

SURVEY AT STOVER PARK, TEIGNGRACE,  
TEIGNBRIDGE, DEVON  
Devon HER MDV9142

PROJECT REPORT

By Hazel Riley



SURVEY AT STOVER PARK, TEIGNGRACE,  
TEIGNBRIDGE, DEVON  
Devon HER MDV9142

PROJECT REPORT

By Hazel Riley

Date of report: September 2019  
Copyright: © The author

Hazel Riley BA (Hons), ACIFA, FSA  
Consultant in Landscape History, Management and Conservation Grazing  
The Furley Herd of Dexter Cattle  
New House Cottage  
Furley  
Axminster  
Devon  
EX13 7TR  
01404 881330  
*hazelfurleydexter@btinternet.com*

## **CONTENTS**

ABBREVIATIONS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LIST OF FIGURES AND IMAGE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.0 INTRODUCTION

3.0 OBJECTIVES

4.0 METHODOLOGY

5.0 RESULTS

6.0 DISCUSSION

7.0 REFERENCES

OASIS PROJECT NO 366885

## **ABBREVIATIONS**

ETRS89 European Terrestrial Reference System 1989

GPS Global Positioning System

HE Historic England

HER Historic Environment Record

NMP National Mapping Programme

NMR National Monuments Record

OS Ordnance Survey

OSGB36(15) Ordnance Survey Great Britain 1936 (National Grid)

OSGM15 Ordnance Survey Geoid Model 2015

RICS Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION AND DESIGNATIONS**

HE Registered Park and Garden: 1001268

Devon HER: MDV9142

County: Devon

District :Teignbridge

Parish:Teigngrace

NGR: SX 836 744

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Thanks to Stover School who kindly allowed access for the survey work and to Bill Horner who commented on the draft report.

## **LIST OF FIGURES AND IMAGE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Front cover The knoll in Stover Park (Hazel Riley)

Figure 1 Location map (Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2019)

Figure 2 Site location (Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2019)

Figure 3 Plan of the test pits and the knoll (1:500)

Figure 4 Profiles (Horizontal scale 1:500, vertical scale x 2)

Figure 5 The east and south sides of the knoll (Hazel Riley)

Figure 6 The north side of the knoll (Hazel Riley)

## 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Metric survey at Stover Park recorded the location of several test pits on the possible site of the former house. The survey also recorded the extent of the large mound or knoll, assumed to be the building platform for the house.

## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 This report sets out the results of a metric survey of test pits dug in May 2019 as part of an assessment of the possible site of the former house in Stover Park, undertaken by students, parents and staff from Stover School, supervised by Bill Horner and Marina Neophytou of Devon County Council and Nick Harrison and Jamie Halse of Stover School.

2.2 The site lies within Stover Park which is located some 3km to the NW of Newton Abbot and 3km to the SE of Bovey Tracey. It lies in the Teign Valley, south of the Ventiford Brook, at an altitude of some 20m OD and at NGR SX 836 744 (Figs 1 and 2).

2.3 The underlying geology of the survey area comprises sands, silts and clays of the Bovey Formation, overlain by more recent alluvial deposits (bgs.ac.uk).

2.4. The southern part of the site is currently grassland, the northern part contains several mature trees and areas of dense scrub (Front cover).

2.5 The historical evidence for the former house, called Stoford Lodge, is discussed in the *Parkland Plan for Stover Park* and the following is summarised from that report (Askew Nelson Ltd 2013). Late 18<sup>th</sup>- and early 19<sup>th</sup>-century maps and engravings suggest that Stover Lodge was located to the north of the present Stover House which was built between 1776 and 1780. The earlier house may well have been deliberately



Fig 1 Location map



left as a ruin and was part of the designed landscape at that time.

2.6 Archaeological investigation of the site was carried out in 1953 when the OS surveyor noted that ‘All that remains of the original Stover House at SX 8366 7446 is a flat rectangular knoll with slopes 2 to 3 metres high surmounted by a small copse of fir trees. Nothing survives by which it can be dated’ (NMR SX 87 3). A site visit in 1979 noted that ‘All that remains is a flat knoll c 50m wide, small copse of fir trees mentioned in Ordnance Survey now removed. Overgrown and remains undefinable’ (Devon HER MDV9142). Examination of aerial photographs and lidar images suggested that the site was defined by massive curvilinear banks, c 9m wide, forming a partial sub-rectilinear enclosure, c 41m long by 35m wide (Devon HER MDV9142).

2.7 It is likely that Stoford Lodge stood on the lower-lying ground to the north of the present knoll and the ornamental canal. A building, marked as ‘Stables,’ is located here on the 1838 Tithe Map (Teigngrace).

### 3.0 OBJECTIVES

3.1 The principal objectives of the survey were to record the location of the test pits excavated in May 2019, to survey profiles along the lines of the test pits, and to provide a basic plan of the site.

### 4.0 METHODOLOGY

4.1 A GPS survey was undertaken on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2019. The survey was carried out using survey grade differential GPS. The resulting ETRS89 data was transformed to OSGB36 using OSTN15 and OSGM15 ([www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/gps/transformation](http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/gps/transformation); Greaves *et al* 2016). Observation times were based on those recommended by the OS and RICS in order to obtain accurate heighting information (OS 2010; RICS 2010). Three profiles were surveyed using GPS along the lines of the test pits (Figs 3, 4).

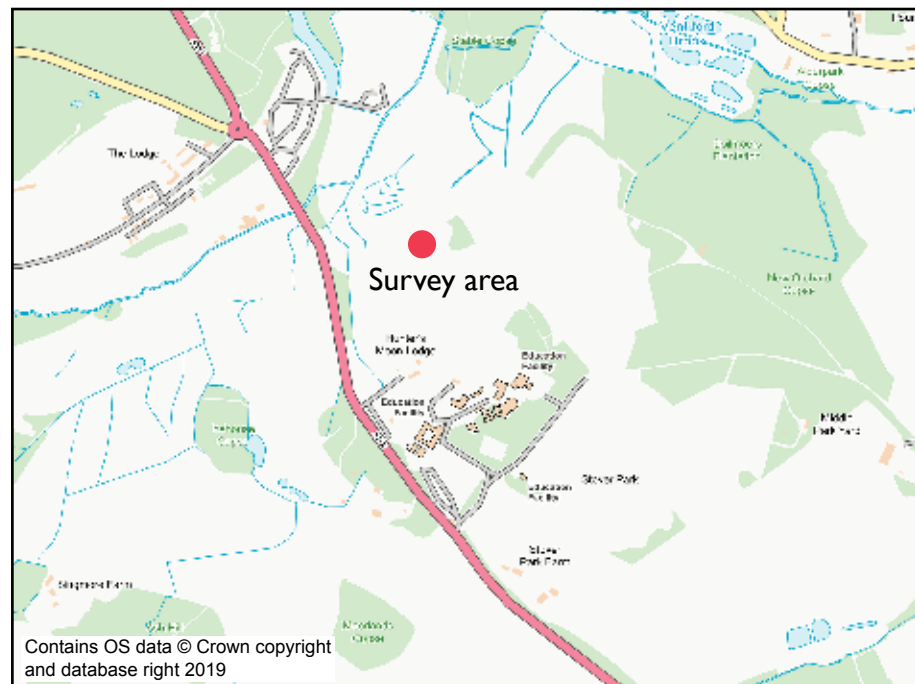


Fig 2 Site location

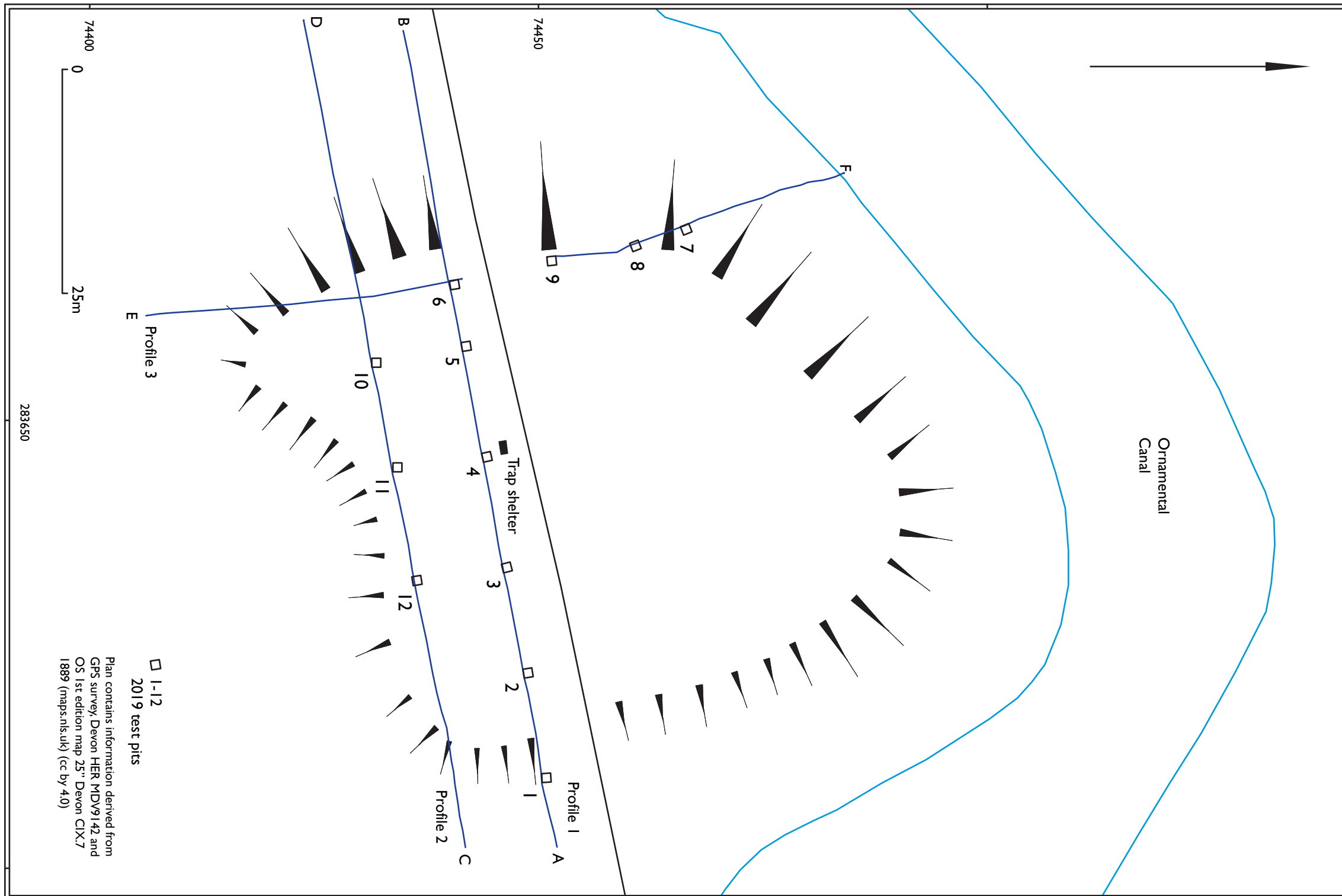


Fig 3 Plan of the test pits and the knoll (1:500)

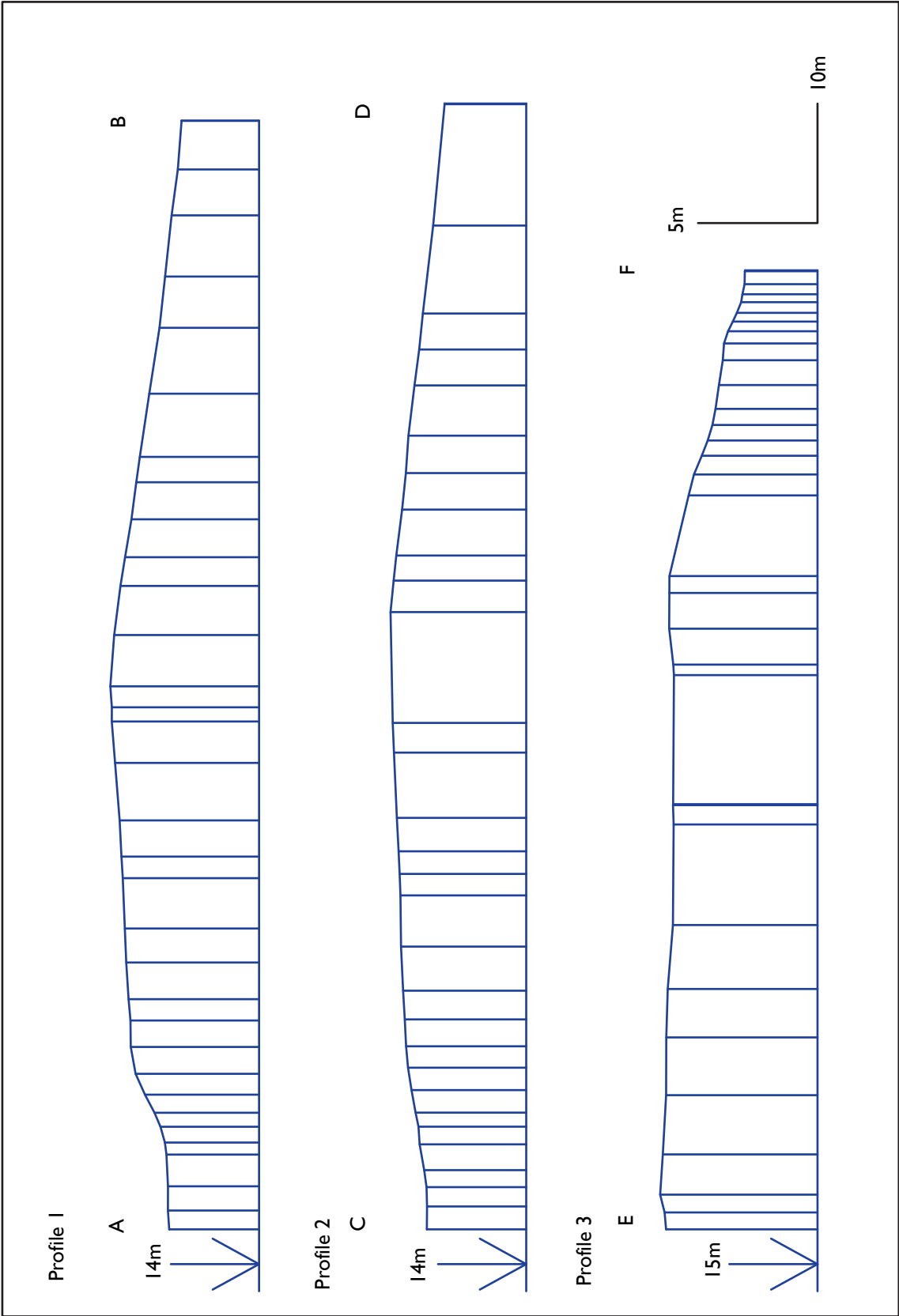


Fig 4 Profiles (Horizontal scale 1:500, vertical scale x 2)

4.2 The dense scrub and long grass over the northern part of the site precluded detailed survey of the mound. The plan was completed using information from the OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25" map for the location of the ornamental canal (Devon CIX.7, 1889) and the aerial photographic and lidar transcription material for the northern extent of the mound (Devon HER MDV9142).

4.3 The survey archive has been deposited with the Devon HER.

## 5.0 RESULTS

5.1 The earthwork remains comprise a substantial flat-topped mound, 60 m N/S and 50m E/W (Fig 3). The eastern side of the mound is clearly visible as a scarp some 2.5m high to the south of the fence (Fig 4, profile 1; Fig 5). North of the fence the mound is obscured by vegetation; the profile shows that it is 3.5m high (Fig 6; Fig 4, profile 3).

5.2 Four survey pegs used in the layout of the test pits have the following co-ordinates  
283690.4386, 74450.3401, 18.9506  
283634.428, 74440.0337, 20.028  
283631.6902, 74451.906, 19.891  
283628.2483, 74466.2831, 19.399

## 6.0 DISCUSSION

6.1 The large flat-topped mound or knoll represents a substantial artificial feature in the landscape. Donn's 1765 map of the County of Devon depicts Stoford Lodge to the south of Ventiford Brook, which flowed to the north of the Stables shown on the 1838 Tithe Map (Teigngrace). The ornamental canal was constructed in the 1770s to the south of the site (or most of the site) of Stoford Lodge. The knoll may therefore represent the remains of one or more late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century events: it could contain demolition rubble from Stoford Lodge or the Stables; spoil from the construction of the ornamental canal or rubble from various building phases of Stover House (Askew Nelson Ltd 2013 and information from Bill Horner).

*Fig 5 The east and south sides of the knoll (Hazel Riley)*



*Fig 6 The north side of the knoll (Hazel Riley)*





## **7.0 REFERENCES**

Askew Nelson Ltd 2013 *Stover Park Parkland Plan*

Greaves, M, Downie, P, Fitzpatrick, K 2016 'OSGM15 and OSTN15: Updated transformations for UK and Ireland' *Geomatics World* July/August 2016

Ordnance Survey 2010 *A guide to coordinate systems in Great Britain. An introduction to mapping coordinate systems and the use of GPS datasets with Ordnance Survey mapping*

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors 2010 *Guidelines for the use of GNSS in land surveying and mapping* 2<sup>nd</sup> edn

