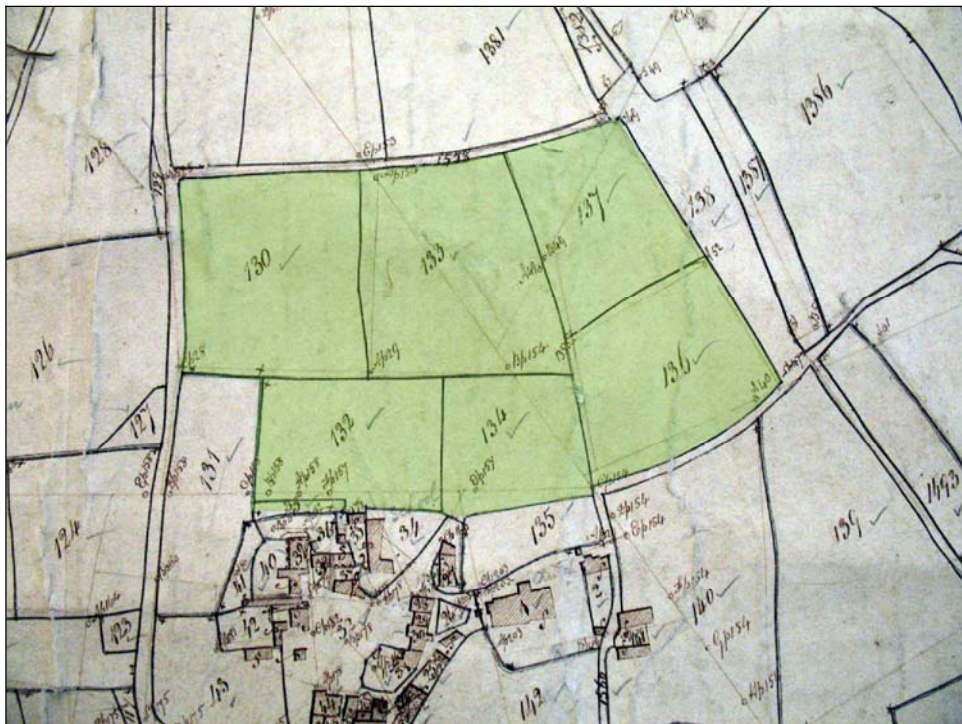


LAND at LODDISWELL DEVON

Results of a Desk-Based Assessment



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The Staff of the Devon Record Office
The Staff of the North Devon Record Office
The Staff of DCHES

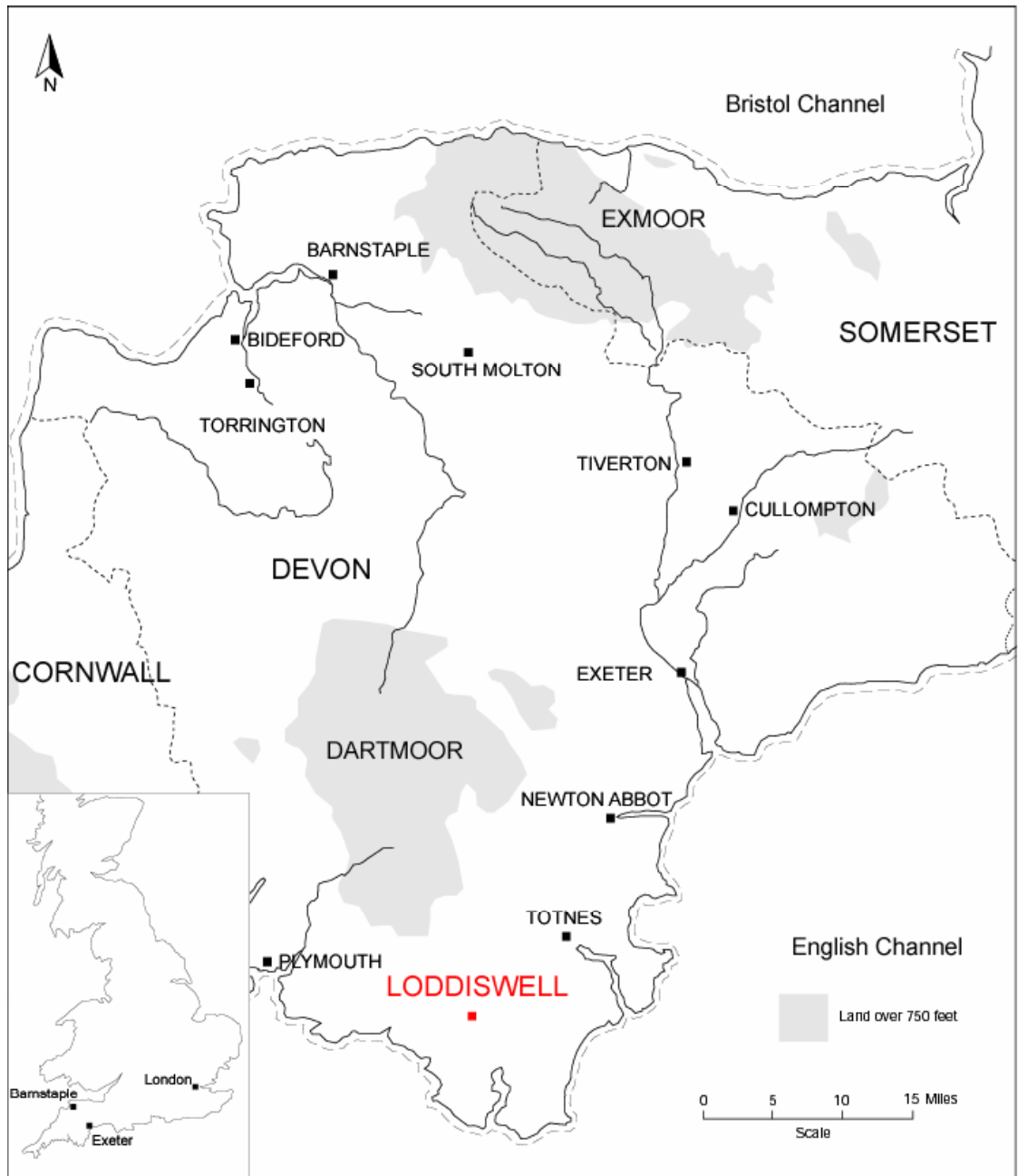


Figure 1: Regional location.

1.0 Introduction

Location: Land on the north side of the village of Loddiswell
Parish: Loddiswell
District: South Hams
County: Devon
NGR: SX720487
OS Map copying Licence No: 100044808

1.1 Background

South West Archaeology Ltd were asked by Millwood Homes (Devon) Ltd to prepare a historical and archaeological assessment of an area of land amounting to 3.88 hectares lying to the north of the village of Loddiswell, South Devon. The purpose of this assessment is to place the site in its historical/archaeological context, in order to identify any archaeological or historical factors which might require action in the form of recording, evaluation or other mitigation prior to or during the course of any development works.

Described by Hoskins as ‘untidy and planless’ and by Pevsner and Cherry as ‘complex’, the village of Loddiswell lies on rising ground on the west side of the Devonshire Avon some 5km to the north of Kingsbridge. In the 19th century a copper mine was opened in the parish and for a while yellow ochre was manufactured here. The village has undergone quite considerable residential development since the Second World War, but is served only by minor roads. To the north of the village is a hillfort known as Loddiswell Rings or Blackdown Camp with what appears to be the site of a motte and bailey castle set within the ramparts.

The site in question comprises a single, roughly trapezoidal field lying to the north of the parish church, the cemetery and Court House. The land, which falls gently to the south east, is bounded on the west by the road leading north towards South Brent and on the other three sides by narrow lanes or tracks. Until recently the area comprised six fields divided by hedges.

1.2 Methodology

The assessment was undertaken by T. Green with reference to IfA guidelines on the preparation of archaeological assessments. The necessary research was conducted at the Devon Record Office, the West Country Studies Library and the North Devon Record Office. The Devon County Historic Environment Service (DCHES) was asked to provide access to any Historic Environment Records (HER) which might be relevant to the proposed development site. A walkover survey was conducted by B. Morris on the morning of the 9th August 2010.

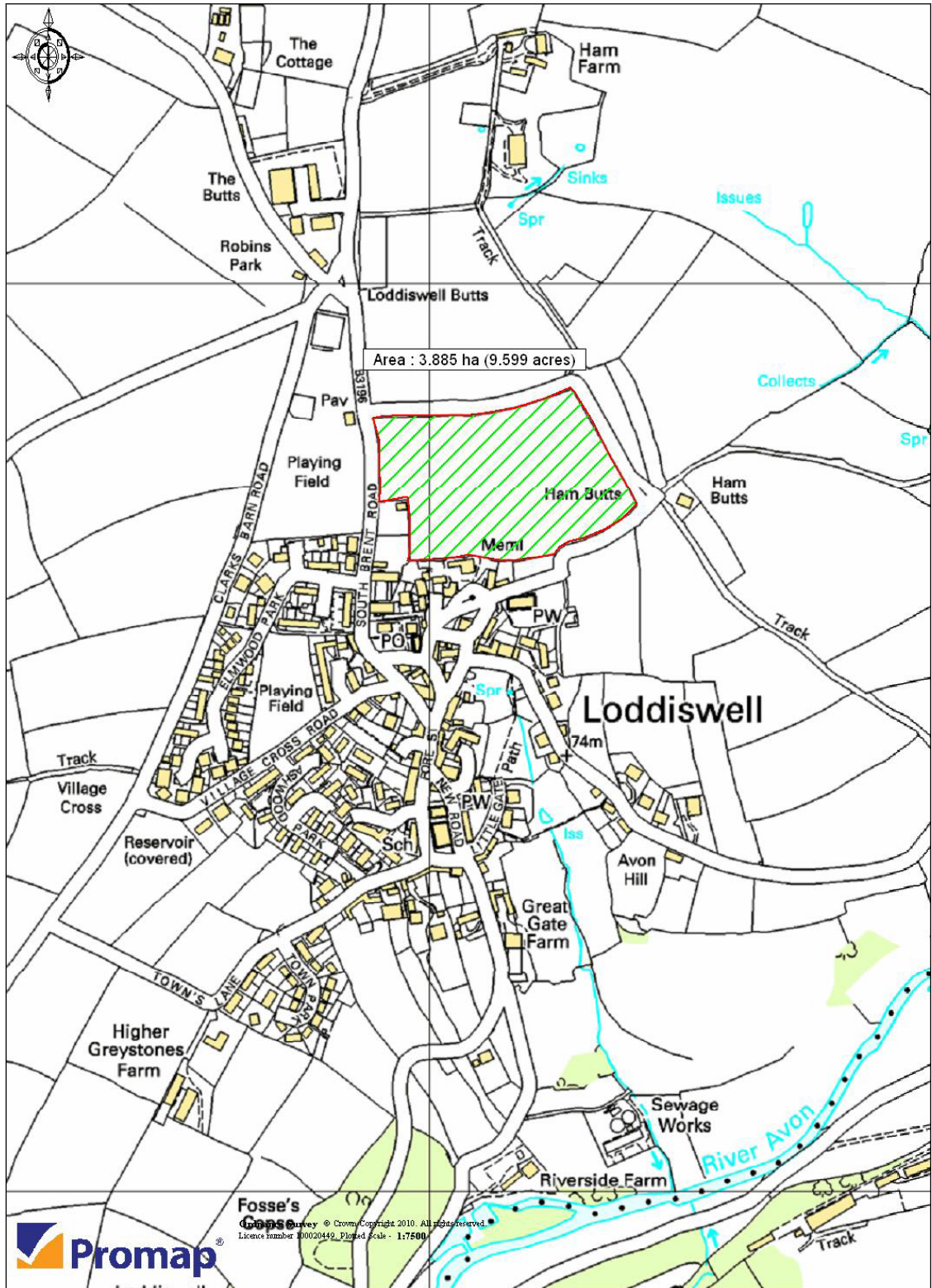


Figure 2: Site location.

2.0 Results of the Desk-Based Assessment

2.1 Manorial History

A continuous manorial history has been unavailable to this brief study, but the early history appears to be as follows:

Before 1066 the manor of Loddiswell was held by Heca. After the Conquest the manor was granted to Judhael of Totnes and was valued at 100 shillings. With 20 villagers, land for 12 ploughs and a fishery which paid 30 salmon (Thorn and Thorn 1985), it was a valuable manor. When Judhael of Totnes fell from grace, his considerable holdings reverted to the Crown and were granted to other lords. Henry II (1154-89) granted Loddiswell to Reginald de Brause. Eva, a descendant of Reginald, passed the manor to her daughter Milicent de Montalt, under whom in the later 13th century Loddiswell was held by Gilbert de Cnovil (the preceding based on Lysons, 1822 and Reichel, 1913). In the early 14th century Loddiswell appears to have been joined with Holne (Turbervil) in the possession of William Martin (Feudal Aids, 379). It is also worth noting that Totnes Priory held land in Loddiswell as well as the advowson of the parish church and the rectory. These were granted in 1546 to Sir Thomas Arundell whose family held the manor of Hatch in this parish (Youings 1955).

We are told by Lysons (1822, 321) that in 1620 the manor of Loddiswell was possessed by Sir John Elyot, but that after that date it was broken down into two ‘moieties’ (halves). In 1822 one half belonged to George Furlong Wise and the other to Thomas Harris who had bought it from Morshead.

2.2 Cartographic History

2.2.1 Benjamin Donn’s map of Devonshire, 1765 (Fig.3)

This is the earliest available map featuring Loddiswell. It shows the church and the settlement located on either side of the road leading southwards from the church.

2.2.2 The OS ‘Old Series’ map at one inch to the mile published 1809 (Fig.4)

This is a little more detailed than Donn’s map, indicating buildings to the west of the church and also to the south of the main street.

2.2.3 The tithe map of c.1840

This is the earliest map to record any real detail. Figures 5 and 6 are extracts from the tithe map showing the north end of the village with the parish church (No.1) and an assemblage of houses and tenements to its west. The fields to the north of the church, numbered 130-137, representing the site here in question, were clearly devoid of any buildings. However, the names attached to some of them in the accompanying tithe apportionment of 1838 are of interest (see below).

2.2.4 The OS First Edition map at a scale of 1:2500 published 1889 (Fig.7)

The first modern cartographic record is the Ordnance Survey mapping of the 1880s. The First Edition map shows no change to the area of fields north of the church, with the exception of the field formerly numbered 131 which has been divided in two, the southern half now accommodating buildings.

2.2.5 The Second Edition map of 1905 (Fig.8)

This map shows no further change.

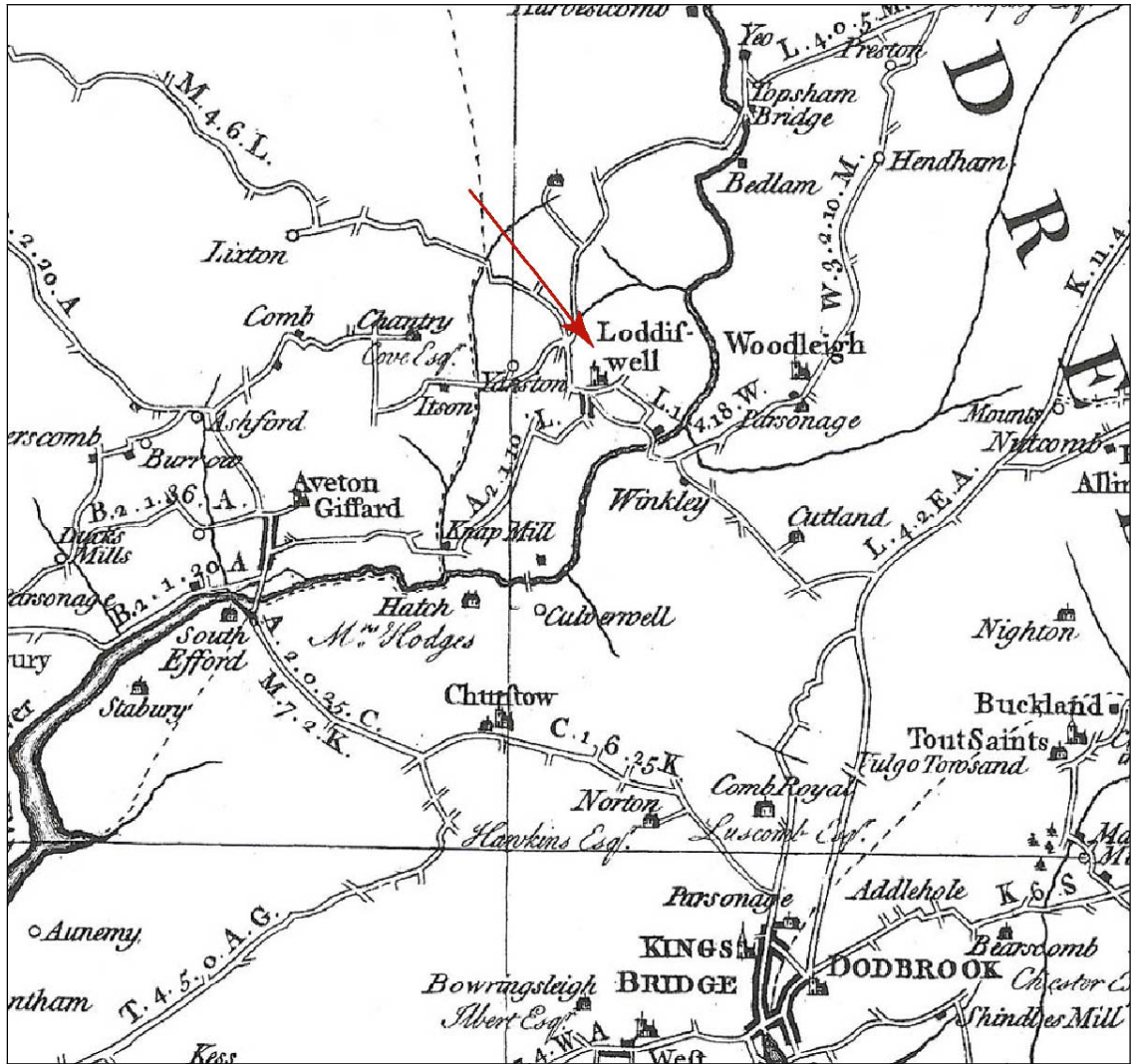


Figure 3: Extract from Benjamin Donn's map of Devonshire, 1765. The location of the potential development site is arrowed (NDRO).

2.2.6 Aerial photography

An aerial photograph of 1946 (Fig.9) likewise shows no change. The most recent aerial coverage however (Google Maps – Fig.10) indicates that since 1946 the field boundaries in this area have been removed to create a single field.

2.3 Commentary on the Cartographic Record

On the tithe map of c.1840 (Fig.5) the area corresponding to the proposed development site is represented by six fields numbered 130-137 (excluding 131 and 135). The tithe apportionment of 1838 provides details including the name of the holding, ownership, occupancy, name or description of field and land use. For the numbered fields these are (excluding land use):

Name of Holding	Number	Owner	Occupier	Name/Description
Court Tenement	130	James Friend	Himself	Pool Park
	132			Meadow
	133			Plain Field
	134			Courtlage Field
	136			Lower Poor House Field
	137			Higher Pool Park

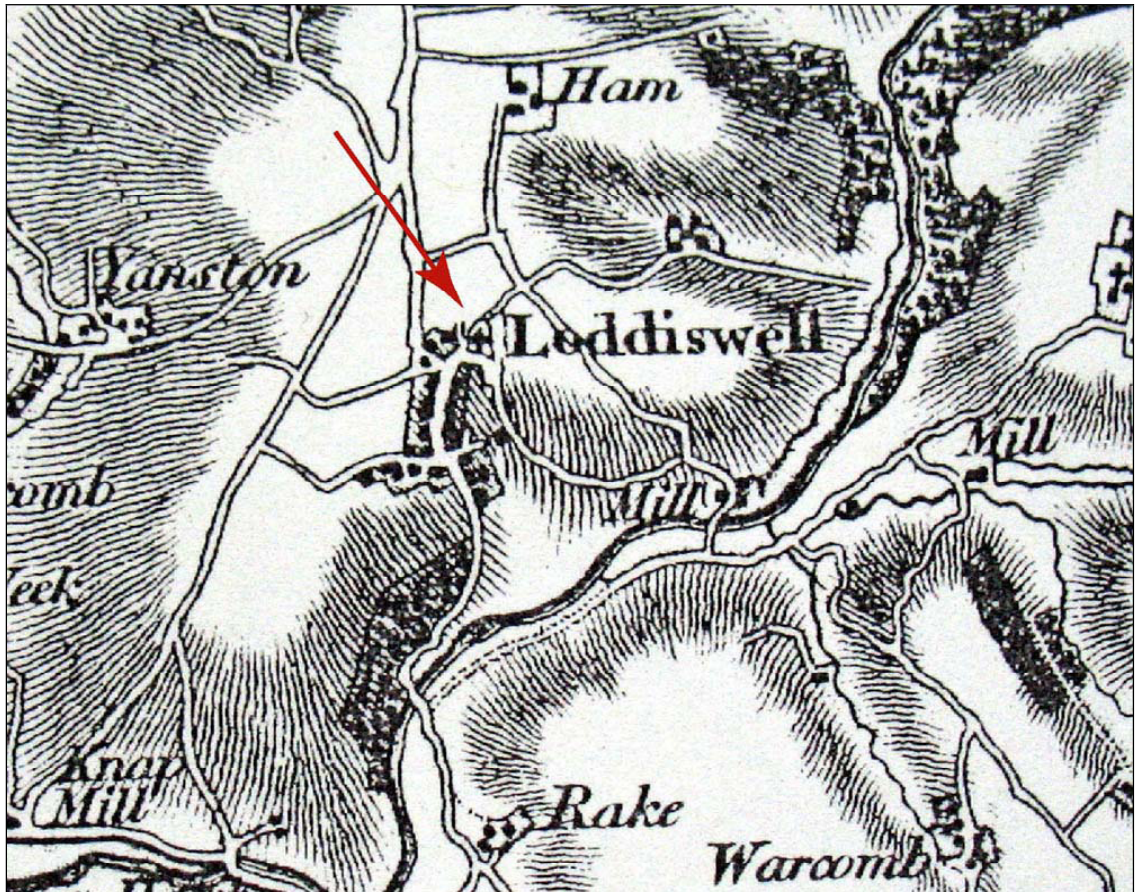


Figure 4: Extract from the Ordnance Survey 'Old Series' one inch map published 1809. The location of the potential development site is arrowed (NDRO).

Thus, in 1840 all of this area was owned and occupied by James Friend and represented a holding called 'Court Tenement'. The occurrence of the name 'Courtlage Field', in association with the name of the holding and the adjacent Court House (numbers 33 and 34 on the tithe map and see Fig. 7 and 8), also owned and occupied by James Friend, makes it very likely that, taken together, this area represents (part of) the Lord of the Manor's demesne lying adjacent to the manor house or its historic location.

The presence on the tithe and subsequent maps of groups of long narrow fields with parallel, slightly curving boundaries (seen particularly in Fig. 5 to the south and to the east of the settlement) attests to the preservation of some of the layout of a medieval field-system of long narrow plough strips. The name 'Ham Butts', seen on the OS maps to the north-east of the settlement (Figs. 6 and 7), is consistent with such a history, 'butts' being one of the terms applied to blocks of plough strips. The area of land in question here lies to the north of the church and the Court House, and does not appear to share this characteristic curving form. Instead, it seems to form a block whose history of enclosure appears distinct. This *may* be because these six fields represent a manorial enclosure and it may be that the land within this area was cultivated in the usual medieval way; only the manner of enclosure appears to be different and may have been undertaken at a different, perhaps later period than the surrounding land.

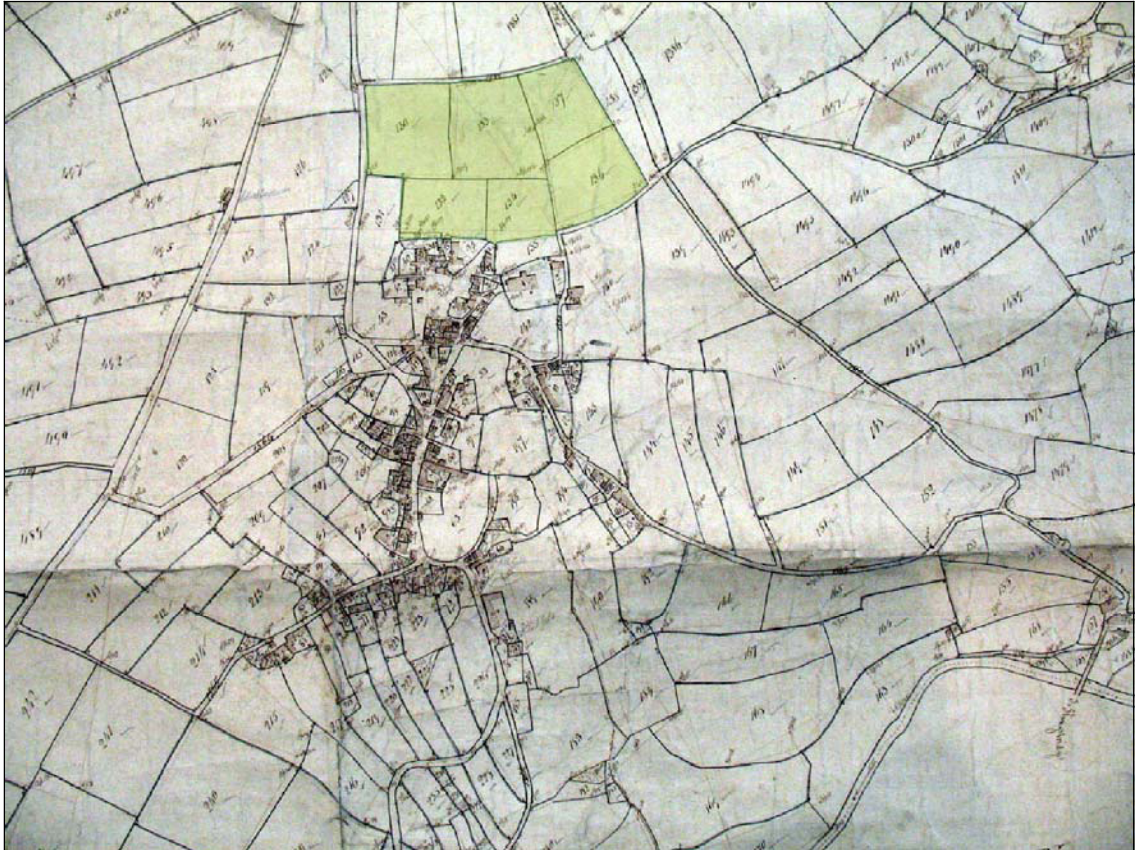


Figure 5: Extract from the Loddiswell tithe map of 1840 showing the village and the site (tinted green) in the local landscape context (DRO).

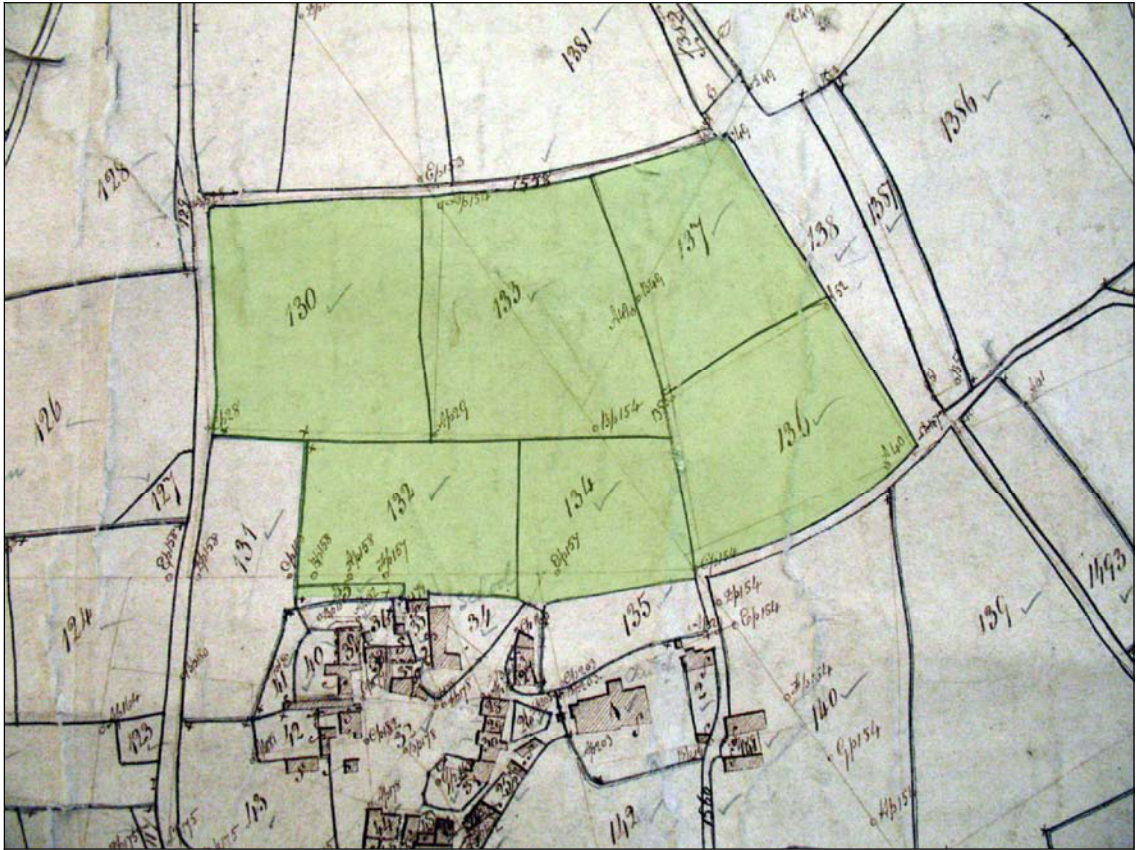


Figure 6: Detail from the Loddiswell tithe map defining the area of proposed development (DRO).

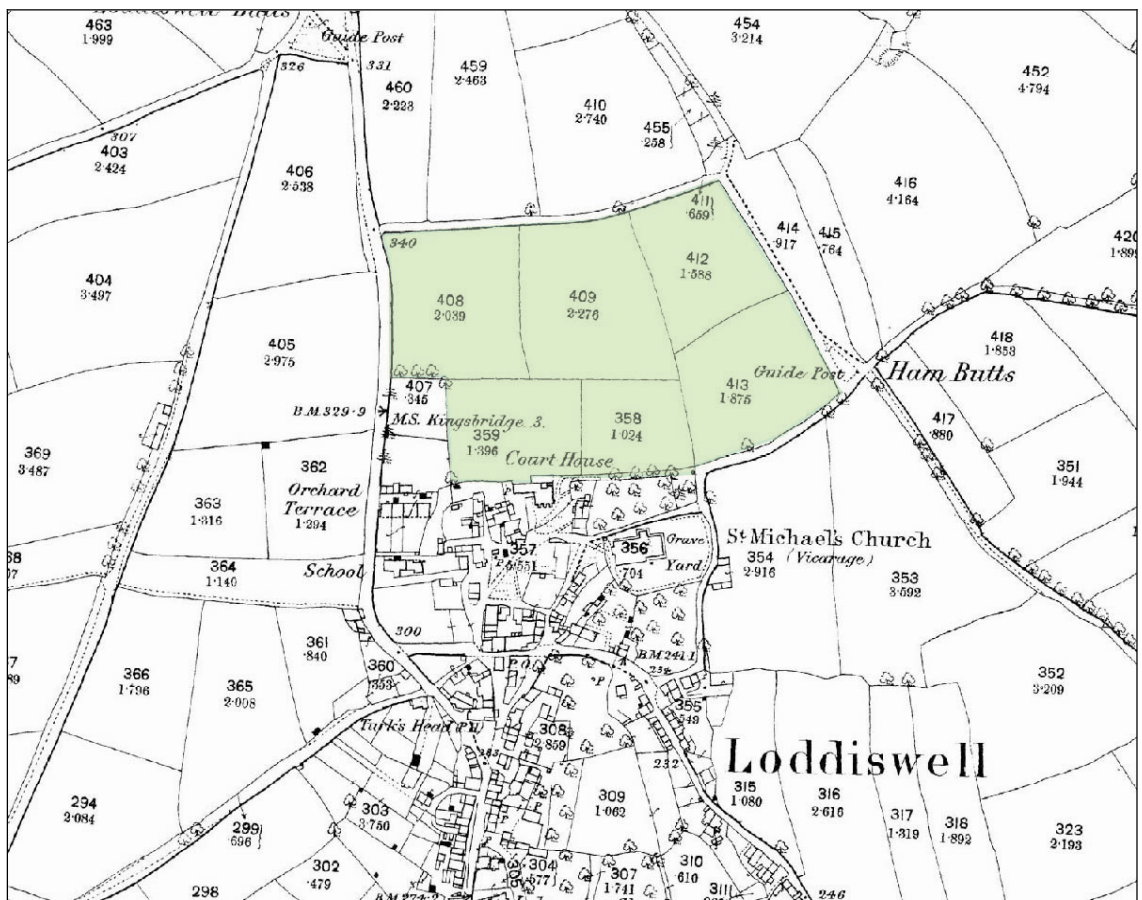


Figure 7: Extract from the OS First Edition map at 1:2500 published 1889 (site area tinted green).

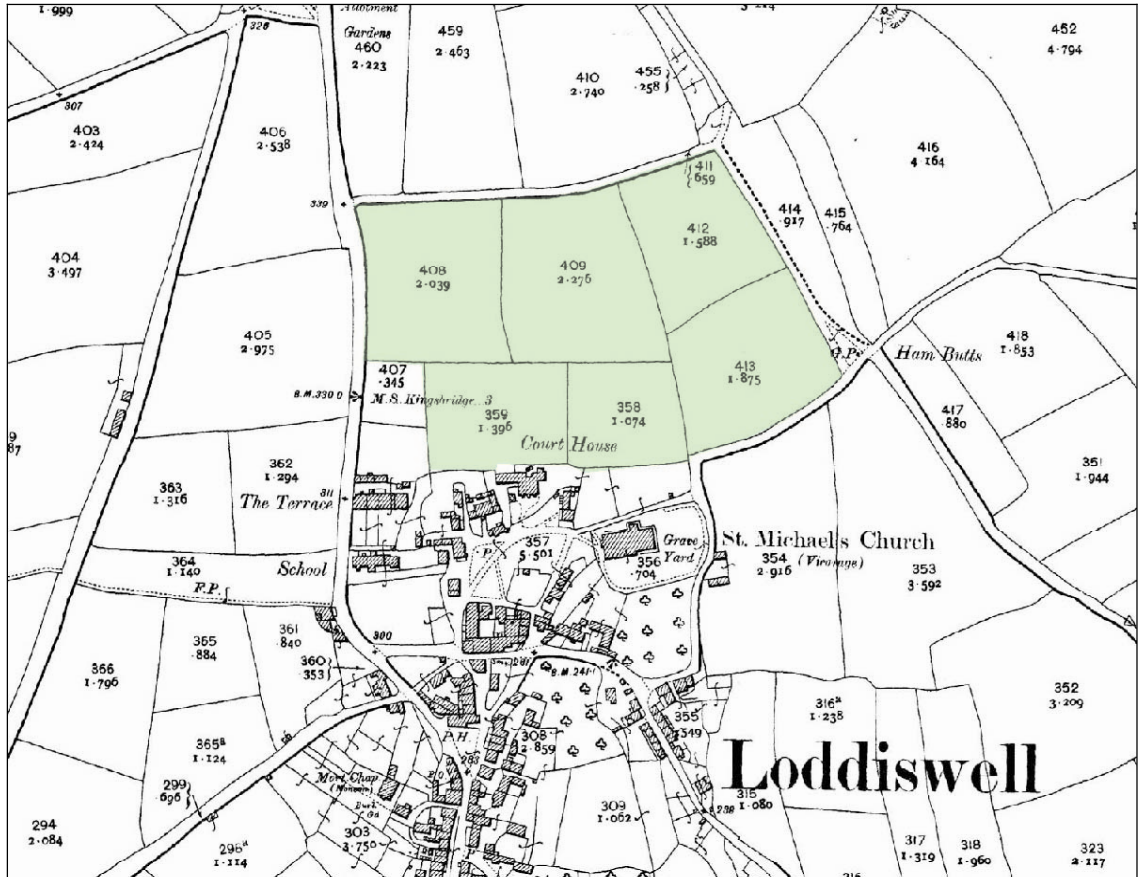


Figure 8: Extract from the OS Second Edition map at 1:2500 published 1905 (site area tinted green).

2.4 Devon Historic Environment Record (HER)

The only record held by the Devon County Historic Environment Service (DCHES) which might be immediately relevant to this site is HER 38276, a milestone on the roadside (B3196) to the west of the site. Apart from this, only the parish church and the church house might be deemed to be relevant, but see Appendix A.



Figure 9: Aerial photograph of 1946. Area of proposed development tinted green (English Heritage (NMR) RAF Photography).

3.0 Walkover Survey

A walkover survey was conducted on the 9th August 2010. The field was under permanent pasture, some 3-4 weeks after the removal of a silage crop, and as a result the grass was 200-300mm tall.

The ground was gently undulating, with a marked break of slope on the southern side of the field adjacent to the village and cemetery. Some of the relict field boundaries were visible as breaks in slope, although it is clear the site has been much levelled by ploughing. A large and indistinct subrectangular platform was observed on the western edge of field, adjacent to the B3196. This feature shared the overall alignment of the field boundaries in this area, and may not be of any great antiquity.

The backfills of 15 geotechnical pits were examined for artefacts, and a total of 7 sherds of white refined earthenware pottery (1720+), 1 sherd of possible medieval pottery, and three scraps of flint (including one with traces of working) were recovered. All finds were small (<4g) and abraded.



A



B

Figure 10: (A) The site at Loddiswell, looking south-east towards the Church and village.

Figure 11: (B) The site at Loddiswell, looking north-east across the site from the gate onto the B3196. The possible platform is the foreground to the left of the back-filled geotechnical pit.

4.1 Archaeological Implications

There is no recorded evidence of any building within the designated area. It is clear, however, that in the second half of the 20th century post-medieval field boundaries were removed. The location and nature of the lost boundaries may become evident during ground works. In addition, stripping of the topsoil may reveal evidence of medieval strip boundaries. The *possibility* that this area of land represents a medieval manorial enclosure should be borne in mind. In particular, ground disturbance close to the church, the Court House, and the possible platform on the western edge of the field, may reveal evidence of medieval occupation and/or activity. Lastly, the presence of flint in the topsoil could imply some form of prehistoric activity in the area.



Figure 12: Recent aerial photograph. Site area tinted green (Google Maps).

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Devon Record Office:

Loddiswell tithing map, 1840.

Loddiswell tithing apportionment, 1838.

Devon County Historic Environment Service:

Historic Environment Records (HER) 7086,
7088
16111
38276
63128

Aerial photograph CE/UK/1890 10 DEC 46 /58 SQDN/ 3074

Appendix 1

Summary of Details from the Devon County Historic Environment Record

HER 7086:

District: South Hams District
Class: RELIGIOUS RITUAL AND FUNERARY
Type: PARISH CHURCH
NGR: SX72104865
Historic Parish: LODDISWELL
OS Map: SX74NW
Civil Parish: Loddiswell
Broad Period: Medieval
Listed Building Grade: Grade II*
Period: Early Medieval, Late Medieval, XIII, XIV, XV

Description

Work at St Michael and All Angels parish church in 2000 involved lifting and treating the floors of the pew platform at the rear of the nave. No features of archaeological significance were exposed (Fletcher). Memorials to members of the 17th-18th C. Langworthy family of Hatch. Armorial bearings of 12th 13th C Arundells and of Carswells and Gilles - also of Hatch - in window of N aisle (Waterhouse, R. E.) The church has a 13th century west tower (Pevsner 1951). Fabric of C13th origin, refashioned in late medieval period as so often in this area. Two storeyed porch forms externally part of south aisle. Roofs C19 and bad. Tower has corbelled parapet. Some C16 heraldic glass in north transept. Good slate memorial slab to Roger Furlong, 1616 (Department of Environment)

HER 7088:

District: South Hams District
Class: CIVIL
Type: CHURCH HOUSE
NGR: SX721-486-
Historic Parish: LODDISWELL
OS Map: SX74NW
Civil Parish: Loddiswell
Broad Period: Modern
Period: Modern

Description

On record that there was a church-house here. Just outside the churchyard, at the SW, is a small cottage, now known as Storridge Farm. A plain rectangular house of two storeys', with plastered walls and chimneys, and a modern roof. Windows and doorways are wooden-framed and modern, with only one rear window. Building now almost featureless, except for some exposed plain straight roof-springers in the upper rooms. Interior modernised. The upper floor contained the church-room, with stables below. In the old stone wall between the house and the village 'square' are some iron strap-like 'rings' formerly used for tethering ponies. This building was the church-house known to exist in the village, its identity confirmed by the present oldest inhabitant Mrs. Yalland, aged 96. (Copeland). According to the records of the charity commissioners of 1818 it was part of the parish lands trust (PEARSON).

HER 16111:

District: South Hams District
Class: AGRICULTURE AND SUBSISTENCE
Type: MANOR
NGR: SX72--48—
Historic Parish: LODDISWELL
OS Map: SX74NW
Civil Parish: Buckland-Tout-Saints, Churchstow, Loddiswell, Woodleigh
Broad Period: Medieval
Period: Medieval, XI, XII

Description

At Loddiswell the site of the domesday manor of Lodeswilla. Given by Henry II to Reginald de Braiose, along with Cornworthy, Totnes town and castle. Some subsequent descents are given. (Reichel).

HER 38276:

District: South Hams District
Class: TRANSPORT
Type: MILESTONE
NGR: SX71944875
Historic Parish: LODDISWELL
OS Map: SX74NW
Civil Parish: Loddiswell
Broad Period: Modern
Listed Building Grade: Grade II
Period: Modern, XVIII

Description

Milestone on B3196 (north of village centre), built into boundary wall to road. C18th. Plain stone to rounded top, c 800mm x 275mm and projecting from wall c 50mm. Inscribed: To Kings.3, above a bench mark (Department of Environment).

HER63128:

District: South Hams District
Class: RELIGIOUS RITUAL AND FUNERARY
Type: CHURCHYARD
NGR: SX72084865
Historic Parish: LODDISWELL
OS Map: SX74NW
Civil Parish: Loddiswell
Broad Period: Medieval
Period: Medieval

Description

In 2000 a stone shed in the churchyard at Loddiswell parish church was demolished and a larger one erected for which foundations were excavated. At least one infilled grave pit was detected (Fletcher).