

## Appendix 1

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING OF LAND ADJACENT TO MARCLIFFE, COMERS LANE, COMBE MARTIN, DEVON.

THIS IS STAGE I OF A PROCESS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE SITE THE RESULTS OF WHICH WILL ADVISE WHETHER FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTION WILL BE NEEDED

SS 5894 4615 - site centred

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The area subject to this work is the site adjacent to Marcliffe, Comers Lane, Combe Martin, Devon (see attached plan).  
This document has been produced by South West Archaeology at the request of Mr. Marsden of Markcliffe, Combe Martin (the Client) and sets out the methodology for archaeological evaluation trenches to be undertaken prior to the start of the development.

- 1.2 The recent use of the site has been as a garden.

### 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Combe Martin is important for its lead and silver mines from the 13th century and for later iron ore and manganese which were shipped to South Wales in the 18th and 19th centuries.
- 2.2 The site of the proposed development lies on the putative location of a medieval manor house, which is recorded in the 16th century. Foundations of a building in this area have also been exposed by prior digging on this site. The application site is also within 50m of the site of a 19th century mine working. It is therefore possible that groundworks for this development will expose archaeological deposits or artefacts associated with the manor house or later mine workings. The excavation of evaluative trenches and ground reduction for this development may also expose evidence of previously unrecorded industrial activity, settlement or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the application area.

### 3. AIMS

- 3.1 The aim of this work is to investigate the site to assess whether any archaeological deposits will be affected by the proposed development and to inform the decision of DCAS on the need, or not, for further archaeological intervention. This will be achieved by an evaluation trench located along the line of the access road off Castle Street and further evaluation trenches across the turning area of the access road as well as the dwelling itself.

### 4.0 METHOD

- 4.1 Should earthworks be present the site will be surveyed using appropriate methods.

- 4.2 Archaeological evaluation trenches will be undertaken in locations agreed with DCAS (see attached plan). This will consist of trenches positioned to enable a representative sample of the development area to be examined.
- 4.3 The position of the trenches can be moved in light of site conditions (services etc.) and in consultation with DCAS.
- 4.4 The archaeological work will be carried out in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for an archaeological Excavation (revised 1995).
  - 4.4.1 The trenches are to be excavated using a machine with a toothless, grading bucket to the surface of archaeological deposits, depth of undisturbed in situ weathered subsoil or to a depth that will not be affected by the development -whichever is the highest.
  - 4.4.2 Spoil will be examined for the recovery of artefacts.
  - 4.4.3 The machining will be undertaken under the direct control of the site archaeologist. Upon completion of the machining the trench sides and base will be examined by the site archaeologist for the identification of features and soil marks and the recovery of artefacts. Where necessary to clarify features and soil marks the base and/or sides of the trench will be cleaned by hand. The examination will be undertaken before the exposed level is affected by weathering and before plant and machinery is driven over it. Any features will then be cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded to IFA guidelines.
  - 4.4.4 If complex or extensive archaeological deposits are exposed then the DCAS will be consulted as to the appropriate mitigation required by this development.
- 4.5 Health and Safety requirements will be observed at all times by any archaeological staff working on site, particularly when working with machinery. As a minimum: high-visibility jackets, safety helmets and protective footwear will be worn. The site archaeologist will undertake any site safety induction course provided by the Client.
- 4.6 If the depth of trenching exceeds 1.2 metres the trench sides will need to be shored or stepped to enable the archaeologist to examine and if appropriate record the section of the trench.
- 4.7 The Devon County Council Archaeological Service will be informed of the start of the fieldwork, will monitor the project throughout and may wish to inspect the works in progress.
- 5.0 **ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING**  
This will be based on IFA guidelines and those advised by DCAS and will consist of:
  - 5.1 Standardised single context recording sheets, survey drawings in plan, section and profile at 1:10, 1:20, 1: 50 and 1:100 as appropriate, and B/W, colour and digital photography.
  - 5.2 Survey and location of features.
  - 5.3 Labelling and bagging of finds on site, post-1800 unstratified pottery may be discarded on site after a representative sample has been retained.

5.4 Should suitable deposits be exposed then consideration should be made for scientific assessment/analysis/dating techniques that could be applied to further understand their nature/date and to establish appropriate sampling procedures. The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve or report on other aspects of the investigations can be called upon.

5.5 If archaeological features are exposed, then as a minimum:

- i) small discrete features will be fully excavated
- ii) larger discrete features will be half-sectioned (50% excavated)
- iii) long linear features will be excavated to sample 20% of their length - with investigative excavation distributed along the exposed length of any such feature.

The full depth of archaeological deposits will be assessed. This need not require excavation to in situ subsoil if it is clear that complex and deep stratigraphy will be encountered.

## 6.0 MITIGATION

6.1 This brief covers Stage I of the archaeological investigation of the site however, further archaeological intervention may be required if deposits or features are exposed that are considered by Devon County Archaeological Services to be archaeologically important. Further work may take the form of:

6.1.1 Archaeological excavation of all or part of the area affected by the development.

6.1.2 An archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during any intrusive groundworks associated with the development work.

6.1.3 If no archaeological deposits are exposed by the evaluation it may be decided by DCAS that no further archaeological works will be required.

6.1.4 The need for further works will be determined in consultation with the archaeological contractor, DCAS and the Client once the result of the evaluation is known and will be the subject of a separate brief.

6.1.5 The development shall not proceed until the requirement for further archaeological intervention has been established by the DCAS.

## 7.0 ARCHIVE AND REPORT

7.1 An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with The Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991 2nd edition) upon completion of the entire project.

This will include relevant correspondence together with context sheets, field drawings, and environmental, artefactual and photographic records. The archive and finds will be deposited with an appropriate museum.

7.2 An illustrated summary report will be produced as soon as possible following completion of fieldwork, specialist reports allowing, and submitted to Devon County Archaeology Service and the Client.

7.3 A report will be produced. This will include the following elements:

- 7.3.1 A location plan and overall site plan showing the location of trenches, the area subject to a watching brief and the distribution of archaeological features;
- 7.3.2 Plans and sections of significant features or deposits at a relevant scale;
- 7.3.3 A description of any remains and deposits identified including an interpretation of their character and significance;
- 7.3.4 An assessment of significant artefacts, environmental and scientific samples together with recommendations for further analysis;
- 7.3.5 Any specialist reports commissioned;
- 7.3.6 Discussion of the archaeological deposits encountered and their context.
- 7.4 Should they merit it; the results of these excavations will be published in an appropriate academic journal. If required, after the production of a summary report, a programme and timetable for this will be submitted to Devon County Archaeology Services and the Client for approval.
- 7.5 In the case that these works do not require any further mitigation a copy of the final report will be entered into the OASIS system.

Colin Humphreys  
South West Archaeology  
The Thornes  
Kentisbury  
Barnstaple  
N. Devon  
EX31 4NQ  
Telephone: 01271 883000  
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