

LAND OFF CHULMLEIGH ROAD
MORCHARD BISHOP
MID DEVON
DEVON

Results of an Archaeological Assessment
& Geophysical Survey



South West Archaeology Ltd. report no. 191123



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LAND OFF CHULMLEIGH ROAD, MORCHARD BISHOP, MID DEVON, DEVON

RESULTS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT & GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

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Work undertaken by SWARCH for a private client

SUMMARY

This report presents the results of an archaeological assessment and geophysical survey carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) on land off Chulmleigh Road, Morchard Bishop, Devon. The site is located on the western edge of the village of Morchard Bishop, c.8.5km north-west of Crediton.

Morchard Bishop was a small Domesday manor. Its place-name is derived from the Primitive Welsh for 'Great Wood'. Cartographic-, aerial- and satellite sources show that the site had internal boundaries in the north field removed in the 20th century and that it had been used as allotments for much of the 20th century. The southern field may have been used as an orchard in the early 19th century. No previous archaeological works have taken place on the site and the site is outside the Morchard Bishop Conservation Area. However, aerial photography has been used to propose a potential prehistoric ring-ditch/enclosure in a field immediately east of the site.

The geophysical survey identified 15 groups of anomalies and evidence of agricultural ground disturbance. The identified anomaly groups include; two historic field boundaries, six possible pits or tree-throws, a modern service pipe and two spreads of modern disturbance, multiple linear features indicative of cultivation (including plough-scars in three or four directions), an amorphous spread, two ditches and a recent/shallow track. Most anomalies on the site are indicative of agricultural activity such as drainage, ploughing/cultivation and field boundaries. The very weak response of most of the anomalies indicates the probable ephemeral nature of most of the features. The history of the site means that most of the anomalies are probably associated with agricultural activity, both domestic allotments and industrial agriculture, which took place in the post-medieval period. There is no clear evidence of prehistoric activity associated with a possible feature identified by cropmarks adjacent to the site.

Possible medieval and later archaeological anomalies were identified on the site as were undated features of a probable medieval-modern date. Due to the potential for prehistoric activity on the site in the form of small discrete features associated with possible (not confirmed) prehistoric assets in the immediate area some form of investigation and validation of the geophysical survey results may be required in the form of targeted evaluation trenching or perhaps more appropriately in this instance archaeological monitoring of groundworks.



November 2019

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| LOCATION: | LAND OFF CHULMLEIGH ROAD, MORCHARD BISHOP |
| PARISH: | MORCHARD BISHOP |
| DISTRICT: | MID DEVON |
| COUNTY: | DEVON |
| NGR: | SS 76499 07851 / SS 76582 07743 |
| SWARCH REF. | MBL19 |

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was commissioned by a private client to undertake an archaeological assessment and geophysical survey on land off Chulmleigh Road, Morchard Bishop, Mid Devon, Devon, as part of the pre-application requirements for a proposed residential development. This work was undertaken in accordance with a Project Design (Allen 2019), ClfA guidelines and best practice.

1.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Morchard Bishop is a civil parish and village in the Mid Devon District. The village is c.8.5km north-west of Crediton and c.3km north-east of the A377 in a landscape of valleys and streams/tributaries between the Rivers Yeo, Dalch and Exe. The site is across two fields on the western edge of the village, adjacent to Newhouse Farm and on either side of Chulmleigh Road. The southern/lower of the two fields is a relatively level rectangular parcel of land at the foot of a slope/valley alongside a watercourse utilised by a sewage works. It is at a height of c.90m AOD. The northern/upper field is a trapezoidal parcel of land on a gentle-moderate south-facing slope that falls from between 110m to 93m AOD (see Figure 1).

The soils on the site are predominantly the well drained fine loamy soils often over rock of the Neath Association (SSEW 1983), which overlie the mudstone and siltstone of the Bude Formation (BGS 2019).

1.3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The parish of Morchard Bishop is in the hundred of Crediton and deanery of Cadbury. In 1086 Morchard Bishop (*Morceta*) was held by Beorhtric from the king and was a relatively small manor, having 10 households and being worth £4 (Morris 1992). Anciently, prominent families such as the Arundells held land in the parish with the manor being held by the Bishop of Exeter until the reformation (National Archives; Lysons 1822). The place-name of the village is derived from the Primitive Welsh *mōr* and *cēd* meaning 'great wood' and the later affix *episcopi* from the Latin for Bishop denoting that the Bishop of Exeter held this manor on behalf of the king (Watts 2004).

Cartographic evidence (see Section 2.2) shows that the north field of the site has had internal field boundaries removed in the 19th and 20th centuries; and has been used for allotments with structures at its southern edge. The southern field is shown to possibly of had structures in the 19th century along its northern edge and of having possibly been an orchard prior to 1838. The Devon County Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) describes the area of the site as within post-medieval enclosures with medieval elements.

No archaeological works have previously taken place on the site and, excluding listed structures within the Conservation Area of Morchard Bishop to the east, very few heritage assets are located within 1km of the site. The Devon Historic Environment Record includes the cropmark of a

possible prehistoric ring-ditch (MDV41068) in the field immediately east of the north field of the site. The majority of other assets near to the site are post-medieval structures; although a possible medieval water meadow (MDV53541) is located to the south-east of the site.

1.4 METHODOLOGY

This work was undertaken in accordance a Project Design drawn up in consultation with Devon County Historic Environment Team (Allen 2019), best practice and ClfA guidance. Any desk-based assessment aspect of this report follows the guidance as outlined in: *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (ClfA 2014a) and *Understanding Place: historic area assessments in a planning and development context* (English Heritage 2017). The geophysical (gradiometer) survey follows the general guidance as outlined in: *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation* (English Heritage 2008) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Geophysical Survey* (ClfA 2014b).

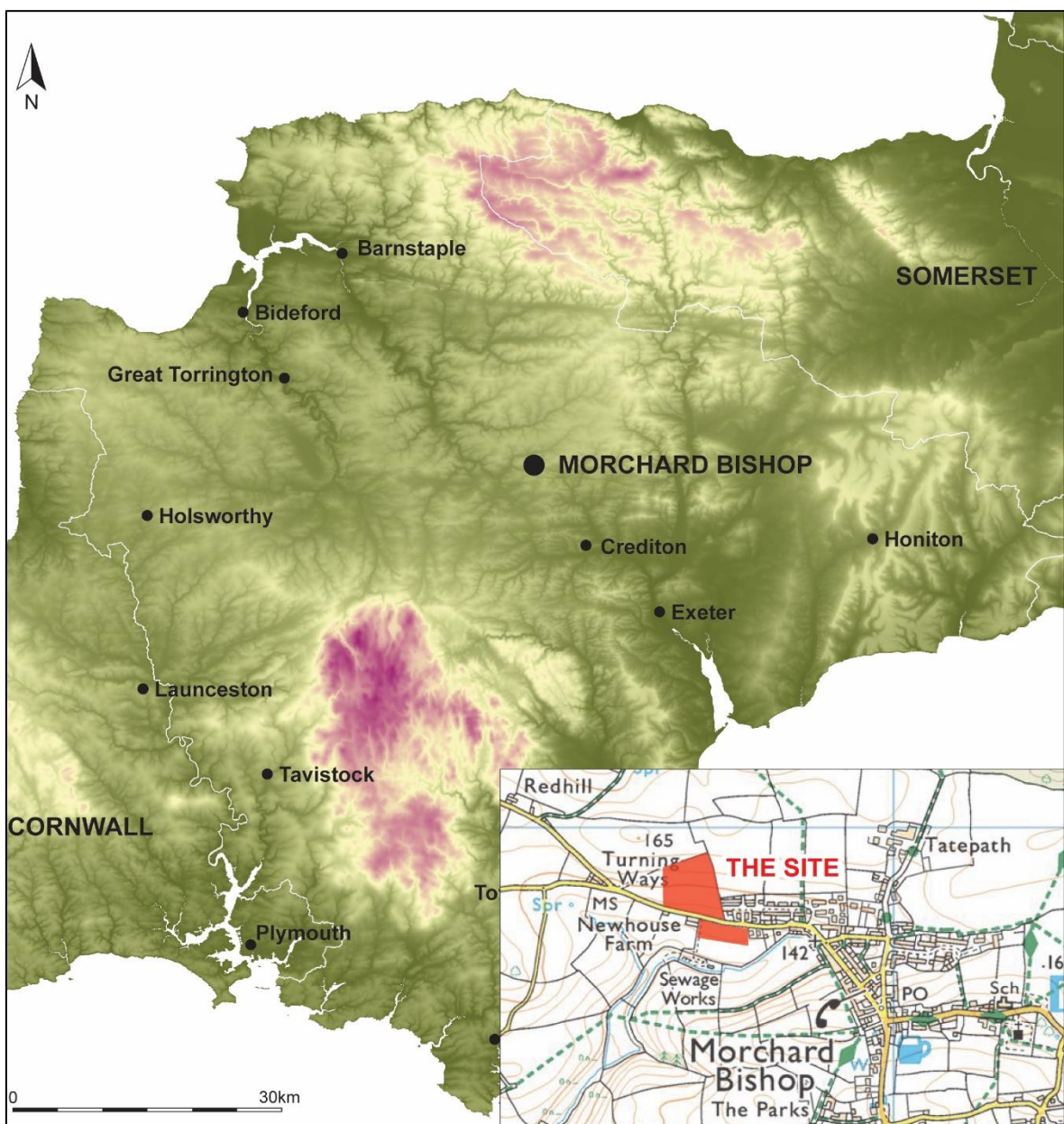


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION (THE SITE IS INDICATED).

2.0 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

2.1 DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

Morchard Bishop was a Domesday manor (*Morceta*). Prior to the conquest the manor paid a land tax for half a hide (Morris 1992), which would imply a relatively small estate with perhaps a single household. In 1086 it was still a relatively small manor, having ten households and being worth £4. It was held by Beorhtric from the king at for a time in the 12th century was held by Empress Matilda (Morris 1992). Lysons (1822) lists the manor of Morchard Bishop as having anciently belonged to the Bishop of Exeter and that after the reformation (c.1536), in the late 16th century, it was held by Sir Peter Carew from whom it passed through the Southcote and Boucher families until in the early 19th century it was held by an R.H. Tuckfield. However, documents held at the National Record Office and Cornwall Record Office show that although part of the See of Exeter in 1292 (sc 6/1138/1) the Arundell family held *Mortestria Episcopi* in the late 13th and early 14th century and gifted a measure of lordship to the Umffraill family (AR/1/82). Lands in the parish are also shown to have been held by a Richard de Stapelton who in c.1310 granted some land to the Bishop of Exeter (C 143/83/3). Morchard Bishop may have been part of the church lands as early as 1086 according to some secondary sources, however it is first recorded as adopting the affix *Episcopi* in 1207 (Watts 2004), perhaps officially being absorbed by the church sometime prior to this. The Devon Historic Environment Record entry for the manor (MDV16963) lists the manor as being separate from the see of Crediton in 1086; being brought by the Bishop in 1165; and passing from the church to the Darcy family in 1548.

The tithe apportionment shows the site and field-scape in general was divided between many farms/small holdings. The site itself, four plots, being split between three ownerships. However, most of the area was predominantly owned and occupied by a handful of families; Quick, Wreford and Maunder. Parish registers give accounts of these families to some degree, but 'Trewman's Exeter Flying Post' 1841-1860 (genuki 2019) paints a colourful picture of some of these characters debt and alcohol fueled arguments and anecdotes as well as referring to some of their professions: these include; shop-owners, landowners, ironmongers, labourers. The importance of the wool trade in the Crediton area is also alluded to be the profession of serge-maker (a fabric). The construction of the railway between Exeter and Barnstaple, that bypassed the route through Morchard Bishop, may have contributed to a waning of textile industry and service industries outside of agriculture in the area.

The place-name of the village is derived from the Primitive Welsh (or Celtic) *mōr* and *cēd* meaning 'great wood' and the later affix *episcopi* from the Latin for Bishop denoting that the Bishop of Exeter held this manor on behalf of the king. In 1207 the village is called *Morchet Episcopi*, by the end of the 13th century Middle English forms of 'Bishop' had replaced *episcopi*; *Bisshopes Morchestre*, in 1289 (Watts 2004).

2.2 CARTOGRAPHIC DEVELOPMENT

The first cartographic source available to this study is the early 19th century Ordnance Survey (OS) surveyor's draft map of the Crediton area (Figure 2). The area of the site is shown as across a series of regular straight sided fields that are often indicative of post-medieval enclosure. The precision of these early OS drafts can be questioned but this example provides a reliable depiction of roadways and the settlement. It ostensibly shows a property just beyond the north-west corner of the north field of the site; '(?)15 M'. It also indicates a structure adjacent to the south field of the site and dappling in the same area may indicate the south field of the site was an orchard or garden associated with property in the village.



FIGURE 2: EXTRACT FROM THE OS SURVEYOR'S DRAFT MAP FOR THE CREDITON AREA, EARLY 19TH CENTURY (BL); THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE SITE IS INDICATED.

The 1844 Morchard Bishop tithe map (Figure 3) provides a more detailed depiction of the site and surrounding field-system. Compared to the Surveyor's draft map it shows the extant north field as split across three fields (plots 1637, 1638, 1639) and the extant south field as part of a single large field (plot 1529). A property is clearly shown beyond the north-west boundary of the site (*Sun Rising Cottage and Garden* – plot 1636) and adjacent to the south field (*New House Cottage and Meadow* – plot 1530). A notable difference between the two maps is the absence of structures between *New House Cottage* and the western end of the village proper on the tithe map, along the roadside of the south field of the site.

The tithe apportionment (Table 1) shows the site and field-scape in general was divided between many farms/small holdings. The site itself, four plots, being split between three ownerships. However, most of the area was predominantly owned and occupied by a handful of families; Quick, Wreford and Maunder. The farm- and field names are generally prosaic and descriptive of location, use, shape or personal names; although some words are of interest. 'Goil', plots 1373 and 1374, is a Devonshire word referring to a large channel/drain that in this instance is associated with the tributary/stream to the south of the site, which feeds *Knights Brook*, which feeds the River Yeo. Field-names containing the element 'Nap' are derived from the Old English *cnæp* meaning 'a prominent hill/summit' and presumably refer to a peak north-north-west of the site in the north-west part of plot 1744. The use of plot 1527 to the east of the south field as an orchard may support the implication that the south field was depicted as an orchard on the earlier OS draft map. The tithe map also depicts a possible spring line aligned north-west by south-east between a spring to the east of the site and a village well. This landscape may be conducive to multiple spring lines.

LAND OFF CHULMLEIGH ROAD, MORCHARD BISHOP, MID DEVON, DEVON

| Landowner | Occupier | Plot number | Plot name | Usage |
|--|-------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| Mares Middlecott | | | | |
| Mr William Wreford | Roger Denshaw | 1370 | Dartleigh | Arable |
| | | 1529 | Keckmoor Ham | Arable |
| | | 1641 | Town Close | Arable |
| | | 1744 | The Nap | Arable |
| | George Wreford | 1745 | Nap | Arable |
| Middlecott and New House | | | | |
| John Quick Esq. | William Maunder | 1371 | Orchard Plot | Arable |
| | | 1372 | Lane | Road |
| | | 1530 | New House Cottage and Meadow | Meadow - |
| | | 1531 | Square Close | Arable |
| | | 1637 | Three Cornered Field | Arable |
| North Parks | | | | |
| John Quick Esq. | John Wreford | 1373 | Goil | Pasture |
| | | 1374 | Goil | Pasture |
| | | 1375 | Orchard | Orchard |
| | | 1376 | Barnfield | Arable |
| | | 1377 | Littlepark | Arable |
| | | 1378 | Littlepark Meadow | Meadow |
| Golland | | | | |
| John Quick Esq. | Richard Gibbings | 1526 | Great Meadow | Meadow |
| | Robert Page | 1634 | Turnends Ways Cottage and Garden | - |
| | | 1635 | Lane | Road |
| Longmarsh | | | | |
| Rev. John Bartholomew (glebe) | John Maunder | 1527 | Orchard | Orchard |
| | John Gregory and others | 1528 | Cottages and Garden | - |
| | John Maunder | 1642 | Long Hollsard (?) | Meadow |
| Woodgate | | | | |
| John Quick Esq. | George Wreford | 1532 | Turning Ways Field | Arable |
| South Leigh | | | | |
| John Comyns Churchill Esq. | James Maunder | 1636 | Sun Rising Cottage and Garden | - |
| | | 1638 | Second Nap | Arable |
| | | 1639 | First Nap | Arable |
| | (?) | 1640 (?) | (?) | (?) |
| Tuckers Middlecott | | | | |
| John Quick Esq., John Wreford, John Silifant | John Wreford | 1743 | Little Town Close | Arable |

TABLE 1: EXTRACT FROM THE MORCHARD BISHOP TITHE APPORTIONMENT; PLOTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SITE ARE HIGHLIGHTED.

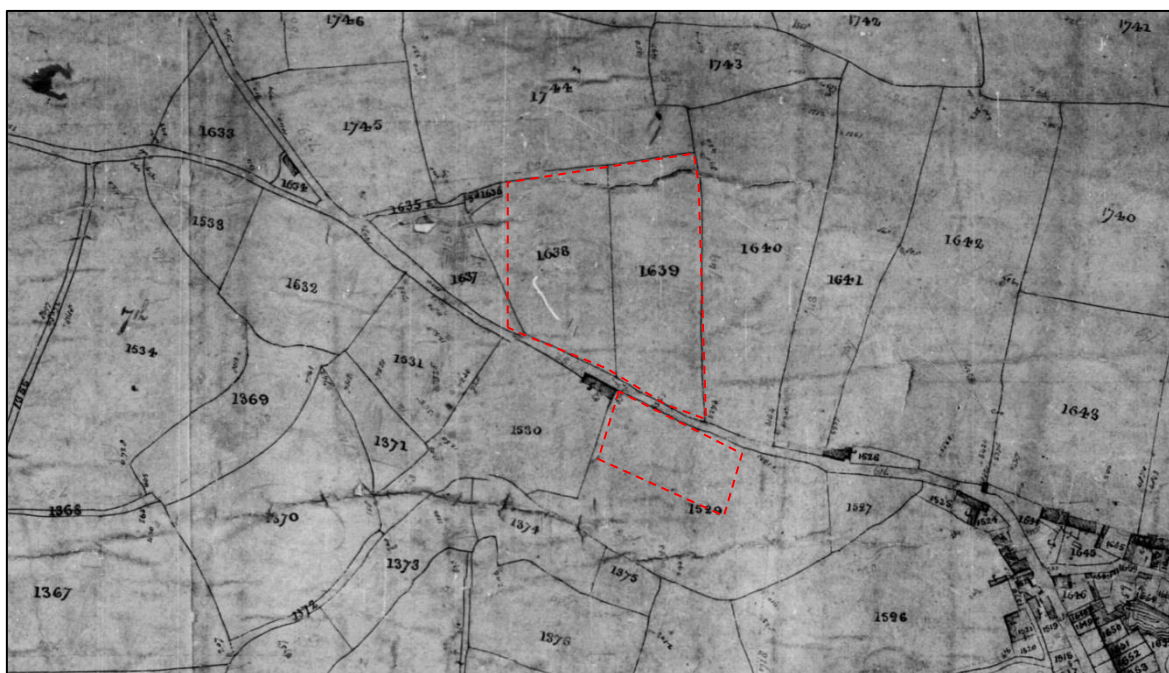


FIGURE 3: EXTRACT FROM MORCHARD BISHOP TITHE MAP, 1838 (DRO); THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE SITE IS OUTLINED.

The Ordnance Survey (OS) first edition map published in 1889 (Figure 4) shows a large amount of continuity with the earlier mapping with relatively few amendments to field boundaries. The most notable differences are the absence of the north-south boundary that had divided the north field in-two and the absence of *Sun Rising Cottage* beyond the north-west corner of the site. What had been plot 1527 is still depicted as an orchard and Morchard Bishop has extended to the east by a few structures across what was plot 1525.

The only change specific to the site between the OS 1st and 2nd edition maps; 1889 and 1905 (Figures 4 and 5), is the description of the north field as *Allotment Gardens*. Subsequent changes to the site as depicted in the cartographic record occur between the time of the 1905 and 1963 OS mapping: the residential development of what becomes *Greenway* to the east of the north field is begun and properties east of the south field are developed. Most importantly to the site, a barn is shown near the gate in the north field. By the time of the 1971 OS mapping *Greenway* has reached its current extent to the edge of the site, three probable barn structures are shown near the gate in the north field, the sewage works with its access across- and to the south of the south field has been constructed and the spring east of the site is labelled as a pond. The only changes pertinent to the site over the last 50 years are the removal of the north-west by south-east boundary that defined plot 1637 on the tithe map and encroached on the south-west corner of the north field, along with the instatement of the extant western boundary to the north field; and the addition of two more properties built in the north-east corner of the south field.

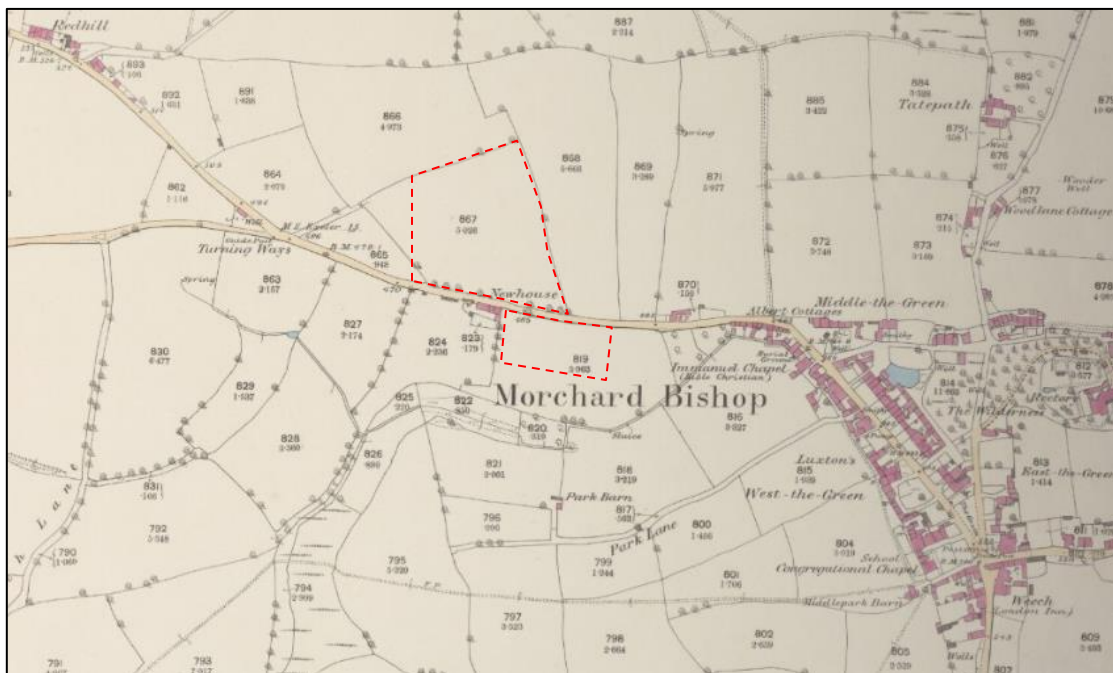


FIGURE 4: EXTRACT FROM THE OS 1ST EDITION 25" MAP, PUBLISHED 1889 (DRO); THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE SITE IS OUTLINED.

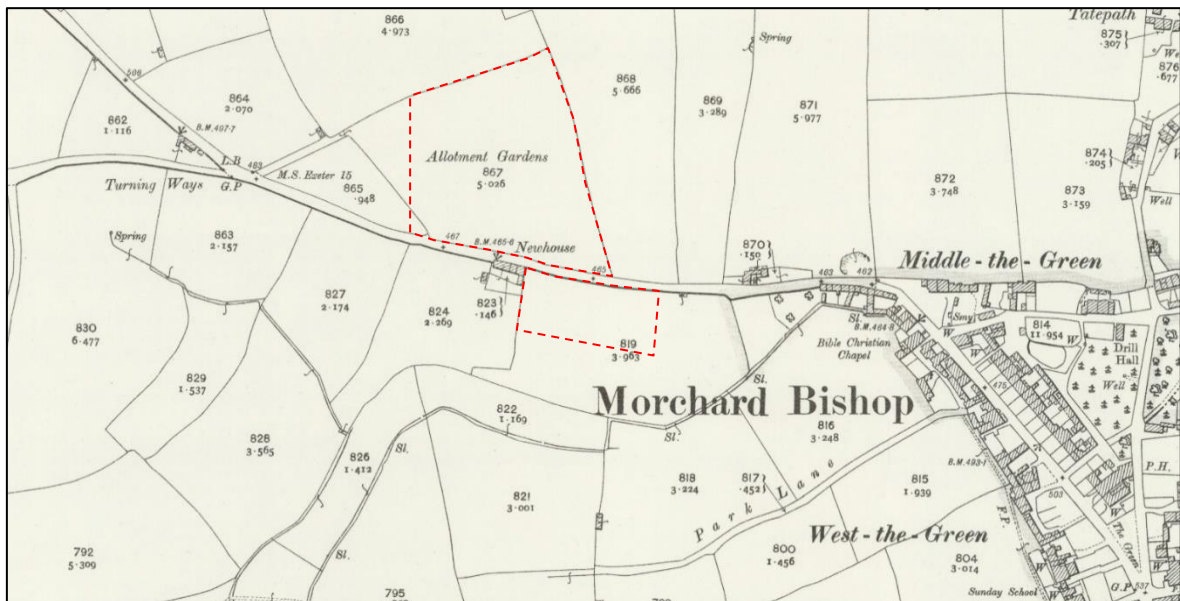


FIGURE 5: EXTRACT FROM THE OS 2ND EDITION 25" MAP, PUBLISHED 1905 (DRO); THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE SITE IS OUTLINED.

2.3 AERIAL IMAGERY

In aerial photography of the site taken in 1946 (Figure 6) allotments can be seen across the western half of the north field, a barn can be seen near the gate in the north field and animals with pens or structures can be seen in the eastern half of the north field. It further clarifies that the housing developments along the north side of Chulmleigh Road shown on 1963-1971 OS mapping had not been started. A faint cropmark on aerial photography from 1989 indicated the possible presence of a prehistoric ring ditch (c.10m diameter) in the field immediately east of the north field (MDV41068); and beyond 1km east of the site probable prehistoric enclosures at Wood Barton (MDV76171, MDV76174, MDV76175).

There was no freely available LiDAR imagery of the site for this assessment. Satellite imagery of the site from 2002 to 2019 show the development of the current allotments to the west of the north field occurred between 2006 and 2010. On these images the boundaries removed from the north field can occasionally be seen as faint cropmarks.



FIGURE 6: AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF THE SITE, 1946 (SOURCE: ENGLISH HERITAGE); THE SITE IS OUTLINED IN RED.

2.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site specifically has not been subject to any previous archaeological fieldwork. The Devon Historic Environment Record (HER) indicates very few significant heritage assets within 1km of the site. A watching brief was conducted to the north of the site during the construction of a dwelling at Harescombe (EDV6951). The cropmark of a possible prehistoric enclosure/ring-ditch is located in the field east of the site (MDV41068). Other than documentary evidence the medieval landscape of the site is represented by two listed buildings: the 15th century Church of St Mary in Morchard Bishop; and the 16th century Middlecott Farmhouse to the south-west. Most of the HER records refer to post-medieval or modern structures including 43 listed structures within the Conservation Area (CA) of Morchard Bishop. Those of note nearest to the site and outside the CA are the Grade II Listed, 17th century *Turning Ways* to the west (1263307); and the Grade II Listed, late 18th-early 19th century *Bayhouse* to the east. The nearest Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM) to the site are the Bury Barton Roman fort and camp, c.3km to the west (1002669); and the Late Bronze Age to early Iron Age Berry Castle Hillfort, c.3.8km to the north-east (1019541). A map and complete list of heritage assets within 1km of the site can be seen in Appendix 2.

Devon's Historic Landscape Character (HLC) notes the southern field as post-medieval enclosures with medieval elements – *'These enclosures are probably based on medieval fields, but the many straight field boundaries suggest they were substantially re-organised in the post-medieval period'*; and the northern field as modern enclosures created out of probable medieval enclosures – *'These modern fields have been created out of probable medieval enclosures. The sinuous medieval boundaries survive in places'*. These medieval boundaries were based on strip-fields and are described as – *'...probably first enclosed with hedge-banks during the later middle ages. The curving form of the hedge-banks suggests that earlier it may have been farmed as open strip-fields'*.

The Morchard Bishop Conservation Area was designated in 1985 and reviewed in 2015 to accommodate for the historic built environment. It begins c.150m east of the site and encompasses the core of the village at its church at the eastern edge of the settlement. This area contains 43 Listed structures.

2.4.1 PREHISTORIC 4000BC - AD43

An undated but possible prehistoric ring-ditch, c.10m in diameter is located in the field immediately west of the north field of the site. It was identified as a cropmark on aerial photography from 1989 (MDV41068). Two other assets, one to the east and one to the west, are recorded within c.1km of the site; an undated sub-rectangular enclosure and a large circular cropmark with associated ring-ditch cropmarks, all identified via aerial photography (MDV41069, MDV76171). These features could indicate Iron Age or Bronze Age activity near to the site.

2.4.2 ROMANO-BRITISH AD43 – AD409

The only recorded Romano-British assets within 1km of the site is the findspot of some silver Roman Coins (from the late 1st to early 2nd century AD) were found south of Morchard Bishop by labourers while repairing a hedge in the early 19th century.

2.4.3 EARLY MEDIEVAL AD410 – AD1065

The HER speculatively dates some assets with a very broad range/non-committal date range, which includes a handful of early medieval to post-medieval/modern assets (e.g. MDV41010, MDV41042, MDV53540). On inspection these assets include three probable post-medieval and/or modern buildings and a possible medieval or later water meadow. There are no confirmed recorded early medieval assets within 1km of the site; although the settlement of Morchard Bishop itself is likely to have origins in this time based on place-name evidence and its inclusion in the Domesday survey.

2.4.4 MEDIEVAL AD1066 – AD1539

The manor of Morchard Bishop itself is listed on the Devon HER (MDV16963) as being a secular manor until its purchase by the Bishop of Exeter in 1165, from whom it passed in 1548 to the Darcy family. The Grade I Listed Church of St Mary that was rebuilt in the 15th century to the east-south-east; and the Grade II Listed 16th century Middlecott Farmhouse to the south-west represent the medieval assets listed within 1km of the site. However, a water meadow (MDV53541) to the south-east of the site may be medieval or later in date. These features were well established in the England by the early 17th century and declined in use from the late 19th century (Historic England 2018).

2.4.5 POST-MEDIEVAL AD1540 – AD1750 AND MODERN AD1751 – PRESENT

Of the 43 listed assets within the CA of Morchard Bishop, almost all are post-medieval structures including pumps, forges, cottages, chapels and a village green. To the south of the CA, along the southern extent of Morchard Bishop towards Frost, are twelve additional assets (including Listed buildings) of post-medieval date. These include two forges (MDV35816, MDV108355) and a water pump (MDV108359). The assets closest to the site of note are the Grade II Listed, 17th century *Turning Ways* to the west (1263307); and the Grade II Listed, late 18th-early 19th century *Bayhouse* to the east.

3.0 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

An area of c.2ha was the subject of a magnetometry (gradiometer) survey. The purpose of this survey was to identify and record magnetic anomalies within the proposed site. While identified anomalies may relate to archaeological deposits and structures the dimensions of recorded anomalies may not correspond directly with any associated features. The following discussion attempts to clarify and characterise the identified anomalies. The survey was undertaken on the 12th and 13th of November 2019 by SWARCH J. Bampton; the survey data was processed by J. Bampton.

3.2 SITE INSPECTION

The site is located across two fields on the west side of the settlement of Morchard Bishop, on either side of Chulmleigh Road. At the time of the survey no significant earthworks were visible on the ground; although ostensibly natural undulations were noticed in the southern field. Supporting photographs for the site inspection can be seen in Appendix 3.

The southern field was a relatively square parcel of land that had been under pasture. It was relatively level; with an extremely gentle slope to the south. Its roadside boundary was a stone-lined hedge bank with low bank and hedge and fence lines forming the other boundaries. Along the western edge of the site is an access track from the road to a sewage works on the south side of the site. The field itself was extremely saturated and quite boggy and locations where cattle 'ring-feeders' had been placed were extremely boggy and churned up; this was prevalent in the north-west and north-east of the field. A large number of telegraph poles ran across the site and a utility pole was located in the north-east corner of the site. The field had New House Farm to its west and Morchard Bishop to its east.

The northern field was a relatively square, trapezoidal field that contained the stubble of a corn (maize) crop. It had a moderate south-facing slope. The ground was relatively saturated and had become boggy along its southern edge where a slight ditch was filled with surface/ground water. A man-hole cover was present near to the southern boundary to the east of the access gate opposite New House Farm. Its north, east and southern boundaries were bank and hedge boundaries and the western boundary was a relatively modern fence line. The field had probably multiple accesses; two on the southern and one in each of the others. The field had allotments to its west and fields to its north and east with a 20th century residential expansion of Morchard Bishop on its lower east side.

3.3 METHODOLOGY

The gradiometer survey follows the general guidance as outlined in: *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation* (English Heritage 2008) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Geophysical Survey* (CIfA 2014b).

The survey was carried out using a twin-sensor fluxgate gradiometer (Bartington Grad601). These machines are sensitive to depths of up to 1.50m. The survey parameters were: sample intervals of 0.25m, traverse intervals of 1m, a zigzag traverse pattern, traverse orientation was circumstantial, grid squares of 30x30m. The gradiometer was adjusted ('zeroed') every 0.5-1ha. The survey grid was tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The data was downloaded onto *Grad601 Version 3.16* and processed using *TerraSurveyor Version 3.0.34.10*. The primary data plots and analytical

tools used in this analysis were *Shade* and *Metadata*. The details of the data processing are as follows:

Processes: Clip +/- 3SD; DeStripe all traverses, median; DeStagger traverses (out- and inbound) a3 by 1m, a1, a2, a4-a15, b1-b3 by 75, b4-b17 by 25cm.

Details: 2.0356ha surveyed; Max. 121.72nT, Min. -152.38nT; Standard Deviation 12.81nT, mean 0.27nT, median 0.00nT.

3.4 RESULTS

Table 2 with the accompanying Figures 7 and 8 show the analyses and interpretation of the geophysical survey data. Additional graphic images of the survey data and numbered grid locations can be found in Appendix 1.

TABLE 2: INTERPRETATION OF GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA.

| Anomaly Group | Class and Certainty | Form | Archaeological Characterisation | Comments |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Weak positive and negative, probable | Linear | Historic boundaries | Indicative of a boundary defined by a bank with flanking ditches. The example in the middle of the north field was removed between mapping from 1838 and 1889 but still on an aerial photograph from 1946. The example in the south-west corner of the north field was removed between 1971 and 2002. Straight sides indicative of post-medieval enclosure. Responses of +/-12nT. |
| 2 | Weak positive, probable | Linear | Ditch | Indicative of a ditch for drainage or part of an earlier field system. Almost defines topographic break of slope on site and aligned to an access gate; therefore, probably contemporary to extant field system. Response of <+18nT. |
| 3 | Very weak mixed, possible | Linear | Field drain / relict fence lines | Indicative of shallow ground disturbance or ephemeral responses such as some drainage systems. Probably associated with drainage or fence lines depicted on aerial photography (or both). Responses between +/-7nT. |
| 4 | Weak-moderate positive, possible | Linear | Ditch / drainage | Indicative of a ditch or drain. Probably for drainage and associated with an allotment shed near the adjacent boundary. Possibly associated with earlier phase of drainage or ploughing parallel to historic NW-SE boundary (groups 1 and 9). Response of between +8 to +22nT. |
| 5 | Very weak positive, possible | Linear | Field drain | Indicative of ephemeral shallow features/features defined by disturbed natural such as field drains or ploughing. Response of +/-5nT. |
| 6 | Moderate-strong positive, possible | Ovoid | Pits / tree-throws | Indicative of a discrete cut and in-filled feature such as a pits or tree-throws. Possible modern origins based on history of allotments on the site. Response of between +47nT and +72nT. |
| 7 | Weak positive, possible | Amorphous | Geology / saturated hollow | Spread of in-filled material adjacent to a historic field boundary and a possible field drain/fence line; possibly a naturally occurring damp-patch/hollow. Response of c.+15nT. |
| 8 | Very Strong bipolar, probable | Linear | Water main / metallic service | Indicative of a metallic service. Represents a water-main to which there is access via manhole on the site. Response of < +/-100nT. |
| 9 | Weak positive and negative, probable | Linear | Ploughing / agricultural activity | Parallel positive and negative anomalies indicative ploughing visible in multiple directions across the site, particularly the north field. Response of < +/-7nT. |
| 10 | Moderate negative, probable | Linear | Boundary / agricultural activity | Indicative of compacted ground such as bank material or a substantial stone culvert. Probably associated with a relict field boundary contemporary to the extant field system but removed before 1838. Response of < -20nT. |
| 11 | Weak positive, possible | Linear | Agricultural activity | Parallel broad and diffuse anomalies indicative of agricultural activity associated with cultivation of orchards or relict ploughing activity. Response of < +7nT and +10nT. |
| 12 | Weak positive, possible | Linear | Agricultural activity | Same as group 11, but possibly associated with ditches to possible boundary bank (group 10) and a relative |

| Anomaly Group | Class and Certainty | Form | Archaeological Characterisation | Comments |
|---------------|---|-----------|--|--|
| | | | | response associated with modern disturbance (group 15). Response of < +10nT. |
| 13 | Moderate positive, possible | Ovoid | Pits / tree-throws | Indicative of a discrete cut and in-filled feature such as a pits or tree-throws. Possible medieval or post-medieval tree-throws based on history of a potential orchard on the site. Response of between +47nT and +72nT. |
| 14 | Very weak positive and negative, possible | Linear | Shallow ground disturbance / agricultural activity | Indicative of shallow ground disturbance associated with tracks leading from the site access. Possibly related to geological or ploughing activity. Response of < +/-7nT. |
| 15 | Strong negative, probable | Amorphous | Modern disturbance associated with telegraph poles | Spreads of disturbance associated with telegraph poles. Both anchor cables and concrete settings have played a part in these responses. Response of between -15nT and -100nT. |

3.5 DISCUSSION

3.5.1 SUMMARY

The survey identified 15 groups of anomalies and evidence of agricultural ground disturbance. The general geological variation across the site was between +/-10nT in the north field and +/-7nT in the south field. The identified anomaly groups include; two historic field boundaries, six possible pits or tree-throws, a modern service pipe and two spreads of modern disturbance, multiple linear features indicative of cultivation (including plough-scars in three or four directions), an amorphous spread, two ditches and a recent/shallow track. Most anomalies on the site are indicative of agricultural activity such as drainage and field boundaries and most had very weak response strengths. The very weak response of most of the features relative to the general geological response is indicative of the features being ephemeral; either shallow or slight and filled with redeposited/disturbed natural. This is probably indicative of extensive and deep ploughing, which will have truncated to some degree any buried archaeological resource. If the south field had been an orchard, then deep ploughing is likely to have occurred during the restoration of the field to pasture (or arable) cultivation.

The history of the site means that most of the anomalies are probably associated with agricultural activity that took place in the post-medieval period; although, with possible medieval origins. The linear anomalies of groups 2 and 9, although probable contemporaries of the extant field system, may be earlier phases of it. The discrete anomalies on the site, although explainable in the sites historical usage could be prehistoric or natural features. There is no clear evidence of prehistoric activity associated with a possible feature identified by cropmarks adjacent to the site (MDV41068) in the geophysical record. However, discrete features such as post-holes may not be registered during the survey and ploughing may have partially or fully truncated some archaeological features. Cartographic and additional sources that support the following discussion and interpretation can be seen in Section 2 and Appendix 1.

3.5.2 BY ANOMALY GROUP

Anomaly Group 1 consists of two weak (+/-12nT) negative linear responses flanked by positive responses in the north field; one aligned approximately north-south across the middle of the field; and one aligned approximately north-west by south-east in the south-west corner of the field. These anomalies are indicative of banked boundaries with flanking ditches. The north-south example was depicted on the 1838 tithe map, but not on subsequent OS mapping (from 1889); however, it is shown as a boundary on aerial photography from 1946. The example in the south-west corner of the north-field was depicted on the 1838 tithe map and removed sometime between 1971 and 2002. These are straight sided sub-divisions of the extant field-system and were probably post-medieval in date.

Anomaly Group 2 consists of a weak (<+18nT) positive linear (slightly curving downslope) responses at the north end of the site. It was aligned approximately west-north-west by east-south-east and is indicative of a ditch. It probably represents a drainage ditch and is across a rough break in the slope of the topography where either the north-east corner of the north-field may have needed additional drainage; or where an earlier field boundary may have followed a contour line. Its east-south-east end points roughly towards a gate in the eastern boundary of the site and it is possibly drainage contemporary to the extant field system.

Anomaly Group 3 consists of two very weak (+/-7nT) mixed linear responses aligned north-north-east by south-south-west, perpendicular to the historic field boundary (group 1) in the north field. These are indicative of shallow ground disturbance or ephemeral responses that are slight or back-filled with disturbed/redeposited natural, such as field-drains. They are probably associated with either or both of; fence lines depicted on aerial photography in 1946; and drainage (along the same line) from the particularly wet eastern boundary. There is a recognisable wet patch approximately two-thirds of the way down this boundary that presumably regularly pools with water.

Anomaly Group 4 consists a weak-moderate (+8nT to +22nT) positive linear response aligned north-west by south-east on the western edge of the north field. It is indicative of a ditch or drain. It may be related with a soak-away function for a shed in the adjacent allotment or relict activity associated with the property formerly adjacent to the north-west corner of the site. The presence of some striations associated with geology or the historic boundary in the south-west corner of the field (group 1) may account for this parallel anomaly being related to agricultural activity such as ploughing and drainage.

Anomaly Group 5 consists of a very weak (+/-5nT) mixed linear responses aligned approximately north-east by south-west at the north end of the site. It is indicative of ephemeral shallow features/features defined by disturbed natural such as field drains or ploughing. It is possibly associated with some of the group 9 anomalies.

Anomaly Group 6 consists of three moderate-strong (+47nT to +72nT) positive ovoid responses in the north field indicative of discrete cut and in-filled features such as pits or tree-throws. The strength of these responses suggests some reason other than geological for their presence and the history of the site as allotments may account for these anomalies as post-medieval/modern features.

Anomaly Group 7 consists of a weak (c. +15nT) positive amorphous and diffuse responses in the north field. The location of this anomaly in relation to the linear anomalies group 1 and 3 imply that it may be of related activity and it is at a similar height/latitude to the boggy area along the eastern boundary of the north field that is prone to pooling with water (Pers. Comms.). The strength of the response and its diffuse nature suggest that it is a naturally occurring shallow or geological anomaly; although it may be the result of some other ground disturbance event; and if so an ephemeral one associated with post-medieval agricultural activity.

Anomaly Group 8 consists of a very strong (<+/-100nT) bipolar linear response aligned south-east by north-west along the southern boundary of the north field and the northern boundary of the south field. It represents a known metallic service pipe: a water main. There was a man-hole cover on the site associated with this anomaly in the north field between the two limbs as depicted in Figure 8.

Anomaly Group 9 consists of a various weak (+/-7nT) positive and negative parallel linear response across multiple alignments, parallel and perpendicular to boundaries in the north field. These illustrate at least three directions of ploughing across the north field, predominantly north-

south and presumably more recent and intense ploughing. Groups 4 and 5 may be associated with phases of this activity aligned parallel and perpendicular to the historic boundary in the south-west corner of the field.

Anomaly Group 10 is a moderate ($< -20\text{nT}$) negative linear responses aligned approximately north-south in the south field. It is indicative of a line of compacted or stony/rocky material and is therefore probably the remnants of a field boundary bank. The lack of- or diffuse nature of any flanking ditches may be due to deep ploughing having truncated much of the potential feature and the obfuscation of any such features by the presence of regular north-south aligned striations (groups 11 and 12). A stone culvert may produce a similar response, although as with a boundary, some negative features (that is to say cut and in-filled ditch/trench type aspects) could still commonly be present at the edge of such an anomaly. This feature is most likely the remnants of a boundary bank that is an early contemporary of the extant field system removed by 1838.

Anomaly Group 11 consists of at least three weak ($+7\text{nT}$ to $+10\text{nT}$) positive linear responses aligned approximately north-south in the south field. These parallel anomalies are broad, ephemeral and diffuse with intermittent and 'pock' marked trends and are indicative of agricultural activity associated with the cultivation of orchards or relict ploughing. If this field was an orchard prior to 1838, broad linear 'furrows' or 'ridges' (not in the traditional ridge-and-furrow sense) would have been formed. These could leave a diffuse or non-existent trace in the geophysical record; and subsequent ploughing, which is likely to have been used to reinstate the ground for other uses would have truncated any such features and made them more ephemeral. These anomalies may be associated with plantation of trees or drainage.

Anomaly Group 12 consists of three weak ($< +10\text{nT}$) positive linear responses the same as and associated with group 11. Although these anomalies are almost certainly part of the same geophysical signature as group 11, there is the possibility that they are associated both with a flanking ditch on the east side of group 10 and a relative response associated with modern disturbance (group 15) adjacent to a telegraph pole.

Anomaly Group 13 consists of three moderate ($+47\text{nT}$ to $+72\text{nT}$) positive ovoid responses in the south field indicative of discrete cut and in-filled features such as pits or tree-throws in the south field. The strength of these responses suggests some reason other than geological for their presence and the history of the site as a potential orchard may account for these anomalies as medieval to post-medieval tree-throws. As undated anomalies they could represent prehistoric pits or modern features.

Anomaly Group 14 consists of a very weak ($< +/-7\text{nT}$) positive and negative linear response in the south field. This is indicative of shallow ground disturbance associated with tracks that were partially visible during the survey and can be seen on the geophysical data to run from the site access to the south-east. It is not impossible that its location is coincidental, as its weak strength may be used to suggest that it is geological in nature or the result of ploughing.

Anomaly Group 15 consists of two strong (-15nT to -100nT) negative amorphous responses in the south field. These anomalies both correlate to telegraph poles surrounded by boggy disturbed ground during the time of the survey. Both anchor cables and concrete or stone piling associated with the telegraph poles could account for these responses: a concrete pad was visible at the base of a utility pole in the north-east corner of the field.



FIGURE 7: SHADE PLOT OF GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA; MINIMAL PROCESSING.

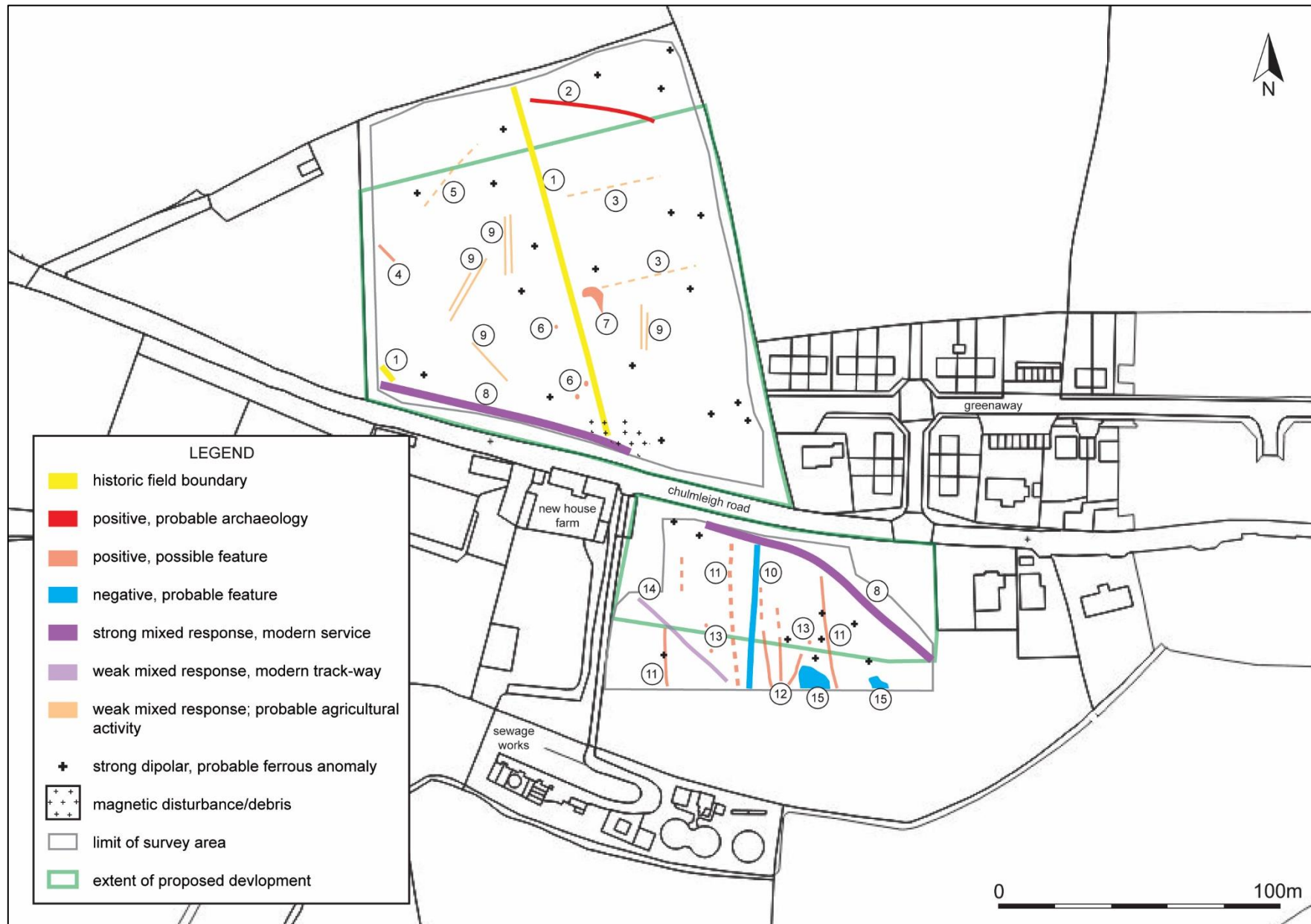


FIGURE 8: INTERPRETATION OF GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The site is located in the parish of Morchard Bishop, c.8.5km north-west of Crediton, across two fields on the western edge of the village of Morchard Bishop and on either side of Chulmleigh Road.

The desk-based assessment indicates that Morchard Bishop was originally a small medieval manor, listed in Domesday and predominantly within the hands of the church until the reformation. Its place-name is derived from the Primitive Welsh for 'Great Wood'; the 'Wood' element, *mōr*, being relatively common in the local landscape. Cartographic-, aerial- and satellite sources show that the site had internal boundaries in the north field removed in the 20th century and that it had been used as allotments for much of the 20th century. The southern field may have been used as an orchard in the early 19th century. The Devon Historic Environment landscape describes the area of the site as within post-medieval enclosures with medieval elements. No previous archaeological works have taken place on the site and the site is outside the Morchard Bishop Conservation Area. However, aerial photography has been used to propose a potential prehistoric ring-ditch/enclosure in a field immediately east of the site.

The geophysical survey identified 15 groups of anomalies and evidence of agricultural ground disturbance. The identified anomaly groups include; two historic field boundaries, six possible pits or tree-throws, a modern service pipe and two spreads of modern disturbance, multiple linear features indicative of cultivation (including plough-scars in three or four directions), an amorphous spread, two ditches and a recent/shallow track. Most anomalies on the site are indicative of agricultural activity such as drainage, ploughing/cultivation and field boundaries. The very weak response of most of the features relative to the general geological response is indicative of the features being ephemeral; either shallow or slight and filled with redeposited/disturbed natural. The history of the site means that most of the anomalies are probably associated with agricultural activity that took place in the post-medieval period; although, with possible medieval origins. There is no clear evidence of prehistoric activity associated with a possible feature identified by cropmarks adjacent to the site. However, the survey does include some undated anomalies; and some discrete features such as post-holes may not be registered during the survey and ploughing has potentially partially or fully truncated some archaeological features.

Possible medieval and later archaeological anomalies were identified on the site as were undated features of a probable medieval-modern date. Due to the potential for prehistoric activity on the site in the form of small discrete features associated with possible (not confirmed) prehistoric assets in the immediate area some form of investigation and validation of the geophysical survey results may be required in the form of targeted evaluation trenching or perhaps more appropriately monitoring of groundworks.

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British Library (BL)

- Surveyor's Draft map, early 19th century, Crediton area

APPENDIX 1: ADDITIONAL GRAPHICAL IMAGES OF THE GRADIOMETER SURVEY

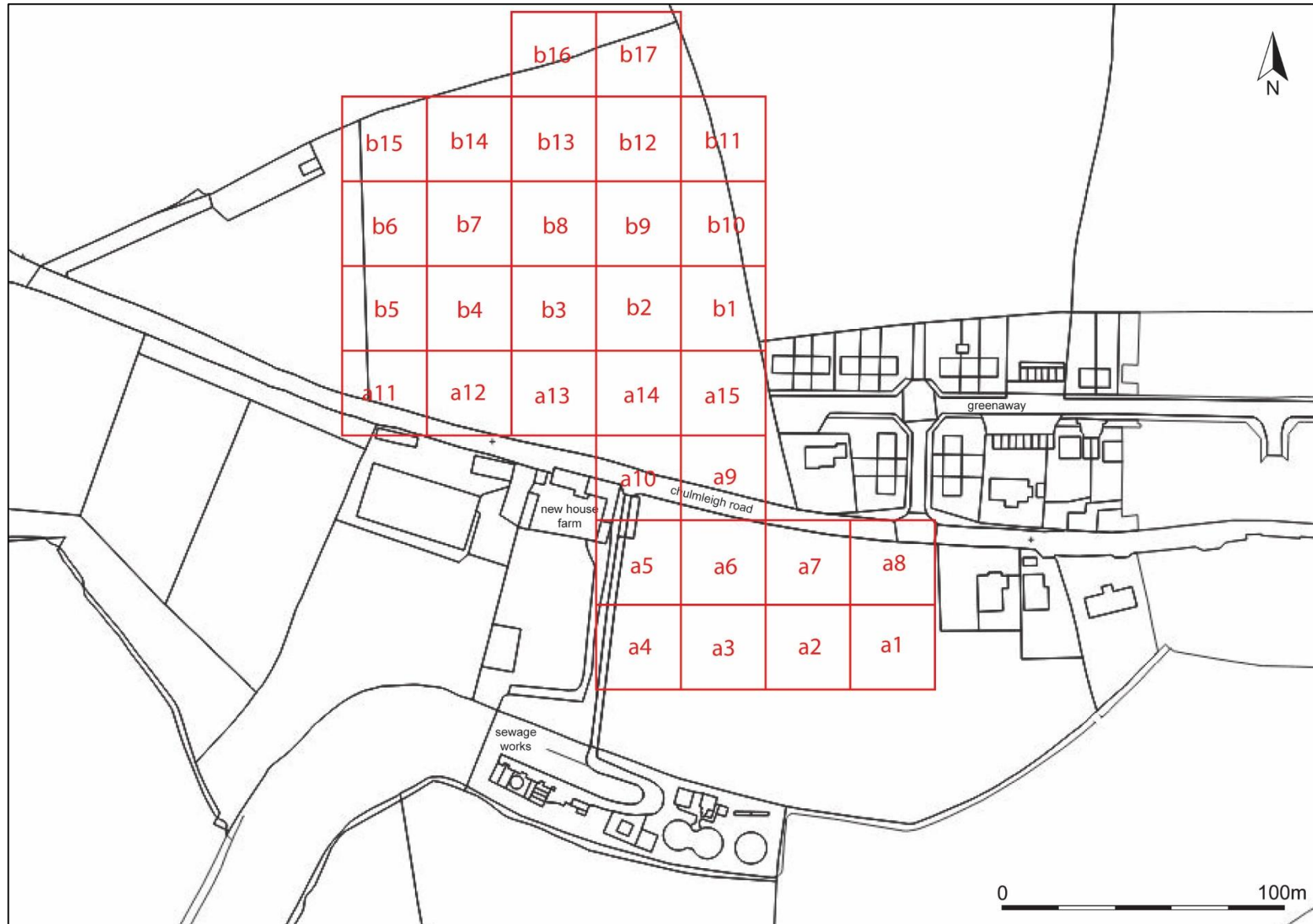


FIGURE 9: GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY GRID LOCATION AND NUMBERING.

LAND SOUTH OFF TWO POST LANE, SPREYTON, SOUTH TAWTON, DEVON



FIGURE 10: RED-GREY-BLUE SHADE PLOT OF GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA; BAND WEIGHT EQUALISED; GRADIATED SHADING.

LAND SOUTH OFF TWO POST LANE, SPREYTON, SOUTH TAWTON, DEVON



FIGURE 11: RED-GREEN-BLUE2 SHADE PLOT OF GRADIOMETER SURVEY DATA; GRADIATED SHADING.

APPENDIX 2: NEARBY HERITAGE ASSETS

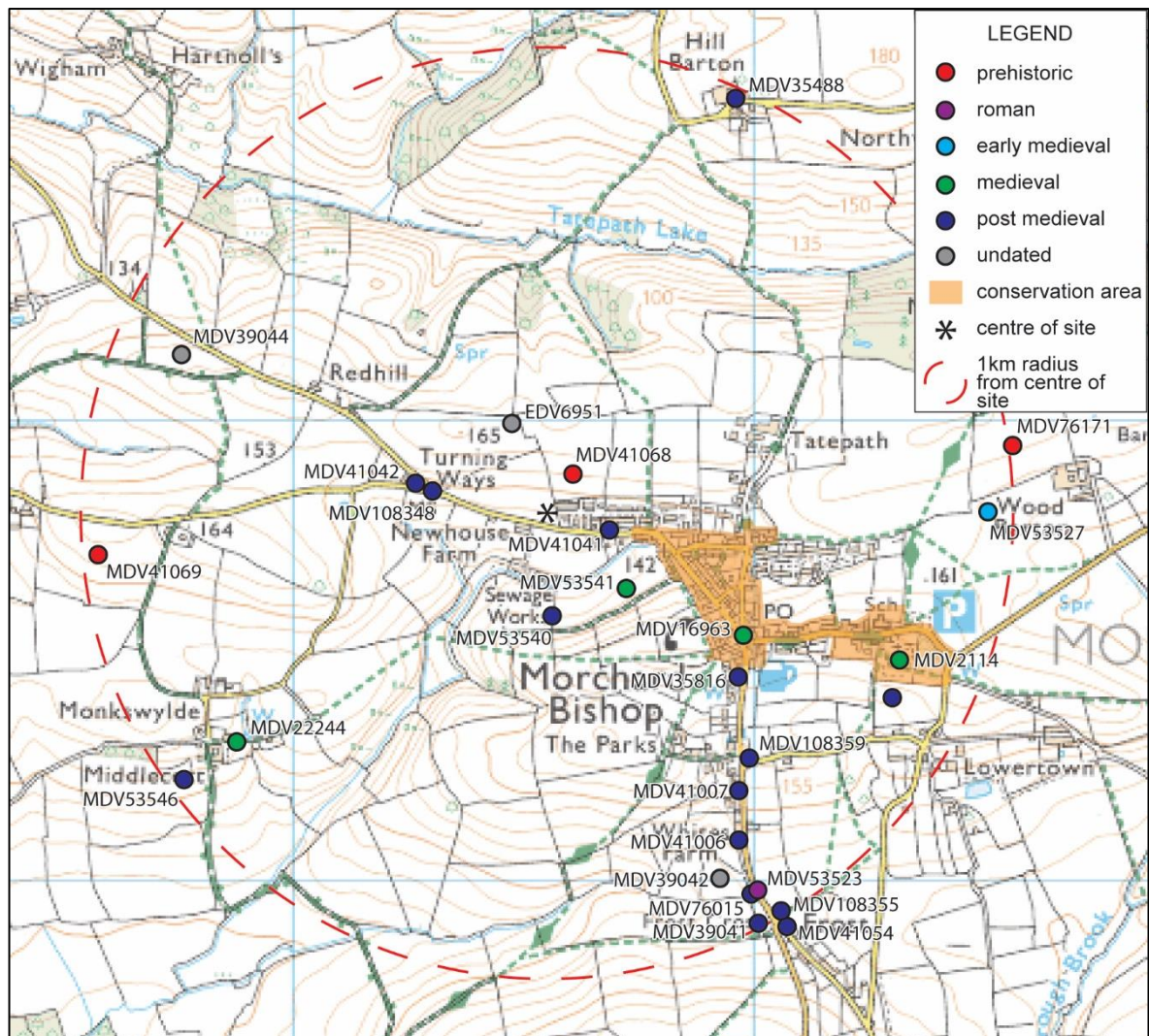


FIGURE 12: MAP OF HERITAGE ASSETS WITHIN 1KM OF THE SITE (SOURCE: DEVON HER).

TABLE 3: LIST OF HERITAGE ASSETS WITHIN 1KM OF THE SITE (SOURCE: DEVON HER).

| HER No. | Name | Record | Description |
|----------|---|------------------|---|
| MDV41068 | Ring-Ditch in parish of Morchard Bishop | Cropmark | c.10m dia. North of New House Farm. Identified on Aerial Photography in 1989 |
| MDV41069 | Enclosure in the parish of Morchard Bishop | Cropmark | Sub-rectangular enclosure (50m×40m) east of Upcott. Recorded by aerial recon. In 1989 |
| MDV76171 | Prehistoric Enclosure north-west of Wood Barton | Cropmark | Circular cropmark, c.34m dia. Identified on Ap, 1947 and 1995. Associated with two ring-ditches seen on Aerial Photography (AP) |
| MDV53523 | Findspot in parish of Morchard Bishop | Findspot | Some silver roman coins were found about 1813 by labourers repairing a hedge in the parish of bishop's morchard. Four of the coins, 2 of Vespasian, one of Nerva and one of Trajan were in the possession of John Sillifant of combe (citing Lysons) |
| MDV53527 | Ridge and Furrow in the parish of Morchard Bishop | Cropmark | West of Wood Barton. Identified on (AP) in 1994 |
| MDV2114 | St. Mary's Parish Church, Morchard Bishop | Extant Structure | C15 church with some C18 century aspects to Chancel. (also MDV97943), Grade I Listed (1263283) |
| MDV16963 | Manor in the parish of Morchard Bishop | Documentary | At Morchard Bishop the site of a medieval manor which was one of twelve in Devon held in the C14 by the bishop of Exeter. Identified as the manor of Morceth as recorded in the Domesday survey. The bishop of exeter bought the manor in 1165, but the |

| | | | |
|-----------|---|------------------|---|
| | | | then bishop in 1548 was obliged to part with it to sir Thomas Darcy, after which it changed hands several times. In 1086 many parts of the later parish were included under the bishop of Exeter's great manor of Crediton, but Morchard itself, not purchased by the bishop until 1165, was a secular holding, and so in (North) Tawton hundred. Morchard bishop was mentioned throughout the middle ages in different documents and spelt in various ways |
| MDV22244 | Farmhouse in the parish of Morchard Bishop | Extant Structure | Middlecott, probable C16, documented 1771, alterations into the C20. (also MDV93961). Grade II Listed (1250289) |
| MDV53541 | Water meadow in the parish of Morchard Bishop | Earthworks | Possible channels associated with possible water meadows, identified 1994 |
| MDV35488 | Barn in the parish of Morchard Bishop | Extant Structure | Barns at Hill Barton dated 1896; apparently a fine example of estate building |
| MDV35816 | Forge in the Parish of Morchard Bishop | Documentary | 'smithy' shown on 1906 OS mapping |
| MDV41006 | Farmhouse in parish of Morchard Bishop | Extant Structure | Whites Farmhouse, C17?. (also MDV97498) Grade II Listed (1263202) |
| MDV41007 | Cottage non specific in the parish of Morchard Bishop | Extant Structure | C19, Pilgrim Cottage. Modernised in C20. (also MDV97502) Grade II Listed (1263201) |
| MDV41041 | House in parish of Morchard Bishop | Extant Structure | Bay House, C19. (also MDV94354), Grade II Listed (1250360) |
| MDV41042 | Farmhouse in parish of Morchard Bishop | Extant Structure | Turning Ways Farmhouse, probably C17 and modernised. (also MDV97949). Grade II Listed (1263397) |
| MDV41054 | House in parish of Morchard Bishop | Extant Structure | Frost house and Frost House Cottage, Polson Hill, Frost. C19. (also MDV93918) Grade II Listed (1250613) |
| MDV53540 | Building in the Parish of Morchard Bishop | Extant Structure | Ruin/barn, stone, brick, cob and chimney/fireplace with brick-built oven. Tithe apportionment field no.1376 'Barn Field' |
| MDV53546 | Findspot in the parish of Morchard Bishop | Findspot | 10 sherds of post-medieval pottery and clay pipe stem from walking a ploughed field in 1994 |
| MDV76015 | Gaming Ball, Crockers Cottage, Polson Hill, Morchard Bishop | Artefact | A 'Fives' gaming ball recovered during works on the roof at Crockers Cottage. The gaming ball is described as a leather outer with a core of unidentified black substance wrapped in textile, 16th-17th century in date |
| MDV108348 | Milestone at Turning Ways | Extant Structure | The milestone is located at the junction of Turning Ways. |
| MDV108355 | Working forge, Frost, Morchard Bishop | Extant Structure | A traditional working forge in Frost. Date unknown |
| MDV108359 | Pound and pump, Polson Hill | Extant Structure | This pump is an important historical feature in the streetscape of Morchard Bishop. The plaque on the pound says: 'This village pound was excavated by the gardening club, Feb 1981' |
| MDV39041 | Pottery manufacturing site in the parish of Morchard Bishop | Documentary | Field no 954 on tithe map. Crockers orchard. Possibly this is a potter's site |
| MDV39042 | Pottery workshop in the parish of Morchard Bishop | Documentary | No 1052 crockers meadow; and no 1053 west crockers meadow are named on the tithe apportionment. Possibly this is a potter's site |
| MDV39044 | Building in the parish of Morchard Bishop | Documentary | Tithe apportionment, field no. 1798 'cat's church'; possible site of ruined building as in cat's castle? |
| EDV6951 | Watching Brief in the parish of Morchard Bishop | Event | The erection of a farm managers dwelling and detached garage at Harescombe. PA/0804115/SR |
| CA | Morchard Bishop Conservation Area | Designated Area | 54 heritage assets, predominantly post-medieval and Grade II Listed such as a Methodist chapel, Coles Park house, nos. 1, 2 and 3 Whites Cottage, church yard assets, village green, memorial, post-box, K6 phone box, pumps etc; includes C15 Grade I Listed Church of St Mary |

APPENDIX 3: SUPPORTING PHOTOGRAPHS



1. ENTRANCE TO THE SOUTH FIELD VIA TRACK TO SEWAGE WORKS; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (NO SCALE).



2. NORTHERN BOUNDARY TO THE SOUTH FIELD; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (NO SCALE).



3. THE SOUTH FIELD; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (NO SCALE).



4. THE NORTH FIELD VIEWED FROM THE ENTRANCE TO THE SOUTH FIELD; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (NO SCALE).



5. THE NORTH FIELD AND CHULMLEIGH ROAD VIEWED FROM THE ENTRANCE TO THE SOUTH FIELD; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (NO SCALE).



6. THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE NORTH FIELD; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (NO SCALE).



7. THE NORTH FIELD; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (NO SCALE).



8. THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE NORTH FIELD; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (NO SCALE).



9. THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE NORTH FIELD; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (NO SCALE).



10. THE NORTH FIELD; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (NO SCALE).



11. THE NORTH END OF THE NORTH FIELD; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (NO SCALE).



12. ACCESS IN NORTHERN BOUNDARY TO NORTH FIELD, SHOWING PEAKED SUMMIT TO HILL TO SOUTH; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (NO SCALE).



13. ACCESS IN NORTHERN BOUNDARY TO THE NORTH FIELD; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (NO SCALE).



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