

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Combe Martin, North Devon	<b>National Grid Reference:</b> SS 58915 46133	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at Hansons Garage, Castle Street, Combe Martin, Devon		<b>Photo Attached?:</b> Yes
<b>Planning Reference:</b> 70696	<b>Recipient Museum:</b> Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> southwes1-404059	<b>Museum Accession Number:</b> Pending	
<b>Contractor's Reference:</b> CMHG20	<b>Dates Fieldwork Undertaken:</b> 02.07.21 - 05.07.21	
<p><b>Description of Works</b></p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of a private client (the Client) during groundworks associated with the commercial development of the former Hansons Garage site, Castle Street, Combe Martin, Devon. This work was carried out by P. Webb between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021 in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Boyd 2020) having been agreed during consultation with Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCHET; DCHET reference Arch/DM/ND/34852a).</p> <p>Combe Martin is a Domesday settlement located approximately 14km 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 south-western side of Castle Street, at the floor of the steep-sided UMBER Valley at a height of approximately 34m 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 (BGS 2021). The development is situated within the core of historic settlement, on the site of a 20<sup>th</sup> century garage; and in an area of known historic lead and tin mining and metallurgical activity; mine shafts and mining waste having been identified during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century development of Spurway Gardens to the north-east of the site.</p> <p>Following the demolition of structures on the site, the site had been levelled (raised) with made-ground deposits of stone and rubble, and pile foundations drilled at regular intervals. A series of foundation trenches were excavated across a rectangular area orientated approximately north-east to south-west and measuring 31.55m × 15.75m under archaeological supervision by machine using a toothless grading bucket to a depth of up to 0.90m, this being the maximum depth of foundations. The stratigraphy of the site comprised: modern levelling material (104), stone and brick rubble within mid grey-brown friable silt up to 0.50m thick; overlying the tarmac/concreted surfaces (100) and (117) which formed the ground level associated with the garage site, c.0.05m thick; made-ground (101), stone rubble within mid brown-grey friable silt 0.35m thick; buried soil (102), dark brown friable-soft silt-clay 0.20-0.52m thick; intermittent subsoil (106), mid grey-brown soft silt-clay up to 0.05m thick; and natural (103), banded shillet within soft yellow and brown-yellow clay.</p> <p>A total of four features were identified across the site, including: one pit; one wall; one drain; and one modern service. Pit [107] was identified in the centre of the site. It was orientated approximately north-east to south-west, measuring 1m×0.50m and 0.30+m deep with near vertical sides. It contained two fills: (108), mid grey-brown soft silt-clay; and (109), mid yellow-brown soft clay; and had been lined towards the base by concrete block 'wall' with concrete mortar {110}. Finds identified within the fill of the pit included: corrugated sheet metal. Wall {118} was identified at the northern end of the excavation and was orientated approximately north-east to south-west. It measured c.2m in length × 0.30m wide, surviving to a height of c.0.30m; and was constructed of concrete blockwork with concrete mortar. This wall represents the remains of the former structure on the site. A ceramic drain [111] and modern cable trench [113], both orientated approximately north-west to south-east and measuring 0.20m wide and 0.30m deep were also identified running across the site.</p> <p>Only a small quantity of finds was recovered during the works, including: 1 sherd (11g) of glazed 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century North Devon gravel tempered ware; 1 fragment (28g) of ceramic tile; and 3 fragments (93g) of green bottle glass. These were subsequently discarded.</p> <p><b>Conclusions</b></p> <p>No significant archaeological features were identified during the excavation, the only features being: a modern pit; modern wall and two modern services, all likely associated with the former 20<sup>th</sup> century garage. The artefactual evidence indicates that modern soil layers overlie the natural and subsoil layers.</p> <p><b>Bibliography</b></p> <p>Boyd, N. 2019: <i>Hansons Garage, Castle Street, Combe Martin, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH WSI no. CMHG20WSIv2.  British Geological Survey 2021: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. <a href="http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html">http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html</a>  Soil Survey of England and Wales 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> 01.08.21

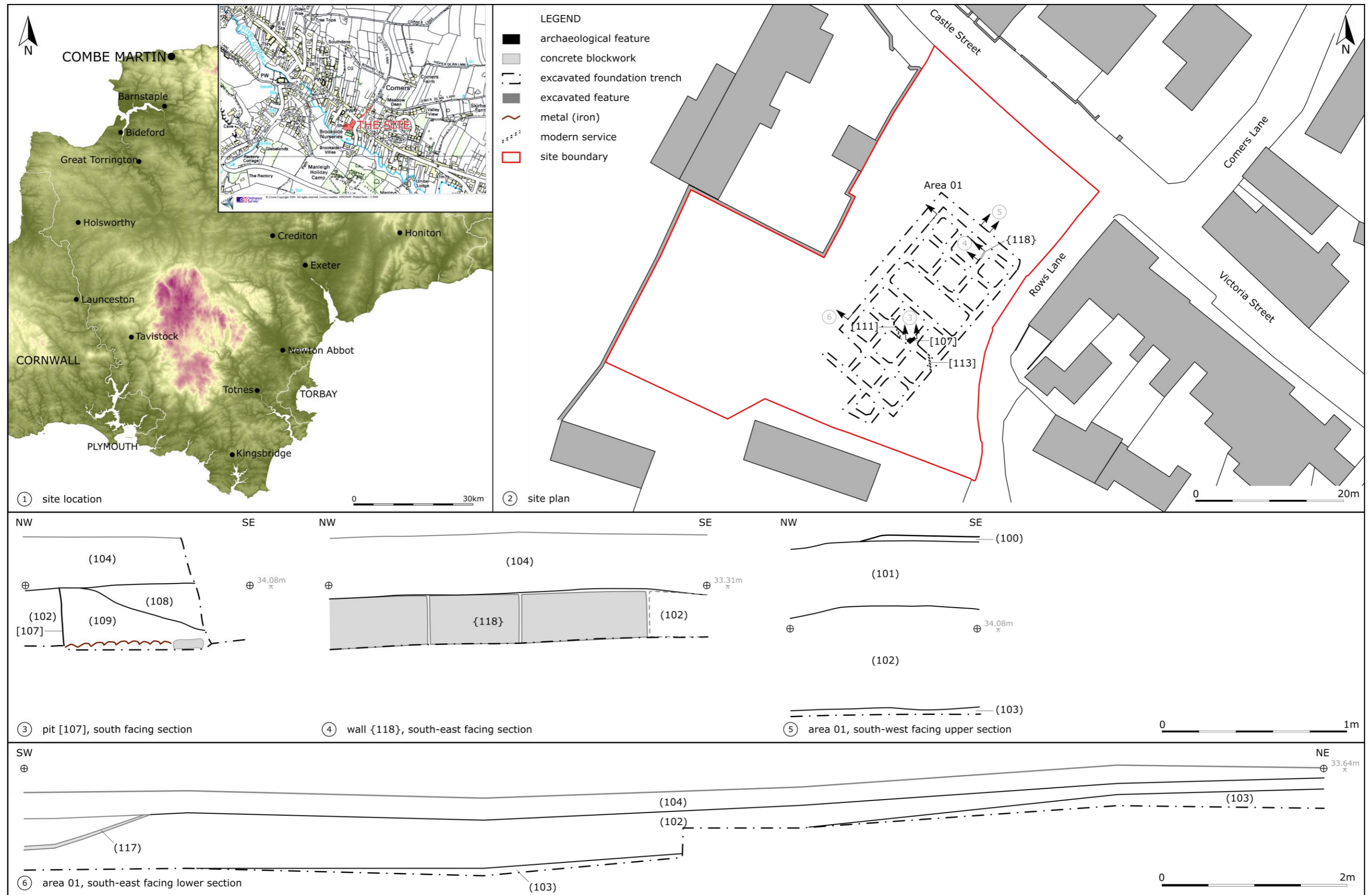


FIGURE 1: SITE PLAN SHOWING LOCATION OF EXCAVATED AREAS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES. HEIGHTS AT AN ARBITRARY TBM OF 50M AOD.





FIGURE 2: AREA 01, POST-EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (1M & 2M SCALES).



FIGURE 3: PIT [107], SOUTH FACING SECTION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (1M SCALE).