

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Frogmore and Sherford, Devon	National Grid Reference: SX 7785 4424	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Sherford Down, Sherford, Devon.		Photo attached: Y
Planning permission no: 0683/17/OPA	Recipient museum: n/a	
OASIS ID: oakforda1-409676	Museum Accession no: n/a	
Contractor's reference number/code: OA1734	Date fieldwork undertaken: 02/09/2021	
<p>Description of works: An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology in September 2021 on land at Sherford Down, Sherford, Devon (SX 7785 4424). The site (Fig. 1) lies in an area of high archaeological potential within the core of the historic hamlet of Sherford, immediately opposite the Grade I Listed parish church of St Martin. First mentioned in a royal charter of 1018 the settlement is recorded in the 1086 Domesday survey as <i>Sireford</i>. The work was therefore required by South Hams District Council (SHDC), as advised by the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>Results: A watching brief was maintained during works associated with the construction a single residential dwelling (Fig. 1, Pls. 1-4) and associated landscaping. The work involved the excavation of a new access road and an area of terracing for the new house approximately 35m long, 30m wide and excavated to a maximum depth of 1.8m.</p> <p>The work exposed a mid yellow clay with shillet (100), interpreted as a natural subsoil, at a depth of 0.4m below ground level. This was overlain by a mid reddish brown clayey silt (100) topsoil.</p> <p>A very small collection of archaeological material was recovered from the topsoil, consisting of a single sherd of miscellaneous redware (17th/18th century), a piece of broad-heeled clay pipe (late 17th century), three sherds of South Somerset coarseware (18th-19th century), a sherd of porcelain (18th/19th century, possibly English), 25 sherds of industrial whiteware including blue and white transfer ware (post-1780) and two fragments of press moulded glass (19th-20th century).</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>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: M. Wootton (Oakford Archaeology)		Date sent to HER:

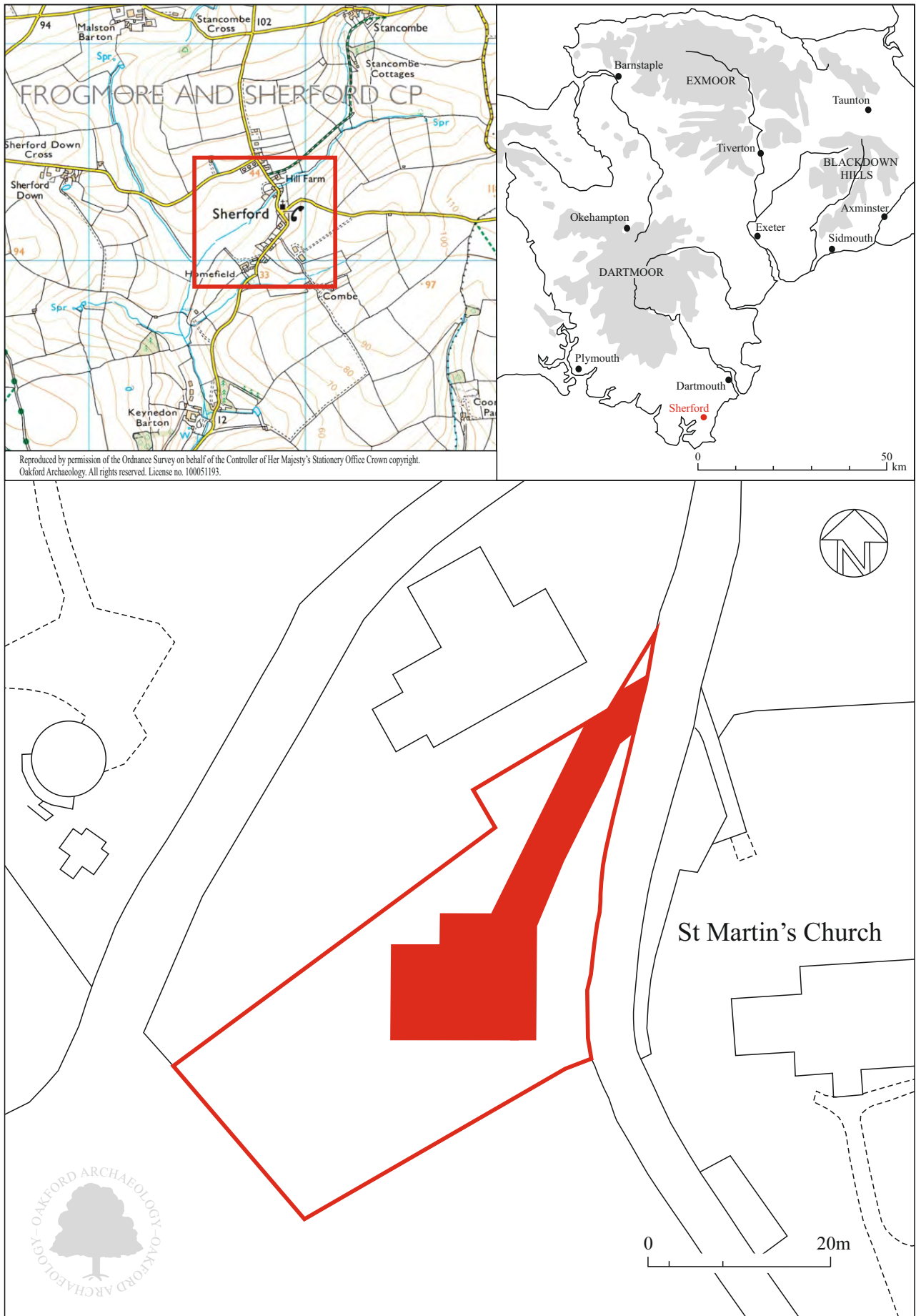


Fig. 1 Location of site



Pl. 1 General view of the access road soil strip with St Martin's Church in the background. Looking east.



Pl. 2 Section through the access road showing a simple deposit sequence of topsoil (100) above shillet natural subsoil (101). 1m scale. Looking north.



Pl. 3 General view of the house platform soil strip with Sherford Down in the background. Looking south.



Pl. 4 Section through the house platform showing a simple deposit sequence of topsoil (100) above shillet natural subsoil (101). 1m scale. Looking north.