





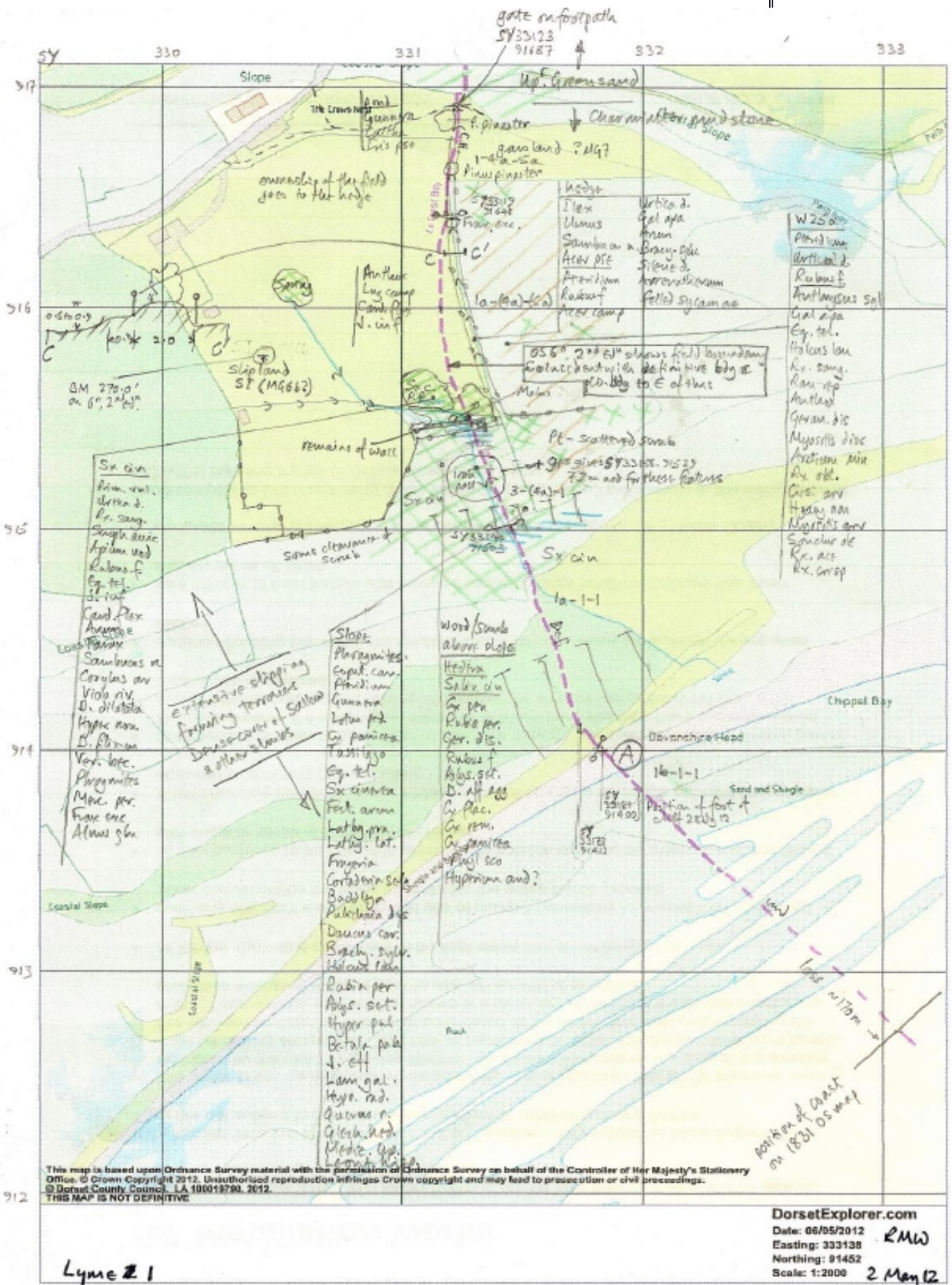
HERCOLOGICAL RECORD

SITE NAME & length (m) <i>Lyme , Ware – Devonshire Head, coastal slips – Pyne Cliff</i>		grid ref. of ends (A) SY33181. 91400	ref. no. LR1
Parish(es) <i>Lyme Regis – Combyne Rousdon</i>		(B) SY33062. 91809	
Date of boundary 680 onwards	Type: <i>modern county; vc; parish</i> from Saxon charter and ecclesiastical	Surveyor RMWalls + DCBG	date 2 May 2012
Owner(s) Address(es) National Trust Crow's Nest		weather	time on site h
		tel. email	contacted: y / n

PROFILE SUMMARY hedge cross-section		bank / ditch cross-section	
			
height: ~1 m.	Condition: poor; C laid; flailed;	height: up to 0.9 m.	
width: 2 m.	Gaps: 70 %	width: 2.0 m.	
standards: few, some felled		adjoining habitats: semi-improved grassland to W (Devon) and rough grass, bracken and scrub to the E	

SPECIES		
Trees and shrubs in hedge	Herbs and grasses on bank	Fauna
Maritime pine	Navelwort	
ash	Nettle	
elm	Goose-grass	
sycamore	Red campion	
elder	Foxglove	
bramble	Bracken	
crab apple	Arum	
holly	False oatgrass	
hawthorn		
hazel		
ivy		
field maple		

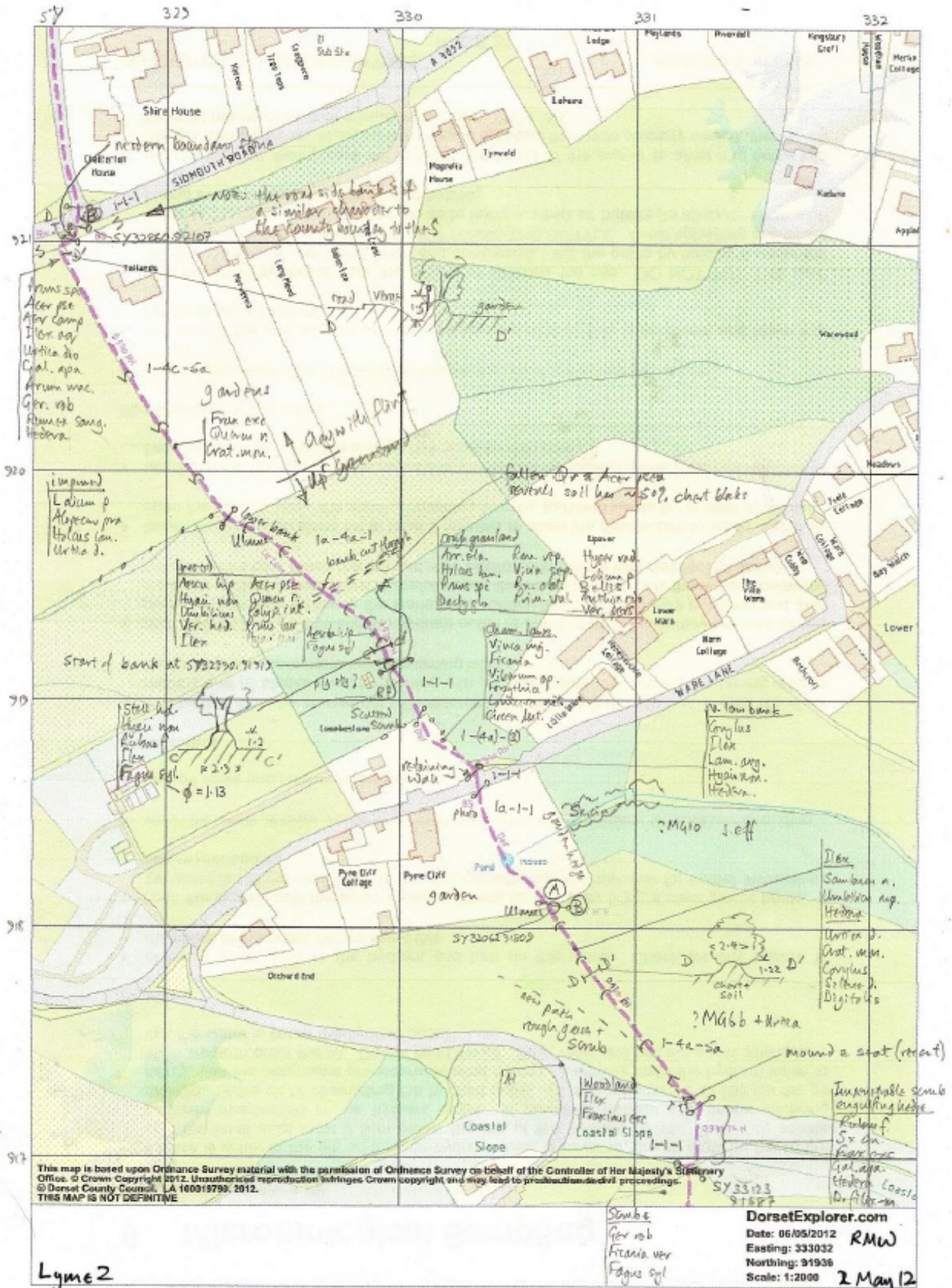
SUMMARY DESCRIPTION
<p>The start of this section is taken as the high tide line as marked on the current OS map, which we did not visit on 2 May. Instead, we viewed the land slip area from as close as we could get at the top (essentially, the S boundary of the National Trust property of Ware Cliffs). Because of the very mobile nature of this land, any historic features will have been lost, moved or distorted.</p> <p>From SY33144.91503 to 33119.91641 the boundary is plotted up to 12m to the W of the obvious bank and fence (section C-C') that marks the boundary of the NT property. The OS map describes this as 'defiled' and there is no sign on the ground other than an iron post beside the stream near the top of the cliffs. The first part is in the rough ground and scrub south of the grazed field and the flushed land with willows and various non-native trees at the bottom of the field. The OS map marks issues here. The footings of a stone wall crosses the boundary near the field fence.</p> <p>The field on the Devon side is semi-improved, mesotrophic grassland and uneven (due to slumping) with damp areas marked by hard rush (<i>Juncus inflexus</i>). It is grazed. The NT land on the Dorset side probably was grazed but is now tussocky grass, bracken, nettles, bramble and scattered scrub. The boundary bank is fenced each side and the older, larger trees have been felled; most are sycamore, but there were probably some elms too. At the N end an ash and maritime pines survive close to the gate for the footpath.</p> <p>Just to the north of the gate, the boundary has a dog-leg about 4m to the east before it continues N to the top of a steep landslip area. Although the boundary only travels 15m on the map, it rises by a similar amount. At the top is a small mound in a possible position of a <i>wacheknappe</i> or look-out hill mentioned in a 938 document (see below).</p> <p>From the postulated look-out, the boundary runs NW to the garden of Pyne Cliff.</p> <p>The coastal strata are Charmouth mudstone. From the Crow's Nest northwards is Upper Greensand, the source of the chert prominent in the banks and responsible for the more acid soils than those on the coastal landslips.</p>



Dorset Explorer Basemap with 100m grid lines and definitive Boundary Line. Add position of features, profiles etc.



Map: Lyme 2.

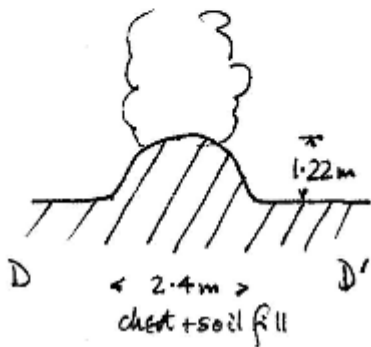
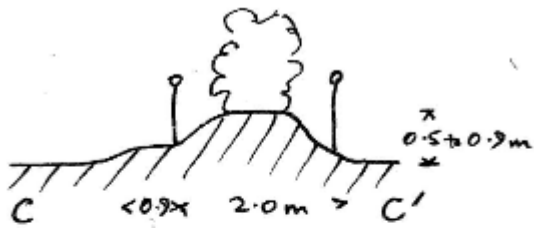


PROFILES

ref. no. LR1

vertical scale: 1 sq =nts

horizontal scale: 1sq = nts



PHOTOGRAPHS

ref. no. LR1

Dorset Explorer Basemap with 100m grid lines and definitive Boundary. Add position and direction of photographs



Devonshire Head

This is an odd name for a bay. If the 1831 OS map is reliable, since then approximately 170m of coast has been lost, ie about a metre a year. Projecting that back to 680 we can infer 1.26 km has been lost (accepting the uncertainty of this estimate). Possibly there was a headland in the past and this would have been a logical point for the start of the county boundary. With the coast this far away from what is now the centre of Lyme Regis, there would also be space for the documented salt marsh in the lee of the headland. For a saltmarsh to have developed and survived implies a non-eroding coastline for a substantial period. Because this is not so now implies a major change in currents or the final erosion of a hard barrier permitting waves to reach the softer and slip-prone strata behind. All this has happened in historic times – is there any documentary evidence ?

Later investigation has established that the name originated as Devonshire Hedge. Subsequently abbreviated to 'Hed' on the map and later mis-spelt as 'Head'.

Crow's Nest

There is no obvious reason why the county boundary is not coincident with the bank and field boundary. Indeed, the 2nd edn. OS map has this. Since the bank looks old, there may be a mapping error of up to 12m.

Wacheknappe

At the crest of the hill above the Crow's Nest is a narrow triangle of land owned by the National Trust, incongruously attached by its point to their main holding. Katherine Barker has commented as follows:

Potentially very interesting this odd triangle of NT land and the possible location of the *wacheknappe* 'look out hill' of 938. OE *cnaep* becoming *cnappe* or *knappe* is rendered in Latin as *globulus* or *nodus* a 'top,' 'knoll' something rounded, humped, a word which could be used for a former barrow site, or something which took that form. *Wache* 'watch' is much the same. Literally 'watch knoll' 'watch top.'

However, although the crest of the hill today is an obvious lookout, a thousand years ago, this was probably not the top because the land has slipped seaward in the interim. The Saxon *wacheknappe* was likely to have been some distance to the south and now at a lower level. Nevertheless, in its original position, it would present an obvious boundary marker.

The reason for the dog-leg at the foot of the slope below the knoll is not apparent, but it coincides with the bottom of the slope and could be an indication of lateral slippage. The boundary is annotated '0.91m TkH', an unusual abbreviation taken to stand for track of hedge, perhaps indicating the hedge vegetation gone and there was no visible bank. A hedge / bank line on the map is marked and seems to be translated eastwards by about 4m from the projection of the field boundary to the S and from the change of direction to NW at the top of the slope, conforming with a lateral movement as well as the obvious subsidence to the S. The hedge, and any bank associated with it, is no longer readily seen within the impenetrable scrub.

Pyne Cliff

From this point the boundary runs through domestic gardens and much modified estate land.