

BATHING WATER DIRECTIVE WORKS, COMBE MARTIN, DEVON

NGRs SS 58367 46684 and 57745 47167

Results of an archaeological watching brief

Prepared by:
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On behalf of:
South West Water

Document No: ACD990/1/1

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AC archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Combe Martin, North Devon	National Grid Reference SS 58367 46684 & SS 57745 47167	Number: (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
Subject: Bathing Water Directive Works, Combe Martin, Devon: Results of an archaeological watching brief		Photo attached? Y
Planning Application no: N/A	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS ID: 255301	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD990	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 11.09.14 – 14.10.14	

Description of works

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AC archaeology on behalf of South West Water during excavations as part of the Bathing Water Directive works at Combe Martin. The archaeological works were required by the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team.

The works required the installing of waste water holding tanks at two locations beside the main northwest to southeast aligned thoroughfare through Combe Martin. One was in the Glen Lyn Car Park, at a height of approximately 8m aOD, and the other in the coach park immediately southeast of the Pack o' Cards public house, at a height of approximately 24m aOD. The underlying solid geology comprises various slates and sandstones of the Combe Martin Slates and Lester Slates and Sandstones Members overlain by alluvium and head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel.

Archaeological and historical background

The principal archaeological interest in the works is that they lie within the historic core of the medieval village of Combe Martin. The village is situated in the valley of the River UMBER and is described by W.G. Hoskins in *Devon* (1954, 374) as "a village of immense length, mostly a single street running down a long combe to the bay." It was the location of silver and lead mining from the 13th to 19th century. In the area of the Glen Lyn Car Park, at the base of the combe is the recorded location of a corn mill (Devon HER MDV31265), a saw mill (MDV31267), and the site of 19th-century lead smelting (HE Pastscape ID 1462279). A watching brief by Exeter Archaeology in 2007 found only modern made ground, but this did include cinders and slag. The coach park is on the site of the 19th-century town hall which was destroyed by fire in 1929 (MDV31257). In close proximity is a known silver/lead mine adit (MDV12546). The 18th century Pack o' Cards Public House is Grade II* (NHLE 1169072) and within its car park wall foundations for outbuildings have been archaeologically observed (MDV67615).

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 medieval and post-medieval settlement and industrial remains to be present on the site.

Results (Fig. 1; Plates 1 and 2)

Glen Lyn Car Park (Area 1)

The works initially involved the removal of buried fuel tanks and an expansion of the hole for a new drainage tank. Overall the excavated area measured 15m by 10m. Due to the depth of the excavations the trench could not be entered prior to sheet piling been installed. No archaeological features were exposed and the generally stratigraphy comprised 0.45m of tarmac and hard core above up to 1.2m of made ground deposits of mid to dark brown firm silty clay and yellow-brown firm clay directly overlying top of slate natural bedrock. No finds were present.

Coach Park (Area 2)

The excavation of a c. 5m deep shaft into the natural slate was undertaken without archaeological supervision and the size of the trench meant that subsequent observation and recording was not possible for safety reasons. The groundworkers recovered three animal bones from overlying deposits. Charlotte Coles has provided the following comments: "these are a horse humerus (proximal end missing), a horse tibia and a mammal rib (possibly a horse rib). The horse tibia has been sawn through horizontally removing the distal quarter of the bone. Given the type of butchery and the large size of the bones (the humerus has a trochlea breadth of 93.87mm) it is likely that these bones are post-medieval or modern in date." These were not retained.

Conclusion

No deposits or features of archaeological interest were observed. Both sites appear to have been disturbed by clearing and levelling for car parking purposes in modern times, as well as in the Glen Lyn Car Park the addition of

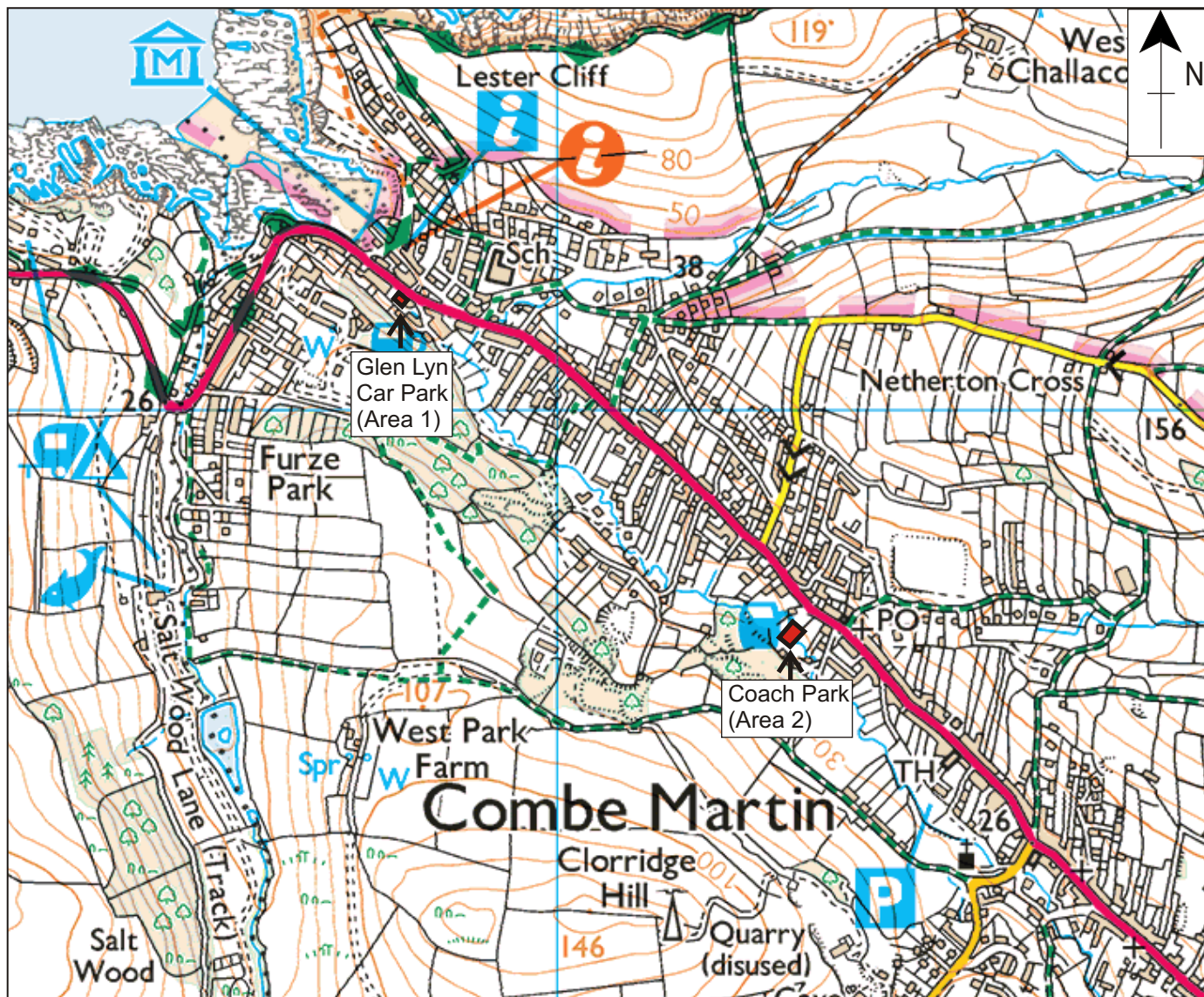
underground fuel tanks.

This report and the associated OASIS entry represent the archive for the project.

A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.

Recorder: Stella De-Villiers, AC archaeology

Date sent to HER: 8 August 2016



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0 250m

Scale 1:10,000@A4

PROJECT

Bathing Water Directive Works,
Combe Martin, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Site locations



Plate 1: Glen Lyn Car Park (Area 1), general view during initial removal of fuel tanks



Plate 2: Glen Lyn Car Park (Area 1), typical section revealed during removal of a fuel tank (scale 1m)

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