

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Marldon, South Hams	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SX 86512 64872	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological Monitoring for Installation of electric cable at Compton Castle		<b>Photo attached?</b> Yes
<b>Scheduled Ancient Monument:</b> 1020569	<b>List Entry Number:</b> 1324886	
<b>Planning Application no:</b> N/A	<b>Recipient museum:</b> National Trust Archive, Killerton	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> southwes1-387666	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> MCC20	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2020	
<p><b>Description of works.</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording were undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) during the installation of a lightning protection system at Compton Castle, Marldon, South Hams, Devon. The work was carried out in February 2020 in accordance with an existing Written Scheme of Investigation (Boyd 2019) drawn up in consultation with Historic England (HE), the National Trust (NT) and Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>Compton Castle is located c.1.8km north of Marldon in the base of a shallow valley. The soils of this area are the well-drained gritty loamy soils of the Crediton Association (SSEW 1983), which overlie breccias and sandstones of the Torbay Breccia Formation; superficial alluvial clays, silts, sands and gravels lie within the river valley to the east (BGS 2019).</p> <p>Compton Castle was originally a fourteenth century manor house, constructed by the de Compton/Gilbert family. It has been extended and rebuilt in multiple phases. The house was fortified in response to French raids on the Plymouth coast in the 1520s. By 1800, the family had moved to Bodmin and the house fell into disrepair and was sold. In 1931 it was repurchased by Commander Walter Raleigh Gilbert. The Castle is Grade I Listed (no. 1324886), the barn to the north is Grade II* Listed (No. 1108518) and an area of the surrounding gardens and park are designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM No. 1020569.) Following on from the installation of the lightning protection system an additional electric cable running out from the sub-solar was installed within the SAM area.</p> <p>The excavations were only to the depth of just below the modern paved surface to the west of Compton Castle. The excavation revealed that below the concrete paving slabs (0.06m thick) was a bedding layer of yellow-grey sand mixed with reddish silt-loam with occasional levelling slate fragments and lime mortar traces. This was all that was exposed within the limits of excavation.</p> <p><b>Conclusions</b> The excavation for this electric cable revealed that the paved area to the west of the sub-solar is a modern surface of concrete slabs, carefully laid with modern sand and roof slate fragments used to level the paving.</p> <p><b>Bibliography</b> <b>Boyd, N.</b> 2019: <i>Compton Castle, Marldon, South Hams, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH WSI no. MCC19WSiv2. <b>British Geological Survey</b> 2018: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. <a href="http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html">http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html</a> <b>National Trust</b> 1998: <i>Compton Castle</i> [guidebook]. <b>Soil Survey of England and Wales</b> 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i> <b>Walls, S.</b> 2018: <i>Compton Castle, Marldon, South Hams, Devon: Results of Archaeological Monitoring in the Sub-Solar</i>; SWARCH Report No. 180316.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> S. Walls		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 04/03/2020



FIGURE 1: LOCATION PLAN, SHOWING THE AREA OF EXCAVATIONS.



FIGURE 2: LIMIT OF EXCAVATIONS; VIEWED FROM SOUTH-WEST (1M SCALE).