

Exmoor National Park Authority Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Lynton & Lynmouth, North Devon	National Grid Reference SS 7077 4977	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring & recording at the car park of The Valley of the Rocks during re-grading of the existing car park & an extension to the east		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: N/A	Recipient museum: The Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon	
OASIS ID: southwes1-164775	Museum Accession no: NDDMS:2013.41	
Contractor's reference number/code: LVR13	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 19 th November 2013	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>An archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Kevin Harris, clerk of Lynton and Lynmouth Parish Council (The Client), during the re-grading of- and extension to car park at The Valley of the Rocks, Lynton, Devon (Figure 1 & 5). This work was undertaken by J. Bampton on 19th November 2013 in accordance with a WSI drawn up in accordance to a brief issued by Shirley Blaylock, Conservation Officer (Historic Environment) for the Exmoor National Park Authority (ENPA).</p> <p>The proposed development lies in an area of high archaeological potential. Immediately to the west there is a relict Bronze Age landscape comprised of parallel linear banks, two enclosures, hut circle and burial cairns [MDE 21709; 21512; 20264-5; 21510; 21513; 21708]. This forms part of the Valley of the Rocks Principle Archaeological Landscape (PAL), a designation from the Exmoor National Park Authority for areas of exceptional archaeological or historic quality.</p> <p>The ground works on site consisted of the removal of the existing degraded tarmac surface and the removal of the topsoil from the grass area adjacent prior to the laying of a new car park surface (Geosynthetic Golpa system and associated layers and curb stones).</p> <p>The west (Figure 1 & 2) half of the site consisted of the existing tarmac car park. This tarmac layer, (101), was 0.02-0.05m thick and fully removed, it overlaid a layer of hardcore (102). Hardcore layer (102) was a light yellow-red-grey debris with medium sub-angular stones and CBM set in a sandy-gravel matrix 0.05-0.10m thick. Hardcore layer (102) overlaid Natural bedrock (104), a light brown-orange compact stone (large angular stones) and gravel.</p> <p>The east half of the site (Figure 1, 3 & 4) consisted of Topsoil (100), a layer of turf 0.06-0.10m thick. Topsoil (101) was a mid grey-brown, friable sand-silt with frequent pea-grit gravel at its horizon with Natural (104) and with Stoney layer (103). The topsoil (101) produced modern coins, alloys and plastics. Topsoil (101) overlaid deposit (103), a loose mid brownish-grey stoney layer in a silty matrix. Stoney layer (103) was made up of medium sub-angular stones pressed into the natural, there were signs of modern repairs in the layer with patches of mortared stone and tarmac gravel. Stoney layer (103) appears to be a buried stone and gravel car park surface and the finds of modern glass, CBM, ceramic sewer pipe and white refined earthen wares support this hypothesis. Deposit (103) overlaid Natural (104), which was revealed in sporadic patches, particularly along the western edge of this half of the site.</p> <p>No archaeological features or deposits were revealed during the groundworks and all finds were discarded. The stone track way along the eastern edge of the site was raised by c.0.20m, with a slight ridge existing between the track and the bulk of the grass area. This implies some terracing/levelling having taken place within the site prior to the laying of the buried stoney car park layer. Occasional sondages of the layers (102) and (103) showed a further absence of features in places but more importantly established a reasonable depth that will overly and preserve any deep archaeological features that were not encountered in the groundworks. However it should be stressed that with the evident terracing and modern disturbance of the site it is unlikely that any archaeological remains survive.</p>		
A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.		
Recorder: J. Bampton	Date sent to ENPA: 21/11/2013	

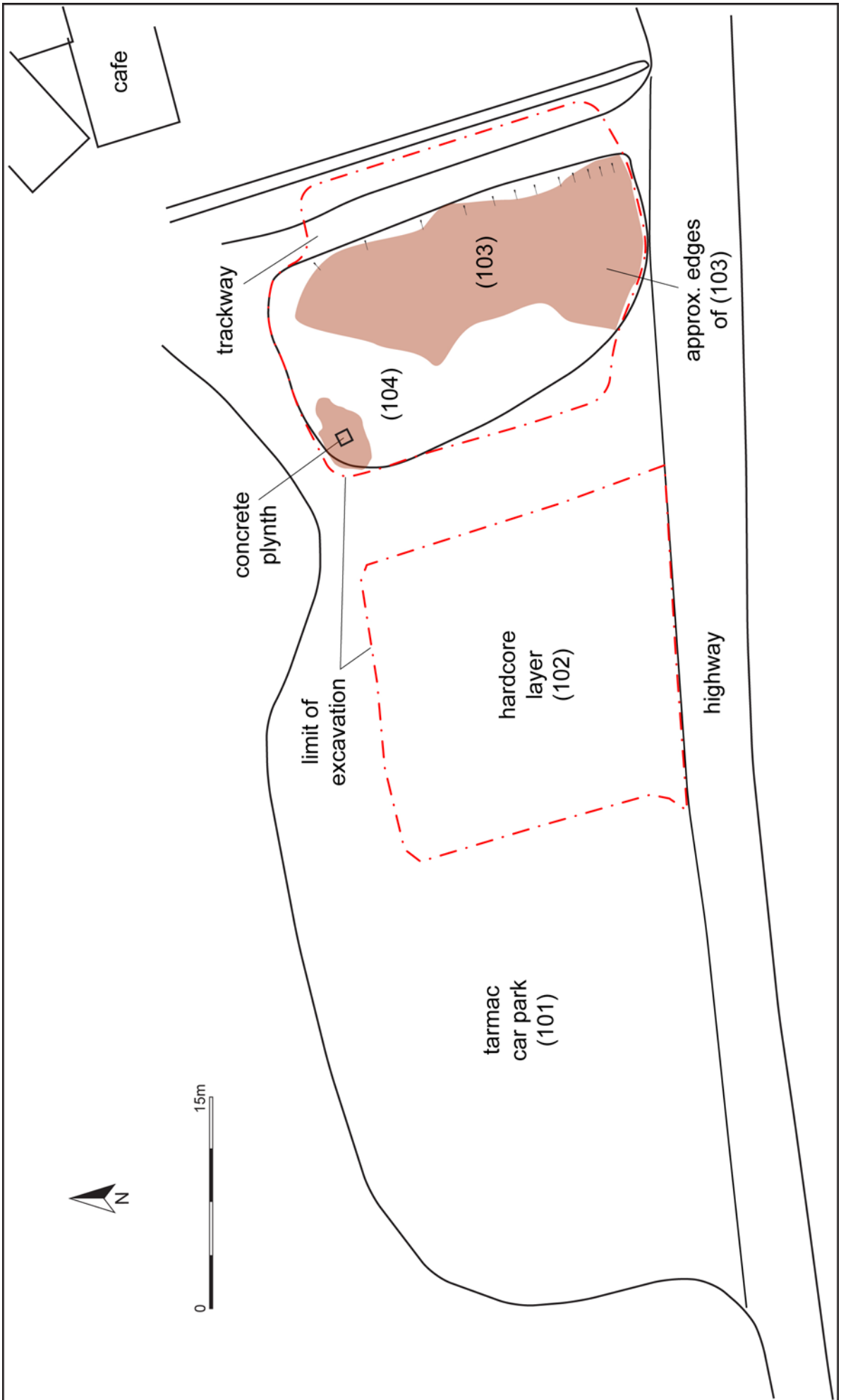


Figure 1: Plan of excavation area of the car park at The Valley of the Rocks.



Figure 2: West half of site post removal of tarmac, viewed from the north (no scale).



Figure 3: West section of east half of site, the lighter orangey patch (indicated by the red arrow) is Natural (104), the Stoney layer (103) in a silty matrix is visible in the foreground, viewed from the south (no scale).



Figure 4: Shot along the ridge where the ground level drops by c.0.20m from the track on the right westward. Patches of orangey natural gravel occur along the top of the ridge. Stoney layer (103) can be seen on the right, viewed from south (no scale).



Figure 5: Site shot post-excavation, viewed from north (no scale).