

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Crediton, Mid Devon	<b>National Grid Reference:</b> SS 8245 0092	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording during ground works in advance of construction of a micro energy storage facility at Land on West Side of George Hill, Crediton.		<b>Photo attached?</b> Yes
<b>Planning Application:</b> 23/01923/FULL	<b>Recipient museum:</b> n/a	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> Southwes1-532209	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> n/a	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> CGHB25	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 26 <sup>th</sup> August 2025	
<p><b>Description of works.</b></p> <p>Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of SLR Consulting as part of archaeological work before building works associated with the installation of a new battery storage box on Land to the West Side of George Hill, Crediton, Devon. This work was carried out by S. Stevens on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2025 in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; SLR 2025) having been agreed during consultation with the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>The site is located within Beacon Park, a playing field on the summit, and western side of George Hill Road, to the north-west of Crediton town centre; at a height of c.142m AOD. The site was bound by a hedgerow, separating it from George Hill Road to the east (see Figure 1). The soils of the site are the well-drained gritty reddish loamy soils of the Crediton Association (SSEW 1983); which overlie the breccias of the Crediton Breccia Formation (BGS 2025).</p> <p>The town of Crediton lies in the Hundred of Crediton and the Deanery of Kenn. The Manor of Crediton was an enormous pre-Domesday estate; with land for 185 ploughs it was the largest single estate in Devon and Cornwall (Lysons 1822). It had been in ecclesiastical hands since the grant of 20 <i>cassati</i> at <i>Cridie</i> in AD739, and from AD909 Crediton was the seat of the Bishop until Leofric removed himself to Exeter in AD1050. Leland states that <i>The bishop of Excester hath a maner place or palace by the chirch yarde, and to this man[er place longi]th a par[rk]e</i> (1907 edition). A medieval chapel is reported to have been present on St George's Hill. This is known from documentary evidence of fourteenth and fifteenth century date (HER reference MDV607). The precise location of the chapel is unknown albeit it may be referenced by the annotation of 'Chappell Downs' on John Nordens 1598 map of Crediton. This would place the chapel at least c.200m west of the Site. The site of a beacon is recorded on the HER c.40m north of the Site, albeit the exact location of the beacon is unknown (MDV606).</p> <p>A c.7m x 10m strip was excavated using a machine and toothless bucket, under archaeological supervision; located in the north-east corner of the playing field (Figure 1). It was excavated to a depth of c.0.30m, through topsoil and onto undisturbed natural.</p> <p>The stratigraphy of the site comprised of topsoil (100), a mid grey brown, friable silt soil, c.0.30m thick; overlying natural (101), a light grey-yellow shillet.</p> <p><b>Conclusions</b></p> <p>There were no archaeological deposits or archaeological features identified, and no finds were recovered.</p> <p><b>Bibliography</b></p> <p>British Geological Survey 2025: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. <a href="http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html">http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html</a></p> <p>Lysons, D.. &amp; Lysons, S. 1822: <i>Magna Britannia</i> vol.6: Devon. London.</p> <p>SLR Consulting LTD. 2025: <i>Land on West Side of George Hill, Crediton, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. Report no. 403.065983.00001</p> <p>Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> S. Stevens		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 25.09.2025





FIGURE 1: SAMPLE SECTION AND SITE PLAN SHOWING LOCATION AND SURROUNDING AREA.





FIGURE 2: SOUTH-WEST FACING SAMPLE SECTION; FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (1M SCALE)



FIGURE 3: SITE POST-EXCAVATION; FROM THE NORTH-WEST (1M + 2M SCALE)