl. 2 General view showing postholes 1 & 2 after excavation. 1m scale. Looking southwest.





Pl. 3 Section through posthole 1. 0.25m scale. Looking southwest.

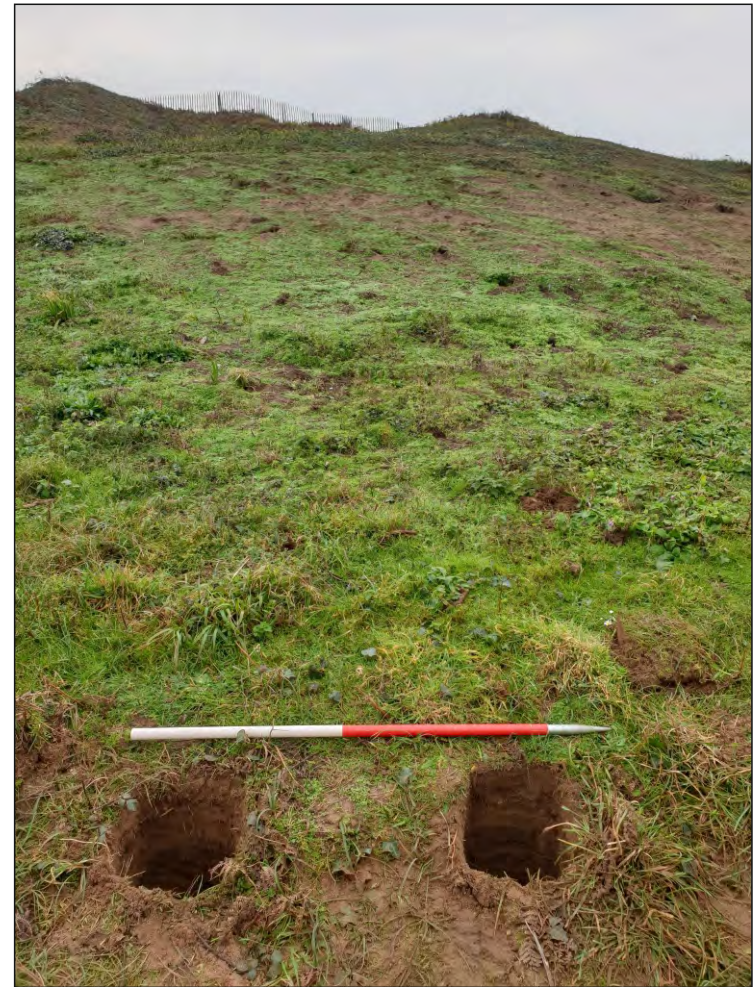


Pl. 4 Section through posthole 2. 0.25m scale. Looking southwest.





Pl. 5 General view showing location of board prior to installation. Looking northwest.



Pl. 6 General view showing location of postholes 3 & 4 after excavation. 1m scale. Looking southwest.





Pl. 7 Section through posthole 3. 0.25m scale. Looking southwest.



Pl. 8 Section through posthole 4. 0.25m scale. Looking southwest.





Pl. 9 General view of location of board prior to installation. Looking west.



Pl. 10 General view of postholes 5 & 6 after excavation. 1m scale. Looking southwest.





Pl. 11 Section through posthole 5. 0.25m scale. Looking southwest.



Pl. 12 Section through posthole 6. 0.25m scale. Looking southwest.