

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Rose Ash, North Devon	<b>National Grid Reference:</b> SS 78713 20244	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring & recording at West Catkill Farm, North Devon		<b>Photo attached?</b> YES
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 65052	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> southwes1-328119	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> NDDMS:19.2018a	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> RAW18	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> October 2018	
<p><b>Description of works:</b>  Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of a Private Client during groundworks associated with the construction of a slurry lagoon at West Catkill Farm, Rose Ash, North Devon. The monitoring was carried out by P. Webb on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018. This work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Boyd 2018) drawn up in consultation with Stephen Reed of the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>The site lies in an area of high archaeological potential in a landscape known to contain evidence of prehistoric activity, two Scheduled bowl barrows (monument ref: 1015145) are situated within 80m to the south-east; whilst West Catkill Farm itself has medieval origins. Very limited archaeological work has been carried out in the area, limited to geophysical survey associated with wind turbines to the north-east.</p> <p>The site is located approximately 9km south-east of South Molton, to the south of A361 North Devon Link Road on the south facing slope within a series of stream valleys to the south of Rose Ash (Figure 1). The site lies on the slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey, fine loamy and fine silty soils of the Hallsworth 2 Association where they border the well drained fine loamy and fine silty soils of the Denbigh 1 Association (SSEW 1983) overlying mudstone of the Crackington Formation with superficial Regolith deposits (BGS 2018).</p> <p>A sub-rectangular area measuring up to 36m×25m was excavated under archaeological supervision by JCB using a toothless grading bucket to a depth of c.0.40m, this being the maximum depth of groundworks. The stratigraphy of the site comprised a mid grey-brown silt-loam topsoil 0.15-0.20m thick; overlying a grey-brown silt lower topsoil c.0.15m thick; an intermittent red-brown clay-silt subsoil up to 0.05m thick; and natural yellow clay.</p> <p>A single feature, linear ditch [104], was identified running across the site. It was orientated north-north-west to south-south-east and measured 1.70m wide and 0.49m deep with moderate sloping sides and slightly concave base. It contained five fills: (105), yellow-brown clay-silt; (106) and (108), grey-brown clay; (107), grey-brown silt-clay; and (109), yellow-grey clay with common sub-angular stone. Two pieces of struck flint were recovered from upper fill (105). Despite these finds, the nature of the fills and its orientation suggest that this is most likely a post-medieval drainage feature. Ditch [104] skirted the edge of a natural that had been filled by: (111), and (112), brown-grey clays (gleysols).</p> <p><b>The Finds</b>  Only a small number of finds were recovered during the excavations, including: 1 fragment (6g) of bottle glass; 4 sherds (98g) of 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century North Devon gravel tempered coarsewares; and 1 sherd (4g) of white refined earthenware from topsoil (100); 2 sherds (24g) of glazed 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century North Devon from lower topsoil (101); 2 pieces (3g) of struck flint, including one possible utilised blade from upper ditch fill (105).</p> <p><b>Conclusions</b>  The stony nature of the bottom of ditch [104] suggests that it is likely to have acted as a drainage ditch, and whilst flint artefacts indicating prehistoric activity were recovered from the feature, their small size and recovery from the upper fill may indicate them as being residual artefacts. The gleysol fills of a natural hollow towards the southern end of the site is likely a result of its position towards the bottom of the slope and the clear drainage problems on the site.</p> <p><b>Bibliography</b>  <b>Boyd, N.</b> 2016: West Catkill Farm, Rose Ash, South Molton, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation.  <b>British Geological Survey</b> 2018: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. <a href="http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/">http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/</a>  <b>Soil Survey of England and Wales</b> 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> P. Webb	<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 18.10.18	

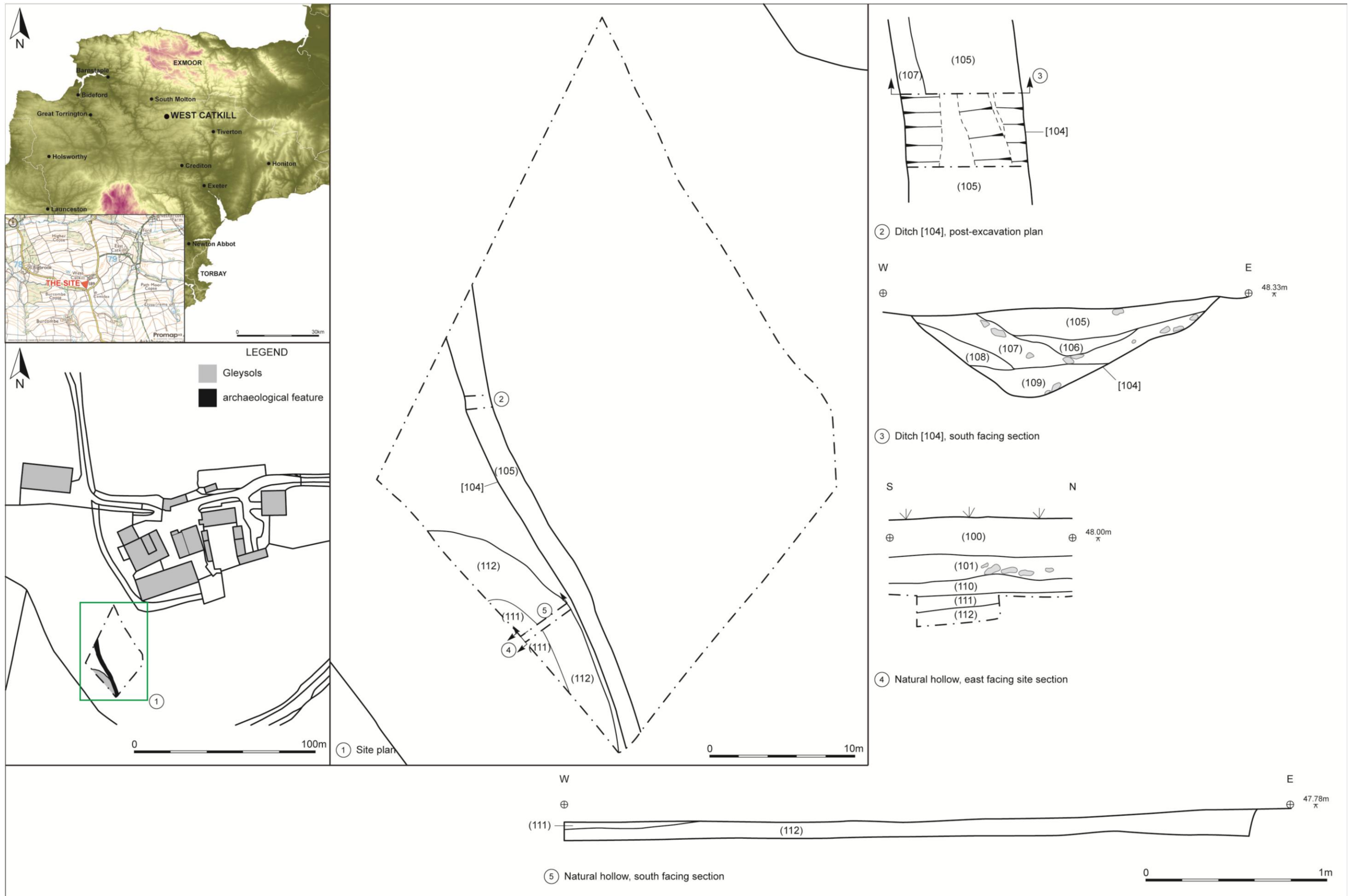


FIGURE 1: SITE PLANS AND SECTIONS. HEIGHTS AT ARBITRARY 50M AOD.



FIGURE 2: DITCH/DRAIN [104], SOUTH FACING SECTION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (SCALE 1M).



FIGURE 3: NATURAL HOLLOW FILLED BY GLEYSOLS; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (SCALE 2M).