

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Sampford Courtenay, West Devon	National Grid Reference SS 63874 01634	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording during the installation of a telecommunication mast on land at Langmead Farm		Photo attached? Yes
Planning Application no: 0249/19/PAT	Recipient museum: Plymouth City Museum (PCM)	
OASIS ID: southwes1-346103	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: SCL19	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 1 st April 2019	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) prior to the installation of a telecommunication mast of land at Langmead Farm, Sampford Courtenay, Devon. The work was carried out on 1st April 2019 in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Boyd 2019) drawn up in consultation with the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>The site is located c.5.5km north-east of Okehampton and c.14km west of Crediton to the north-east of the village on a west facing slope. The excavated area was located in the north-western corner of the field at a height of c.165m AOD. The soils of this area are the well drained gritty reddish loamy soils of the Crediton Association (SSEW 1983); overlying sandstone of the Breccia Formation (BGS 2018).</p> <p>Whilst no archaeological works appear to have been carried out in the surrounding area prior to the works associated with this development, the site is located within the last Battlefield of the Prayer Book Rebellion of 1549. The battlefield is an undesignated heritage asset, but there was potential to encounter remains relating to this conflict.</p> <p>Two small circular holes were excavated by machine, these measured 0.6m in diameter and 0.4m in diameter. The sites of the two holes and the subsequent spoil were subject to a metal detector survey. The two holes were located c. 0.5m east of the present hedgebank, and revealed a stratigraphy of friable reddish silt-clay topsoil overlying a natural of yellowish-red silt-clay. No features or finds were recovered, with the exception of a metal bottle cap and short length of wire from a pile of spoil recently dumped in the gateway.</p> <p>Conclusions</p> <p>The two small excavations did not reveal any archaeological deposits or features, nor did appear that they were located with the cut for any boundary ditch which may have flanked the adjacent hedgebank. The general area has high archaeological potential to recover remains associated with the Prayer Book Battle and future groundworks in the area should include for appropriate archaeological mitigation.</p> <p>Bibliography</p> <p>Boyd, N. 2019: <i>Telecommunications Mast, Land at Langmead Farm, Sampford Courtenay, West Devon, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH WSI no SCL19WSIV1.</p> <p>British Geological Survey 2018: <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: 04.04.19

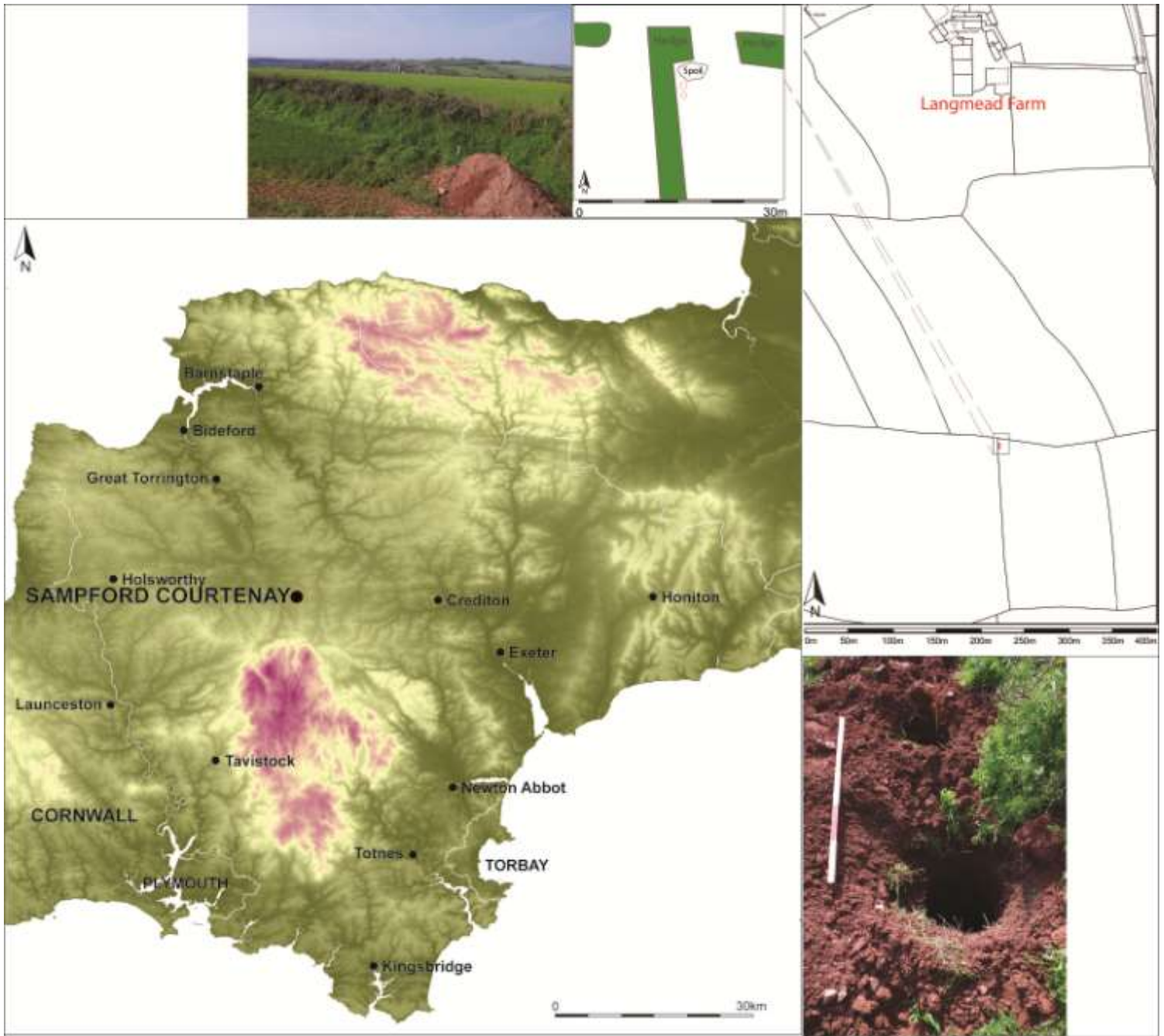


FIGURE 1: SITE PLAN SHOWING LOCATION OF EXCAVATED AREAS. POST-EXCITATION SHOT; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (1M SCALE).