

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Shobrooke, Mid Devon	NGR: SS 86058 00293	Number:
Subject: Archaeological evaluation on land at Camp Cross, Shobrooke, Mid Devon, Devon		Photo attached? Yes
Planning App No: 21/02131/PNAG	Recipient museum: n/a	
OASIS ID: Southwes1-504001	Museum Accession no: n/a	
Contractor's reference number/code: SCCB22	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 3 rd February 2022	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of a private client (the Client). as part of pre-commencement works before construction of an agricultural building, on land at Camp Cross, Shobrooke, Mid Devon, Devon. This work was carried out by S. Walls on 3rd February 2022 in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Boyd 2022) having been agreed with the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>The Devon County Historic Environment Record (HER) records field boundaries within the field in which the proposed development is located (MDV121920, MDV62491), these have been identified through aerial photography, but are also visible on satellite imagery (see cover). Some field boundaries that seem to follow this pattern are also visible on the Tithe Map, but have since been removed. There are also cropmark ditches which may represent an irregular prehistoric enclosure less than 50m to the south-west of the proposed site (MDV57863). There are a number of other features in the surrounding landscape relating to field enclosures and orchards/plantations, and further possible prehistoric enclosures in nearby fields (e.g. MDV57861, MDV121916).</p> <p>Three trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision by a machine fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless grading bucket and totalled 90.3m in length. The site demonstrated a relatively simple stratigraphy with an active red-brown slightly sandy silt loam topsoil, which was very fine and soft, with rare sub angular to sub rounded small stones (>40mm diameter). The topsoil was typically around 0.3m deep, but shallowed up slope (to the north) to 0.2m deep. The topsoil directly overlay the natural, a firm slightly yellow-red sandy clay, with occasional to common small sub-angular stones (>70mm). There were some slight variations noted within the natural, these were c.3m wide bands orientated broadly east to west. The northern most variations consisted of a compact firm yellow-red clay with little to no stone, and c. 9m to the south of this was a band of firm to soft red sand, with no stone inclusions.</p> <p>No archaeological features were encountered, with a single north-south orientated land drain in Trench 3, which was 0.3m wide and filled with a soft mid red-brown silt-sand.</p> <p>The trenches and spoil were walked over, and scanned with a metal detector, however the only finds were fragments of a plastic land drainpipe and some bailer twine, which were subsequently discarded.</p> <p>Conclusions</p> <p>The results of the evaluation trenching and metal detecting demonstrate that the site of the immediate development has no evidence of any archaeological significance.</p> <p>Bibliography</p> <p>Boyd, N. 2021: <i>Camp Cross Barn, Shobrooke, Mid Devon, Devon: WSI: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH report no. SCBB22WSlv1</p> <p>British Geological Survey 2022: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html</p> <p>Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>.</p>		
Recorder: S. Walls		Date sent to HER: 03.02.2022



FIGURE 1: ABOVE - TRENCH PLAN THE APPROXIMATE DEVELOPMENT FOOTPRINT IS SHOWN IN WHITE. BELOW – LOCATION MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF TRENCHES.



FIGURE 2: LEFT: TRENCH 1 VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (0.4M SCALE). RIGHT: TRENCH 2 VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (0.4M SCALE).