

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Ilfracombe, North Devon	National Grid Reference SS 51631 47580	Number:
Subject: Archaeological evaluation trenching and recording on the former Robins Garage site, Northfield Road, Ilfracombe		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 58962 DCHET Ref: Arch/DM/MD/23112a	Recipient museum: Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon (MBND)	
OASIS ID: southwes1-293577	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: IRG17	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 19 th February 2018	
<p>Description of works. Archaeological evaluation trenching and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. at the request of Paul Jagers of Atlantic Developments (the Client) in advance of a residential development. The trenching was monitored by P. Webb on the 19th February 2018. This work was undertaken in accordance with a WSI (Balmond 2017) drawn up in consultation with Stephen Reed (DCHET). The site is located c.60m north-west of Ilfracombe High Street (Figure 1). The site lies within an urban area with unrecorded soils (SSEW 1983) over slate bedrock of the Kentisbury Slates Member (BGS 2018). This is an area of archaeological potential close to the historic core of Ilfracombe, surrounded by Victorian and modern developments. A small amount of archaeological work has been carried out in the area: an assessment of this site undertaken in 1998 (MDV62554); and monitoring of the adjacent property, which recovered 15th to 19th century pottery (MDV77871). In c.1840 the site is listed as a garden owned by Nathaniel Lee and leased to Harriet Cutcliffe. The c.1880 OS maps show two parallel ranges of buildings on the site; a single structure labelled 'garage' is shown on the 1963 and 1973 OS maps.</p> <p>Three trenches between 14m and 27m in length by 1m wide were excavated under archaeological supervision by a machine using a toothless grading bucket. The natural was encountered at a depth of c.0.15m below current ground level at the western end of Trench 02 where the site had been terraced into the slope, and up to 1.50m at the north end of Trench 03, where ground levels had been built up. The fourth trench, located over a former fuel tank, was not excavated. The site stratigraphy consisted of modern concrete surfaces and bedding layers up to 0.60m thick in places that overlay a soft grey-brown silt-clay buried topsoil 0.10-0.30m thick. This sealed a soft mid brown clay subsoil 0.35-0.50m thick that in turn overlay the natural shillet. Deposits were deepest to the north-east.</p> <p>A small number of features were identified during the trenching, all structural and reflecting the urban development of the site. Stone wall {207} and brick wall {308} were associated with the most recent phase of construction and surviving concrete surfaces, only recently having been demolished. The other three features were wall robber trenches in trench 01: [105] 0.80m wide×0.20m deep with near vertical sides; [112] 1.40m wide×0.40m deep with steep sides and flat base; and [115] 0.90m wide×0.25m deep with vertical sides and flat base, cutting the fills of [112]. All were filled with grey-brown silt clays; [105] also contained common angular slate-stone rubble. Robber trench [112] was also cut by a wide terrace [108]; this had a steep south side and flat base and was filled by made-ground deposits and re-deposited natural. None of these features produced any dating material, but they all appeared fairly recent in date.</p> <p>A small number of finds were recovered from the site: 2 sherds (199g) of post-medieval North Devon gravel-tempered ware (Type 3 bowl fragments), and 33 sherds (1.65kg) from a single later 19th century industrial whiteware (ironstone china) large platter with blue-transfer decoration from buried soil layer (102); and 2 fragments (58g) of animal bone within subsoil (305).</p> <p>Conclusions Six features were identified during the evaluation trenching, comprising: two walls associated with the most recent phase of buildings on the site, three wall robber cuts, probably to be associated with 19th century structures on the site, and a terrace.</p> <p>Bibliography Balmond, F. 2017: <i>Robins Garage, Northfield Road, Ilfracombe, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation.</i> British Geological Survey 2018: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer.</i> http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html [accessed 20.02.2018]. Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales.</i></p>		
Recorder: P. Webb	Date sent to HER: 23.02.18	



Figure 1: Site location, plan and sections.



Figure 2: South-east facing section of robber trenches [105], [112] and [115] in Trench 01 (scale 2m).



Figure 3: South-east facing section of wall {308} in Trench 03 (scale 1m).