

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Hockworthy, Mid-Devon	National Grid Reference ST0377319455	Number:
Subject: Court Hall, Hockworthy: proposed formation of a tennis court		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: N/A	Recipient museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter	
OASIS ID: southwes1-129635	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: HCH12	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 04/07/2012	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by South West Archaeology Limited (SWARCH) at the request of Alasdair Cameron (the Agent) on behalf of Simon and Alison Mundy (the Client) prior to a planning application for the formation of a tennis court (amongst other works) at Court Hall, Hockworthy. The work was carried out in accordance with a Project Design drawn up by SWARCH and devised in consultation with Stephen Reed of Devon County Historic Environment Service (DCHES). The work was undertaken by Dr. S. Walls.</p> <p>Court Hall Farmhouse is a Grade II* property (ref: 1147804) dating from the late 17th century with possible earlier origins. An adjacent barn (to the east of the proposed tennis court) is Grade II listed (ref: 1308358). The proposed development involves groundworks in the vicinity of Court Hall and the listed barn. The proposed works will have an impact on the setting of Court Hall, the associated barn and Home Farm (also Grade II* Listed). There is also high potential for the survival of archaeological deposits relating to earlier settlement or structures at Court Hall.</p> <p>The area of the proposed tennis court is comprised of an area of open lawn with scattered trees. The ground gently slopes to the south (towards the house) and is noticeably terraced (by c.0.7m) along the eastern 6.5m (towards the barn). This terrace presumably relates to a former vehicular access and is likely to have been disturbed during conversion works to the adjacent barn in the late 20th century. Two (c.1x1m) test pits were excavated on the area of raised ground to the west of this terrace in order to maximize the potential for finding archaeological remains.</p> <p>Test Pit 1 (1.2x1.2m) was excavated to a depth of 0.36m. This revealed an upper topsoil band (0.14m thick) of clean soft mid-reddish-brown silt-clay topsoil with common small roots (>10mm dia.) and rare sub-angular stones (>30mm). Overlying a lower topsoil (0.16m thick) of more mixed and loose red-brown clay-silt, containing occasional charcoal and coal fragments (generally within the top of this deposit), occasional to common sub-angular stones (>50mm) and common roots (>40mm dia.). A couple of small (>60mm) sub-rounded pebbles were also noted within the lower topsoil deposit of this trench. The topsoil overlay the natural subsoil which comprised a firm grayish red-brown clay-silt with common to frequent sub-angular stone fragments (>80mm). No features were cut into this subsoil, although the western edge had been disturbed by tree roots.</p> <p>Test Pit 2 (1x1.1m) revealed the same basic stratigraphic sequence, although it was noticeable that the charcoal and coal fragments within the lower topsoil in fact formed a discrete lens between the two bands of topsoil within this trench, presumably as it was less disturbed by tree roots than in Test Pit 1. A small (0.4m deep) sondage was excavated (onto bedrock) in the southwest corner of this trench to confirm that the lowest deposit was indeed natural subsoil.</p> <p>No archaeological features were identified in the trenches.</p> <p>The finds were all recovered from the thin lens of charcoal and debris between the two bands of topsoil. From Test Pit 1 these consisted of 1x sherd WRE (5g); 1x shard of modern green glass (2g); 1x FE gate hinge (116g); and 1x coal fragment (2g). From Test Pit 2 the finds were 1x abraded sherd 14th-15th century North Devon Ware (7g); 1x base sherd 17th century North Devon Ware (46g); 1x flint flake (5g); and 5x roof slate (2 types of slate) fragments (60g).</p>		
<p>A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.</p>		

Recorder: S. Walls

Date sent to HER: 04.07.2012

Please email completed form to: archaeol@devon.gov.uk or post to County Archaeology Service, Environment Directorate, Matford Lane Offices, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QW. Information recorded on this form will be added to the Historic Environment Record, and made available to all researchers.

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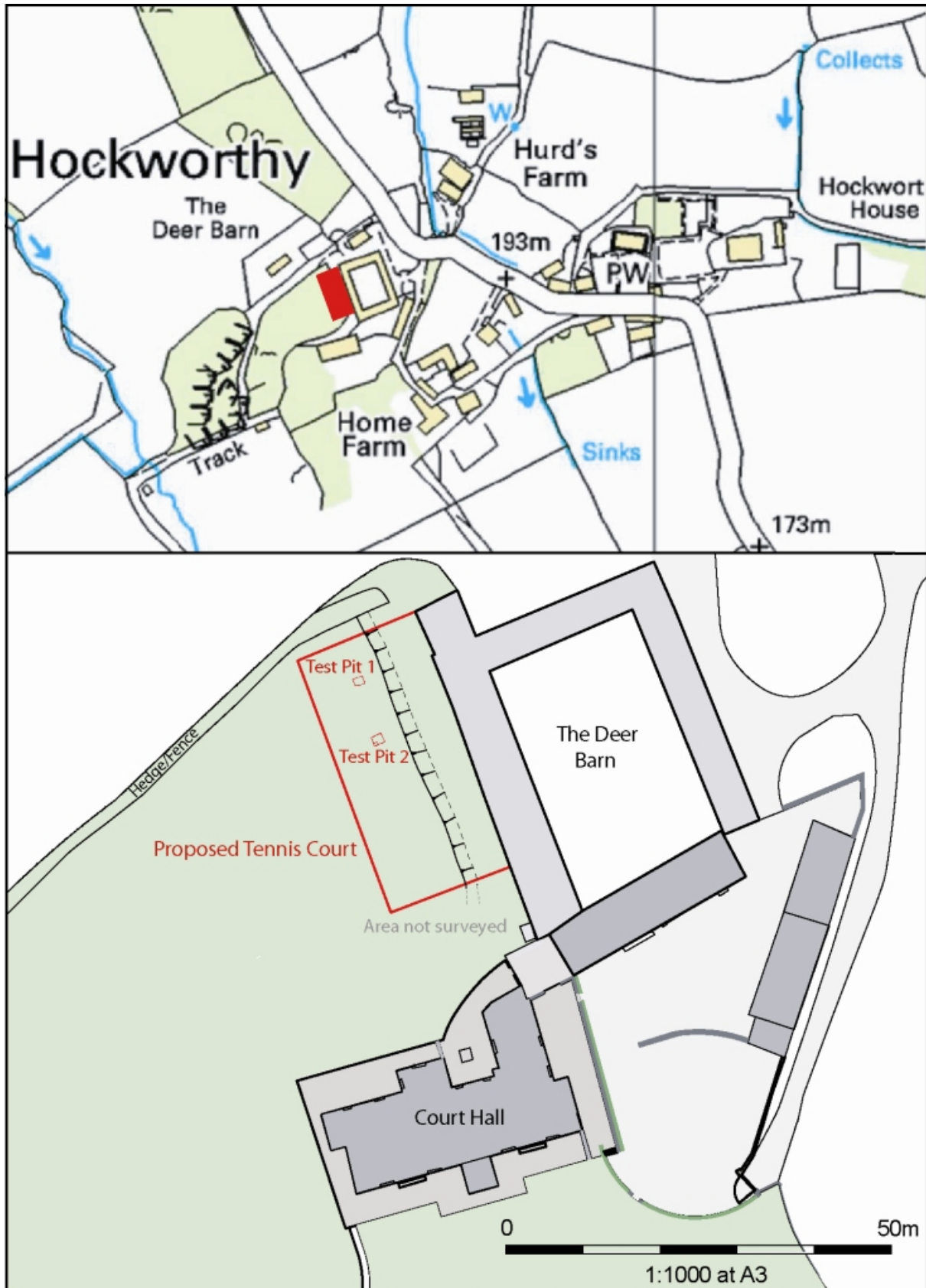


Figure 1: Above – Location map with proposed tennis court in red. Below – Site plan showing location of the test pits.



Figure 2: Above – Working shot of the Test Pits. Below – South facing section of Test Pit 1, viewed from the south (1m scale).