

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Okehampton, West Devon	National Grid Reference: SX 5910 9526	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording at the Gospel Hall, Okehampton, Devon.		Photo attached: Y
Planning Application no: 1050/20/FUL	Recipient museum: n/a	
OASIS ID: oakforda1-511530	Museum Reference no: n/a	
Contractor's reference number/code: OA2017	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 21-23/03/2023	
<p>Background An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology in March 2023 at The Gospel Hall, Okehampton, Devon (SX 5910 9526). The site (Fig. 1) lies in an area of archaeological potential within the core of the historic settlement of Okehampton. Okehampton was one of five boroughs in existence in Devon in the 11th century. The Borough of Okehampton appears to have been created soon after the Conquest and is first mentioned in Domesday Book. The triangle of land between Crediton Road and East Street has been identified through archaeological assessment as being the location of one of the town's medieval markets. The work was therefore required by the local planning authority West Devon Borough Council (WDBC), as advised by the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>Description of the works A watching brief was maintained during works associated with the demolition of the existing building and the construction of a new extension. The work (Fig. 2, Pls. 1-4) revealed a simple deposit sequence following the removal of the concrete hardstanding. A mid yellowish brown silty clay and degraded shillet (100) was exposed at a depth of 0.24m below current ground level. Interpreted as a natural subsoil this was overlain by 0.1m thick mid brown silty clay (101) underneath the foundation of the southern boundary wall. A remnant topsoil this had been truncated within the footprint of the site by terracing associated with the construction of the existing building in c.1930. Along the western boundary of the site the soil sequence had been cut by the foundation trench for the western boundary wall. The latter consisted of a mixed construction of cob, brick, limestone and granite rubble. Within the site the natural subsoil was overlain by a 0.15m thick light brown clayey silt (101) with frequent inclusions of cbm and lime flecks. Three sherds of 19th century pan-tile and a single sherd of late 18th-early 20th century industrial whiteware were recovered from this deposit. A modern made ground this was sealed underneath a 0.1m thick concrete floor (102).</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 spoilheaps, further indicates that the site is archaeologically sterile. This is the only report on the 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 Steinmetzer and H Wootton (Oakford Archaeology)		Date sent to HER:

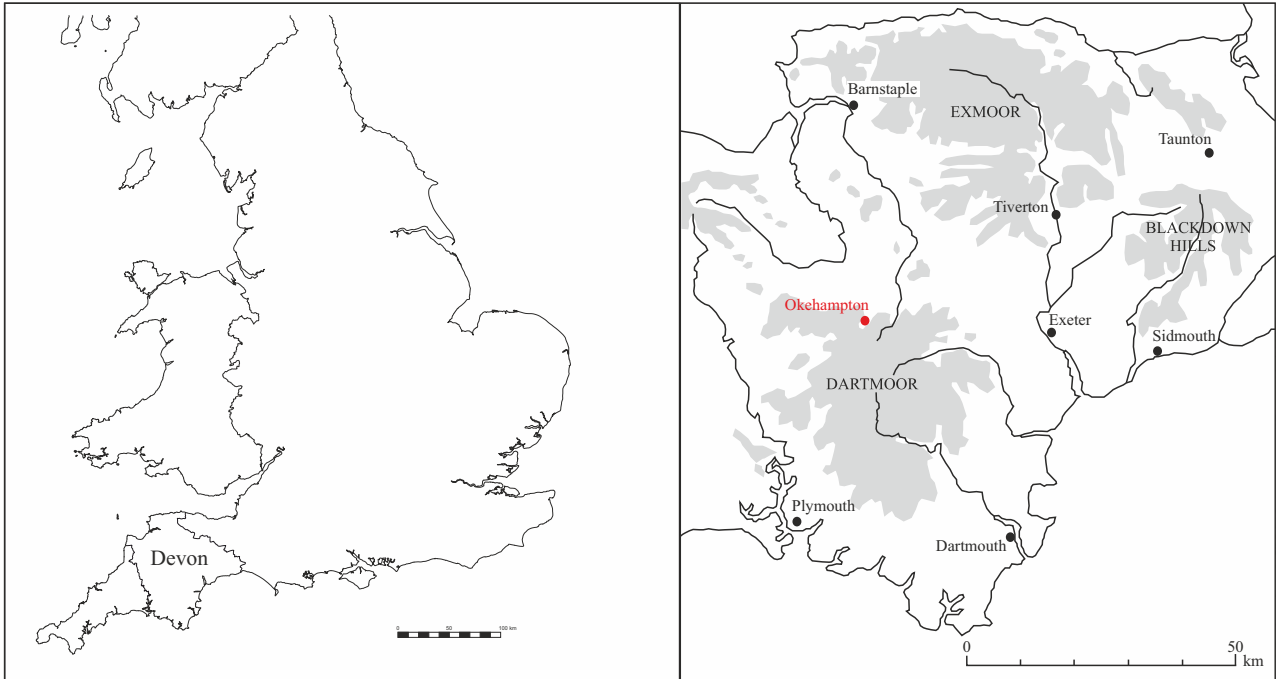


Fig. 1 Location of site.

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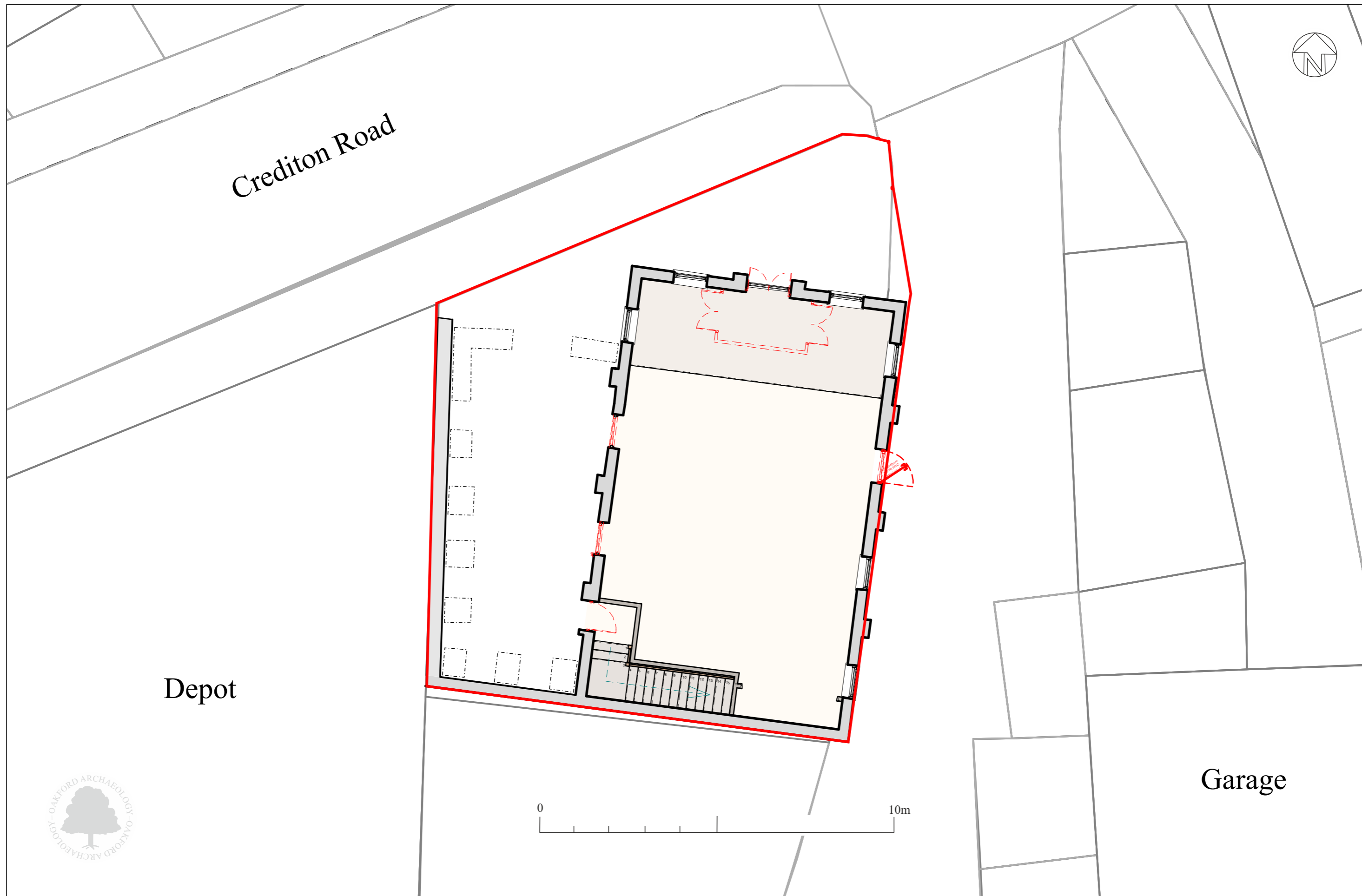


Fig. 2 Plan showing location of observations.



Pl. 1 General view of site. Looking south.



Pl. 2 General view of natural subsoil (100) following the removal of the modern made ground (101) and concrete hardstanding (101). 1m scale. Looking south.