

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Kingskerswell, Teignbridge	National Grid Reference SX 857 682	Number:
Subject: Limited archaeological evaluation at Kingskerswell Manor House, Foredown Lane, Kingskerswell, Devon.		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: n/a	Recipient museum: n/a	
OASIS ID: southwes1-226631	Museum Accession no: n/a	
Contractor's reference number/code: KMH15	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 3 rd November 2015	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of the Rev. John Leonard of Kingskerswell Parish Church (the Client), to clarify the presence and character of an archaeological feature identified during previous groundworks. This work took place following the construction of a new access road at Kingskerswell Manor House, Foredown Lane, Kingskerswell, Devon. The work was undertaken by J. Bampton on 3rd November 2015 in accordance with a Project Design drawn up in consultation with Stephen Reed of the Devon County Historic Environment Team.</p> <p>The site is located on an east-facing slope north-west of the parish church, on the west side of Kingskerswell, at a height of c.30m AOD. The soils of this area are the well-drained gritty reddish loamy soils of the Crediton Association (SSEW 1983), which overlie the breccias of the Watcombe Breccia Formation (BGS 2015). The Teignbridge Council Conservation Area character statement (2009) identifies the manor house as an important pre-Conquest manorial site. The manor is known to have been a residence of the wealthy Dinham family in the 14th-15th centuries, after which the Courtenay family of Powderham held the manor and the site declined to the status of a tenanted farm. It became ruinous in the 18th-19th century. The standing remains are Listed grade II and the site is Scheduled.</p> <p>Two evaluation trenches, each 1.2m wide and 8m long (see Figures 1-7) were excavated by a tracked 360° excavator using a toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision. The trenches were positioned to locate a wide ditch identified during earlier groundworks. The topsoil (100) consisted of turf and a friable dark reddish-brown clay-silt with occasional stone <0.20m thick. This overlaid the weathered natural/subsoil (101), a soft-firm mid brownish-red silt-clay, which was c.0.85m thick in Trench #1 and c.0.40m thick in Trench #2. The weathered natural/subsoil (101) overlaid the natural (103), a compact mid pinkish-brownish-red gritty clay.</p> <p>Trench #1 was excavated to a depth of c.1.25m. It revealed no archaeological features or significant remains. Trench #2 was excavated to a depth of c.0.7m, with a sondage at its west end excavated to a depth of 1.10m. A large amount of root disturbance, including extant roots and organic material, was evident between the layers in the trench. A cut [103] pertaining to the old access track was identified; it had an even gentle slope and contained made ground (104): a friable mid reddish-brown clay-silt with occasional to moderate small stones.</p> <p>All finds were recorded and then discarded, and came from made ground (104): a single fragment of CBM (4g); a single fragment of flowerpot (12g); a single fragment of 19th century ceramic floor tile (41g); and two sherds of white refined earthenware (6g).</p> <p>The potential ditch identified in previous reports (SWARCH report no.110216) would appear to have been the made-ground deposit, with tip lines relating to the older, but still modern, man-made slope/access to the manor. The ground here has been landscaped and made-up by c.2m. No significant archaeological features or deposits were present.</p>		
<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.</p>		
Recorder: J. Bampton	Date sent to HER: 05.11.15	

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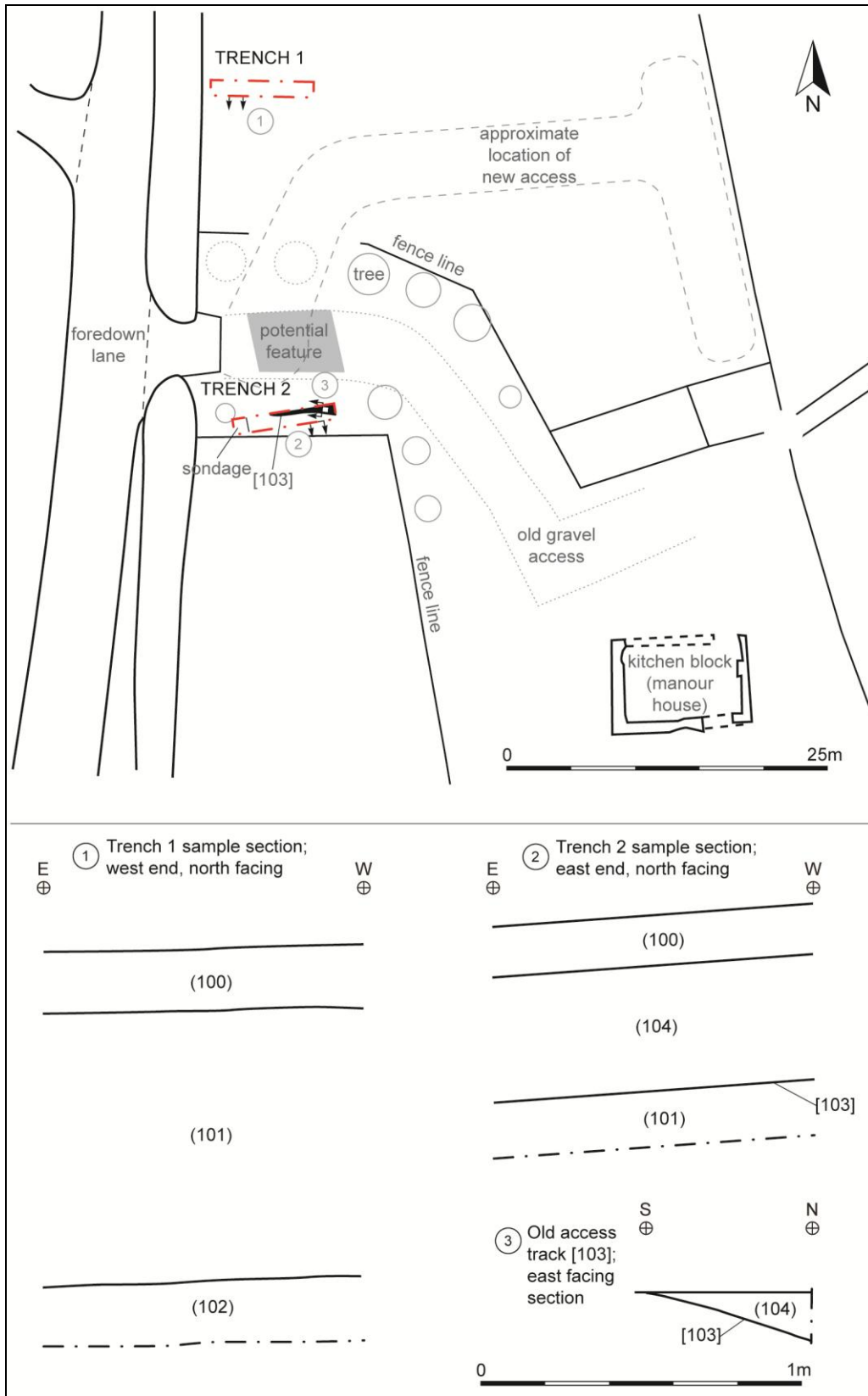


Figure 1: Site plan and section drawings.



Figure 2 (left): North-facing sample section at the east end of Trench #2; viewed from the north (1m scale).
 Figure 3 (right): Trench #2, post-excavation; viewed from the east (1m scale).



Figure 4 (left): Oblique shot of south-facing section of Trench #2, showing the root-disturbed horizon; viewed from the south-east (1m scale).
 Figure 5 (right): Trench #1, post-excavation; viewed from the east (1m scale).



Figure 6 (left): North-facing sample section at the west end of Trench #1; viewed from the north (1m scale).
 Figure 7 (right): New road/access, showing landscaped ground, with up to c.2m difference to either side of the fence-line; viewed from the north (no scale).