

LAND OFF WHIDDON LANE, IDE, DEVON

(SX 88454 88886)

Results of an archaeological watching brief

Teignbridge District Council Planning Reference 14/03707/FUL
(Condition 3)

Prepared by:
Paul Rainbird

On behalf of:
Mr Thompson

Document No: ACD1099/2/0

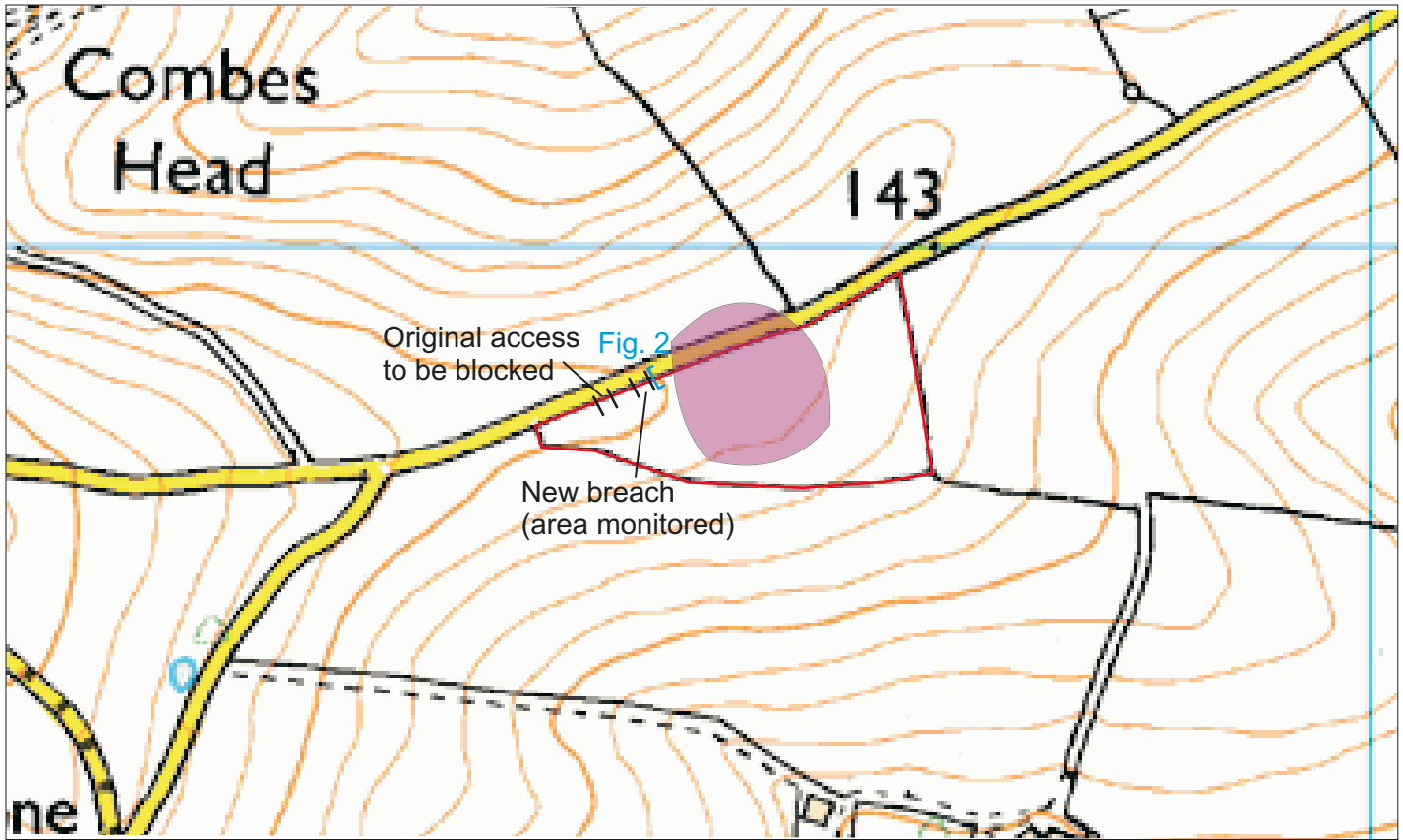
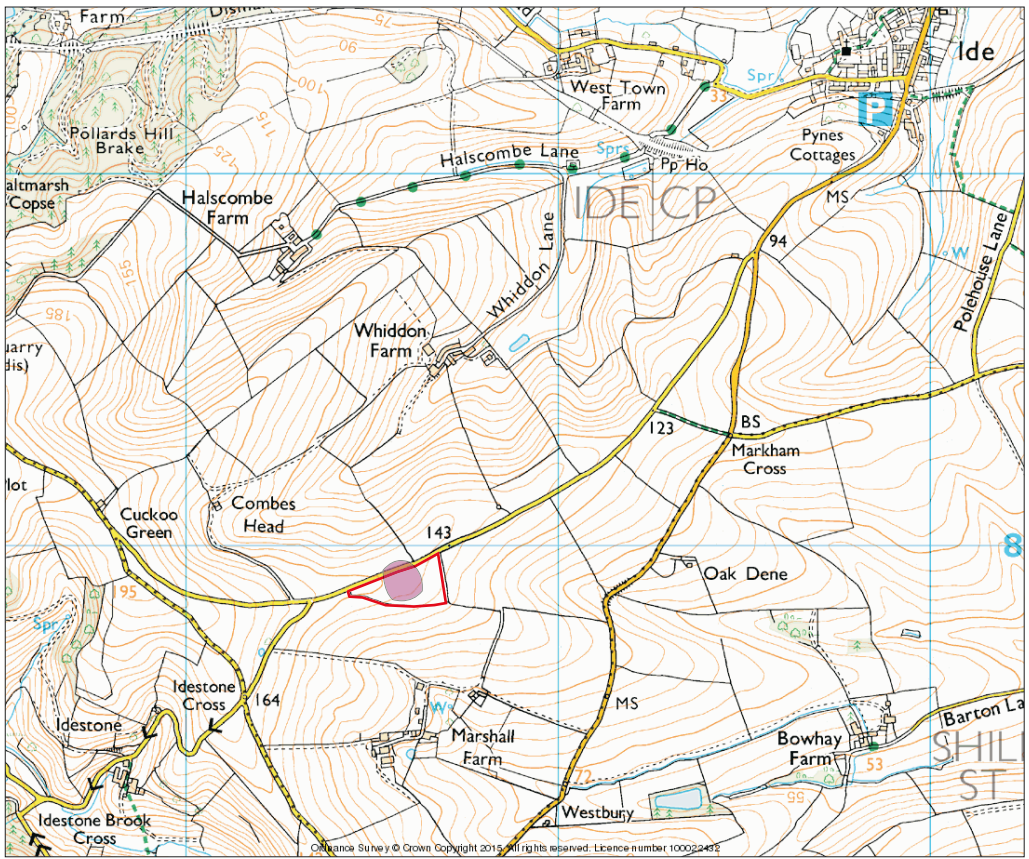
Date: May 2015




AC archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Ide, Teignbridge	National Grid Reference SX 88454 88886	Number: (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
Subject: Land off Whiddon Lane, Ide, Devon		Photo attached? Y
Planning Application no: 14/03707/FUL	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS ID: 210969	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD1099	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 29 April 2015	
<p>Description of works</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AC archaeology on behalf of the owner Mr Thompson during the re-location of an existing access point to a field off Whiddon Lane, near Ide. The archaeological works were required under condition 3 of planning permission granted by Teignbridge District Council, following consultation with the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team.</p> <p>The new access required the removal of a 6m length of established roadside hedgebank, located 2km southwest of Ide (Fig. 1). The lane lies on an elevated east-west aligned ridge, formed by a spur of the Haldon Hills, at a height of approximately 150m aOD, with extensive views of the Exe Valley to the east, north and south. The underlying solid geology comprises Breccia of Alphington Breccia Formation.</p> <p><i>Archaeological background</i></p> <p>The principal archaeological interest in the site is that it lies to the west of a probable Roman signal station (National Heritage List for England no. 1002670; Devon Historic Environment Record ref. MDV20078). This largely lies within the wider field associated with the proposed new field access but also extends partially under Whiddon Lane and into the plot to the north. The probable signal station was initially identified from aerial photography and has also been subject to geophysical survey. The combined results of the aerial photograph and the geophysical survey have shown it to comprise concentric sub-squared enclosure ditches measuring 100m and 35m across respectively and with rounded corners. It has a probable entrance causeway present on the southwest side of the inner enclosure ditch, with associated probable post-pits adjacent to the terminals, and an arrangement of further post-pits and pits in the internal area.</p> <p>The aim of the archaeological monitoring and recording is to preserve by record any archaeological features or deposits exposed during groundworks associated with the project. This is with particular reference for the potential for Romano-British remains to be present on the site as well as to record a profile of the breach through the historic roadside hedgebank.</p> <p><i>Results</i> (Fig. 2; Plates 1 and 2)</p> <p>The roadside hedgebank was removed by a JCB using a toothless grading bucket. No buried archaeological features were exposed during the removal of the hedgebank and it was found to be constructed of brownish red silty sandy loam (context 101) heaped directly on top of the natural (103) which consisted of brownish red clay with common gravel inclusions. The hedgebank measured 0.50m high by 1.20m wide at the base, narrowing to 0.60m at the top where it had a capping of topsoil (100) consisting of reddish brown silty sandy loam. Apart from being heavily rooted by hedgerow plants the topsoil layer (100) was hardly distinguishable from the ploughsoil (102) in the field on the south side, which had built up against the bank. No finds were recovered from any of the layers.</p> <p><i>Comments</i></p> <p>No archaeological evidence related to the possible Roman signal station was noted. It was observed that the views from the site, and the location of the signal station, are extensive towards Exeter, the Exe Valley and the Exe Estuary, including its mouth, and beyond, including the location of the probable signal station at Stoke Hill, north of Exeter. The views to the west, however, are restricted by the higher ridge of the Haldon Hills and indicates that any proposed pattern of signal stations is unlikely to continue in a westerly direction from this point.</p> <p>The hedgebank had a simple form with no flanking drainage ditch on its field side. It has been constructed using locally-derived soil, probably a mixture of topsoil and the underlying natural. No finds were present to date the bank.</p> <p>This report and the associated OASIS entry represent the archive for the project.</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: Paul Rainbird, AC archaeology		Date sent to HER: 13 May 2015



 Scheduled ancient monument



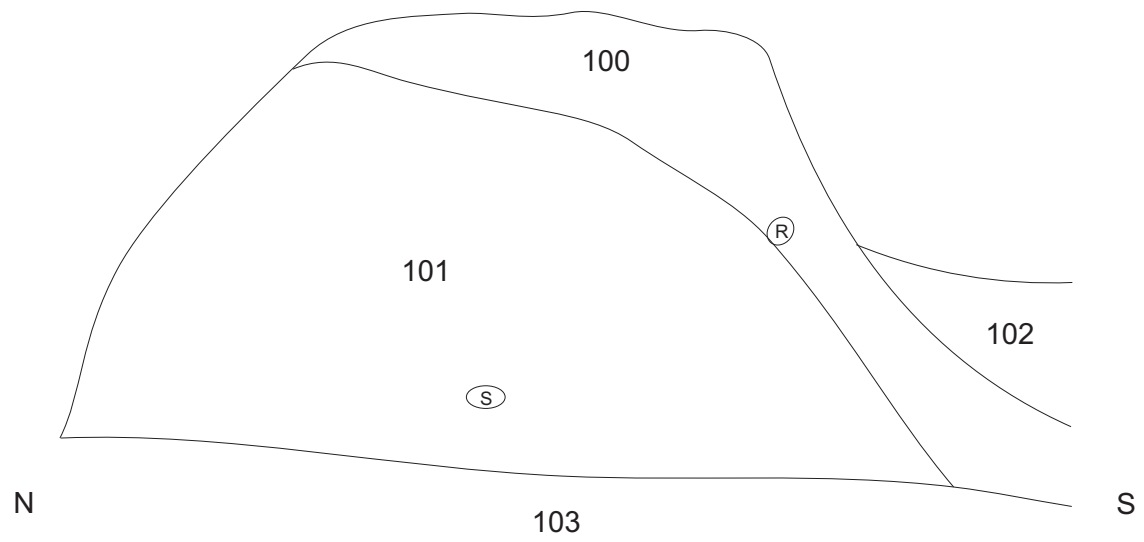
PROJECT

Land off Whiddon Lane, Ide, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Site location and plan showing area monitored





- Ⓢ Stone
- Ⓡ Root



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Fig. 2: Hedgebank section





Plate 1: Hedgebank following the removal of vegetation, view to southwest (scale 1m)



Plate 2: West-facing section of the hedgebank (scales 1m and 1m)

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