

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish:</b> Axminster and Kilmington	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SY 29970 99307 to SY 30656 99875	<b>Number:</b> (Leave blank)
<b>Subject:</b> NCN2 Axe Valley Cyclepath/Walkway, Cloakham, East Devon		<b>Plan/Photo attached?</b> Y
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 10/1007/CM	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> contexto1-143928	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> RAMM 11/43 – ARCH/CM/ED 16613	
<b>Contractor's reference code:</b> C1/WBF/11/CLW	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> October and 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2012	
<p><b>Description of works.</b></p> <p>Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with the construction of the new NCN2 Axe Valley Cyclepath/Walkway at Cloakham, between Axminster and Kilmington in Devon. The archaeological work was required as the Axe valley marshes were heavily exploited in the medieval period and some small strips of subdivided land on the marshes might survive.</p> <p>The construction work comprised the removal of up to 0.40m of topsoil along a 3.5m to 4m wide, c. 950m long strip (<b>Figure 1; Plate 1</b>) using both toothless grading and ditching buckets, according to the ground conditions. It was carried out under archaeological supervision.</p> <p>The exposed stratigraphic sequence varied according to its proximity to the valley bottom. On the lower valley east side it consisted of:</p> <p><b>Profile 1 (Plate 2)</b>  0 – 0.30m Topsoil (100) – Mid grey brown soft silty clay including sparse modern debris and rare gravel  0.30m - 0.40m Colluvium (101) – Mid yellow grey brown silty clay including rare CMB and gravel (undated)  0.40m - Fluvium (102) – Up to 70% subangular gravel set in grey sand</p> <p>At the west end of the route, close to the valley bottom the typical soil sequence comprised:</p> <p><b>Profile 2 (Plate 3)</b>  0 – 0.18m Topsoil (200) – Grey brown soft silty clay including rare modern debris and rare stones  0.18m - Fluvium (201) – Pale yellowish blue-grey compacted silty clay frequent stones (undated)</p> <p>No archaeological deposits were exposed nor were any finds observed or recovered but a known pill box (<b>Figure 1, A; Plate 4</b>) and an anti-tank trap (<b>Figure 1, B; Plate 5</b>) forming part of the World War 2 Taunton Stop Line in the north part of the route were recorded by photograph. It was anticipated that a ditch would form part of the anti-tank trap but in the event a soil sequence similar to that recorded in profile 1 appeared to be no more than a one-sided cut into the north-west-facing slope. No previously recorded 'humps and bumps' in the area near the pill box were noted along the route of the cycle path during groundworks.</p> <p>The probable fluvial deposits on the lower valley sides are likely to be of earlier Quaternary date, implying that no archaeological features or deposits are likely to survive along that part of the route. The valley bottom fluvium is probably more recent but would indicate either truncation or destruction of deposits by erosion or their preservation under deep deposits.</p>		
<p><b>A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.</b></p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> Richard Tabor, Context One Archaeological Services Ltd.		<b>Date sent to HER</b> 19/2/2013

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- Route of cycle path
- Locations of profiles
- A Pill box
- B Anti-tank trap

PROJECT TITLE  
 Stop-Line Way (NCN Route 33),  
 Cloakham Lawn to Weycroft,  
 Axminster, Devon

FIGURE TITLE  
 Site setting showing route of cycle path  
 and locations of profiles and WW2  
 features

SCALE as shown	PROJECT CODE C1/WBF/11/CLW	FIGURE NO 1
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Plate 1. The route adjacent to the railway line (from N; no scale)



Plate 2. Profile 1 (from SW; 1m scale)



Plate 3. Profile 2 (from SW; 1m scale)



Plate 4. The pill box (from SW; no scale)



Plate 5. Anti-tank defences (from E; no scale)

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