

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Combe Martin, North Devon	National Grid Reference: SS 5905 4610	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring on land at Spurway Gardens, Combe Martin, Devon		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 62275	Recipient museum: Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon (MBND)	
OASIS ID: southwes1-313999	Museum Accession no: NDDMS:10.2018a	
Contractor's reference number/code: BHI16	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 24 th -25 th April 2018	
<p>Description of works</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Darren Collacott (the Client) during groundworks associated with the residential development of land at Spurway Gardens, Combe Martin, North Devon, Devon. The monitoring was carried out by P. Webb between 24th and 25th April 2018. This work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Balmond 2018) drawn up in consultation with Stephen Reed of the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>Combe Martin is a Domesday settlement located approximately 13.8km north-east of Barnstaple on the North Devon coast of the Bristol Channel. The site is situated towards the south-eastern end of the settlement on the steep-sided south-west facing slopes of the UMBER valley at a height of approximately 40m AOD (Figure 1). The site lies on the well drained fine loamy and fine silty soils of the Denbigh 1 Association (SSEW 1983) overlying slate of the Combe Martin Slates Member; with superficial head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel recorded to the south (BGS 2018). The development is situated at the southern extent of a modern housing estate to the east of the site of the historic manor, within an area containing medieval strip fields. Much of the surrounding landscape, however, is dominated by post-medieval industrial activity associated with lead and tin mining; mine shafts and mining waste having been identified during the late 20th century development of Spurway Gardens.</p> <p>A rectangular area orientated approximately west-north-west to east-south-east and measuring 16mx14m was excavated under archaeological supervision by JCB with back-actor using a toothless grading bucket to a depth of up to 1.90m, this being the depth of natural deposits. The stratigraphy of the site comprised: modern dump material (100), mixed grey-brown and yellow-grey-brown friable-soft silt-clay up to 1.80m thick; overlying buried soil (101), grey-brown soft-friable clay-silt up to 0.38m thick; buried soil (102), grey-yellow-brown soft-friable clay-silt 0.14-0.24m thick and (103), yellow-brown soft-friable silt-clay 0.45-0.58m thick; and the weathered natural (104), shillet within brown-yellow soft silt-clay. The made-up ground was deepest towards the north-east corner, and sloped down towards the south; the western part of the site having been terraced to create the existing access track.</p> <p>A single rectangular modern pit orientated north-east to south-west and measuring 3.50m×1.70m and 0.50m+ deep with near vertical sides was identified towards the centre of the site, it cut through buried soil (101).</p> <p>Finds recovered during the groundworks included: ×2 sherds(44g) post-medieval North Devon gravel tempered (NDGT) pottery; ×1 sherd (14g) post-medieval North Devon gravel free (NDGF) pottery; ×1 sherd (15g) 13th-15th century ND coarseware, along with modern brick, tile and plastic fragments from dump material (100); ×12 fragments (192g) glazed ceramic tile, ×1 sherd (14g) ceramic flower pot, ×3 sherds (21g) white refined earthenware, ×3 sherds (37g) NDGT pottery from buried soil (101); and ×2 sherds (97g) NDGT type 3c bowl, ×1 sherd (41g) NDGF type 3 bowl and ×2 sherds (32g) ND coarseware 13th-15th century pottery from subsoil (103). The assemblage has been offered to the MBND.</p> <p>Conclusions</p> <p>No significant archaeological features were identified during the excavation, the only feature being a modern pit associated with 20th century dump deposits. The artefactual evidence indicates that modern soil layers overlie a possible post-medieval buried soil, whilst finds recovered from the subsoil indicate medieval and post-medieval activity, most likely associated with agricultural use of the site as part of a strip field system.</p> <p>Bibliography</p> <p>Balmond, F. 2018: Land at Spurway Gardens, Combe Martin, North Devon, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation. SWARCH Report no: CSG18WSiv1.</p> <p>British Geological Survey 2018: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html</p> <p>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 of South West Archaeology Ltd.		Date sent to HER: 01.07.15

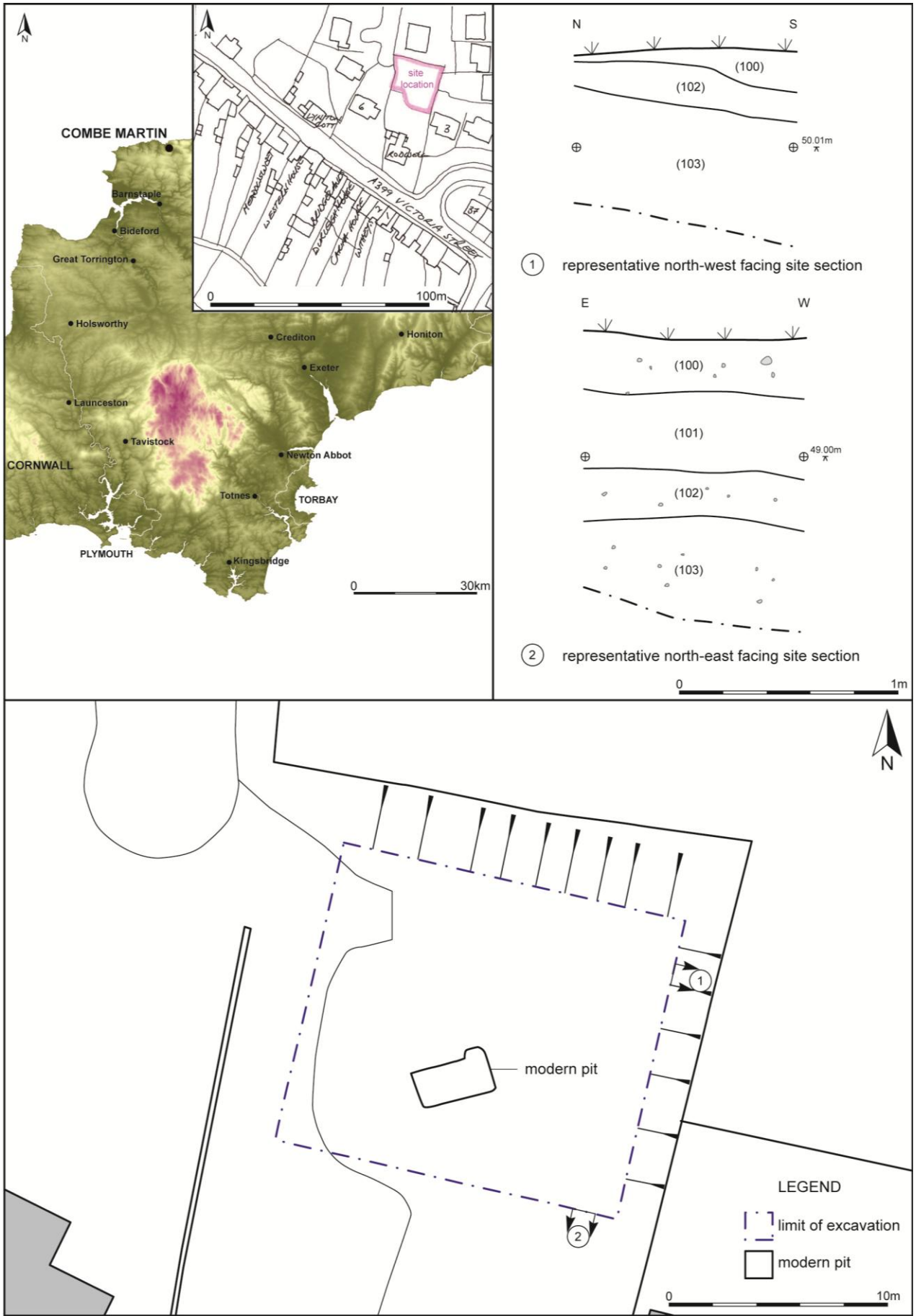


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION, PLAN AND SECTIONS (HEIGHTS AT AN ARBITRARY HEIGHT OF 50M AOD).



FIGURE 2: MAIN SITE STRIP WEST EDGE, SHOWING NATURAL; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (1M & 2M SCALES).



FIGURE 3: NORTH-EAST FACING REPRESENTATIVE SECTION (SECTION 1 IN FIGURE 1), SHOWING THE LOWER DEPOSITS OF MODERN DUMP MATERIAL OVER THE BURIED SOIL AND SUBSOILS; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (1M SCALE).