

Archaeological Investigation Report Series AI/13/2003



ENGLISH HERITAGE

The Mansion at Columbjohn, Broadclyst, Devon

An archaeological survey by English Heritage

County:

Devon

District:

East Devon

Parish:

Broadclyst

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NGR:

SX 95929986

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Summary

The existence of a mansion at Columbjohn is well attested in the documentary evidence for the parish of Broadclyst however its precise location has not been positively identified on the ground.

The National Trust Archaeologist for Devon commissioned the English Heritage Archaeological Investigation section to undertake a large-scale survey of the area in March 2003. The purpose of this survey was to investigate the archaeology of the site and particularly cast further light on the location of the mansion.

The site of the mansion is generally accepted as that indicated on early large scale Ordnance Survey maps - a siting most probably derived from the 18th-century Killerton Estate map which depicts a number of buildings in the general area. Low earthwork banks and scarps are traditionally related to this siting but the archaeological record contains no information about any foundations or structures that can be related to the mansion. The presence of an isolated chapel and a free standing ornate gateway of 16th century origin, testify to the importance of the site. A hollow way that extends beyond the area as a linear cropmark indicates the route of a processional way - part of the story of this site.

The results of the field survey and investigation proved inconclusive and physical evidence for the mansion site remains elusive. This new survey has however provided new lines of enquiry and the next stage in locating the site of the mansion might be a geophysical survey focused on two significant areas of earthworks

INTRODUCTION

Location

The area known as Columbjohn occupies gently sloping ground situated on a river terrace above the broad floodplain of the River Culm. To the west beyond the river is low-lying farmland.



Fig. 1. Location map.

It lies between about 31m and 33m above OD. To the east the intensively cultivated farmland levels out at about 36m above OD. Located to the north east is a distinct, rounded knoll on which sit the remains of a large mound topped by the footings of a folly - most probably associated with the mansion at Killerton situated to the east. On the northern side, on rising ground, lies Columbjohn Chapel, its graveyard and Pidgeon Cottage with its garden. The slopes beyond are occupied by woodland and pasture fields. The foundations of a water mill coupled with the sites of a number of associated large buildings and ponds lie to the north beside the river. Columbjohn Farm delimits the southern side of the survey area with its linear spread of farm buildings. A track and a ditched bank define the eastern side.

The surveyed area (Fig. 2) is now split into two fields by a post and wire fence and a partially metalled 20th-century track, which extends from the arched stone gateway to Pidgeon Cottage (named after a tenant called Pidgeon). These fields, both under permanent pasture, have not been ploughed intensively since at least World War II - although the upper field has been lightly ploughed for re-seeding as recently as 1978.

Geology

The soil is Old Red Sandstone - a deep red fertile soil. Little surface stone is visible on the fields or in the river scarps. The drift geology comprises river terrace deposits (British Geological Survey map 325). The solid geology dates from the Permian period and is known as the Bussell's Member (named after nearby Bussell's Farm) of the Dawlish Sandstone group.

The fabric of the standing structures and the adjacent farm is predominately volcanic trap - probably quarried from the small outcrop of Permian vent agglomerate which is located to the north east of the area near Killerton House.

A DIGEST OF EXTRACTS RELATING TO THE DOCUMENTARY HISTORY OF THE MANSION

Note: the name Columbjohn has historically been spelt in a number of ways thus the text reflects these different spellings. References to Columbjohn in the Burnet -Morris Index (Devon Record Office) - which identify many if not all of the owners and occupiers of the area from about 1086 - include the names of some notable Devonshire families. For example in 1325 John de Clifford and in 1416 John Prideaux each held Columbjohn; in 1486 Edward Courtenay, sometime Earl of Devon was granted ownership. The Aclands, who took possession towards the end of the 16th century were a Devonshire family of great wealth and lineage.

Henry Courtenay, Marquis of Exeter laid the foundations for an extensive new house at Columbjohn - according to some historians. Work on this house was reported to have ceased in 1539 - the year Henry Courtenay 'was attainted and despoiled before being beheaded'. However, there are apparently no references to this house in the Courtenay Family Papers.

Sir John Acland purchased the manor of Columbjohn in the parish of Broadclyst from Alexander Every in 1580/81. Swete records that John erected a mansion at the close of the 16th century on a former foundation begun by a Courtenay, Earl of Devon. In 1622 Columbjohn became the Aclands' chief residence. Prince (quoted by Swete) reports that 'It is a large pile, nobly situate on an advanced ground just over the River Culme - in which the worthy Knight erected a very fair Chapel and endowed it with five and twenty pounds for ever'. At this time there were two Acland residences in Broadclyst: the manor of Killerton had been bought as a jointure for John's widowed mother. As the two houses were only a mile apart the Killerton party went over to Columb John Chapel to hear divine service read by the family chaplain, just as Bishop Cotton had intended when he gave permission for the consecration of the building 'on account of the distance from the parish church' (Acland 1981).

As the quarrel between King and Parliament intensified during the Civil war in 1641-42, John Acland (nephew) watched events develop from his house at Culm John in Broadclyst. During 1642 Columbjohn was the HQ of Sir Thomas Fairfax and in 1643 the Garrison here was the chief centre of the Royalist war effort in Devon -for which John Acland was rewarded with a baronetcy in 1644. In 1645 Culm John was in Parliamentarian hands and Oliver Cromwell stayed at the house. In 1646 Fairfax established his headquarters at Culm John and remained quartered in the mansion for the next ten days. He later issued a certificate against Sir John Acland 'for delinquency in taking up arms for the King who appointed him High Sheriff of Devon'. An inventory compiled in September 1646 by the Sequestrator of the lands and estate of 'John Acland of Columbjohn' gives details of the furniture and chattels in each room of the mansion. It lists approximately twenty-two rooms in the house including parlours, a nursery, chambers and six small chambers as well as a hall, two butteries and a kitchen. Outbuildings included a coach house, brew house, a workers hall, a little house and a Gate chamber- complete with a bed and a bedstead.

In 1680 Hugh Acland altered and enlarged Killerton to make it the principal family mansion in preference to Columb John (Acland 1981, 13). The 'old house' became derelict before being demolished in the mid-18th century. Nothing remained except the entrance archway, although the position of the old house can be traced in the field according to some sources (Fig. 3). Swete who visited the area in June 1800 saw 'no vestige of the mansion'. He wondered why no remains survived if, as Prince suggests, the chapel formed part, unless, he reflected, the building remains were removed when alterations were made to the new family residence at Killerton.

Columbjohn Chapel, consecrated in September 1608 by Bishop Cotton is mentioned in 1616



Figure 3. An oblique air photograph of the survey area - the traditional site of the mansionis indicated by the square, whitish e a r t h w o r k s. (NMR SX959994. SX959998. 11.December 1986 DAP 5524/12. Copyright Frances Griffith. Reproduced with permission.



Fig. 4. Swetes' drawing of Columbjohn Chapel (Devon Record Office S64M/F17/175, Reproduced with permission)

(Risdon, 352). The will of Sir John Acland dated 1619 states that 'Mass is said in Culmjohn Chapel and that a sermon is to be preached there. The preaching minister is to have a convenient chamber and lodging for himself in Culmiohn Mansion'. When the mansion was abandoned in favour of Killerton, the chapel continued to be used by the family. They made the journey every Sunday along a drive that came to be known as the processional way which led directly across the fields from Killerton. The family chaplain, who took the Sunday services, robed in an upstairs room in the adjacent Pidgeon Cottage. The room is reached by the external stairs which can be seen from the chapel-ground. Eventually, the Sunday journey to Columb John Chapel became too inconvenient and in 1842 Sir Thomas Acland, 10th Baronet, built Killerton Chapel as a replacement. Swete made a drawing of Columbjohn Chapel during his visit in June 1800 (Fig. 4). Subsequently it was either restored or perhaps even rebuilt by Arthur Acland in about 1844/45. The 'Old Chapel', as it became known was used mainly for funerals - the burial-ground was consecrated in 1851 for the use of the Aclands and those closely connected with them. For funeral services, altar ornaments were brought from Killerton Chapel, and the coffins were carried along the processional way. On the last occasion in 1919, enormous amounts of stone chippings were required to make the journey possible. Pevsner (1989, 279) notes that the Chapel of St John is "on the site of the chapel to the house that preceded the one of c 1590." He describes the chapel as a miniature church, prettily Romanesque with a pantile roof, dated 1851 and built largely through the exertions of Arthur Acland.

Swete made a drawing of the remains of a roofless gatehouse in June 1800 (Fig. 5) and he described the remains thus: 'The Gate-way, having an arch of a semicircular cast, which by the remains of a building connected with it appears to have been a lodge ... to the mansion. This little edifice which originally consisted of a room or two with three arches all differing from one another in their curve'.

John Gendall made a pencil sketch of 'The gate at Columb John' in about 1834 (Acland 1981, Pl. 5). The drawing, which is somewhat indistinct shows a rather ragged and overgrown structure constructed of coursed slabs and blocks with a mounting block on one side. The arch is more or less as it is today. The present structure, an ornate gateway is described in the HHR listing as: Ruins of gatehouse to Columbjohn Mansion (now destroyed). 16th century. Random rubble volcanic trap with dressed stone quoins and moulded wall plinth. The inner arch and wall, along with parts



Fig. 5. Swete's drawing of the Gatehouse (Devon Record Office F64M/ F17/171, reproduced with permission)

of the side walls of the building, survive. Arch with moulding. To the north (exterior) is a hood mould with unusual stops in the shape of a diamond with three attendant bosses.

MAP EVIDENCE

The small scale Killerton Estate map of the Barton of Culm John dated 1756 gives some important information. A sketch of this map (Fig. 6) shows two avenues of trees. One avenue leads from the gateway towards the chapel and the second, which extends from the chapel towards Killerton House, marks the processional way. At or near their junction, four unnamed buildings are shown, one with an attached plot. The function and purpose of these buildings are unclear although one must be the chapel. Two of the buildings probably lie to the west of the chapel. The northern part of the site is occupied by a plantation. A water mill, located on the mill leat adjacent to the river in the north-west, forms part of a large L- shaped group of buildings.

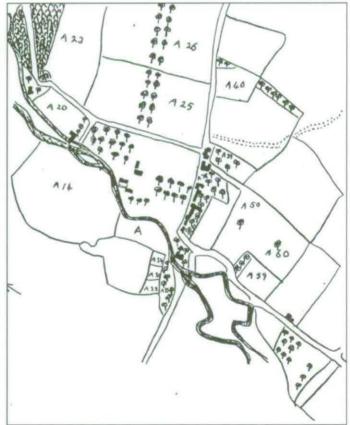


Fig. 6. A sketch of part of the 1756 Killerton Estate map.



Fig. 7. Part of the Broadclyst tithe map dated 1842 (Devon Record Office).

The chapel at Columbjohn is depicted rather indistinctly on the small-scale first edition Ordnance Survey map dated 1801/2. Also depicted is the linear, known as the processional way, which is shown extending from the area occupied by the chapel across two large fields towards Killerton House located to the east.

The Broadclyst tithe map dated 1842 (Fig. 7) depicts a large E-shaped and sub-divided building with a plot on one side and, to the rear, a second plot which extends to a small square structure that is probably part of the present Pidgeon Cottage. The tithe apportionment describes the southern part of this building as 'chapel' and the northern part as 'barn and buildings'. It also names the eastern field within the survey area 'Warren'. The tithe map shows Culmjohn Farm and the gateway. Additionally a series of buildings at Culmjohn Mill are depicted along with the access route to the mill which comprises a track that crosses the survey area diagonally from a gate near the present Columbjohn Bridge to the head of a sunken track leading down to the mill complex.

The later Killerton Estate map dated 1879 depicts 'Old Chapel' with its burial ground and Pidgeon Cottage to the rear. The gateway is depicted but not described and there is no reference to the site of the mansion. Culmjohn Farm and its buildings lie along the southern side of the area. Culmjohn Mills are depicted as an 'L' shaped group of fairly large buildings. (the arrangement accords with that shown in a copy of a painting supplied by the owner of Pidgeon Cottage)(Fig. 8).

The location of the mansion is depicted on all early large scale Ordnance Survey map editions dating from 1889 as a siting symbol centred at SX 95929986 (Fig.13); this siting is most probably derived from the 1756 estate map. Columbjohn Chapel with its graveyard is depicted and described at SX95969974. The gateway is depicted at SX95949973, but not described on Ordnance Survey maps.



Fig. 8. 'Culmjohn Mill'
- a copy of a painting
in the possession of J.
Uglow. The mill burnt
down in 1888

DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION OF THE ARCHAEOLOGY.

The traditional site of the mansion, situated in the lower field at Columbjohn, comprises an embanked stance located on a narrow terrace above the broad floodplain of the River Culm. This stance measures internally a maximum of 23m by 18m and it is levelled about 0.5m into the natural slope. It is bounded on the east and north by a wide, earthen bank averaging 0.6m high and to the south a scarp a maximum 0.5m high. The front is formed from the steep floodplain scarp; here there are some stones evident, perhaps part of a slight, crude wall. The interior is fairly level with numerous molehills revealing good quality soil; no stone is visible. To the north is a narrow stance some 14m in width which opens out to the north; it has a back scarp up to 0.9m high. The only trace of sub-surface stone, perhaps some metalling, was noted when the survey instrument was set up to the east of the stance.

The arched gateway at SX9594997 is an impressive feature in the landscape (Fig. 9). It is most probably part of the structure listed as a Gate Chamber in the 1646 Inventory; its position is depicted, usually indistinctly, on all known maps dating back to 1756. Swete's drawing and description of the 'Gateway at Columb John' of c 1800 is perhaps the only record of the gatehouse and gate arch before much, if not all of it was taken down. His drawing, of what appears to be the northern elevation, shows a very fine moulded round-headed arch resting on columns with a relieving arch constructed of dressed blocks. At each end of this arch is a stop in relief consisting of three bosses around an embossed shield. The origin of this design is not known. Visible through the arch in Swetes drawing are the roofless remains of a square building. Two arched doorways are shown - one, a two-centred round-headed arch with a fine moulding and the other, apparently a four-centred arch; both are set in rendered, apparently windowless walls. Swete noted that the three arches 'differ from one another in their curve'. The pencil sketch by Gendall of about 1840 (Acland 1981) is also apparently of the northern elevation. He depicts the gated arch and the ruined wall however it is not clear from his sketch whether the gatehouse still survives behind the wall.



Fig. 9. The gateway at Columbjohn in 2003.



Fig. 10. The Chapel in 2003.

Pidgeon (or Pigeon) Cottage stands to the north-west of Columbjohn Chapel. It is listed grade II and is described in the HHR listing as a house with a 16th-century base and 19th-century alterations - a square building of two storeys plus an attic, reputedly built on the foundations of the dovecote of the now demolished Acland mansion. It is comprehensively described in the Pigeon Cottage report dated 1987, part of The National Trust Killerton Vernacular Buildings Survey.

The original chapel was a small rectangular building recorded as 'new'in 1619 but in exisistence in 1616 (National Trust SMR No.107344). The old chapel was overgrown and neglected in 1831. The present chapel (Fig. 10) is listed grade II and is described as a *circa* 1844 building of ashlar volcanic trap with a roof of red clay fish scale plain tiles and with a bellcote. The graveyard wall of random rubble volcanic trap is also listed.

The northern part of the survey area, depicted on the 1756 map as a wooded plot, has some evidence of scarping and traces of the track which diagonally crosses the area (depicted on the tithe map). No other surface traces of features of archaeological significance were identified.

Prominent earthen slopes a maximum 1.1m high, define the extensive level 'platform', which occupies the south-eastern part of the site. This area has been ploughed in the past such that the slopes have become rounded and somewhat denuded. The southern part of the platform has been cut into by an irregular pit which resembles a shallow, but fairly extensive area of amorphous surface quarrying. The eastern part of the platform is delineated by a linear earthen mound, now some 128m long, 9m wide and up to 0.6 m high - although the southern part has been partially dug away. It has a broad shallow 7m wide ditch on the western side; the track on its eastern side may overlie a ditch on this side. The flat surface of the 'platform', which has in the past been ploughed has vague traces of very slight linear earthen banks which were identified during the survey but their function is unclear

The farm which demarcates the southern side of the area include the farmhouse built between 1756 and 1780, two threshing barns - one possibly 16th century in origin with a partial 19th-century rebuild and early 19th-century shippons (National Trust SMR No.107340 & 345). A large arched opening in one of the barns is so positioned as to be visible thought the 16th-century gateway.

The pair of two storey single pile cottages at SX 95849969 were formed in c 1882 from a medieval open hall farmhouse of Columbjohn Barton - the oldest surviving building at Columbjohn. The open hall was converted in the late-16th or early-17th century to a two-storey building with an inserted first floor (National Trust SMR No.107341).

An interesting component of the site is the old drive or processional way, which ran from Killerton House to Columbjohn Chapel. It was used by Lady Vincent when she lived at Killerton (c.1610-1645) and it is depicted on the 1756 map as a tree-lined avenue. It continued in use when the Acland family moved to Killerton in 1680. When Killerton Chapel was built near the house in 1841 as a more conveneint location for family worship the processional way to Columbjohn Chapel was not abandoned because it was still used for funerals. It went out of use in the early 20th century (National Trust SMR. 107454).

Air photographs (appendix 1) reveal the course of this processional way as a broad linear soil/cropmark in some of the fields between the chapel and Killerton House. Within the survey area the remains of this linear feature are visible as a broad, shallow, hollow way averaging 20m wide and 0.6m deep. It is now cut by the diagonal track to the mill. No surface evidence of this feature was identified to the east of the survey area in the regularly cultivated fields that were under young crop at the time of survey.

An impressive three-slab granite stile and two granite gateposts (Fig. 11), which mark the alignment



Fig. 11. The granite stile and on of the gateposts.



Figure 12. The well house.

of this processional route, are located in the hedgerow on the eastern side of the survey area. It is described in the National Trust SMR (No.107351) which notes that it was constructed in the 19th century out of fragments of the 16th-century Columbjohn mansion. This observation is perhaps debatable given that the components of this structure are clean cut and not in any way weatherworn. The upper part of each gatepost, which possibly comprised a round ball, has been destroyed.

A number of long-lived trees and large tree stumps are survivors of former plantings across the area. When some of these trees were cut down in the 1970s their stumps were left to rot and consequently their sites are visible today as slight depressions in the ground.

During the 2003 survey a very fine well house was recorded to the north of Pidgeon Cottage (Fig.12). Built into the side of a steep earthen slope it comprises a round headed arch which fronts a chamber containing a 0.9m diameter well and stone seat. The arch has an 0.5 m wide plain façade of dressed and tooled stone and is 2m wide and up to 1.6m high - although the lower part is now silted. The entrance is blocked by a fence. The well chamber is 1.5m by 1.4m and about 1.8m high. The arch facade which dates from around 1842 may have been superimposed onto an exisiting well house (Richardson pers.com). It is not mentioned or described in documentary sources.

DISCUSSION

The embanked stance located at SX 95929986 is the generally accepted site of the mansion chiefly because the early large scale Ordnance Survey maps show an 'antiquity' siting symbol here although the earthworks are not depicted. This siting was almost certainly derived from the depiction of four buildings in this area on the small scale estate map dated 1765. The proximity of the chapel which has an early 17th-century origin - lends weight to this location. However the general impression gained by most observers is that this low-lying site located on the edge of a floodplain is somewhat restricted to be the position of a mansion of such apparent pretension. The new survey clearly shows that the steep linear slope of the terrace which defines the western part of the area, does not accord with the 'natural' scarps visible both to the south and the north. This

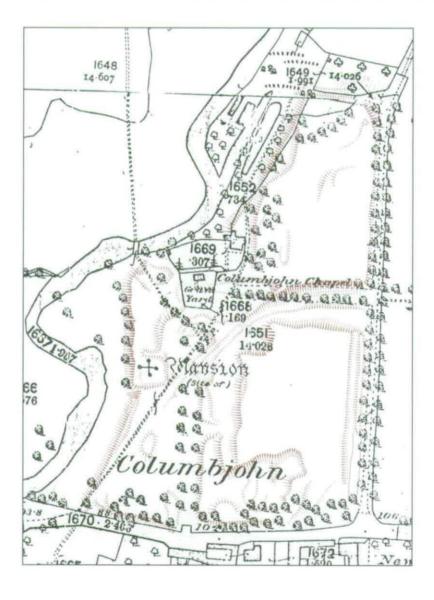


Fig. 13. The new English Heritage survey imposed on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 scale plan. Reproduced from the 1889 Ordnance Survey map.

observation suggests that this pronounced earthern slope has been artificially created from the natural floodplain terrace slopes either by being cut back, straightened, extended - or through a combination of all three. The original or natural edge of the floodplain cannot now be identified on the ground. There is unambiguous evidence however that the south-west corner of the stance has been extended beyond the general line of the natural slopes to the south. This artifically created linear scarp is on average 1.4m high; there are fragments of stonework visible but no obvious revetment. There is no indication in the archaeological record of foundations or finds which might add support to the presence of a mansion in the immediate area of the siting. Equally there is no evidence from air photographs of parch marks or crop marks within the stance. The NMRC air photographic coverage (Appendix 1) represents a fairly comprehensive indicator of the activity on this site over a period of nearly sixty years.

The present chapel may not occupy the precise position of its predecessor given that it could have been completely rebuilt rather than being refashioned in 1844 when it could have been repositioned. The 1842 tithe map shows a large E-shaped building here which is sub-divided - the old chapel formed the southern end with a small plot on its south side. The larger part of the building is described in the apportionment as 'barn and buildings'. There is a linked plot on the east with, in its corner, a building that might now be part of Pidgeon Cottage. Swete made no mention of this large building or the cottage when he visited the site only forty years before. It is possible that the footings of the cottage may have been derived from the foundations of the mansion or more likely one of its outbuildings rather than simply being the footings of a dovecote as suggested in the HHR listing - although if this were so then Swete would surely have noted the foundations.

The chapel graveyard was consecrated in the mid -19th century and the earliest gravestones date from 1851. The whereabouts of burials connected to the 16th-century chapel are not clear - they may of course lie unmarked within the present curtilage - however they are more likely to rest in the graveyard of Broadclyst parish church..

The gateway at Columbjohn incorporates the principal elements of the elevation drawn by Swete - except that the fine carved foundation plinth on which it stands is not clearly evident on his drawing. Both Swete and Gendall depict the fabric of the gateway as random coursed slabs and blocks which bears no resemblance to the actual volcanic rubble fabric - this is presumably artistic licence. In both drawings the wall does not extend above the archway as it does today. Swete depicts ragged unfinished edges to the walls (fig 5) but Gendall shows fine quoins in 1834.. The low thick walls which now form the west and east sides of the structure appear to function as partial buttresses to support the Gateway; they are doubtfully original given that in the west wall Swete depicts an arch. On the southern elevation of the present gateway, adjacent to the arch, is a curious buttress-type pillar constructed of carved stone blocks (now partially robbed) with a large foundation stone and also a protruding cap stone. Its origin and function are obscure but it could simply have been an added decoration -perhaps to utilize a 'spare' carved stone course. These observations about the subtle differences in the form of the gateway as depicted in 1800, 1840 and its appearance today prompts the question whether or not the present structure is original or whether it is a reconstruction using existing materials. Perhaps the present gateway is a pastiche of the original structure, erected on or near the site of the original gatehouse, possibly as a lasting memorial of the mansion. Interestingly there is no surface evidence of any sort of metalled track predating the modern track from the gateway into the interior of the site.

The tithe map depicts a track which diagonally crosses the site from a stile in the south-west corner, near Columbjohn Bridgeay, to the north-east corner to link up with the hollow way to the mill. It cuts through the processional way and it is a well used, if circuitous, route to the water mill It probably dates from the 19th century and its course - taking a long way round - suggests that it deliberately avoids the area around the chapel.

The survey clearly defines the distinct and extensive 'platform' located in the eastern part of the surveyed area. It is located within 'Warren field'which was noted in the 19th century. Ploughing has rounded the prominent scarps and there is evidence of vague low earthen banks laid out across the flat top. Postulated as the site of the mansion (National Trust SMR No.107342), this platform does seem to be a logical site for a house of some pretension. The level area is raised well above the floodplain with extensive views to the east and west. The nearby knoll once the site of the folly viewpoint from Killerton is clearly visible. This level site would indeed appear to be a very suitable location for a large house with a landscaped garden however there is no documentary or surface evidence to support such a siting. The wide, fairly shallow depression, on the southern side of this platform, is most probably the result of surface quarrying. However there are no rock outcrops visible here a so perhaps it was a simply a quarry for soil.

This platform, which clearly has an artificial appearance, may be linked to the use of this area as a rabbit warren. The function of the low and spread ditched linear earthen bank which demarcates its eastern side is not clear but it seems unlikely to have been a pillow mound associated with the warren.

CONCLUSION

The new survey and investigation of Columbjohn has, as can so often be the case, succeeded in raising as many questions as it has addressed in the search for the precise site of the mansion. Swete's account in his journal dated 1800 that he 'could discover no vestige of the mansion' tends to confirm the evidence that the house had been completely effaced. Given the eye for detail evident in his drawings of both the gatehouse and the chapel, we can perhaps view his observations about the mansion site with some confidence. This confidence is underpinned by the cartographic evidence which does not mention or depict the site of the mansion in 1765 (Killerton Estate Map) or in 1842 (Broadclyst tithe map).

The origin and function of the enclosed square stance located on the edge of the refashioned slopes of the terrace are not at all clear. The banks and the scarps are fairly clean cut suggesting a relatively recent usage and these earthworks afford extremely doubtful evidence as the site of a house of some pretension given their position and the area they enclose. Interestingly this stance has a similar surface area to the walled graveyard of the chapel nearby where space is clearly at a premium. This stance might be the site of an agricultural building, a small garden or enclosure although it was not significant enough to appear on the tithe or estate maps. The important Civil War associations might indicate that the stance was created as a minor gun battery.

The higher ground immediately to the north-east of the stance, which is occupied by the chapel and the graveyard, and additionally by Pidgeon Cottage and its garden, would seem to be a logical site for a large house. The evidence of numerous cut stones in the ground floor of Pidgeon Cottage, the number of finds of stone noted by Mr Bryon-Edmond in the grounds, coupled with the location of the chapel, to point to the location of a large building. Geophysical survey here would establish whether or not building foundations survive to the south west of - and indeed within - the graveyard itself.

The origin and function of the prominent level platform located in the eastern part of the area called 'The Warren' in 1842 are uncertain. It appears to be an obvious site for a large house but apart from the very slight linear earthwork banks, no features, stonework, parch or cropmarks have been recorded here. A resistivity survey of this area would certainly cast some light on its use in history.

What is not in doubt is that a substantial house with important historical connections once stood on this peaceful and picturesque site by the River Culm.

METHODOLOGY

The survey was carried out using a Trimble dual frequency Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) system. The co-ordinates of the GPS base receiver were calibrated to the National Grid (OSTN02) using Trimble Geomatics software. Survey detail was enhanced by graphical survey methods.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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National Trust SMR database

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APPENDIX 1

Summary of the Air Photographic evidence in the National Monument Record Centre.

Few significant changes to the area are visible on a series of air photographs that have been taken during the last sixty years. The cultivation regime appears to have been permanent pasture throughout this period and the eastern field has occasionally been ploughed for reseeding. The square earthwork, identified by the Ordnance Survey as the site of the mansion, is visible on the majority of the air photographs, however none reveal any evidence of crop or parch marks that could indicate the presence of building foundations.

1946 APs show the square earthworks and the distinct linear hollow - part of the processional way with a few mature trees dotted along its course.

CPE/UK 1823 3173/4 4-11-46

1960 and 1966 APs show indistinct evidence of the spread earthworks, the platform and the hallow quarry in the eastern field. Also the cropmark of the processional way in the ploughed field to the west of the site. Scattered mature trees occupy the site

V58 RAF 3858 0036/37 30th October 1960. OS/66/185 257/8 22 July 1966.

APs taken in December 1986 show a very fine oblique view to of the survey area. The square stance built against the linear river scarp is clearly visible. Many of the ploughed down earthworks in the eastern area are also evident - mostly as smoothed scarps under grassland. A number of the mature trees, which stood within the survey area, had been cut down. A new avenue of trees has been planted on an alignment between the chapel and the gateway and a new access track created between this avenue as an access track to Pidgeon Cottage from the farm road.

DAP 5524/12,13. 11th December 1986.

1992 AP. The earthworks in the eastern area are clearly visible along with the track that cuts diagonally across the site from SW to NE. The linear cropmark of the processional way is vaguely traceable to the east in the large fields presently under young crop. 630.304.81 001/2. 20th June 1992.

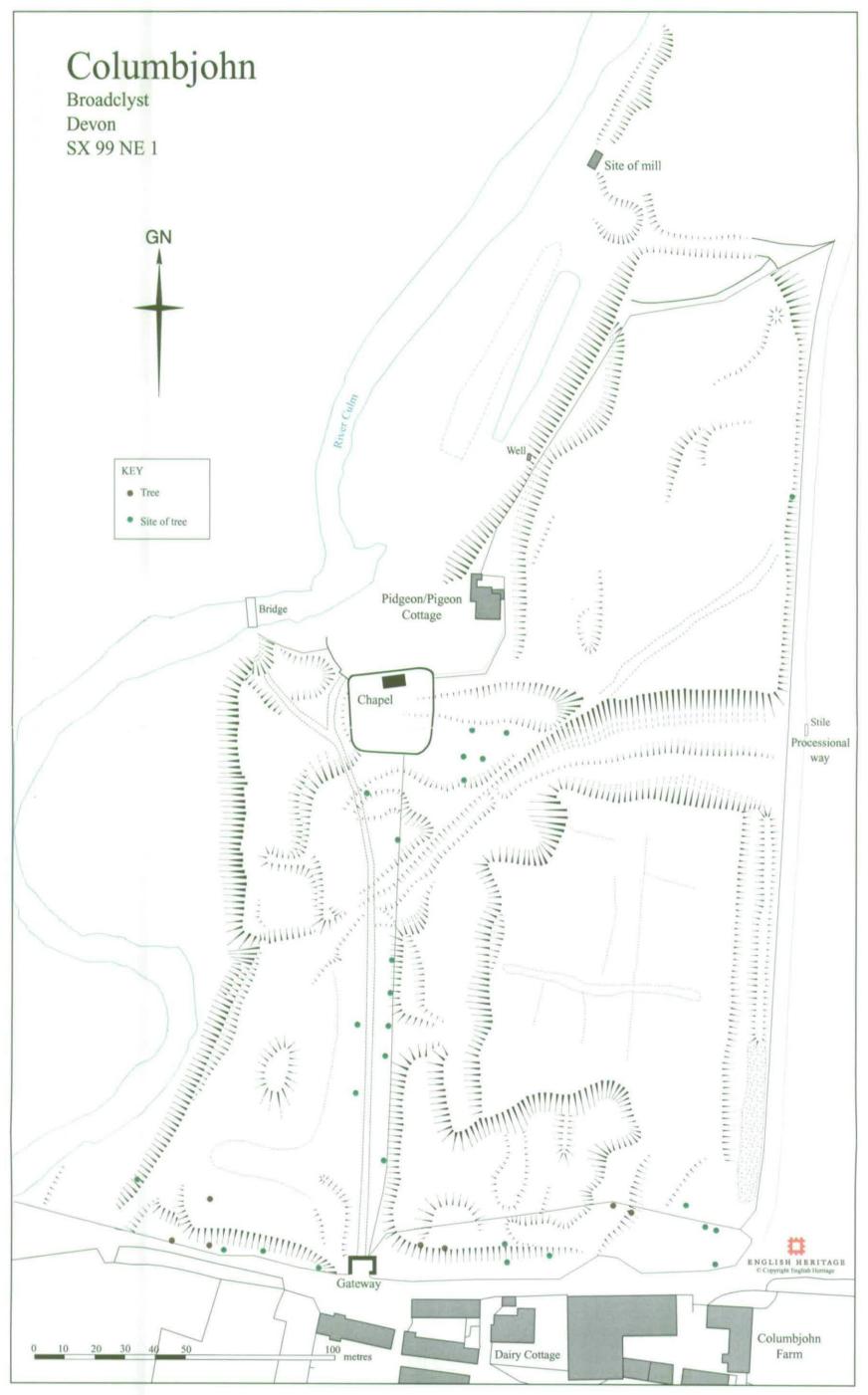


Fig. 2. Columbjohn: English Heritage 1:1000 scale survey (reduced). This map is reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map by English Heritage with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. English Heritage 100019088 2003.

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NATIONAL MONUMENTS RECORD

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It contains all the information in this report - and more:
original photographs, plans old and new,
the results of all field surveys, indexes
of archaeological sites and historical buildings,
and complete coverage of England in
air photography.

World Wide Web: http://www.english-heritage.org.uk

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