

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Ilfracombe, North Devon	National Grid Reference SS 53014349	Number:
Subject: Little Stowford, Hore Down Gate –New building for storage and processing of SMR		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 02/34/47394/08	Recipient museum: Museum of Barnstaple & North Devon	
OASIS ID: southwes1-116007	Museum Accession no: NDMS 2001.62	
Contractor's reference number/code: ILS11	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 28 th -29 th November 2011	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by South West Archaeology Limited (SWARCH) at the request of Mr Steven Sherry (the agent) on behalf of Greenaways Waste and Recycling (the Client) to monitor the stripping of the site at Little Stowford, Hore Down Gate, Ilfracombe ahead of the construction of a building for SMR storage and processing (Figure 1). This work was undertaken by Dr S. Walls.</p> <p>The proposed development lies approximately 30m north of earthworks (of unknown date) identified on aerial photographs. The site is also in close proximity to several Bronze Age barrows. The area to the south-west of the proposed industrial building has already been developed with an existing recycling building and biomass boiler. Further to this the eastern half of the development area has already been partially stripped and/or covered with large piles of rubble and waste so was not observable during the archaeological monitoring.</p> <p>The topsoil was stripped under strict archaeological supervision from an area of approximately 34mx18m using a 1.6m wide toothless grading bucket. The topsoil was comprised of a yellow-brown silt-clay with common sub-angular (shillet) stones (40-80mm), and rare sub-angular quartz pebbles (50-100mm). The topsoil extended to a depth of 0.25-0.3m and overlay the natural subsoil; a compact grey-yellow clay with frequent bands of shillet.</p> <p>In the area stripped under archaeological supervision three linears [101], [103] and [105] were exposed cutting into the subsoil (see Figure 1). All of these linears were broadly orientated north-east by south-west, with linears [101] and [105] suggestive of service trenches running from the main road (A3123) to the house at Little Stowford. Linear [103] although of similar orientation was noticeably wider than the other two linears (1-1.5m compared with 0.25-0.4m) it also had irregular edges and was slightly curved in plan (see Figures 1-2). Linear [103] was filled by a single mid-grey brown stoney silt-clay fill (104) which on investigation was found to be only 0.05-0.1m deep and contained common roots and plastic. It would appear that this feature [103] may correspond with a former hedge/boundary, perhaps that visible on the First and Second Editions of the Ordnance Survey Map (1889 and 1906 respectively). This hedge is not shown on the 1963 revision, although the current owner remembers a hedge being removed from the area in the late 1990s, which is supported by pipe trench [101] appearing to respect (and follow) this boundary. Given the presence of plastic within the base of [103] it seems likely that this feature was probably a post-1963 hedge, although it may have followed the course of an earlier boundary).</p> <p>The only other archaeological feature which was identified on the site was a large spread of material (108) and (109) in the north-west part of the stripped area. This spread comprised of a 0.06-0.08m thick soft mid-brown silt-clay (108) overlying a 0.05m thick deposit of loose grey gritty clay-silt (109) containing abundant shillet and slate. Deposit (109) overlay the natural subsoil which suggests that this area had been stripped or terraced possibly for the construction of a building and that these deposits (108) and (109) relate to its collapse/demolition.</p> <p>Very few finds were recovered from the site and although there is evidence of some post-medieval activity, even this was sparse. The stratified finds were all recovered from (108), these were ×5 sherds (77g) pottery [×3 post-medieval gravel-tempered North Devon ware; ×1 Bris/Staffs yellow slip ware; ×1 WRE blue transfer decorated] ×1 brick fragment (20g). The other finds were all recovered from the topsoil and include ×4 sherds (11g) pottery [×3 white refined earthenware; ×1 19th century stoneware]. The finds were subsequently discarded.</p>		
A plan as well as any other relevant drawings is attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.		
Recorder: S. Walls	Date sent to HER: 19.12.11	

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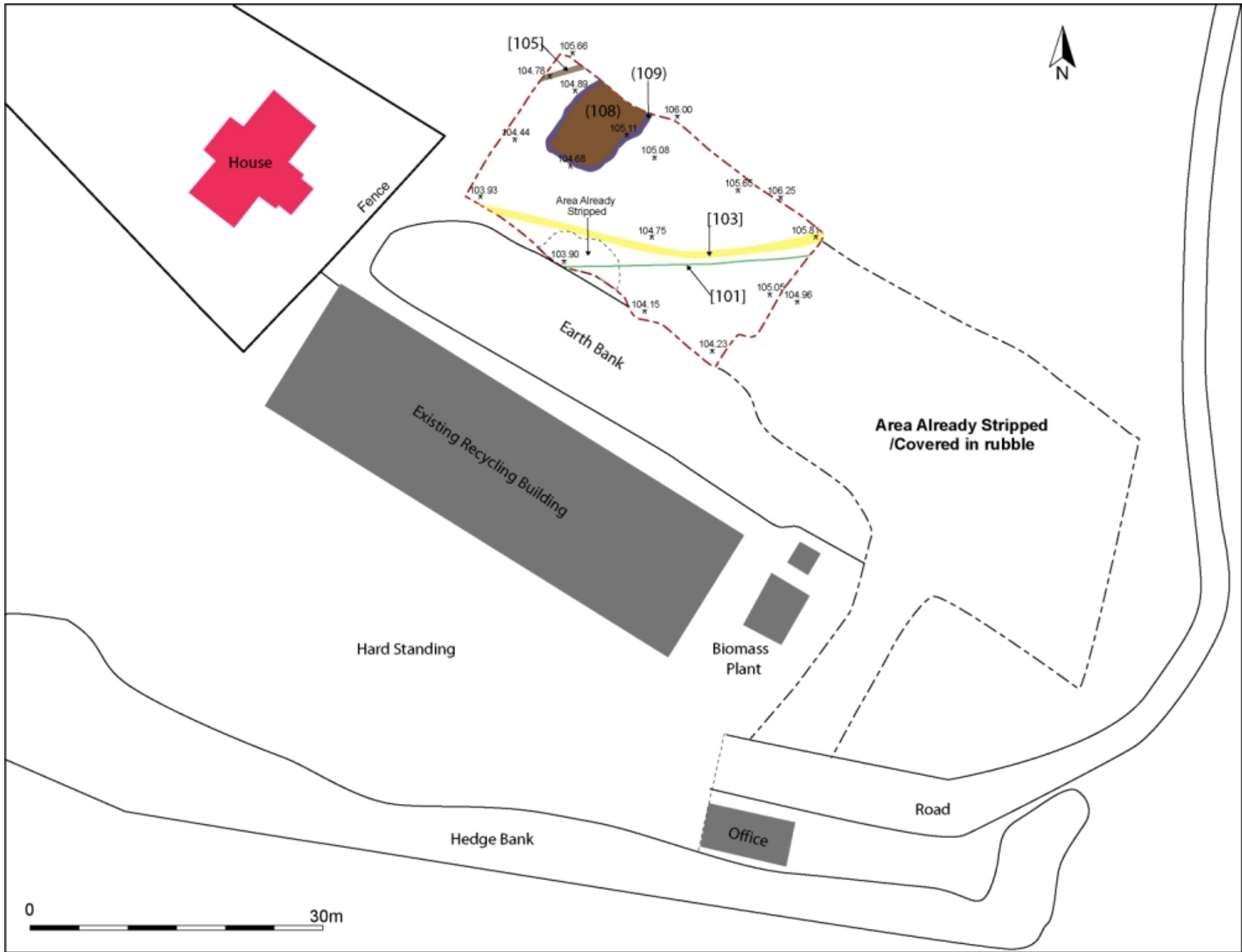


Figure 1: Plan of the excavated areas.



Figure 2: Area of excavation, viewed from the west (2m scale).