

1: Final Report on Chivelstone, South Pool, Newton & Noss and Wembury Parish Heritage Appraisals 2006-2007

Background to project

Exeter Archaeology was commissioned by South Hams District Council to carry out parish heritage appraisals for the parishes of Chivelstone, South Pool, Newton & Noss and Wembury between April 2006 and March 2007. This was the third year of the Parish Heritage Appraisals project, which was one of a number of programmes included in the Life into Landscape: South Devon initiative. The Life into Landscape initiative was funded by The Heritage Lottery Fund, the European Regional Development Fund: Objective 2, English Heritage, the Countryside Agency, South Hams District Council and Devon County Council.

Keith Rennells was Programme Manager for Life into Landscape. Trudy Turrell of the South Devon AONB Unit helped to co-ordinate the events programme that formed part of the project. The lead archaeologist for the survey was Martin Dyer of Exeter Archaeology. Exeter Archaeology was fortunate to have the assistance of Jess Collins, an MA student at Exeter University, and Adam Dyson, a final year BA student, who worked on the survey on professional placements that made up part of their degrees.

Aims

The primary aim of the scheme was to enhance the existing archaeological information held by the Devon County HER for these parishes. It was also anticipated that the information generated by the survey would be a valuable resource that could be used for the interest and benefit of local residents, landowners and visitors. It would be used to inform current and future agri-environment and conservation schemes, public access and interpretation initiatives as well as general archaeological and historic research.

A further aim was to raise awareness of archaeology and heritage at a local level. Exeter Archaeology worked closely with the Newton & Noss, South Pool and Wembury local history societies when carrying out the appraisals. Those most closely involved were Francis Bennett from the Newton & Noss society, Elizabeth Bennett from the South Pool group and Eileen Arnold from the Wembury Local History Society. Mel Ellis and Jacki Eschenbaeher from Newton & Noss also gave active support. There was no history society in Chivelstone, but a number of individuals: Tim Blyth, Warwick Harwood and Roger Tucker provided valuable assistance. The societies were encouraged to take part in the data gathering process. A series of visits and workshops was organised to provide members with information and skills that would help them do this, and also aid their own historical research in the future. Wider community involvement was encouraged by means of guided village heritage walks and guided visits to historic sites and buildings. Presentations on the aims and results of the survey were made to the Newton & Noss annual parish meeting in April 2006 and April 2007 at the start and end of the project

Data collection and management

Data was collected from a number of different sources. The information was entered into an Access database, in a format agreed in consultation with the Devon County Historic Environment Service (DCHES). The locations of all the "sites" identified were marked on current 1:10000 scale Ordnance Survey maps provided by South Hams District Council. Existing

information held in the Devon County Historic Environment Record (HER) for each parish was provided by the DCHES, and formed the basis of the survey database.

Historic maps in the Devon Record Office (DRO), the Westcountry Studies Library, Exeter and the Plymouth & West Devon Record Office (PWDRO) were examined for new sites and features. Maps were photocopied or digitally photographed where possible or consulted in the record offices and library. Any features or buildings shown on these maps that were not present on later or modern maps were identified. Those not already in the HER were added to the database and located on the 1:10000 base map. Maps consulted included: estate and other maps in the Devon Record Office and Plymouth & West Devon Record Office, Donn's 1765 map of Devon, Greenwood's 1827 map of Devon, and the c. 1785 Board of Ordnance and 1803 Ordnance Survey Surveyors Drawings. The most important historic map sources were the Tithe Maps for the four parishes held at the DRO, and the First Edition Ordnance Survey 6-inch maps and First Edition Ordnance Survey 25-inch maps (published 1867-1890). The Devon County Historic Environment Service kindly provided digital copies of the First and Second Edition OS 25-inch maps.

A search was made of the Tithe Apportionments at the DRO, to identify any archaeologically significant field names and add them to the database.

Aerial photographs held at the Devon County HER, in particular the 1946-1948 Royal Air Force coverage, were examined for potential new archaeological sites.

Up to date Listed Building data was obtained from South Hams District Council and the English Heritage Listed Buildings Online website, and added to the database where necessary.

A rapid survey was made of the published archaeological and historical sources relating to the parishes held at the Westcountry Studies Library; and a search was made of county and local museum collections for any artefacts from the parishes not previously recorded in the HER. The RAM Museum, Exeter, Plymouth Museum, Totnes Museum, Dartmouth and Cookworthy Museums were among those consulted.

Local history society members were encouraged to gather information locally and identify potential new "sites".

The entries in the database were assigned individual site numbers (CV 001 onwards for Chivelstone, NN 001 for Newton & Noss, SP 001 for South Pool and WM 001 for Wembury), and these were marked onto 1:10000 master maps.

Events, workshops etc.

During the course of the survey, a series of events was organised by Exeter Archaeology and the Life into Landscape & South Devon AONB team.

The participating parishes were separated geographically into pairs: Newton & Noss and Wembury and Chivelstone and South Pool. As a result, events were generally advertised and tailored to one particular pair of parishes, although there were some joint events. An effort was

made to spread the events equally between the parishes. In some cases events succeeded in attracting people from neighbouring history societies.

Several events held at South Pool and Chivelstone attracted people from both parishes, and there were signs that the interest generated might stimulate the creation of a new history society in Chivelstone or a joint one with South Pool

In April 2006 Robert Waterhouse led a guided heritage walk at South Pool that attracted 31 people. In May he led a walk at Newton Ferrers for 33 people. In February 2007 Robert led a tour from Bovisand of the 19th-century and World War 2 Staddon Heights defences; 22 people took part. He led another guided tour in February of Langdon Court house and gardens in Wembury, with 22 people participating. In March 2007 Robert led a guided tour of Chivelstone Church (22 participants) and in April an all day heritage walk around East Prawle village and Chivelstone that attracted 25 people.

An introductory visit to the new Devon Record Office in Exeter, led by a DRO archivist, was organised in November 2006. This was a joint event for all four parishes, and 13 people from all three societies attended. A joint visit was also made in November to the Plymouth & West Devon Record Office, attended by 11 people from the Wembury and South Pool societies. Guided visits to the Devon HER at County Hall, Exeter and the Westcountry Studies Library, Exeter were arranged for Chivelstone and South Pool parishes in October 2006 and Newton & Noss and Wembury parishes in November 2006. Numbers were limited to four for each of these events. Two new visits were arranged for this year's survey: one in November to the Plymouth Local Studies Library, attended by 11 people from all three societies, and another in March 2007 to the Torquay Local History Library. This was supported by 8 people, four of them from the Compton local history society who had expressed interest in the parish survey project.

In February 2007 Susan Laithwaite from the Devon Record Office led a palaeography workshop at South Pool. This proved to be a popular event, attracting 21 people from the South Pool, Kingsbridge and Stokenham history societies as well as interested individuals from Chivelstone and Charleton.

The events and the numbers of people attending are summarised in the table below.

Date	Event	Location	Leader	No. Attend
29/04/06	Heritage Walk	South Pool	Robert Waterhouse	31
26/05/06	Heritage Walk	Newton Ferrers	Robert Waterhouse	33
17/10/06	Introductory visit to Devon County HER & Westcountry Studies Library	Exeter	Martin Dyer (HER) & Kati Vamos (WSL)	4
01/11/06	Introductory visit to Devon County HER & Westcountry Studies Library	Exeter	Martin Dyer (HER) & Kati Vamos (WSL)	4

Date	Event	Location	Leader	No. Attend
07/11/06	Introductory visit to Plymouth Local Studies Library	Plymouth	Joyce Brown (PLSL)	11
13/11/06	Introductory visit to Plymouth & West Devon Record Office	Plymouth	P&WDRO staff & Martin Dyer	9
25/11/06	Introductory visit to Devon Record Office	Exeter	Susan Laithwaite, Philippe Planel (DRO) & Martin Dyer	13
03/02/07	Guided walk around Staddon Heights defences	Wembury	Robert Waterhouse	22
17/02/07	Guided tour of Langdon Court	Wembury	Robert Waterhouse	20
28/02/07	Palaeography Workshop	South Pool	Susan Laithwaite (DRO)	21
03/03/07	Guided tour of Chivelstone Church	Chivelstone	Robert Waterhouse	22
08/03/07	Introductory visit to Torquay Local History Library	Torquay	Mark Pool (TLHL)	8
01/04/07	Heritage Walk	Chivelstone	Robert Waterhouse	25

Deposition of data

Copies of the databases and maps will be deposited with the Devon County Historic Environment Service and Life into Landscape. A copy will also be given to each local history society as a local information resource and a basis for future research.

The information will be used by to produce a series of broad parish histories, which Life into Landscape have commissioned from Exeter Archaeology. Life into Landscape may also make the information available online.

Martin Dyer
Exeter Archaeology June 2007