Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Kingsteignton, Teignbridge	**NGR:** SX 85886 73448	**Number:**
Subject: Archaeological Monitoring and Recording in advance of the Construction of a Footpath and Cycle Bridge at Kingsteignton, Teignbridge, Devon		**Photo Attached?:** Yes
Planning Reference: 20/00441/FUL	**Recipient Museum:** N/A	
OASIS ID: southwes1-512820	**Museum Accession Number:** N/A	
Contractor's Reference: KCB21	**Dates Fieldwork Undertaken:** 01st, 02nd, 23rd, and 28th July 2021	

Description of Works

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) on behalf of The Environment Partnership Ltd. (TEP). This work took place in the context of groundworks in advance of the construction of a footpath and cycle bridge crossing the River Teign in Kingsteignton, Teignbridge, Devon (see Figure 1). This work was carried out over several visits by B. Morris and S. Walls in July 2021, in line with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Dalby 2021) agreed with the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCHET).

The foot and cycle bridge were to be located to the north of the current Teign Bridge (Grade II Listed; HE ref. 1317451) on Old Exeter Road, to separate cyclists and walkers from vehicular traffic. Teign Bridge was constructed in 1815 to the designs of the county surveyor, James Green; the road is reputed to be Roman in origin (DCHER ref. MDV9216). When the current bridge was constructed an earlier bridge of two arches was removed, beneath which was a red sandstone bridge of five arches, beneath which a single pier of white freestone ashlar. The timbers of a wooden bridge(s) (perhaps the framework supporting the other masonry bridges?) were also encountered. The white freestone pier was encountered at a depth of 25' 5" (7.74m) below the then level of the meadow (Taylor 1821). Four large, preserved timbers and lines of stakes were encountered c.50m to the south of the road in 1970 (DCHER: MDV14456).

The northern approach to the new bridge was reduced prior to monitoring. The section demonstrated the bank on which the footpath is located consists of ballclay spoil. A sequence of alluvial deposits was exposed in the lower side of the trench. These consisted of (from top to bottom): a grey-brown clay-silt topsoil; a layer of dense mid brown stoneless clayey silt; a thin band of soft mottled grey silt; a thin band of off-white medium sand; a layer of very firm mid grey silt clay; a thick band of interbedded grey sandy silts with lighter sands; and a basal layer of coarse grit with small rounded pebbles (boreholes located 0.8km+ to the south indicate 20'-29' (6.09-8.83m) of alluvial deposits in the base of the valley). The topsoil (up to 0.2m) was stripped from the southern approach to the bridge, with a deeper section dug adjacent to the river; a similar sequence of alluvial deposits was encountered here. Coffer dams were installed around the location of the two new bridge abutments and reinforced concrete piles driven in. The material from around these piles was then removed; this work was not monitored due to health and safety considerations (heavy plant and unstable sides). No artefacts, preserved timbers, or masonry were observed during the monitoring. Excavations for the new abutments were up to 1.8m deep, but still lay above the level of the riverbed.

At the north-eastern end of the northern approach, a parish boundary marker was noted. This was a roughly shaped granite post 1.3m long and 0.2×0.2m in section. The lower half of the *ex-situ* post had been set into ballclay spoil (and thus has clearly been moved before), and the base had been sawn off. The upper part was incised with a large 'T' symbol c.0.2m high.

Conclusions

The results of the monitoring did not identify any deposits or structures that might be associated with an earlier crossing of the river. The account of Taylor (1821) would suggest the current bridge was preceded by three earlier masonry structures, with preserved timbers encountered below the second bridge in the sequence. That account speculates the accumulation of 10' (3.04m) of alluvium since the construction of the red sandstone bridge, which, if correct, would indicate Roman levels are very deeply buried.

Bibliography

British Geological Survey 2021: *Geology of Britain Viewer*. http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html

Dalby, S. 2021: *Teign River Cycleway Bridge, Kingsteignton, Devon: written scheme of investigation*.

Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales*.

Taylor, P. T. 1821: 'An Account of some Discoveries made in taking down the old Bridge over the River Teign, and in excavating the ground to the depth of fifteen feet five inches below the surface of the water', *Archaeologia* 19, 308-313.

Recorder: B. Morris	**Date Sent to HER:** 05th February 2023

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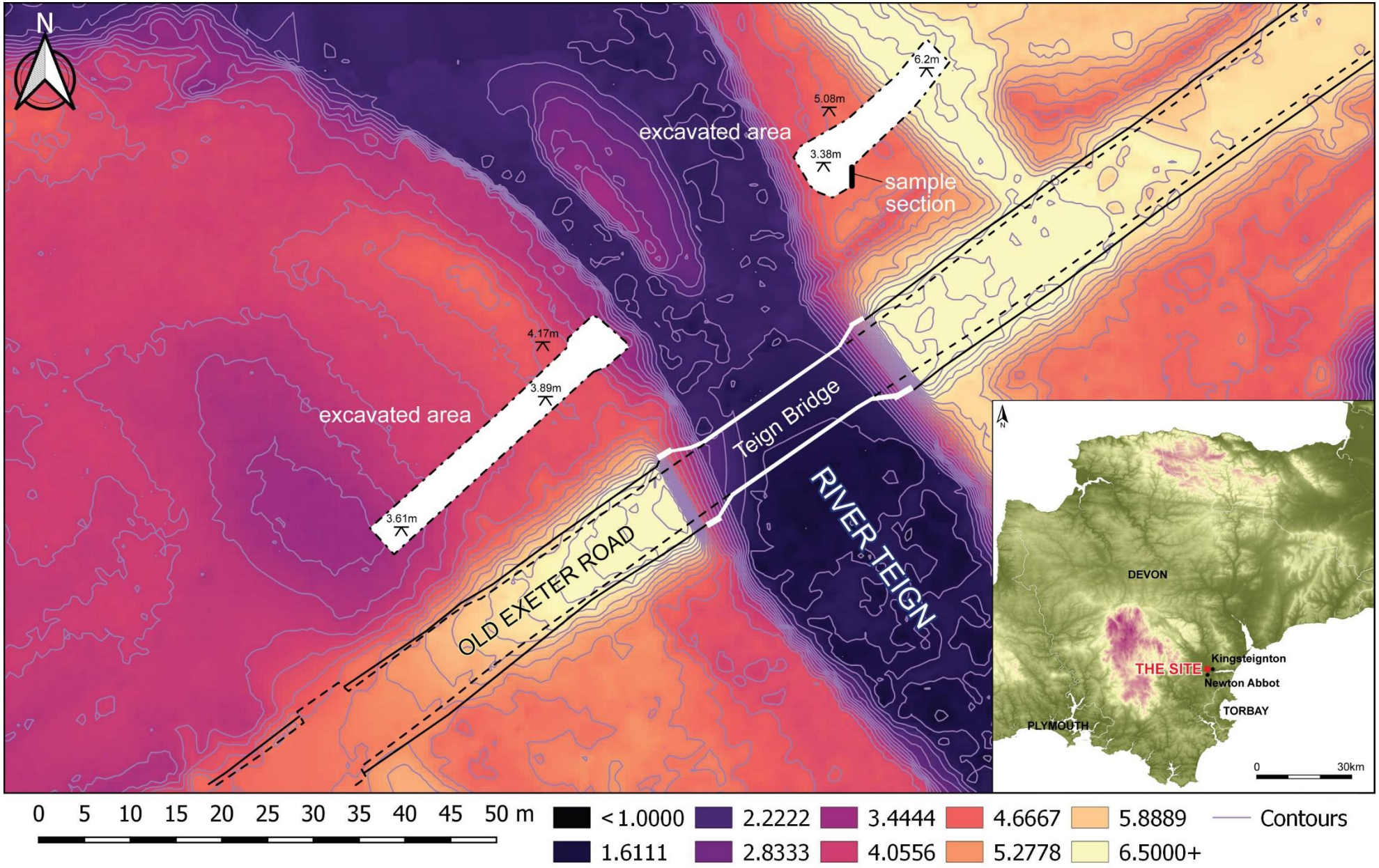

FIGURE 1: LOCATION PLAN AND TRENCH PLAN. DETAIL MAP BASED ON EA 25CM LIDAR DATA, WITH 25CM CONTOURS. SPOT HEIGHT IN METRES AOD.
(CONTAINS PUBLIC SECTOR INFORMATION LICENSED UNDER THE OPEN GOVERNMENT LICENCE V2.0).

TOP LEFT: NORTHERN APPROACH; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (SCALE 2M). INSET: THE *EX-SITU* PARISH BOUNDARY STONE.
TOP RIGHT: WEST-FACING SAMPLE SECTION (SCALE 2M).
BOTTOM LEFT: SOUTHERN APPROACH; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (SCALE 2M).
BOTTOM RIGHT: THE COFFER DAM AND PILES FOR THE SOUTHERN ABUTMENT; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (SCALE 1M).