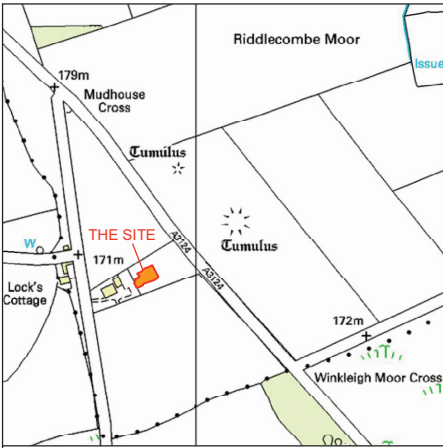


Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Winkleigh, Torridge	National Grid Reference SS 5991 1240	Number:
Subject: archaeological monitoring and recording in advance of the construction of a single dwelling.		Photo attached? Yes
Planning Application no: 1/0009/2008/OUT	Recipient museum: Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon	
OASIS ID: southwes1-74892	Museum Accession no: 2010.25	
Contractor's reference number/code: WMC10	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 24 th – 25 th May 2010	
<p>Description of works. Archaeological monitoring and recording in advance of the construction of a single dwelling was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Mr Charles Goucher (the Client). The work was carried out by L Bray in accordance with a Witten Scheme of Investigation (WSI) approved by the Devon County Historic Environment Service (DCHES).</p> <p>The site (Fig. 1) is located in an area of post-medieval enclosure c. 5.5km north west of Winkleigh and c. 2.5km east of Dolton and is bordered to the east by the A3124 and to the west by a minor road. Two prehistoric barrows – scheduled monuments 28606 and 28607 – are located 80m to the east. The site is situated in the northern corner of a roughly rectilinear field c. 30m to the east of two existing agricultural buildings in an area of boggy ground covered with grass and dense stands of rushes. The ground was deeply rutted in places due to agricultural vehicle traffic. The site had been used in the recent past to rear pheasants and as an area in which rubbish was burnt. An area c. 34m by c. 20m was stripped in advance of the construction of a bungalow and its surrounding hard-standing. The work was carried out by a mechanical excavator using a 1.2m toothless grading bucket under strict archaeological supervision.</p> <p>Topsoil on the site reached a maximum depth of 0.3m and consisted of a single layer composed of a dark grey-brown, homogenous clay-silt containing rare sub-angular inclusions of stone up to 50mm in size. The natural subsoil varied from a firm, homogenous, slightly silty, grey or orange clay at the northern end of the stripped area, to a gingery clay-silt containing occasional to common sub-angular stone inclusions up to 70mm maximum in size.</p> <p>Apart from the modern wheel ruts that cut the subsoil in several places, only two archaeological features were identified during the work. The first [101] (Figs. 2 & 3) was a well-defined, irregular linear cut c. 3m long and c. 0.5m wide at maximum, orientated in a broadly east-west direction. Its fill (102) was a black or dark grey clay-silt with a peaty appearance, containing rare sub-angular stone inclusions up to 20mm in size and rare flecks of charcoal. This material also contained large fragments of light grey subsoil, giving the whole a mixed, disturbed appearance. The morphology of this feature, which included a highly irregular, pitted base, suggests it was not deliberately cut, and was either of natural origin or a particularly deep wheel rut.</p> <p>The second feature was a broadly north-south orientated linear cut [103] at the eastern end of the stripped area with a width of c. 0.3m. Its fill was a heterogeneous mix of mottled red-brown and yellow clay and abundant sub-angular stone inclusions of up to 100mm in size. According to the Client, the location of this feature corresponds with that of a land drain installed at a depth of c. 2m approximately 10 years ago. Its regular morphology and the nature of its fill, which had the appearance of re-deposited natural material, suggesting rapid backfill of a cut after excavation, supports this interpretation. Feature [103] was not investigated further.</p> <p>Stripping also revealed a small spread of burnt material, including charcoal and heated clay. This was not burnt <i>in situ</i> and was probably material derived from recent fires, brought to the level of subsoil by modern disturbance such as vehicle traffic.</p> <p>No finds were recovered from either of the features, and no finds were recovered during the topsoil strip or from the spoil heaps.</p>		
<p>A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.</p>		
Recorder: L. S. Bray	Date sent to HER: 02.06.10	

Please email completed form to: archaeol@devon.gov.uk or post to County Archaeology Service, Environment Directorate, Matford Lane Offices, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QW. Information recorded on this form will be added to the Historic Environment Record, and made available to all researchers.

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Site location at 1:10,000
(OS map copying license no: 100044808).

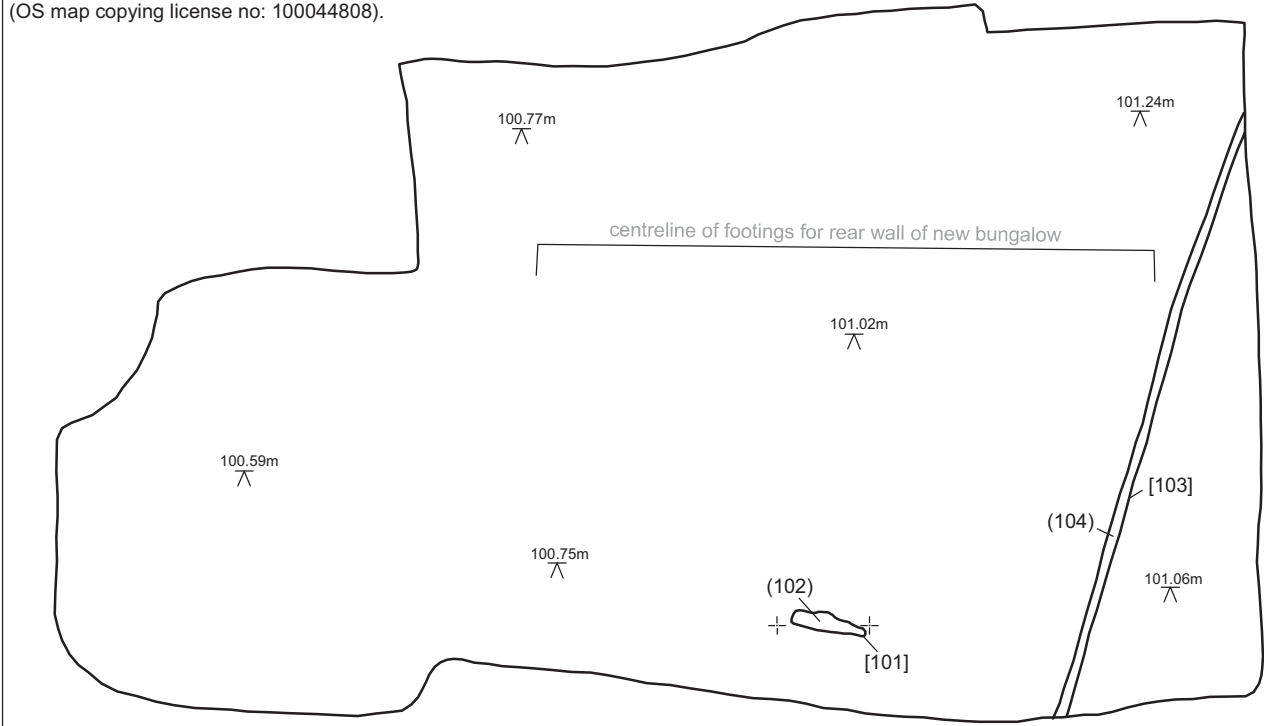


Figure 1: Plan of the stripped area. 1:200 at A4.

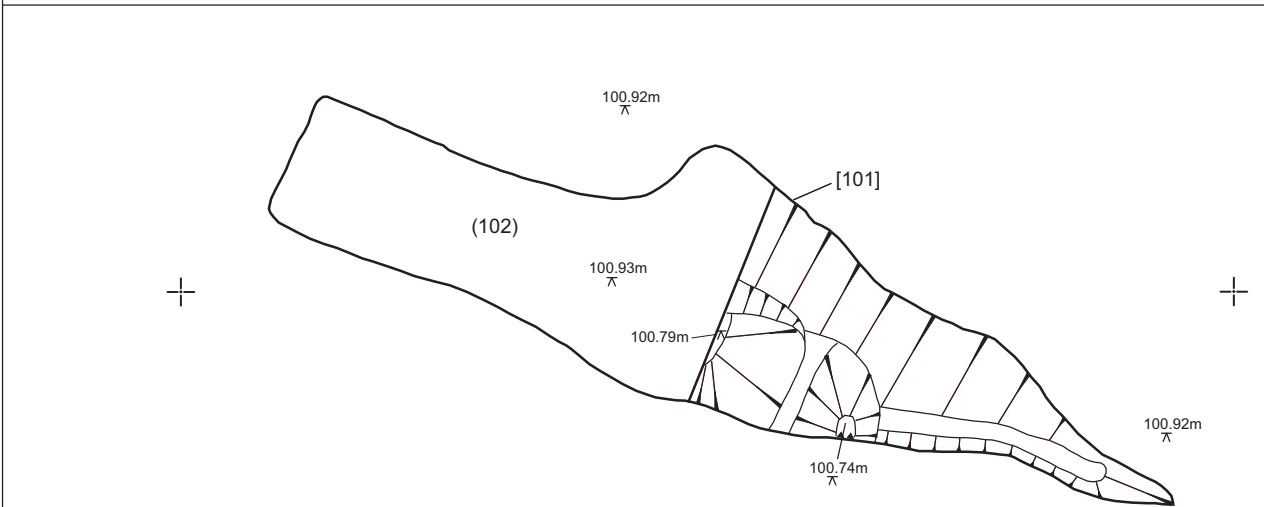


Figure 2: Post-excitation plan of feature [103]. 1:20 at A4.





Figure 3: Post-excavation photograph of feature [101] from the east (scale 1m).