

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Offwell, East Devon	<b>National Grid Reference:</b> SY 18556 98162	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological Monitoring and recording of works in association with a proposed earth lined slurry lagoon at SY 18556 98162, Glanville Farm, Offwell.		<b>Photo Attached?:</b> Yes
<b>Planning Application No:</b> 24/1718/FUL (previous application 24/0506/FUL)		<b>Recipient Museum:</b> N/A
<b>-OASIS ID:</b> southwes1-532005	<b>Museum Accession No:</b> N/A	
<b>DCHET Reference No.:</b> P ARCH/DM/ED/39993A	<b>Date Fieldwork Undertaken:</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	
<p><b>Description of Works</b></p> <p>Archaeological Monitoring and Recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) for Sheamus Machin (the agent) at the request of a private client, in advance of the excavation for the creation of an earth lined slurry lagoon with security perimeter fence. This work was undertaken on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025 in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) drawn up in consultation with the Devon County Historic Environment Team.</p> <p>The site lies within an almost rectangular plot, formed from two historic fields, to the immediate west of the Northleigh Hill Road and north of the farm buildings of Glanville Farm. The wider landscape is agricultural. The site lies at a height of c.230m AOD. The soils of this area are recorded as permeable coarse loamy soils mainly with a humose or peaty surface horizon, affected by groundwater of the Hense Association. These soils overlay the sedimentary sandstone of the Upper Greensand Formation.</p> <p>The Devon HER notes that Glanville is first mentioned as a tenement in a grant of 1200-1220 (MDV10709) and also that a metal box containing Roman coins was found beneath a heap of stones on the farm (MDV14176). The c.1840 Offwell Tithe Map and apportionment shows the site as lying within plot 556, part of a cluster of arable fields owned by Sir Edmund Prideaux, Baronet, occupied by Thomas Bishop and names '<i>Part of Ten Acres</i>'. The Devon HER notes that there are fields just to the south which have the names '<i>Little Stone Burrow</i>' (MDV116248) and '<i>Stone Burrow</i>' (MDV116247), which may indicate the location of a possible barrow or cairn. Adjacent to these, to the south-east of the site, is a possible large prehistoric enclosure, visible on aerial photographs (MDV64649).</p> <p>The area stripped during monitoring measured c. 45m long by 50m wide and was carried out using a toothless grading bucket. The area was excavated to a depth of up to 0.42m deep. The stratigraphy was consistent across the site: Topsoil was a soft mid brown with occasional small sized rounded stones, measuring up to 0.22m deep. The subsoil was similar, but with a slightly more clayey consistency and measured up to 0.20m deep. This directly overlay the natural, a mid grey-yellow clay with flecks of weathered bedrock throughout as well as occasional clusters of medium sized stone outcrops. Occasional striations of a darker clay were noted within the natural, these were natural in origin. Plough marks were also evident across the surface of the natural. No archaeological features, finds or deposits were present.</p> <p>Further excavations were required to reach the full depth of the clay lined lagoon; as this continued beyond the natural and owing to the lack of archaeology on site, all further work was permitted to continue without archaeological supervision.</p> <p><b>Bibliography:</b>  <b>Boyd, N</b> 2025: <i>Proposed Slurry Lagoon at Glanville Farm, Offwell, Honiton, Devon. A written scheme of investigation. SWARCH OGF25WSiv1</i>  <b>British Geological Survey</b> 2024: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. <a href="https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk">https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk</a>.  <b>Soil Survey of England and Wales</b> 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales (a brief explanation of the constituent soil associations)</i>.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> P. Scrivener, MCIfA, South West Archaeology Ltd.		<b>Date Sent to HER:</b> 31/07/2025

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FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF PROJECT AREA REGARDING THE WIDER LANDSCAPE. INSERT TAKEN FROM CLIENT PLANNING ILLUSTRATIONS

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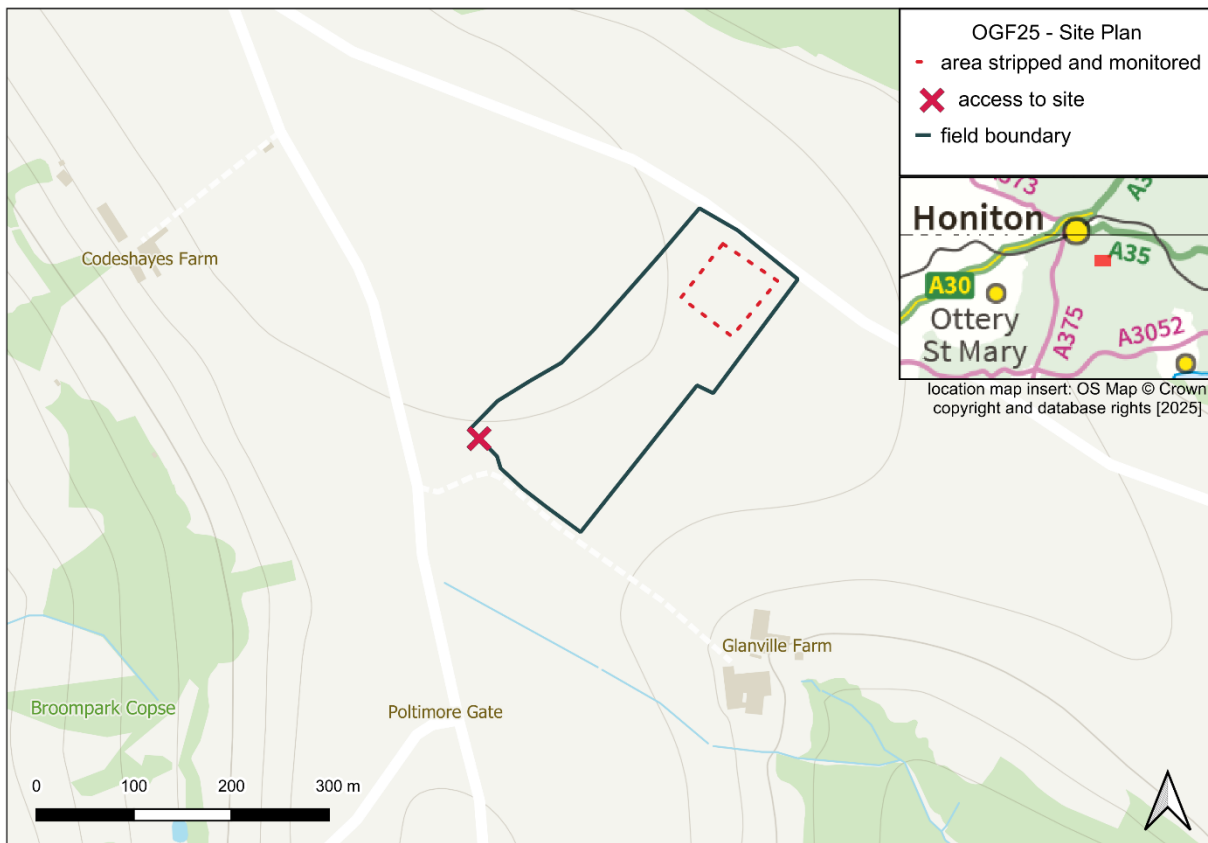


FIGURE 2. LOCATION MAP SHOWING THE EXTENT OF THE EXCAVATED AREA WITHIN THE FIELD.



FIGURE 3. SITE STRATIGRAPHY FROM THE NORTH-WEST FACING BAULK (SCALE: 1M HORIZONTAL)

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FIGURE 4. THE EXCAVATED AREA, VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST.