

LAND WEST OF AXEVIEW ROAD, SEATON, DEVON - ALLOCATION REF. SEAT_13A

(Centred on NGR SY 23855 91143)

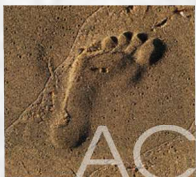
Historic Environment Impact Assessment

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On behalf of:
East Devon District Council

Report No: ACA0416/1/0

Date: October 2025



archaeology

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(Centred on NGR SY 2385 9114)

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The views and recommendations expressed in this report are those of AC archaeology and are presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information currently available.

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Summary

A Historic Environment Impact Assessment accompanied by a geophysical survey have been completed by AC archaeology in October 2025 as accompanying information for the proposed allocation within East Devon's Emerging Local Plan 2020-2042 of 2.2 hectares of currently agricultural land known as land allocation Seat_13a, west of Axeview Road, Seaton, Devon (centred on NGR SY 2385 9114).

The proposed allocation site is located immediately to the north of the Scheduled Monument 'Roman and earlier settlement at Honeyditches', within which previous investigations have established the presence of a Roman villa or mansio complex, including a bath-house. The scheduled area has also been found to contain evidence for prehistoric and medieval occupation.

The geophysical survey has identified a small number of anomalies within field Seat_13, which if present as below-ground features might be contemporary with but not as extensive or potentially significant as the remains found at Honeyditches. The main interpreted anomalies present could represent a ring ditch, a small terrace and a slight rectilinear enclosure.

Any future development of Seat_13a would be immediately adjacent to the Honeyditches Scheduled Monument, a site of national importance. The rural location (albeit formerly a medieval agricultural landscape) and position on the western slopes overlooking the Axe Valley is the current setting of the scheduled monument, but this only forms a very small element of its significance which, in the main, is represented by its below ground archaeological evidence.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 A historic environment impact assessment and accompanying geophysical survey on land west of Axeview Road, Seaton, Devon (NGR SY 2385 9114), have been completed by AC archaeology during October 2025. These have been commissioned by East Devon District Council following consultation advice given by Devon County Council's Historic Environment Team and Historic England relating to the proposal within East Devon's *Emerging Local Plan 2020-2042* for the allocation of site **Seat_13a** for residential development on land west of Axeview Road, under policy SDO5 within the *Regulation 19 Publication Draft*. The main historic environment interest for the site is that it lies immediately to the north of the Scheduled Monument *Roman and earlier settlement at Honeyditches* (National Heritage List for England [NHLE] ref. 1017819).

1.2 Devon County Council Historic Environment Team advice dated 27 March 2025 relating to the proposal is as follows:

Devon County Council objects to allocation Seat_13a until further archaeological work is undertaken. Before site Seat_13a at Seaton is allocated in Policy SD05, further archaeological work is required to understand the archaeological resource to determine the suitability of this site for future development as it lies in an area of known high archaeological potential to the north and adjacent to the site of a nationally important late Iron Age farmstead and Roman villa that are protected as a scheduled monument. The County Historic Environment Team is able to provide detailed advice on the extent and scope of the archaeological works required in order to determine the suitability of the site for allocation for development.

1.3 In addition, the consultation response given by Historic England dated 30 March 2025 sets out:

The site is north of, and immediately adjacent to, a sizeable Scheduled Monument: Roman and earlier settlement at Honeyditches – a heritage asset of the highest significance according to the NPPF. The list entry states that the monument survives as below ground remains and slight earthworks which have been recorded by way of excavation and ground survey. Romano-British villas were extensive rural estates and consideration should therefore be given to the potential for associated archaeology to exist within the surrounding areas. Conservation of the remaining rural setting should also be a priority.

The proposed site allocation has the potential to result in considerable harm to the significance of this heritage asset. It would break the clearly defined urban edge of Seaton, projecting out into land adjacent to the Scheduled Monument and impacting on views of the wider landscape. While we recognise that some land to the north contains caravans at present, these have an ephemeral quality in the view and are low rise, such that the landscape beyond remains readily visible. Furthermore, the presence of development that harms the setting does not justify further cumulative harm.

As information on the archaeological potential of the land has not been provided in support of the site allocation, it is unclear whether a proposed capacity of 39 dwellings would be achievable. This site allocation is therefore unsound as it is not justified (based on proportionate evidence relating to archaeology and setting impacts), it is inconsistent with national policy, and it is not effective as there are questions around deliverability.

We recommend that this site allocation is removed from the Plan. Otherwise, as this site may contain significant archaeology, a desk-based assessment and potentially a site evaluation would be needed to justify a site allocation. Please refer to the Plan-making section of our guidance on [Planning and Archaeology | Historic England](#), in particular from p24. A more detailed understanding is also needed of potential impacts on the settings of heritage assets, and whether this could be minimised and mitigated.

- 1.4** This Historic Environment Impact Assessment has been prepared in response to these comments therefore forming the aims of the report.
- 1.5** The location of Seat_13a is shown on Fig. 1. It currently comprises a single pasture field of 2.2 hectares and is situated on the northwest side of the town of Seaton. The field is bounded by Manor Farm Caravan Park to the north, residential development to the east (mainly comprising single-storey bungalows), grazing land to the west and further pasture fields to the south, comprising the designated Honeyditches Scheduled Monument. The field forming Seat_13a lies at a height of c. 65m aOD (above Ordnance Datum) at its northern boundary, dropping to c. 52m aOD on its southern edge, and is situated within an immediate landscape with a broad trend of falling gently down to the south and east forming the western slopes of the Axe Estuary. The underlying solid geology comprises mudstone of the Branscombe Mudstone Formation with no superficial deposits recorded (British Geological Survey 2025).
- 1.6** The following data sources have been examined:
- Historic environment record (HER) data to 500m site centre provided by Devon County Council;
 - Published and unpublished material relevant to the Honeyditches Roman and earlier settlement site;
 - Archaeology Data Service, Grey Literature Reports and Archives websites;
 - Heritage Gateway website;
 - National Heritage List for England (NHLE) website;
 - Relevant historic maps and documentary sources;
 - British Geological Survey online database; and,
 - Other relevant published or unpublished information.
- 1.7** A site walkover of the site, as well as Honeyditches Scheduled Monument area (Plots A-C on Fig. 1) was undertaken on 30 September 2025. The geophysical survey was carried out on 29 September 2025.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Overview

Historic Environment data held by Devon HER to a 500m radius site centre of the site is shown on Fig 1. The data is tabulated in Appendix 1, Tables 1 and 2. Much of the data within this 500m, e.g. barns and former boundaries, are inconsequential to this report and are not therefore discussed further. The HER does, however, contain a number of entries relating to findings in and around Honeyditches.

2.2 The Honeyditches Roman buildings are important for being one of the few Roman elite settlements identified so far in Devon. Its extensive and multi-phase occupation provides insight into the transition from native Iron Age life to Romanisation, and it may, due to its size and location overlooking the Axe estuary, have connections to the potentially important Roman settlement of *Moridunum* ('sea fort') mentioned in ancient records. Excavations have revealed a multi-phase history at the site. A stone villa and other Roman buildings were constructed over an earlier Iron Age farmstead, indicating a period of continuous occupation where native traditions were replaced or overlaid by Roman ones.

2.3 Investigations at Honeyditches and prehistoric and Roman occupation in the landscape

Excavations undertaken at Honeyditches from 1860 to 1987 have produced evidence of Mesolithic to medieval occupation including a Roman villa or *mansio* complex. The site of the villa was dug into by Sir Walter Trevelyan in 1860 and revealed Roman remains of Roman tiles and bricks more or less in fragments, pieces of blue lias roofing stone with holes for pegs to hold them on the roof and mortar mixed with pounded brick (Hutchinson 1885; Butler 2000, 173-5). In the early 1920s two rooms, one containing fragments of a mosaic floor, of a Roman building were excavated (Wright 1922). There were further excavations in 1959 (Gosney 1963), 1969 (Pollard 1972; Miles 1976; 1977), 1978 (Silvester 1981) and 1987 (Holbrook 1987).

2.4 The major phase of systematic excavation was during the 1960s when the bath-house and surrounding features were investigated. Miles (1977) interpreted the Roman remains as that of a high-status villa complex which had been built on the site of pre-Roman Iron Age settlement comprising two ditched enclosures (this was undertaken in Scheduled Monument Plot B as shown on Fig. 1). Subsequent excavations and observations in 1978 to the west and south of those by Miles ahead of and during house building (Silvester 1981), found evidence for prehistoric use of the site dating from the Neolithic onwards with roundhouses of Iron Age to possibly early Roman date and further evidence of Roman stone buildings, regarded as being part of the previously explored main villa building.

2.5 In 1987 excavations ahead of potential land allotment for residential development took place in the field to the north (Plot A) and involved some reinterpretation of the findings of the earlier excavation, meaning a potential wooden building was now understood to be boundary ditches for a trackway extending north from Plot B through Plot A. The Roman building complex itself was reinterpreted as a *mansio* (official lodging house) related to the Roman military as opposed to a private villa (Holbrook 1987; and see Todd 1987, 221). The current understanding is that the Roman stone buildings were constructed from the mid 2nd century at the earliest and went out of use in the late 3rd century. These may have comprised two buildings, one with a mosaic floor, rather than a single large L-shaped building as previously suggested by Miles (1977). In addition was the small but well-appointed bath-house. The stone buildings were constructed within artificial terraces which were filled on their abandonment (contributing to their preservation) at which point the area was used for agricultural purposes with an oval enclosure, probably for livestock, approached by a narrow trackway from the north. Evidence from hearths and finds indicates that there was some form of occupation of the site in the Norman period.

- 2.6** Other Iron Age sites in the area of the site largely comprise the pair of hillforts to the east of the Axe Valley at Musbury Castle and Hawkesdown Hill, the latter in clear view of the site, and the inland promontory fort on Seaton Down to the northwest of the site (see Fig. 8). A previously suspected Iron Age enclosure based largely on an aerial photograph at Bramble Hill has been investigated by evaluation and has been dismissed (Sites E1 and E2, Fig. 1).
- 2.7** The site is located to the south of the possible Roman road between Charmouth (Dorset) and Exeter (Site 11). The date for this route is disputed and has recently been dismissed as Roman (Rippon and Gould 2021, 54). A possible extension to Seaton of the Fosse Way Roman road from Axminster has also not been established. The potential Roman date for the lane of Seaton Down Hill (Site 14) is dependent on it being a spur road of the Charmouth-Exeter road so is equally speculative. However, Holbrook (1987) makes a strong claim for a Roman fort of 2nd century or later date to be located at Couchill, 450m southwest of the Roman buildings at Honeyditches (Fig. 8). No known archaeological excavations have taken place there and the remains would now be buried beneath a housing estate or will have been destroyed by its construction. A tile stamped for the *legio II Augusta* from somewhere in the area adds weight to the argument for a military presence, as does a harness mount from Seaton of 3rd century AD military type (Bidwell 2021, 159-160). The fort would support the interpretation of Honeyditches as a *mansio* and also the placename *Moridunum* ('sea fort'), which would potentially place the fort and *mansio* above a harbour on the Axe during the Roman period (Fig. 8). A Roman period native settlement has been established by trench evaluation and geophysical survey to the east of Harepath Road, 1km northeast of the site (Sims and Valentin 2012; see Fig. 8). In 2013, the Seaton Down Hoard was discovered in a field approximately 1.15km northwest of the site (Fig. 8). It contained over 22,888 Roman coins and three iron ingots buried around AD 350.

2.8 Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC)

The Devon Historic Landscape Characterisation project maps the site as 'Medieval enclosures based on strip fields - This area was probably first enclosed with hedge-banks during the later middle ages. The curving form of the hedgebanks suggests that earlier it may have been farmed as open strip-fields'.

3. HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA

Introduction to the Map Progression

- 3.1** This section of the report is based on a map progression exercise undertaken on a series of historic maps relating to the site and its immediate landscape. Research has been conducted using maps available online.
- 3.2 Ordnance Survey drawing, 1806 (Fig. 2)**
This map has a poor fit with the field pattern as revealed in later mapping (see below). A major part of the site appears to be covered by an orchard. The remainder of the site falls into parts of agricultural fields.
- 3.3 Seaton and Beer parish tithe map, 1840 and apportionment, 1839 (Fig. 3)**
Compared with the 1806 map the tithe map has a much better fit with the current field pattern with all boundaries except that in the south matching those of the present day. The site is separated into two fields by a roughly central east-west aligned field boundary.
- 3.4** Table 1 below is an extract from the Seaton and Beer parish tithe apportionment of 1839, detailing information relating to plot numbers, ownership, land use and a name or description of the plot. Plot names in general indicate particular characteristics such as size, shape, topography, location and land use productivity. In this case most of the field names recorded in the tithe apportionment within and surrounding the application site have relatively clear origins, and the historic use of the site as an orchard is retained in the 'Long Orchard' name although the plot is in use for arable by this time. The plot 697 name (Great Bomb Shot) is unusual and may relate to artillery practice,

perhaps in the Napoleonic Wars era and the 'Boswill' name for plot 757 could potentially relate to the location of a well. Plot 760, 'Honeyditch', refers to the site of archaeological interest, the 'Honey' prefix may relate to a place where bees were kept or derived from a personal name (Gover *et al.* 1969, 165-6). The fields are within the tenement of Seaton Farm.

| Plot No. | Landowner | Occupier | Name/Description | Land Use |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|----------|
| Plots within the application site | | | | |
| 524 | John Trevelyan, Sir | William Skinner | Little New Close | Arable |
| 756 | John Trevelyan, Sir | William Skinner | Long Orchard | Arable |
| Plots surrounding the application site | | | | |
| 523 | Joseph Horsford | William & John Head | Higher New Close | Arable |
| 525 | Joseph Horsford | William & John Head | Lower New Close | Arable |
| 581 | Joseph Horsford | William & John Head | Fields | Arable |
| 697 | John Trevelyan, Sir | William Skinner | Great Bomb Shot | Arable |
| 755 | Joseph Horsford | William & John Head | Part of Fields | Arable |
| 757 | John Trevelyan, Sir | William Skinner | Boswill | Meadow |
| 759 | John Trevelyan, Sir | William Skinner | Copse | Copse |
| 760 | Philip Head | William & John Head | Honeyditch | Arable |

Table 1: Details from the Seaton and Beer parish tithe map, 1840

3.5 The First Edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey map, 1889 (Fig. 4)

This map shows some straightening of field boundaries forming the bounds of the site as seen in the present day. The central east-west aligned field boundary has been removed creating a single field. To the southwest of the site some field boundaries have been removed and the site of a Roman villa is labelled along with former quarries.

3.6 20th century Ordnance Survey maps and aerial photographs (Fig. 5)

The 6-inch Ordnance Survey map of 1963 shows no change to the site, but to the southwest the sites of two Roman buildings are now marked. Aerial photographs from 1946 onwards show no changes to the site itself but to the east allotments and fields are taken in for residential development and a holiday park is developed in fields to the north. Satellite imagery from 2001 onwards shows various informal tracks across the site which appear to link the holiday park with residential roads to the southeast. The line of a buried water pipe is visible from 2005 onwards. To the southwest of the site in Plot C of the scheduled area (see Fig. 1) many linear earthworks are visible, with some of these matching the locations of former field boundaries shown on historic mapping. To the south of the site in Plot B of the scheduled area the site of the bath-house excavation and spoilheaps are clearly visible.

3.7 LiDAR Data (Fig. 6)

The LiDAR rendering for the site itself indicates largely agricultural features trending east-west and north-south, also clear is the line of the water pipe crossing the site. Other features are present in the southwest corner of the site where a single circular and an irregular feature are shown. The circular feature corresponds to anomaly group 1 in the geophysical survey (see Section 5, below). This area was noted as low-lying with reeds during the field visit and it could be that these features are natural and mark the location of a former spring, or they could relate to quarrying and other activity. Slightly to the east of these a potential small squared terrace appears to be present and may be the location of a former building.

3.8

The LiDAR for the area of the scheduled monument generally shows agricultural features and former field boundaries known from historic mapping. In Plot A three of the north-northeast to south-southwest trending linear features are the positions of the 1987 evaluation trenches. No potential archaeological features are present. In Plot B many of the trenches from the 1969 excavation are visible along with the spoilheaps surrounding the bath-house. To the east of the bath-house the spoilheaps can be seen to impinge upon the hollow for a track which Miles (1977) regarded as Roman in date. No previously unsuspected archaeological features are present. In Plot C the trending of medieval strip fields which continue into the field immediately to north is clearly shown. The location of former quarrying marked on historic maps is also clear.

4. SUMMARY OF GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY RESULTS (Fig. 7)

4.1 A geophysical gradiometer survey was undertaken across the site by Substrata Limited during September 2025. This is a summary of the full report (see Edwards and Trick 2025).

4.2 Seven geophysical anomaly groups were detected of which six are characterised as representing potential buried archaeological deposits. Table 2 below provides a key to the interpreted results of the survey as shown on Fig. 7.

| ID | Interpretation |
|-----|---|
| 1 | subtle circular anomaly, possibly a curvilinear or ring-ditch, of uncertain date |
| 2 | positive linear possible boundary roughly lines up with boundary on tithe map |
| 3 | subtle rectilinear anomaly, tentatively interpreted as a small enclosure/land parcel, of uncertain date |
| 4 | linear anomaly running downslope, that is probably a cut, ditch-type feature, of uncertain date |
| 5 | a linear anomaly, possibly a cut ditch, of uncertain date |
| 6 | a long, linear trend of raised positive response, follows a topographic combe across the survey area and probably indicates a palaeochannel |
| 101 | modern drain |

Table 2: Magnetic anomaly groups and their archaeological characterisation

4.3 The geophysical survey was successful in detecting and locating anomalies of possible and likely archaeological origin. Of these, one group (Group 2) is likely to represent a former field boundary previously recorded on the Seaton tithe map. Another group (1) is tentatively identified as a possible circular ditch. Two groups (4, 5) probably represent ditched features. Of these, Group 4 is a rigidly linear anomaly that may represent a former boundary that predates the post-medieval field layout seen on historic mapping sources, or alternatively may indicate a more recent drainage feature deliberately aligned downslope. A subtle rectilinear group (3) is tentatively identified as a small enclosure or general land parcel. An indistinct linear group (6) spanning the southern half of the survey area probably represents a palaeochannel.

5. FIELD VISIT (Plates 1-11)

5.1 A site visit was undertaken on 30 September 2025 in bright and dry conditions with good visibility for distant views. The purpose of the field visit was to provide a familiarisation of the land use and topography of the site and to visually check any relevant recorded heritage assets within its vicinity. It also provided an opportunity to identify evidence for any previously unrecorded assets in the form of earthworks, soil exposures, artefacts or standing remains.

5.2 The site sits on the western slopes of the Axe Valley overlooking the town of Seaton, with the English Channel to the south and the eastern-facing hills of the valley to the west (Plate 1). It is located immediately to the southeast of Manor Farm Caravan Park and is currently used for a combination of sheep grazing and as a recreational open-space area for the caravan park visitors with some picnic benches, mainly though as a dog walking area.

5.3 The boundaries to the field are all hedgebanks containing well-maintained hedges. The topography comprises a slightly higher small level terrace in the northwest corner, with the ground then sloping gently to moderately down to the south and east (Plate 1). The southwest corner of the field is the most low-lying and contains a small area of reeds (Plates 2 and 3). There is a linear depression extending broadly northwest-southeast across the centre of the field, with a manhole cover and adjacent path of spoil upcast in the middle of this indicating the presence of a water pipe as identified by the geophysical survey (Plate 4). There are some natural undulations in the field but there are no indications of earthworks of archaeological origin.

5.4 During the walkover the land parcels forming the area of the scheduled monument were also visited and are labelled A-C on Fig. 1.

- 5.5** Plot A is small pasture field in the northeast corner of the scheduled monument used mainly for sheep grazing. The plot has a general trend of sloping evenly down to the south and east, with no indications of any surface earthworks (Plate 5). A series of archaeological trenches was excavated in this field in 1987, which revealed flanking ditches from two successive Roman phases of trackway, extending north from an enclosure present in Plot B.
- 5.6** Plot B of the scheduled monument is public open-space and is accessed via a gated entrance at the end of Roman Way. On the left as you go in there is an archaeological interpretation panel, barely noticeable as you walk past and currently overgrown and seemingly not cleaned very often (Plate 6). The land forming Plot B is a wildlife enhancement area seemingly used extensively by dog walkers (Plate 7). It is currently under short, managed grass with occasional small trees and areas of wildflower planting. There are some picnic benches close to its northern boundary. The boundaries are mixed, comprising mainly hedgebanks, less well preserved on the south side where the field borders modern housing, as well as along its western side where there is a part wooden fence and part hedge. There is a general trend of the field sloping gently to moderately down to the south and east. This plot contains the main Iron Age and Roman elements of the scheduled monument, including the stone-constructed buildings excavated in 1921 and 1969. There are four grass-covered prominent mounds in the southern part of the plot (Plates 8 and 9), as well as associated linear negative earthworks, which seemingly represent the positions of spoilheaps and trenches from the 1969 excavations. These are better viewed via modern google earth imagery. Reputedly, following completion of the excavations the areas were backfilled with sand to preserve the surviving walls and associated archaeology. The excess spoil must therefore have just been left where it was at the time.
- 5.7** The NHLE scheduling description for Honeyditches states that ‘there is a number of slight platforms and mounds recognised in the area of the bath house and to its west are thought to represent the remains of further buildings of the Roman complex’. While these ‘earthworks’ may well have been plotted using specialised survey equipment and are therefore likely to be subtle, they were not discernible during this site visit, although the ground within the site does have what seem to be natural small undulations that form no obvious pattern.
- 5.8** Plot C forms the western part of the scheduled monument and was not accessible during this site visit. Viewed from its eastern boundary, however (Plate 10), it forms a well-maintained pasture field used for sheep grazing. The ground, while naturally undulating, also has a general trend of sloping moderately to gently down to the east and south. The boundaries of Plot C are formed of hedgebanks with trees. There were no obvious surface earthworks visible from the eastern boundary and there does not appear to be any records of previous archaeological investigations having taken place within Plot C; its inclusion within the scheduled area is presumably due to Ordnance Survey mapping from 1889 onwards marking the location of a Roman building here and this may be a misplacing of the building seen in 1860 which is actually further to the east in Plot B.
- 5.9** The fields forming Seat_13a, Plots A-C of the scheduled monument and a small field in the northwest form a group of mainly pasture plots within the landscape on the western slopes above Seaton. They represent a small surviving remnant on the slopes of the valley of what would have been a wider pattern of fields and their boundary alignments originating in the medieval period, with the surrounding landscape now characterised by a densely-concentrated semi-permanent caravan park to the north and modern housing to the east and south. The more elevated agricultural land of Seaton Down lies to the west, but the site is not visible from a roadside picnic area adjacent to there, being situated on the western slopes of the valley (Plate 11).

6. POTENTIAL BELOW GROUND ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT

- 6.1 The generally low-level results of the 1987 evaluation of Plot A immediately to south of the field forming Seat_13a would appear to indicate that there is no continuation of the later prehistoric and Roman period settlements extending to the north of Plot B of the scheduled monument. The field visit noted no potential earthworks of archaeological interest, but the interpreted results of the geophysical survey and the LiDAR rendering indicate that a small number of potential archaeological features is present within the site. In the southwest corner is a potential ring ditch and to the east of this a small possible building terrace. Central to the site is a small number of linear features which may represent ditches, one of which forming a rectilinear shape may be an enclosure and a linear anomaly may represent a field boundary predating the current post-medieval pattern of fields. The southern lowest part of the field may contain a palaeochannel which could preserve evidence of the environmental history of the area.

7. POTENTIAL IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT AT SEAT_13A ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HONEYDITCHES SCHEDULED MONUMENT

- 7.1 The Roman and earlier settlement at Honeyditches is a scheduled monument and therefore a heritage asset of **High Significance**, in that it contains important evidential, historic and archaeological value that can contribute significantly to acknowledged national research objectives. There is still debate on what the Roman remains represent and these are either interpreted as a Roman villa or *mansio* complex. Romanised buildings are rare in Devon, particularly on rural sites, with villas and indeed *mansiones* especially scarce. Structural remains recorded at Honeyditches include fragments of a mosaic floor, while the buildings themselves were constructed with stone and other materials used including lias stone as roof slates and ceramic brick/tiles. One of the buildings is currently interpreted as a small bath-house. The asset has not been fully excavated and much of what was previously exposed in the various investigations is still in the ground. Its interpretation is still not certain, so it will therefore and no doubt contain further structural and artefactual evidence relating to its construction, architecture, development and longevity, as well as provide information about the social, political and economic conditions, agricultural, trading and industrial practices, domestic conditions, as well as the landscape context prevailing during its use and abandonment.
- 7.2 A further aspect which contributes to the significance of the scheduled monument is that it contains evidence for continuity of occupation potentially from the late prehistoric period into Norman times. These include a possible Iron Age settlement pre-dating the Roman conquest, as well as the recovery of artefacts and a small number of features and finds dating to the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods. Following the abandonment of the villa/mansio it is possible that the area was used for agricultural purposes with an oval enclosure (what was originally thought to be the Iron Age farmstead), probably for livestock, approached by a narrow trackway from the north. There is also some small-scale evidence that the site was settled in the early middle ages.
- 7.3 The broader Roman period landscape context contemporary with the Honeyditches site is also considered to contribute to its significance, but this is still largely speculative. It may be associated with a potential fort to the southwest at Couchill (Fig. 8), but this is now under or destroyed by modern development. It may also be related to a harbour, although the presence of a port at Seaton has not yet been established. Similarly, roads passing to the north and west of Honeyditches are considered Roman on the basis of minimal evidence. A probable enclosed farmstead has been identified to the northeast, but this is likely to have had a domestic function. The Seaton coin hoard appears to post-date evidence for use of the villa/mansio and is therefore not connected with it.
- 7.4 While development of Seat_13 will have no direct physical impact on the Honeyditches Scheduled Monument, heritage assets can be affected by changes to their setting, where this forms part of their significance. The setting of the scheduled monument is its position on the westerly slopes

above Seaton with extensive views to the south and east overlooking the mouth of the estuary, the Axe Valley and hills beyond. It also sits within a small surviving area of relict medieval farmland, with much of what was formerly a wider contemporary agricultural landscape now taken up with modern residential development and a well-established caravan park. Plot B within the scheduled area is not currently in agricultural use, but has the same general appearance, particularly from distance, as its adjoining fields.

- 7.5** Current evidence indicates that the focus of prehistoric and Roman occupation of the monument is within Plot B of the scheduled area, with other parts lost to residential development to the south and west of the boundaries of the monument. The existing setting of Plot B is therefore largely residential on 2-and-a-half sides with the remaining 1-and-a-half sides formed by hedgebanks with fields making up the remainder of the scheduled area beyond. The reason for the inclusion of Plots A and C within the area of the scheduled monument is uncertain, as the main archaeological evidence in Plot A is a series of poorly-preserved linear ditches interpreted as defining ditches for a later Roman trackway which leads to an enclosure in Plot B to the south, while in Plot C no below ground archaeology is currently known.
- 7.6** Any potential future development of field Seat_13a would be immediately adjacent to the Honeyditches Scheduled Monument. The monument comprises two agricultural fields and a 'field' currently used as public open-space which, despite being adjacent to residential development on the south and east sides and a caravan park to the north, gives the monument the sense of a rural setting; a large part of the scheduled area is currently used for sheep grazing. The change to setting would be in reducing this rural sense and this may have the effect of altering the understanding of the villa complex in its current landscape setting, which relates to the form of the medieval and later agricultural landscapes that will be different to the character of the later prehistoric and Roman periods, and therefore only potentially contributes to part of the significance of the scheduled monument (i.e. its later post-Roman history). If the interpretation as a villa complex is correct, its position on the western slopes of the valley means that any deliberate views would appear to have been to the south and east and not in the direction of Seat_13a, nor to the west where it would not have been visible from the higher ground of Seaton Down. Alternatively, if the interpretation of the site as a *mansio* linked to the Roman military or officials is accepted then a connection with the surrounding countryside is of lesser importance, and deliberate views are probably to the south and east where a harbour may have been located, as well as potentially to the southwest and the possible fort at Couchill.

8. CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1** The geophysical survey has identified a small number of anomalies which if present as below-ground features could be contemporary with the remains at Honeyditches, but these do not currently appear to have potential to be a continuation of the more significant prehistoric and Roman occupation as found within Plot B of the scheduled monument. There is no indication for the continuation of the trackway as identified in Plot B, with anomalies identified including potentially a ring ditch, a small terrace and a slight rectilinear enclosure. Further investigation would be needed to confirm the presence/absence, date, function and potential significance of these.
- 8.2** While Honeyditches Scheduled Monument is clearly of high significance, this largely relates to its below-ground remains and the potential for further evidence to be present relating to its date, phasing, form, function, architecture and how it is associated with other contemporary archaeological sites in the landscape in and surrounding Seaton. There are currently a number of uncertainties relating to its interpretation, such as whether the building remains represent a villa complex or *mansio*, whether some of the other settlement evidence recorded at the site pre- or post-dates the Roman period remains, while in the landscape no Roman port/harbour at Seaton has yet been found, nor is it known if what were thought to be Roman roads are indeed so. Further investigation and research is therefore necessary before its full significance is understood.

- 8.3** The setting of the scheduled monument is its position on the valley slopes and incidental location within a subsequent pattern of fields, once part of a wider medieval agricultural landscape, much of which now contains modern development. Where the main Roman remains are present, within Plot B, there is part public access to the scheduled monument within a wildlife enhancement area. Here there are few indications that it contains a scheduled monument for an important Roman building complex. Slight earthworks are recorded in the listing description, but the prominent and obvious ones are the large overgrown spoilheaps and trenches from the 1960s excavations. While there is an interpretation panel, because of its location it is barely noticeable, while it is also currently old, discoloured and overgrown. There are therefore future opportunities for enhancing the scheduled monument.
- 8.4** Within the wider landscape, the scheduled monument does have the sense of rural setting and development of field Seat_13a would no doubt affect this. However, no deliberate views in the direction of field Seat_13a from the archaeology within the scheduled area have been identified and, although there would be a reduction in this rural setting, the presence of the scheduled monument within this small surviving part of the medieval landscape is incidental. It is considered overall that while the current rural location and position on the valley slopes forms the setting of the scheduled monument, this is only a very small element of its significance which, in the main, is represented by its below ground archaeological evidence and what this can contribute to Roman landscape research in the Seaton area and beyond.

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Devon County Historic Environment Viewer

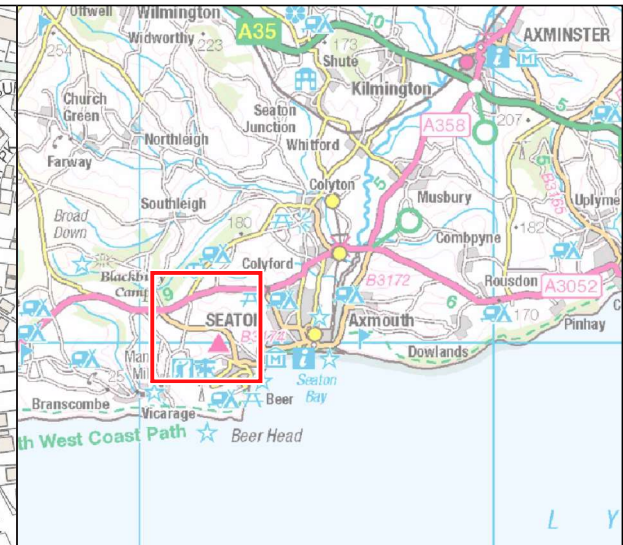
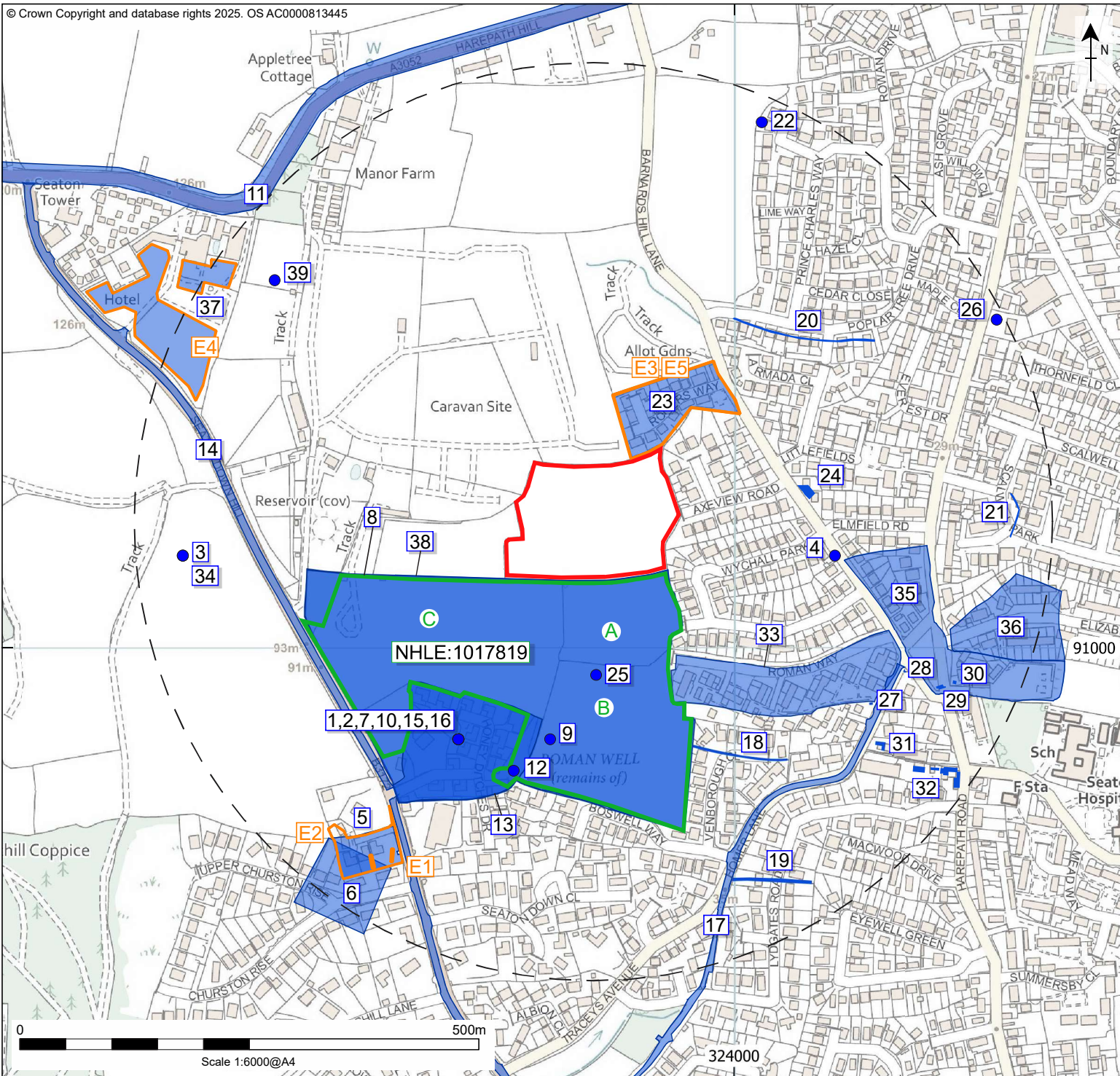
<http://map.devon.gov.uk/dccviewer>

National Library of Scotland

<http://maps.nls.uk>

The Genealogist

<https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk>



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Key

- Proposed Allocation Site
- Study Area
- National Heritage List for England, Scheduled Monument:**
- Roman and earlier settlement at honeyditches
- A-C Plots within honeyditches Scheduled Monument
- Devon Historic Environment Records:**
- Historic Environment Data
- Previous Archaeological Investigations

PROJECT



Land west of Axevie Road, Seaton, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of proposed allocation site, heritage assets and historic environment data within a 500m radius



Key

-  Proposed Allocation Site
-  Roman and earlier settlement at honeyditches

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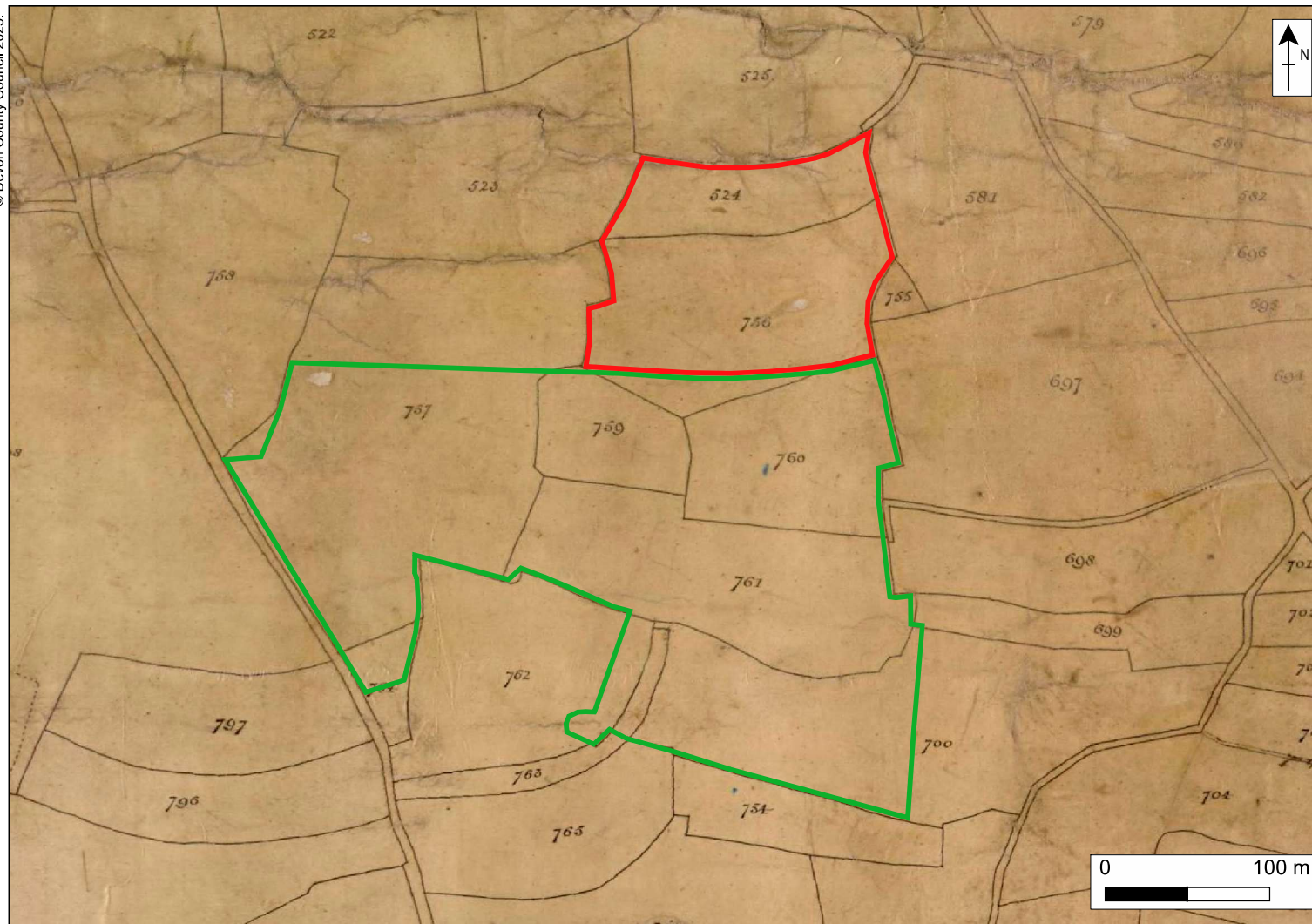


PROJECT


Land west of Axeview Road, Seaton, Devon


TITLE

Fig. 2: Extract from the Ordnance Survey, Surveyor's Drawing, 1806



Key

 Proposed Allocation Site

 Roman and earlier settlement at honeyditches

PROJECT

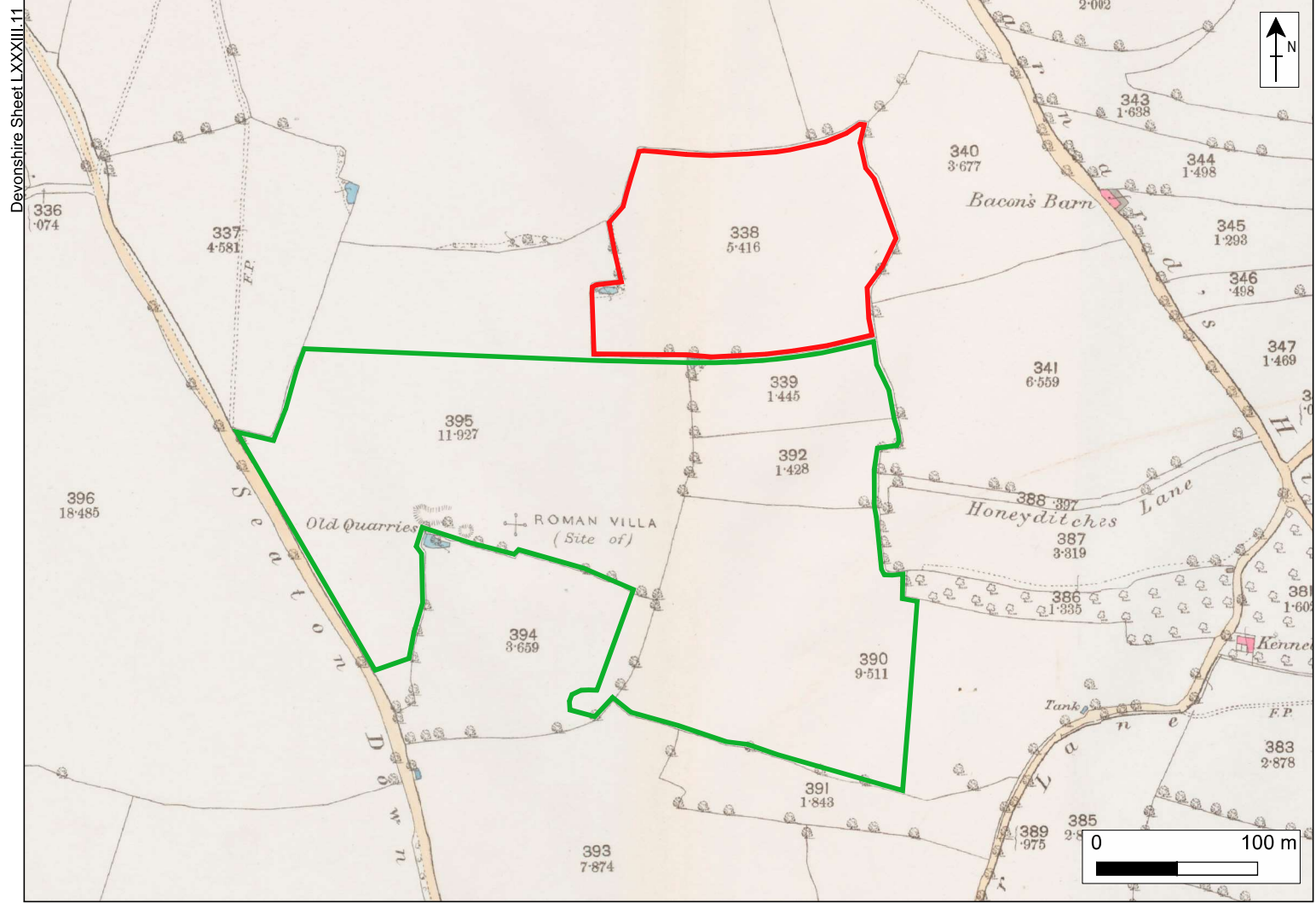


archaeology

Land west of Axeview Road, Seaton, Devon

TITLE

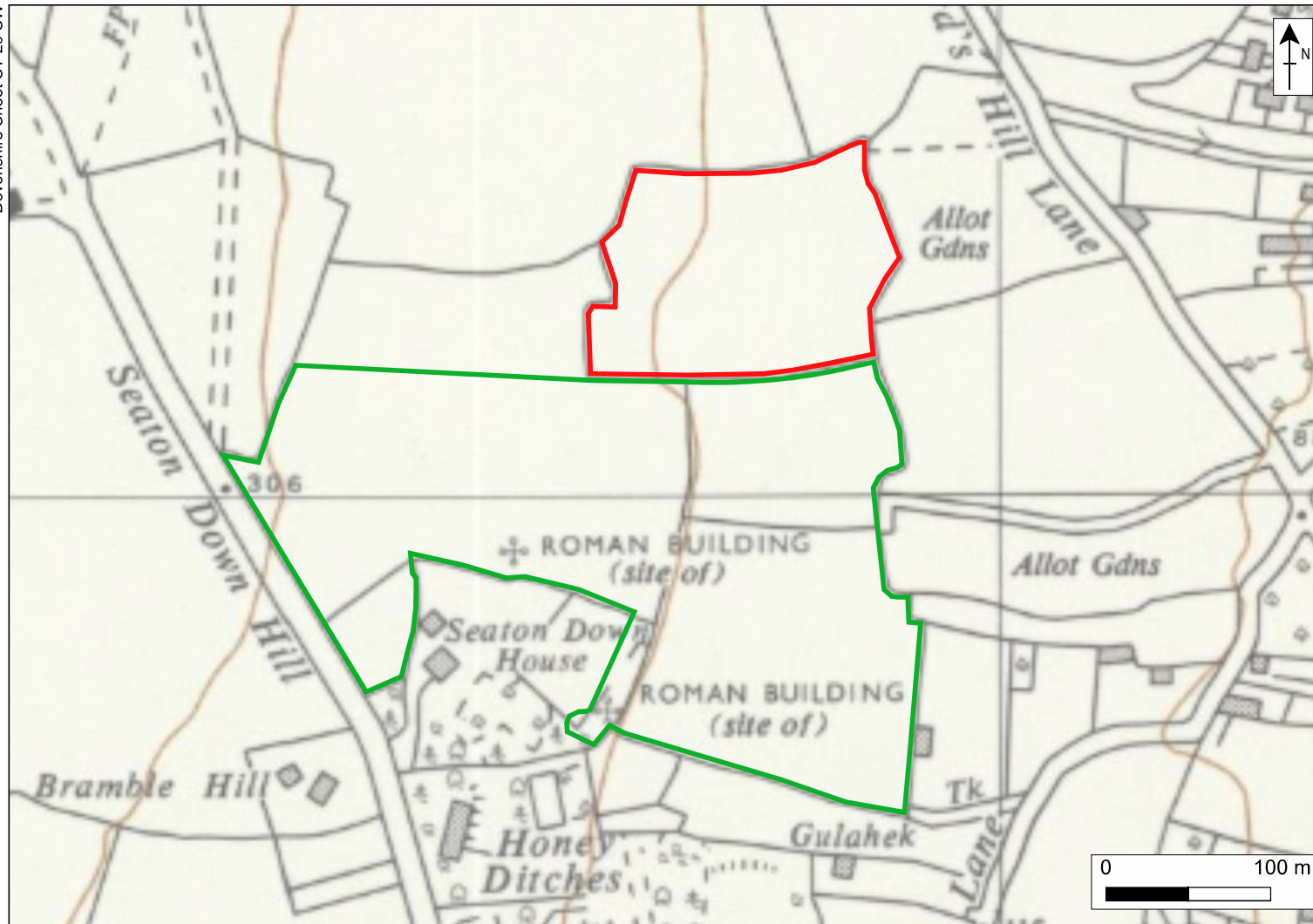
Fig. 3: Extract from the Seaton and Beer tithe map, 1840





Key

- Proposed Allocation Site
- Roman and earlier settlement at honeyditches

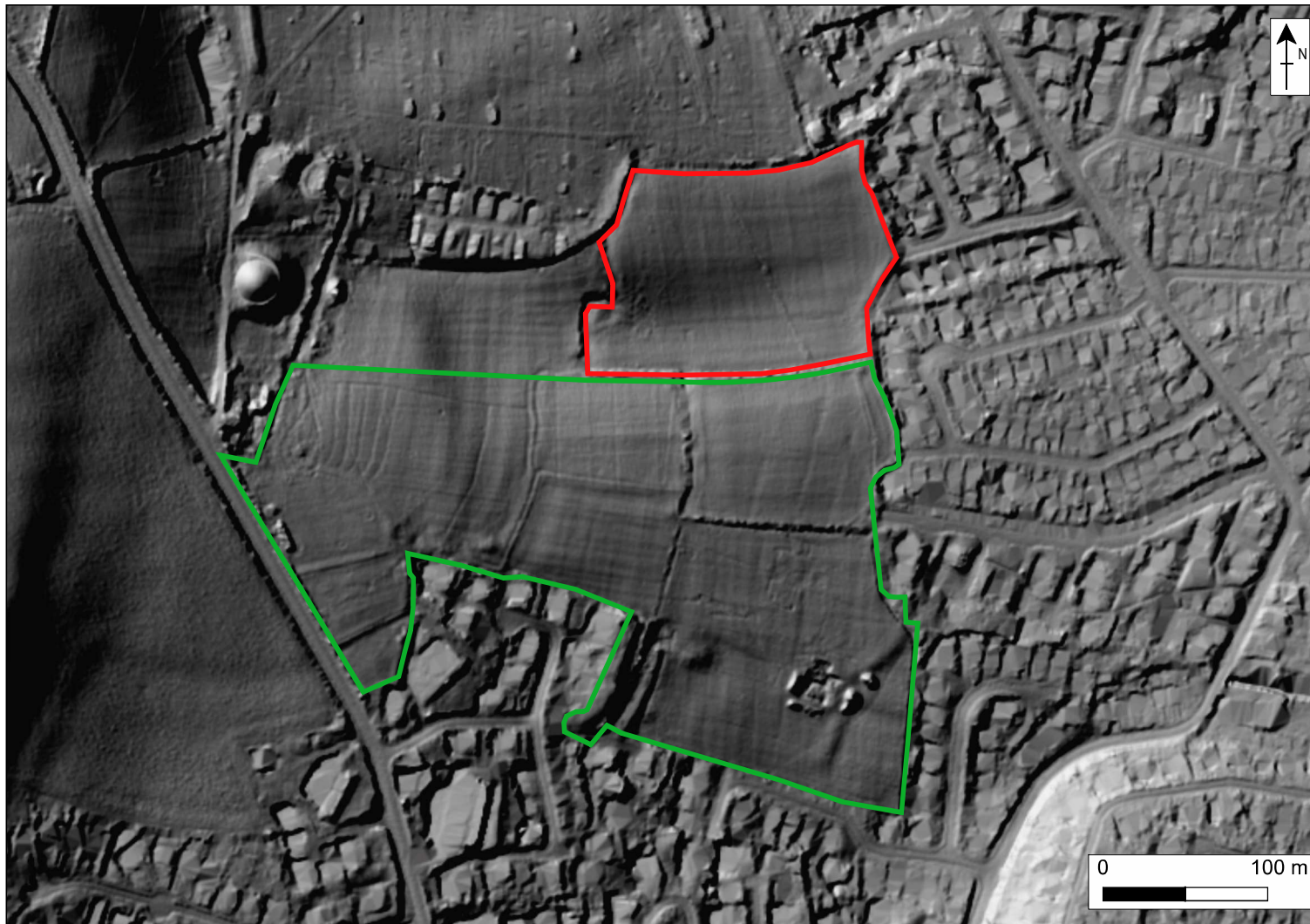
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Key

-  Proposed Allocation Site
-  Roman and earlier settlement at honeyditches

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Key

- Proposed Allocation Site
- Roman and earlier settlement at honeyditches

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PROJECT




Land west of Axeview Road, Seaton, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 6: LiDAR DTM 1m resolution 2022 displayed using a hillshade analysis



 Proposed Allocation Site

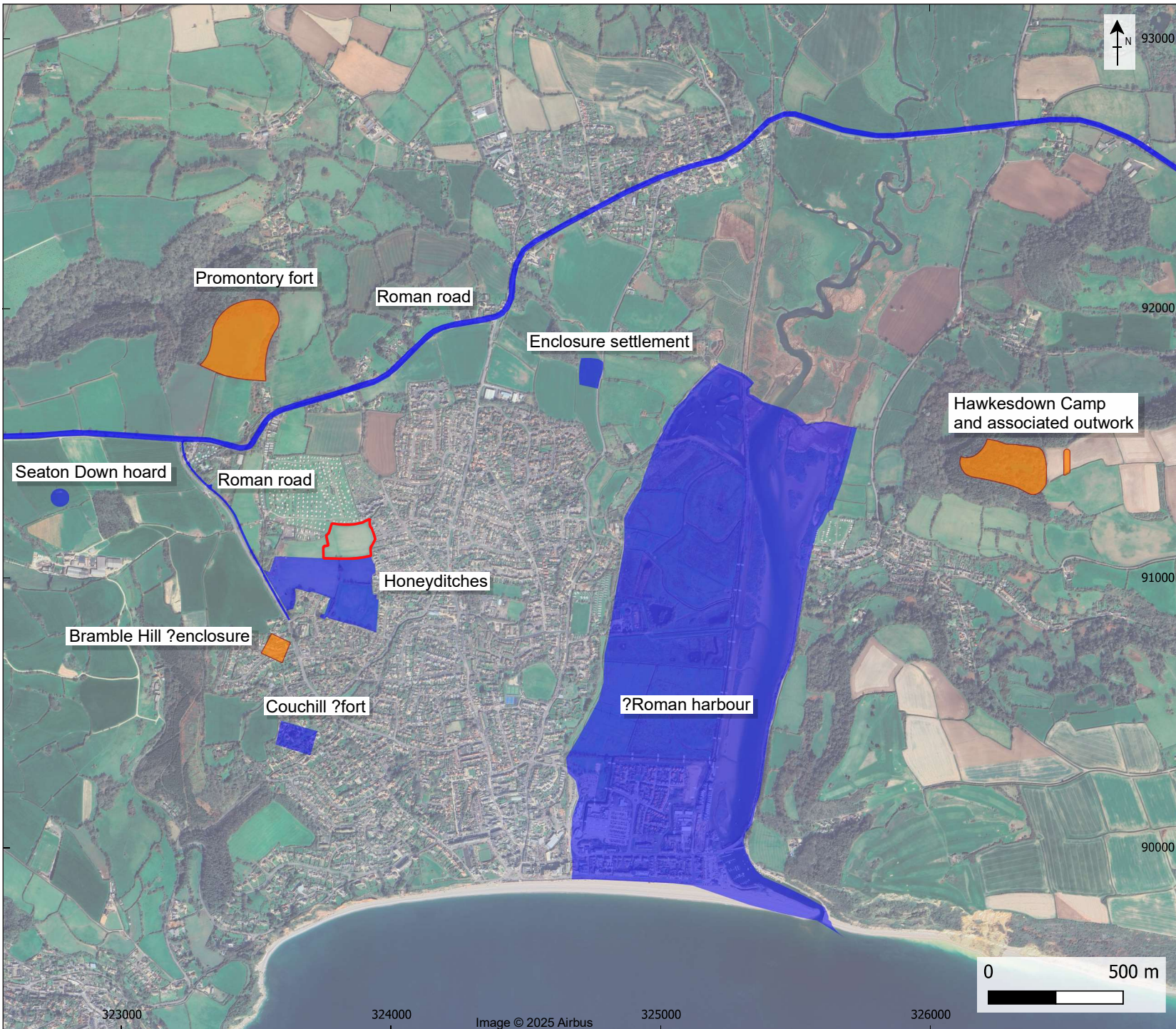
Geophysical survey: Copyright Substrata Limited.
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0 50m
 Scale 1:1250@A4

PROJECT  AC archaeology

Land west of Axeview Road, Seaton, Devon

TITLE
 Fig. 7: Interpreted results of the geophysical survey



Key

- Proposed Allocation Site
- Iron Age
- Roman



PROJECT
Land west of Axeview Road,
Seaton, Devon

TITLE
Fig. 8: Known or suspected
Iron Age and Roman sites in the
Seaton area



Plate 1: General view of the site from its northwest corner, looking broadly southeast



Plate 2: View towards the lower-lying southwest corner of site from centre of the field, looking southwest



Plate 3: View from the southwest corner of the site across 'modern Seaton' and Hawkesdown Hill and Boshill Hill beyond, looking east



Plate 4: The central part showing spoil from water pipe, looking west



Plate 5: View across Plot A of the Scheduled Monument, with the present site to left, looking broadly northeast



Plate 6: Overgrown archaeological interpretation panel at entrance of Scheduled Monument Plot B next to Roman Way



Plate 7: View from the northwest corner of Scheduled Monument Plot B, looking southeast



Plate 8: 'Spoilheap earthworks' in southern part of Scheduled Monument Plot B, presumably from the 1960s archaeological excavations. Looking north



Plate 9: Group of ' spoilheap earthworks' in southern part of Scheduled Monument Plot B, presumably from the 1960s archaeological excavations. Looking northeast



Plate 10: View across Plot C of the Scheduled Monument from its eastern boundary, looking west



Plate 11: View across Seaton and the Axe Valley from Seaton Down Hill road to the west of the site, looking southeast

Appendix 1

Historic Environment Data



Appendix 1, Table 1: Summary of designated heritage assets and historic environment data within the 500m study area

| Site no. | Status | NHLE ref. | Period | HER ref. | Summary |
|----------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| - | SCHEDULED MONUMENT | 1017819 | Late Iron Age to late-Romano-British | MDV14400 (Site 38) | <p>ROMAN AND EARLIER SETTLEMENT AT HONEYDITCHES</p> <p>This monument comprises a Romano-British settlement, interpreted as a villa, dating to the 2nd to early-3rd century. The settlement overlays an earlier farmstead of Late-Iron Age to Romano-British date before being abandoned during the late-Romano-British period. The settlement is situated on an east-facing slope overlooking the sea.</p> <p>The monument survives as below-ground remains. The earlier settlement is evidenced by a series of excavations that revealed at least two enclosures and a roundhouse of Late-Iron Age date before construction of a bath house and two other stone buildings overlaid the enclosures. Their location suggests a dispersed settlement around an open courtyard. The bathhouse contained evidence of its furnace, hot room, warm room and plunge bath, with dating evidence suggesting that it was in use until the last decades of the 3rd century. In the area around the bath house, platforms and mounds suggest further buildings of the Romano-British complex. Abandonment of the site is understood to have occurred in the mid-4th century due to an absence of Roman wares.</p> |
| 1 | ARTEFACT SCATTER | - | Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age | MDV14064 | <p>Prehistoric Flint Scatter at Honeyditches, Seaton</p> <p>Flints dating to the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age periods have been found at Honeyditches.</p> |
| 2 | SETTLEMENT | - | Early Neolithic to Early Bronze Age | MDV14402 | <p>Neolithic Activity Site, Honeyditches, Seaton</p> <p>A gully and slot found in association with earlier Neolithic and Beaker pottery together with finds of flints are indicative of activity on the site from at least the 3rd millennium BC</p> |
| 3 | ARTEFACT SCATTER | - | Early Neolithic to Late Bronze Age | MDV60121 | <p>ARTEFACT SCATTER in the Parish of Colyton, Seaton</p> <p>Museum collection. 3 flints from Down Hill, neolithic/bronze age. Not precisely located</p> |
| 4 | ARTEFACT SCATTER | - | Neolithic | MDV14050 | <p>Flints from Barnards Hill Lane, Seaton</p> <p>Neolithic flint scatter found at Barnards Hill Lane</p> |
| 5 | FLINT SCATTER | - | Prehistoric | MDV80421 | <p>Prehistoric Flint Artefacts from Bramble Hill, Seaton</p> <p>Prehistoric flint artefacts were recovered during an evaluation at Bramble Hill, Seaton Down</p> |
| 6 | ENCLOSURE | - | Iron Age | MDV14070 | <p>Enclosure to west of Honeyditches, Seaton</p> <p>Enclosure shown on Royal Air Force aerial photograph. There has been some debate as to the nature of the site but Holbrook suggests that it most closely resembles an Iron Age native enclosure and that the descriptions given by Stukeley and Davidson ref</p> |
| 7 | SETTLEMENT | - | Early Iron Age to Roman | MDV14401 | <p>Iron Age Settlement at Honeyditches, Seaton</p> <p>Gullies, ditches and groups of postholes together with ceramic evidence indicates the presence of a later Iron Age settlement or farmstead on site prior to the construction of the villa and bath house</p> |

Appendix 1, Table 1: Summary of designated heritage assets and historic environment data within the 500m study area

| Site no. | Status | NHLE ref. | Period | HER ref. | Summary |
|----------|---------------|-----------|---------------------------------|-----------|--|
| 8 | VILLA | - | IA to Roman | MDV14057 | Honeyditches Roman Villa, Seaton Stone buildings and bath house built in the later 2nd or 3rd century AD, replacing a native settlement |
| 9 | ENCLOSURE | - | Roman | MDV58273 | Enclosure at Honeyditches, Seaton Enclosure ditch around the site of the bath house, possibly dug while the latter was still standing. Possibly a stock enclosure of late 3rd century date |
| 10 | FINDSPOT | - | Roman | MDV14060 | Roman Tile from Honeyditches or Couchill, Seaton Roman tile bearing the inscription LEG(IO) II AUG(USTA) found at either the Honeyditches villa site or the possible fort site at Couchill |
| 11 | ROAD | - | Roman | MDV115594 | Roman road from Charmouth (Dorset) to Exeter A Roman road is thought to have run westward near the coast from Charmouth via Timber Hill, Lyme Regis, Colyford, Newton Popleford and Clyst St Mary to Exeter, being a continuation of the road from Dorchester |
| 12 | WELL | - | Roman | MDV79311 | Well at Honeyditches, Seaton A well, presumably that found in 1922 and said to be Roman in date, is marked on 1930s 25 inch Ordnance Survey map |
| 13 | FINDSPOT | - | Roman | MDV66266 | Roman Coins from Seaton Down House A small collection of silver Roman coins was found at Seaton Down House in the earlier 20th century |
| 14 | ROAD | - | Roman to Late Medieval | MDV59634 | Seaton Down Hill, Seaton The most recent work on the Saxon Charter Boundaries suggests that Seaton Down Hill was in use during the period 1005 |
| 15 | SETTLEMENT | - | Early Medieval | MDV14403 | Early Medieval Activity at Honeyditches, Seaton Hearths and pottery dated to the 11th or 12th century found during excavations in 1976 indicate activity on the site in the early medieval period |
| 16 | ROAD | - | Early Medieval to Post Medieval | MDV14404 | Post-Medieval Road at Honeyditches, Seaton Excavation of a grassy bank in 1972 showed that it was formed by a lightly metalled post-medieval road associated with pottery sherds, clay pipe stem and glass fragments, which overlay an earlier road of the 3rd century AD |
| 17 | ROAD | - | Early Medieval | MDV59633 | Homer Land and Bunts Lane, Seaton Bunts Lane and Homer Lane may be on the route of the Red Way mentioned in a charter of 1005. This possibly represented the ancient route to and from the Manor of Beer |
| 18 | BOUNDARY BANK | - | Medieval | MDV105952 | Relict Field Boundary East of Honeyditches A curvilinear earthwork bank, visible on aerial photographs taken in 1946 and 1963, is interpreted as a relict medieval field boundary that went out of use by the mid nineteenth century |
| 19 | BOUNDARY BANK | - | Medieval | MDV105960 | Former Field Boundaries Near Townsend Avenue Several curvilinear earthwork banks and ditches, visible on aerial photographs taken between 1947 and 1963, are likely to be the remains of medieval field boundaries that went out of use by the mid nineteenth century. The area has since been developed |

Appendix 1, Table 1: Summary of designated heritage assets and historic environment data within the 500m study area

| Site no. | Status | NHLE ref. | Period | HER ref. | Summary |
|----------|-----------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|-----------|---|
| 20 | BOUNDARY BANK | - | Medieval | MDV106020 | Relict Field Boundary East of Barnard's Hill Lane A curvilinear earthwork bank, visible on aerial photographs taken between 1946 and 1963, may be the remains of a field boundary of medieval origin that went out of use by the mid nineteenth century. It is not visible on later available aerial photographs |
| 21 | BOUNDARY BANK | - | Post Medieval | MDV106023 | Former Field Boundary East of Harepath Road A curvilinear earthwork bank, visible on aerial photographs taken between 1946 and 1963, may be the remains of a field boundary of post-medieval origin that went out of use by the mid nineteenth century. The area has since been developed |
| 22 | POND | - | Post Medieval to Late 20th Century | MDV109138 | Pond to the east of Barnards Hill Lane, Seaton A pond is recorded within plot 587 as 'Great Barnards Hill and Pond' on the Seaton parish tithe apportionment of approximately 1838-48. The pond is also illustrated in this location on both the First Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey map |
| 23 | FIELD BOUNDARY; DRAINAGE DITCH | - | Post Medieval to Modern | MDV120380 | Archaeological Features, Barnards Hill Lane, Seaton Archaeological investigations recorded a number of ditches representing former historic field boundaries and drainage ditches |
| 24 | BARN | - | Post Medieval to XIX C | MDV80938 | Bacon's Barn, Seaton Bacon's Barn marked on both the First Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey map of between the 1880s-90s and the Second Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey map of between 1904-06. The site of the barn has since been developed |
| 25 | HEDGE BANK | - | XVIII to XXI C | MDV63091 | Hedgebank, Honeyditches, Seaton Finds recovered from fence postholes may represent the fill of a former hedgebank ditch or cultivation soil |
| 26 | WATER PUMP | - | XIX C | MDV109145 | Pump to the south of Poplar Tree Corner, Seaton A pump is depicted on the First Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey map of between the 1880s-90s. It is not visible on the Second Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey map of between 1904-06 |
| 27 | BARN | - | XIX C | MDV109147 | Site of Former Building to the south of Honeyditches Lane, Seaton A possible building of a former agricultural barn is depicted on both the First Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey map of between the 1880s-90s and the Second Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey map of between 1904-06 |
| 28 | BARN | - | XIX C | MDV109149 | Site of Former Building to the east of Homer Lane, Seaton A possible building of a former agricultural barn is depicted on both the First Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey map of between the 1880s-90s and the Second Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey map of between 1904-06, to the east of Homer Lane, Seaton |
| 29 | BARN | - | XIX C | MDV109151 | Site of Former Building to the west of Harepath Road, Seaton A building of a possible former agricultural barn is depicted on both the First Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey map of between the 1880s-90s and the Second Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey map of between 1904-06, to the west of Harepath Road, Seaton |

Appendix 1, Table 1: Summary of designated heritage assets and historic environment data within the 500m study area

| Site no. | Status | NHLE ref. | Period | HER ref. | Summary |
|----------|------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|---|
| 30 | BARN | - | XIX C | MDV109153 | Site of Former Building to the east of Harepath Road, Seaton A building of a possible former agricultural barn is depicted on both the First Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey map of between the 1880s-90s and the Second Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey map of between 1904-06, to the east of Harepath Road, Seaton |
| 31 | KENNELS | - | XIX C | MDV109172 | Kennels to the east of Homer Lane, Seaton Kennels are depicted on both the First Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey map of between the 1880s-90s and the Second Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey map of between 1904-06 |
| 32 | BUILDING | - | XIX C | MDV109180 | Buildings to the west of Harepath Road, Seaton A range of buildings are first shown on the First Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey map of between the 1880s-90s, with additional buildings also visible by the time of the Second Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey map of between 1904-06 |
| 33 | ALLOTMENT | - | XIX to Late 20th Century | MDV109176 | Allotment Gardens to the south of Roman Way, Seaton 'Allotment Gardens' are labelled on the Second Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey map of between 1904-06, to the south of Roman Way, Seaton. The area has since been developed |
| 34 | OBSERVATION POST | - | 20th Century | MDV72345 | Seaton, Royal Observer Corps post Site of ROC post for Seaton |
| 35 | FORTIFICATION | - | Unknown | MDV109060 | Field Names of Castle and Castle Cross Orchard, Seaton The field names of 'Castle' within plot 694 and 'Castle Cross Orchard' within plots 691 and 693 are listed on the Seaton and Beer tithe map apportionment of approximately 1838-48, Seaton. The field names may indicate the presence of a possible castle |
| 36 | WELL | - | Unknown | MDV109062 | Location of Possible Well, Seaton The field name evidence of 'Well Close' within plot 590 on the Seaton and Beer parish tithe apportionment of approximately 1838-48 may indicate the presence of a well within the vicinity |
| 37 | ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURE | - | Unknown | MDV118715 | Archaeological Anomalies, Land at Seaton Heights, Devon Gradiometer survey identified several discrete responses which may have some archaeological significance |
| 38 | SETTLEMENT | - | Unknown | MDV14400 | Honeyditches Multiphase Settlement, Seaton Multiphase occupation at Honeyditches. Excavations undertaken at Honeyditches from 1860 to 1987 have produced evidence of Mesolithic to Medieval occupation including a Roman villa |
| 39 | ENCLOSURE | - | Unknown | MDV14056 | ENCLOSURE in the Parish of Seaton Three sides of a rectangular earthwork were visible in the drought of summer 1976 on the slope of a hillside |

Appendix 1, Table 2: Summary of previous archaeological work within the 500m study area

| Site no. | HER ref. | Type of Investigation | Date | Summary |
|----------|----------|-----------------------|------|--|
| E1 | EDV5162 | Evaluation | 1990 | <p>An Archaeological Evaluation at Bramble Hill, Seaton Down Hill</p> <p>An Evaluation was carried out in order to assess the archaeological significance of the site on Bramble Hill, to the west of Seaton. The site lies circa 150 metres west of the Honeyditches Roman site. An evaluation of two trial trenches was carried out in advance of a small development in order to assess the archaeological significance of the site on Bramble Hill (SY23559074). The site lies circa 150 metres west of the Honeyditches Roman site, which occupies a large area on the east of Seaton Down Hill and about 50 metres to the east of the prominent undated archaeological cropmark. No features of archaeological interest were discovered in the trenches. Only modern land drains were found. No sign of the enclosure ditch or of settlement evidence. Modern pottery and a small number of prehistoric lithic artefacts were found. The latter were not sufficient in quantity to suggest the presence of a prehistoric settlement on the site.</p> |
| E2 | EDV5469 | Evaluation | 2011 | <p>Archaeological Evaluation at Bramble Hill, Seaton</p> <p>Archaeological evaluation on land south of Bramble Hill in support of a planning application for the construction of five new dwellings and associated works. The only feature recorded was a modern boundary ditch. No archaeological finds were recovered.</p> |
| E3 | EDV7350 | Geophysical Survey | 2017 | <p>Gradiometer Survey: Land at Barnards Hill Lane, Seaton</p> <p>This report was commissioned by AC Archaeology Ltd on behalf of clients and was produced by Substrata in preparation for submission of a forthcoming planning application. No magnetic anomalies relating to possible archaeological deposits or features were identified in the data set.</p> |
| E4 | EDV7218 | Geophysical Survey | 2008 | <p>Gradiometer Survey, Land at Seaton Heights, Devon</p> <p>A geophysical survey on an area of land to the northwest of Seaton did not identify any anomalies of clear archaeological potential. A possible former field boundary was identified and alongside a number of linear anomalies may demonstrate former agricultural practices. However, anomalies caused by modern disturbance may have obscured any weak archaeological anomalies.</p> |
| E5 | EDV7459 | Evaluation | 2017 | <p>Land off Barnards Hill Lane, Seaton: Evaluation</p> <p>An evaluation on land off Barnards Hill, consisting of the excavation of eight trenches each 1.8m wide and totalling 150 metres in length, was undertaken following a geophysical survey which identified a small number of anomalies (E3). Three of the trenches contained negative results. In the remainder several linear features relate to a historic agricultural landscape of ditches for field boundaries and drainage. The small number of finds from these features indicates that they are probably located at relatively some distance from any contemporary settlement sites. A small assemblage of prehistoric worked flint, some from buried colluvial deposits, indicates activity in the area during the Late Neolithic or Bronze Age periods, but no in situ features of this date were identified. One sherd of later prehistoric pottery and one sherd of Roman pottery recovered from overlying deposits is consistent with known activity of this date within the general area. Other finds recovered comprise a small collection of pottery, tile and glass, all of post-medieval date.</p> |

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