

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Combe Martin, Devon	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SS 5872 4645	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Ash Bank, Corner Lane, Combe Martin, during the erection of one residential building		<b>Photo attached?</b> YES
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 53088	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> southwes1-184003	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> CMA14	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2014	
<p><b>Description of works.</b></p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Malcolm Prowse (The Agent) on behalf of Mel Stephens (The Client), during the erection of one dwelling on land immediately to the west of Ash Bank, Combe Martin, Devon. This work was undertaken P. Webb on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2014 in accordance with a WSI drawn up in consultation with Stephen Reed of the Devon County Historic Environment Team.</p> <p>Combe Martin lies within an area characterised on the Devon Historic Landscape Characterisation as modern settlement developed within the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with farmland to the north characterised by medieval strip enclosures defined as Anciently Enclosed Land. To the north-east of the site is an area of silver mining which was first recorded in the late 13<sup>th</sup> century and worked intermittently until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century (MDV12545). Further evidence of silver mining in the vicinity has been found to the north at the top of Corner Lane with the discovery of a bowl furnace, silver-lead slag and medieval pottery (MDV73528), whilst medieval pottery has been recovered from Adams Hay to the south of the site. The 1842 tithe map shows the site location as undeveloped arable land, owned by Agnes Lynch and leased by Nicholas Clegg. By the first and second edition OS maps of 1888 and 1905 there is only a small building on the right hand side of the plot, with no further development on Corner Lane until the 1976 OS map where there are buildings on either side of the southern end of the lane. The lane today is built up on both sides and a cartographic study shows that this was, at the earliest, developed in the last quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>An area c.20×9.5m was excavated to a depth of 2.4m, to the depth of <i>in situ</i> weathered natural (Figures 1-2). The area was excavated by a tracked mechanical excavator using a toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision. The topsoil (100) across the site was 0.2-0.5m thick and comprised a dark brown friable clay silt with 15% sub-angular to sub-rounded stone (10-50mm diameter). At the northern end of the site (section 1) this overlaid a mid-brown friable clay silt subsoil (101) with 30% sub-angular stone (20-50mm diameter) 0.7-0.8m thick. This in turn overlaid a dump of redeposited natural (102); c.1m thick comprised of greyish-yellow white loose sub-angular shillet (10-50mm) within a matrix of 30% loose white silt-clay. This overlaid the natural (105) comprising greyish-white shillet within a matrix of white silt clay.</p> <p>At the southern end of the site (section 2) the ground had been leveled with a layer of re-deposited natural (103) 0.6m thick and comprising greyish-yellow white loose shillet (10-50mm) within a matrix of 30% loose white silt clay; overlying a former topsoil layer (104) 0.25m thick comprising dark brown friable silt clay.</p> <p>It is probable that the redeposited layers (102) and (103) represent spoil from mining activity in the area. No archaeological features were observed.</p> <p>All finds were recovered and subsequently discarded. All were recovered from the topsoil (100) and were of 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century date and included: ×2 sherds (13g) of yellow glazed earthenware (×1 rim, ×1 base sherd); ×1 sherd (5g) white refined earthenware with sponge decoration.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> P. Webb		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 27/10/2014



Figure 1: Site location.



Figure 2: Site plan.



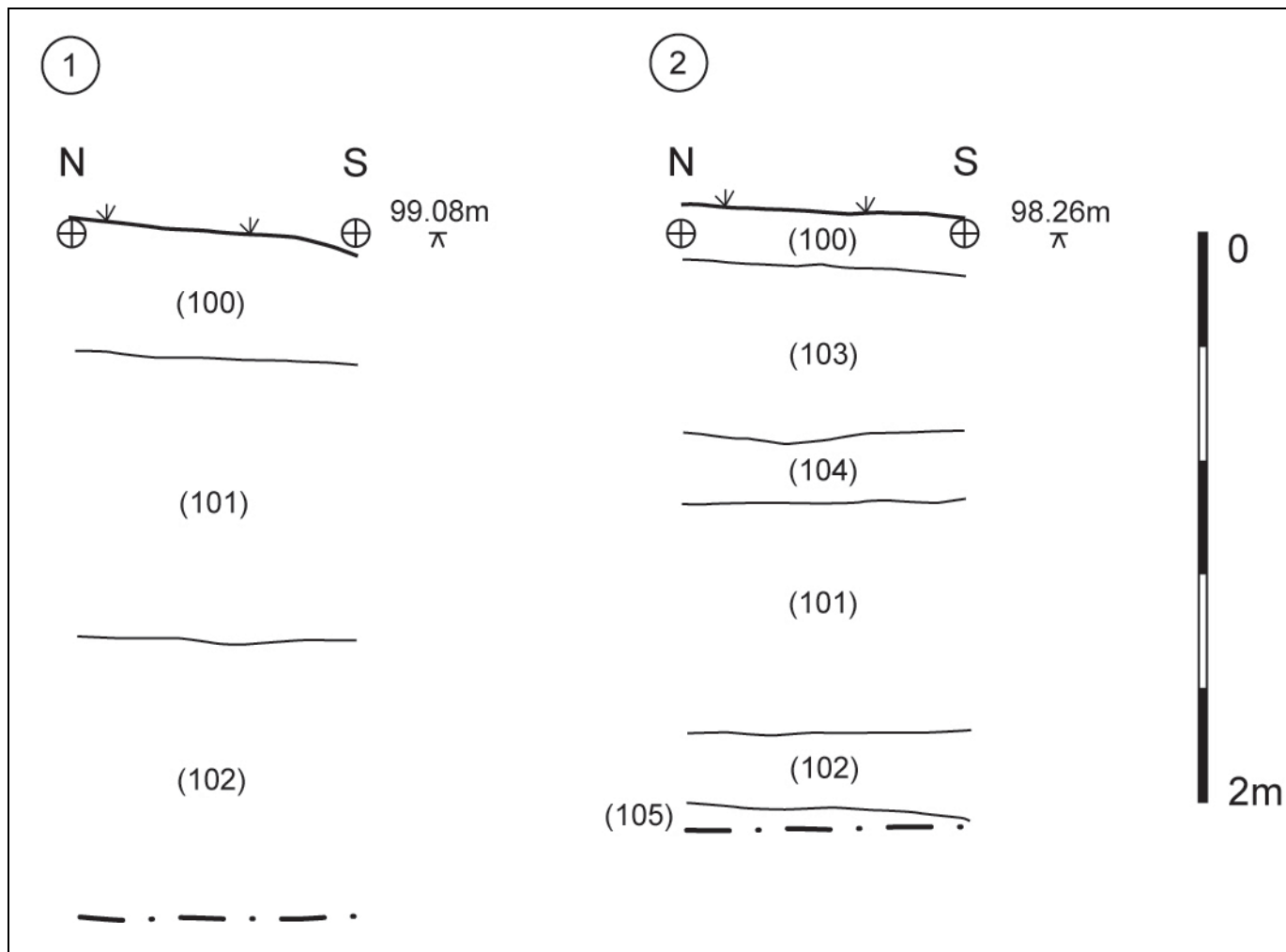


Figure 3: Representative sections.



Figure 4: Detail of natural shillet; viewed from the east (no scale).





Figure 5: West facing section, at the southern end, showing the redeposited layers; viewed from the west (2m scale).