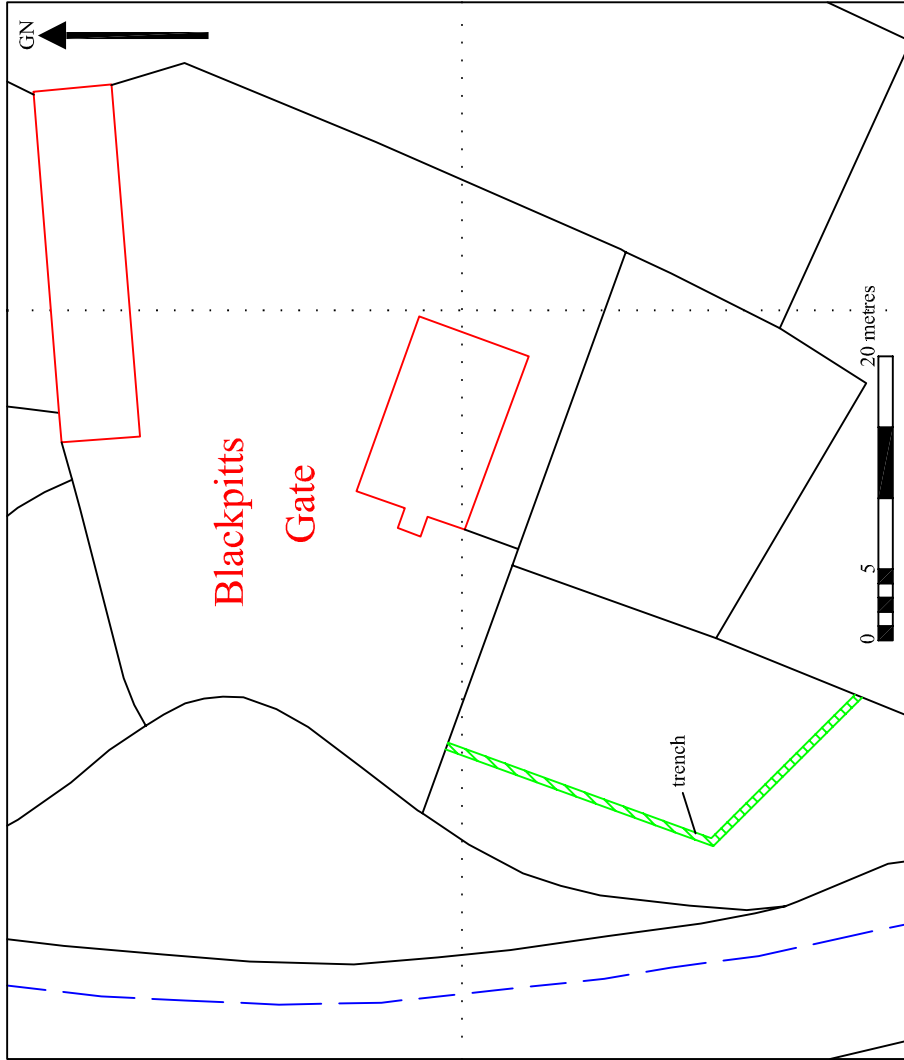


Historic Environment Record Form: Exmoor National Park

<p>Civil Parish: Exmoor</p>	<p>National Grid Reference SS 764 417</p>
<p>Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording of groundworks associated with the construction of a drainage ditch at Blackpitts Gate.</p> <p>Planning Application no:</p>	<p>Plan/Photo attached? Yes</p>
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>The groundworks associated with the construction of a drainage ditch in a field to the south of the farmhouse at Blackpitts Gate, Exmoor CP, Somerset, were monitored and recorded by South West Archaeology (SWARCH).</p> <p>These works were carried out by a mini-digger operating at all times under archaeological supervision. The drainage trench was excavated to depth of approximately 0.75m. The trench trended north-south from the field boundary for approximately 20m before turning southeast and running approximately 15m to an existing drainage ditch. The local bedrock was typically less than 0.3m below ground level and this forced the use of a toothed bucket rather than a toothless grading bucket which is normally employed for archaeological works. Approximately 3m of earthen bank was removed under archaeological supervision to allow access to the field.</p> <p>No archaeological features were observed during the work. Examination of the exposed cross sections of the breached field bank showed no discernable construction features.</p> <p>The stratigraphy revealed consisted of only 3 layers.</p> <p>In the base of the trench was undisturbed thinly bedded sandstone. Above this lay approximately 0.5m of degraded sandstone comprising hard, yellowish brown silty sand with occasional bands of iron pan near the base. Above this was approximately 0.1 to 0.3m of soft, dark brown silty sand topsoil. Approximately 10m south of the trench start the bedrock lies directly beneath the topsoil. The topsoil thickened to a depth of approximately 0.3m in the southernmost 5m of the drainage trench.</p>	<p>Date. <i>of site visit(s)</i></p> <p>07.12.09</p>
<p>Recorder (name and organisation) Ross Dean, SWARCH</p>	<p>Date sent</p>



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Figure: Sketch plan of drainage ditch.

Archaeological monitoring and recording of groundworks associated with the construction of a drainage ditch at Blackpitts Gate, Exmoor, Somerset, 7 December 2009