

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Alverdiscott, North Devon	National Grid Reference SS 4910 2538	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring on land at Kingdon Cottage, Alverdiscott, Devon in advance of the erection of a residential extension		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 1/0467/2011/FUL	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS ID: southwes1-176897	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: AKC14	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 1 st September 2014	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Mr. Darren Johnson (The Client), prior to the erection of a residential extension to Kingdon Cottage, Alverdiscott, Devon (Figure 1). This work was undertaken by P. Webb on 1st September 2014 in accordance with a WSI drawn up in consultation with Ann-Marie Dick of the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>The proposed development is situated near the summit of a hill, on its western slope, at a height of c.140mAOD. The land is currently part of a domestic property and was in use as a parking area (to the west) and garden (to the east). It lies within an area of known archaeological activity and is situated within the extent of an Iron Age enclosure and Roman military marching camp (Scheduled Ancient Monument 1005448). The site is further surrounded by a series of prehistoric enclosures (MDV 17624, 43941, 44256, 44258) and Bronze Age ring ditches (MDV 37451, 43942).</p> <p>A rectangular area, c.8.1m x 5.7m and orientated east-west (Figure 2), was excavated by mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision in accordance with the WSI. The overlying deposits consisted of modern landscaping materials, including concrete surfaces and edging (100, 102, 104), flower-beds (103) comprising dark brown soft-friable clay loam; and a parking area (105) comprising stone and brick rubble within a matrix of grey-white silt-sand. Where the site lay in the garden, the stratigraphy consisted of topsoil (106); dark brown soft silt-clay with 5% sub-angular stones 10-30mm up to 0.35m in depth; overlying natural bedrock (109); shillet within a matrix of orange-yellow silt clay.</p> <p>A single archaeological feature was identified during the excavations. It comprised a linear ditch [110] orientated north-south along the eastern boundary of the site (Figures 2-4). It ran the full width of the area (c.5.7m), continuing beyond both the north and south limits of excavation x 0.9m wide at its narrowest point at the northern edge of excavation. At its widest point the ditch was c.1.2m but extended beyond the eastern edge of excavation. The feature was 0.9m deep with visible edges sloping at c.80° to a flat base. It was filled with a basal layer of mid brown soft clay with 20% shillet (114) c.0.3m deep. This was overlain by mid grey brown soft clay (113) c.0.2m deep and mid grey brown firm clay with 90% shillet (112) c.0.2m deep. The uppermost fill comprised mid brown firm clay with 70% shillet (111) c.0.4m deep.</p> <p>No artefacts were recovered from the ditch, and currently it remains undated. However, the form of the ditch and cartographic evidence from the 1840 tithe map suggest that it may have formed part of a field boundary dating back to at least the mid 19th century.</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.		
Recorder: P. Webb		Date sent to HER: 03.09.2014

Please email completed form to: archaeol@devon.gov.uk or post to County Archaeology Service, Environment Directorate, Matford Lane Offices, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QW. Information recorded on this form will be added to the Historic Environment Record, and made available to all researchers.

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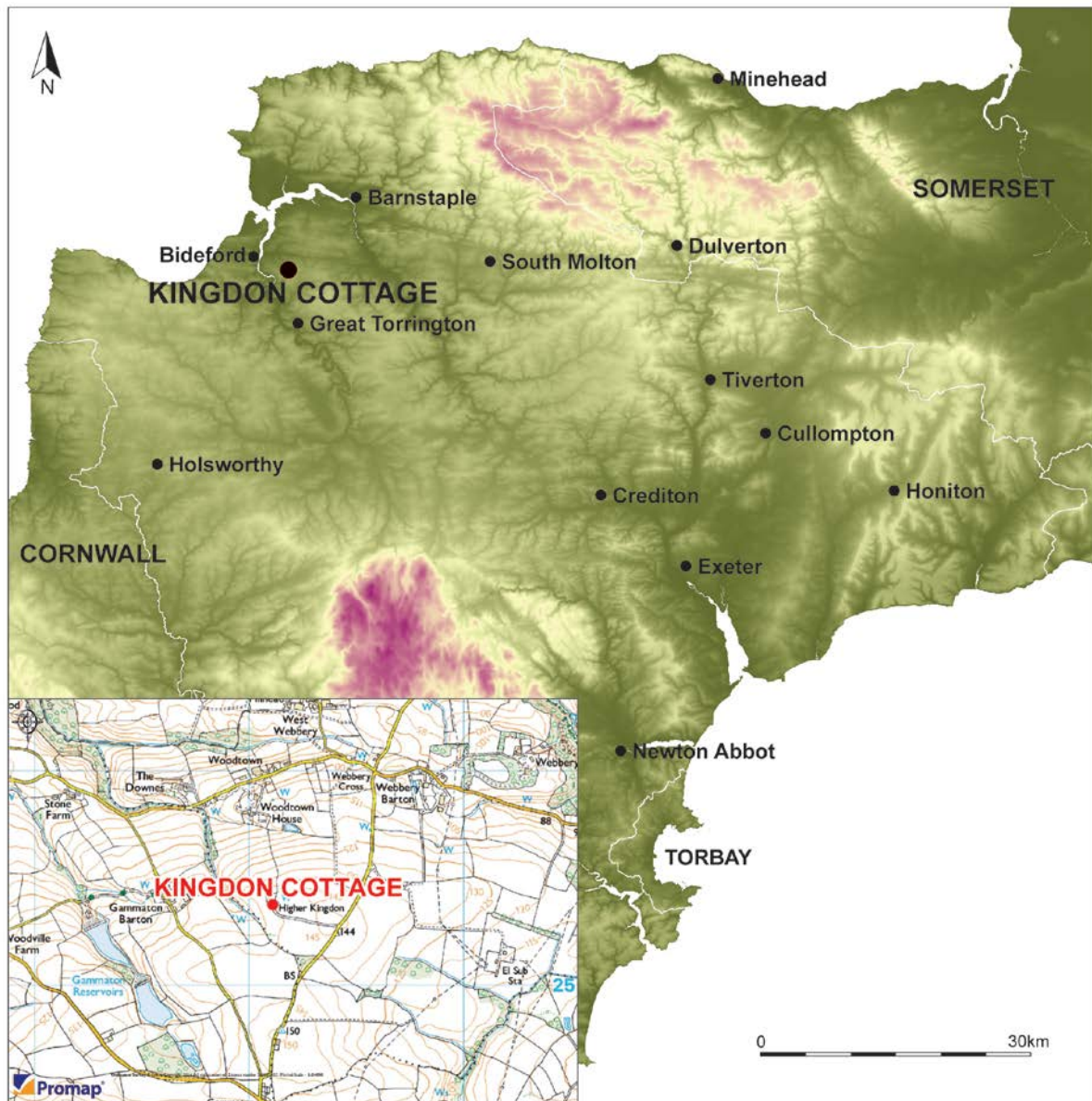


Figure 1: Site location map; site location in red.

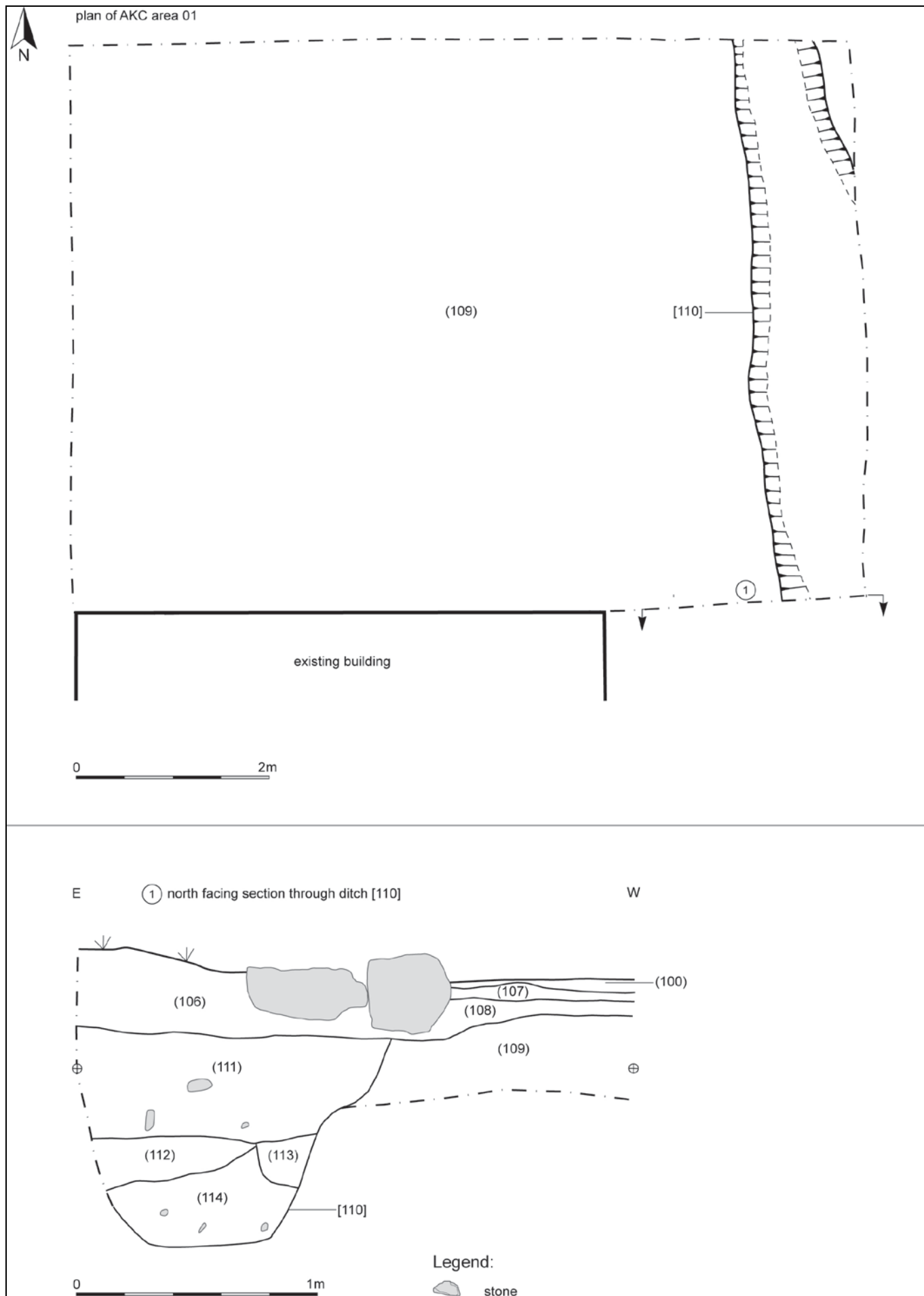


Figure 2: Site plan and representative sections (greyscale numbers on plan correspond to section drawing numbers).



Figure 3: Post excavation view of site showing ditch [110]; looking south (1m and 2m scales).



Figure 4: North-facing section of ditch [110]; looking south (1m scale).