

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Shobrooke, Mid Devon	NGR: SS 86246 00070	Number:
Subject: Archaeological evaluation on land at Camps Cross, Shobrooke, Mid Devon, Devon		Photo attached? Yes
Planning App No: 22/02054/FULL	Recipient museum: n/a	
OASIS ID: Southwes1-514284	Museum Accession no: n/a	
Contractor's reference number/code: SCCB23	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 6 th April 2023	
<p>Description of works. 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 a temporary agricultural worker's dwelling on land at Camp Cross, Shobrooke, Mid Devon, Devon. This work was carried out by S. Walls on 6th April 2023 in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Boyd 2023) having been agreed with the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>The proposed development site lies in an area of archaeological potential. Adjacent to the application area linear cropmark features are recorded indicating a possible field boundary of uncertain date. The features are not shown on the mid-19th century Tithe Map so are most likely to be medieval or older in date. In addition, a possible prehistoric or Romano-British ditched enclosure is located some 230m to the north-east while another is present 330m to the north-west. Both archaeological sites were identified through aerial photography and indicate the presence of human activity in this area in the prehistoric and Roman-British periods. Evaluation trenching carried out by SWARCH in the field to the east of the proposed site in 2022 (Walls 2022), found no archaeological features beyond a land drain and the finds assemblage consisted of plastic drainpipe and bailer twine.</p> <p>Three trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision by a machine fitted with a 1m wide toothless grading bucket and totalled 48.5m 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 very rare sub angular to sub rounded small stones (>40mm diameter). The topsoil was typically around 0.3m deep across the site. The topsoil directly overlay the natural, a very firm (and crunchy) 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 southern most variations consisted of a compact firm yellow-red clay with more common stone inclusions. No traces of plough scarring were noted despite the shallow soil depths.</p> <p>No archaeological features were encountered, with a single east-west orientated land drain in the western trench, which was 0.2m wide and 0.22m deep with near vertical sides and slightly concave base. The drain was filled with a soft mid red-brown silt-sand loam with abundant medium sized sub-angular stones. In general, the ground which forms the site was very wet, suggesting that any land drains in this area were likely broken/silted-up.</p> <p>The trenches and spoil were walked over however the only finds were fragments of a blue plastic land drain and a single sherd of 18th-19th century green bottle glass, these were subsequently discarded.</p> <p>Conclusions The results of the evaluation trenching that the site of the immediate development has no evidence of any archaeological significance.</p> <p>Bibliography Boyd, N. 2023: <i>Land at Camps Cross Farm, Shobrooke, Mid Devon, Devon: WSI: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH report no. SCCB23WSiv2 British Geological Survey 2023: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>. Walls, S. 2022: <i>Archaeological evaluation on land at Camp Cross, Shobrooke, Mid Devon, Devon</i>.</p>		
Recorder: Dr. S.H. Walls, MCIfA.		Date sent to HER: 06.04.2023



Tel: 01769 573555
 Email: mail@swarch.net

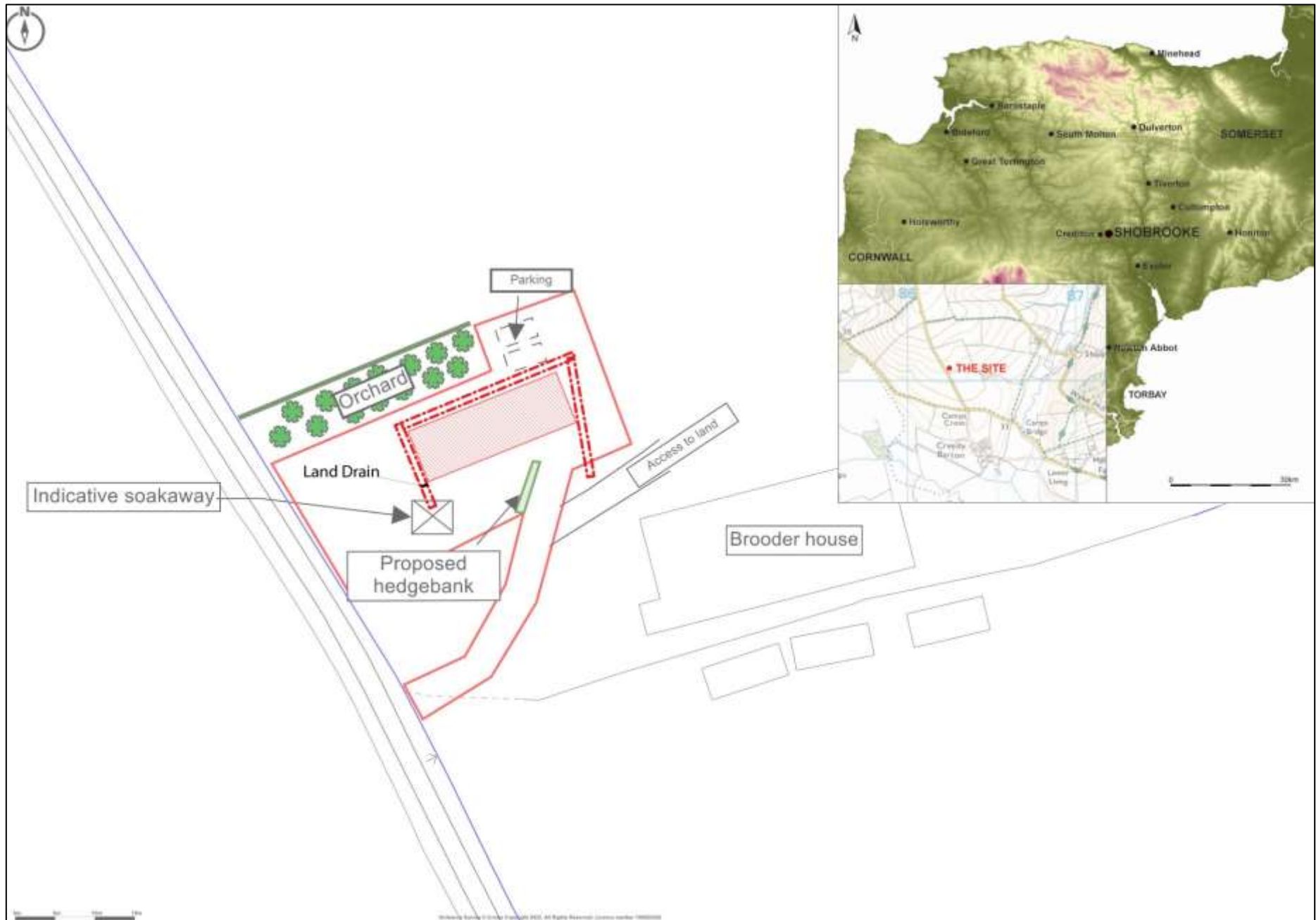


FIGURE 1: TRENCH PLAN OVERLAID ON THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT (COURTESY OF THE CLIENT).



FIGURE 2: SITE VIEWED FROM EXISTING YARD/DRIVE TO THE SOUTH (NO SCALE). MACHINE LOCATED IN POSITION OF EASTERN TRENCH.



FIGURE 3: LEFT – EASTERN TRENCH, VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE). RIGHT – NORTHERN TRENCH, VIEWED FROM THE EAST (1M SCALE).