

Cormelles, Victoria Street, Combe Martin,
Devon

Centred on NGR SS5918945924

Results of an archaeological watching brief

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and
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On behalf of:
Mr D Collacott

Document No: ACD66/1/0

Date: February 2010



archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Combe Martin, North Devon	National Grid Reference SS5918945924	Number:
Subject: An archaeological watching brief at Cormelles, Victoria Street, Combe Martin, Devon.		Photo attached: Plates 1 & 2
Planning Application no: 47462	Recipient museum: Museum of Barnstable and North Devon	
OASIS ID: 71693	Museum Accession no: NDDMS 2009.54	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD66	Date fieldwork undertaken: 10/6/2009 and 27/7/2009	

Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on behalf of Mr D. Collacott during groundworks associated with the construction of a single dwelling on land to the rear of Cormelles, Victoria Street, Combe Martin, Devon (Fig. 1a). The site lies within the garden area to the rear of the existing house on ground that slopes gently down to the south and the River Umber. It is located within the historic core of Combe Martin, with a settlement established here during the medieval period. Lead and silver mining has been undertaken in the area since the late 13th century.

Methodology

The groundworks were carried out in two stages. First, the removal of topsoil was monitored for an area measuring approximately 9m long by 8m wide and to a depth of between 0.35m and 0.5m. This was not to a sufficient depth to establish the presence/absence of buried archaeological remains, so monitoring then took place during the excavation of three external strip footings for the dwelling (see Fig. 1b).

Results

The recorded layer sequence for the site is set out in Table 1 and shown on Fig. 1c. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed and finds were recovered from the topsoil only. The lower layers recorded are alluvial and likely to have been formed as a result of the site's proximity to the River Umber.

Table 1. The recorded layer sequence

Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
100	Dark blackish-brown, friable/crumby humic sandy silty clay with very common root disturbance and common sub rounded small sized stones	0-0.5m	Garden topsoil
101	Dark to mid yellow-brown, firm to friable sandy silty clay, with common small sub rounded small sized flat stones and sparse charcoal lumps	0.5m-0.70m	Subsoil/ Interface
102	Dark to mid yellow-brown, friable silty clay, with common small sub rounded flat slate stones, common pockets of gravel and common charcoal flecks	0.7m-1m	Alluvial deposit
103	Mid-light yellow-brown slightly compact but friable clay silt, with common gravel and small sub rounded slate stone inclusions	1m-1.4m (S. end) 1m-1.8m (N. end)	Alluvial deposit
104	Light yellow-brown compact laminated sub rounded slate	1.4m + (S. end) 1.8m + (N. end)	Weathered natural subsoil

The finds assemblage is small with very limited potential (Table 2). It includes three fragments of plain clay pipe stem, one fragment from an interlocking roof tile of 19th-20th century date and six sherds of 18th/19th century pottery. The pottery includes North Devon Coarsewares (coarse quartz temper) with dark brown glaze and a single sherd in a pale fired inclusion-free fabric with clear glaze.

Table 2. Finds summary (weight is in grams)

Context	Description	Post-medieval Pottery		CBM		Clay pipe	
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
100	Garden topsoil	6	54	1	28	3	10

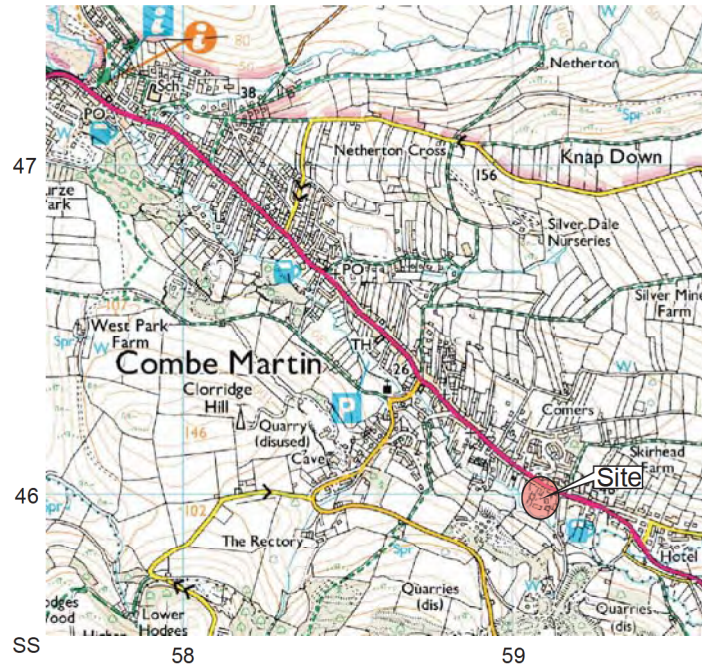
Recorder

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Date sent to HER

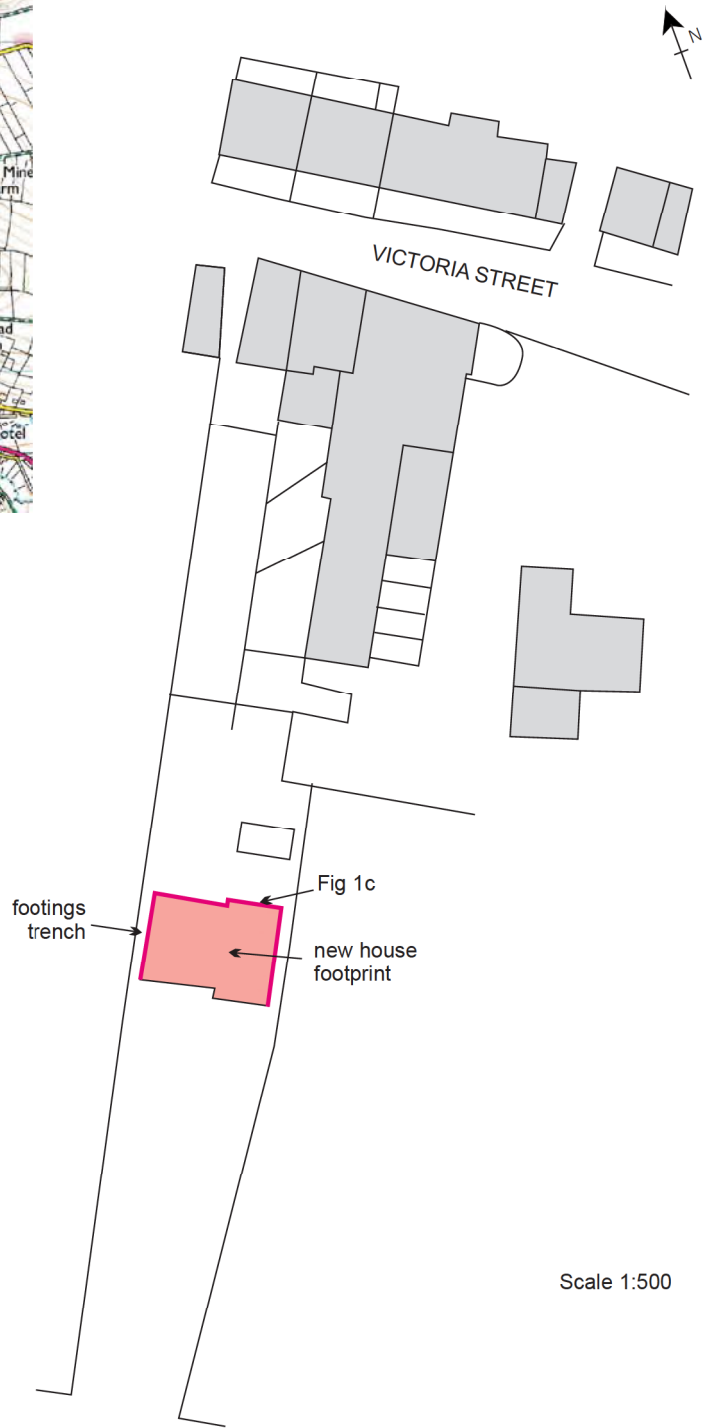
3 February 2010

a) Site location



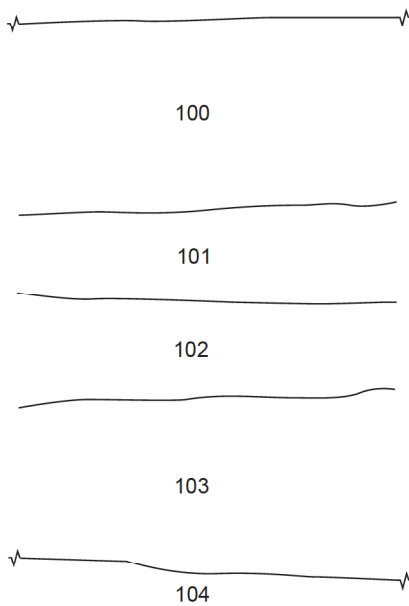
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b) Detailed plan of site



Scale 1:500

c) Representative section



PROJECT

Victoria Street, Combe Martin

TITLE

Fig. 1
Site location and representative section



Plate 1: General view of site, looking to south



Plate 2: Section of footings trench, northern end of site (scale 1m)

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