

## Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Kingswear, South Hams	<b>National Grid Reference:</b> SX 8910 5028	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording at Kingswear Castle, Kingswear, Devon.		<b>Photo attached:</b> Y
<b>Planning permission no:</b> 3271/20/FUL	<b>Recipient museum:</b> n/a	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> oakforda1-412108	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> n/a	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> OA1749	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 11-12/01/2021	
<p><b>Description of works:</b></p> <p>A watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology in January 2021 at Kingswear Castle, Kingswear, Devon (SX 8910 5028). The site (Fig. 1) lies in an area of archaeological potential immediately to the north of the Grade I Listed Kingswear Castle. The blockhouse was built between 1491 and 1502 as part of the defences to the entrance to Dartmouth harbour. It is located on the east side, with Dartmouth Castle on the west side of the estuary. By the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century the long-range guns installed at Dartmouth Castle made Kingswear Castle obsolete and the structure was abandoned. It was re-occupied by the Royalists under Sir Henry Cary during the Civil War and captured in 1646 by Sir Thomas Fairfax. Further defences for Kingswear were built by the Royalists in the form of a redoubt immediately above the town. Kingswear Castle was converted into a summer residence for Major Charles Seale-Hayne in 1855 by the local architect and builder Thomas Lidston. As part of the works a drive was built from the turnpike road higher up the hill, as well as an intricate system of winding paths. The Castle has remained a private residence since, with a brief interlude during the Second World War, when it was occupied by the Marines and a concrete blockhouse built close nearby. The property was bought by the Landmark Trust in 1987.</p> <p>A watching brief was maintained during works associated with the excavation of trenches for the provision of a new a sewage treatment plant (Fig. 2, Pls. 1-2). The work involved the excavation of two trenches approximately 52.5m long, 0.25m wide and c. 0.3m deep. The work revealed a simple deposit sequence extending across the whole site. This consisted of shillet bedrock (100) at a depth of 0.3m below current ground level. This was overlain by a mid to dark brown silty clay topsoil (101).</p> <p><b>Conclusion:</b></p> <p>No deposits, features or dating evidence indicative of archaeological activity was found. The lack of pottery and other artefacts from the site, despite examination of spoil heaps, further indicates that the site is archaeologically sterile. This is the only report on these works.</p> <p><b>Project archive and OASIS entry</b></p> <p>Due to the limited nature of the findings a project archive will not be produced. A summary of the investigations has been submitted to the on-line archaeological database OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological InterventionS).</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> MFR Steinmetzer (Oakford Archaeology)		<b>Date sent to HER:</b>



Fig. 1 Location of site.

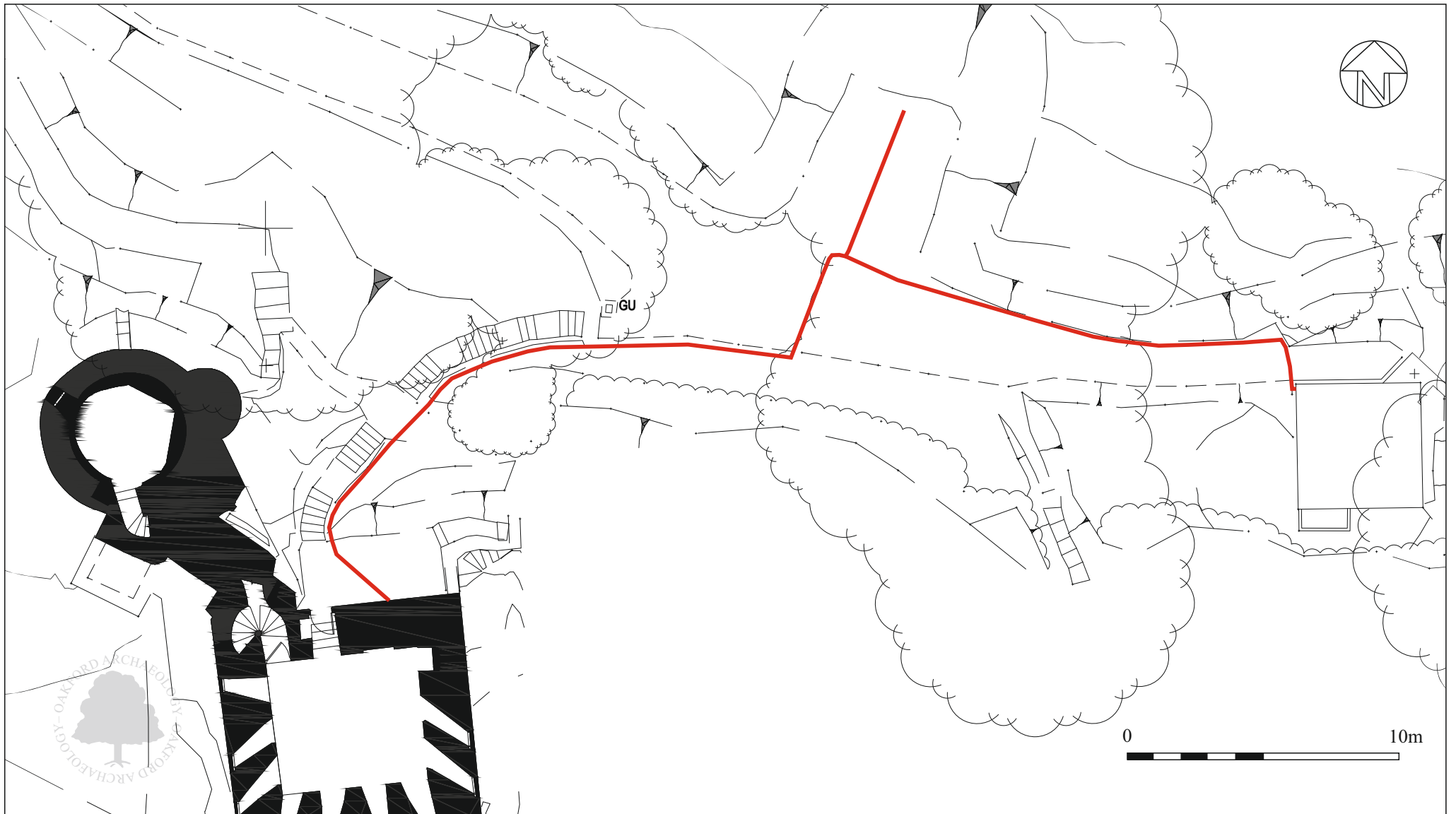


Fig. 2 Plan showing location of observations.



Pl. 1 General view of trenching towards blockhouse showing depth of deposits. 1m scale. Looking east.



Pl. 2 General view of trenching towards Kingswear Castle showing depth of deposits. Looking southwest.