

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Knowstone, North Devon	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SS 82733 23101	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording on land adjacent to Enfield House, Knowstone, Devon during groundworks for the construction of a single dwelling		<b>Photo attached?</b> YES
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 60810	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> southwes1-269200	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> 13.2016a	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> KEH16	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 23/02/17 & 27/02/17	
<p><b>Description of works.</b></p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Jonathan Reed and Victoria Harrison (The Clients), during groundworks for the construction of a single dwelling on land adjacent to Enfield House, Knowstone, Devon. This work was undertaken by Dr B. Morris and J. Bampton on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2017 in accordance with a WSI drawn up in consultation with Stephen Reed of the Devon County Historic Environment Team.</p> <p>Knowstone (MDV19284) lies on a ridge/spur of land with steep valleys to its north and south-west, approximately half way between Tiverton and South Molton, 1.30km north of the A361. The site encompasses a small rectangular parcel of land off of the main road through the village, between existing properties; adjacent to <i>Enfield House</i>, c.40m west of <i>The Masons Arms</i> and c.60m north-west of St Peters Church; at a height of c.210m AOD.</p> <p>The soils of the area are the well drained fine loamy soils often over rock of the Neath Association and these overlie the mudstone of the Crackington Formation. Knowstone is within the historic Hundred of South Molton. The spelling 'Knowstone' appeared by the mid 15<sup>th</sup> century and is derived from a personal name and Old English for 'Cnut's stone'. Knowstone forms a Conservation Area with 13 Grade II Listed buildings and a 15<sup>th</sup> century Grade II* Listed church (MDV15208). The site is immediately north of the Conservation Area boundary, and between two groups of Listed 17<sup>th</sup> century cottages (MDV97291 and MDV97300). There are no Scheduled Monuments within Knowstone, but there are undesigned barrows and an Iron Age enclosure within 2km.</p> <p>An area c.6.5m×11m was excavated across the footprint of a proposed building; and an area c.3.5m×5.5m was excavated through the hedgebank fronting the site to the south to create an access (Figure 1). All excavations were undertaken by a tracked 360° excavator with a toothless grading bucket to the depth of <i>in situ</i> weathered natural and under archaeological supervision.</p> <p>The southern hedgebank [102] (Figures 1-3) was comprised of Natural (106), a reddish-yellow brown compact shillet rock that had been cut away on the south side of the bank and partially on the north side; a buried soil, (105), which was 0.20m thick and possibly cut by a ditch on its north side. Buried soil (105) was overlaid by bank material (104), a mid buff brown friable silt loam with frequent small-medium sub-angular stones, 0.65m thick. The south side of the bank was stone faced and was set into bank material (101). Bank materials (101) and (104) were overlain by a humic and more recent deposit of soil with shrub roots and a live hedge, (100), which had perhaps been cut away or not built up on the north side of the bank. The stone face of the bank was abutted by deposit (103), a dark brown-grey soft silt, which was built up along the roadside. On the north side of the bank, bank material (104) was abutted by Topsoil (107), a dark grey-brown friable silt loam, 0.25m thick.</p> <p>The footprint of the proposed building contained no archaeological features or deposits (Figures 1 and 4). The stratigraphy of the footprint of the proposed building was; Topsoil (107), 0.24m thick; overlaid Subsoil (108), a mid yellow-reddish-brown friable clay-silt loam with frequent shillet stones/fragments, 0.07m thick; which overlaid the Natural (106). Natural (106) was clearly root disturbed in places and Subsoil (108) was probably a horizon between the topsoil and natural, exacerbated by horticultural cultivation in the past.</p> <p>A sample of finds were recovered from the site: from Topsoil (107), 8 sherds (212g) of White Refined Earthen ware, 1 sherd (3g) of porcelain, 3 sherds (62g) of industrial ware, 3 sherds (479g) of flowerpot, 3 sherds (107g) of Post-Medieval North Devon Gravel Tempered ware and 3 fragments (242g) of bottle glass. The hedgebank contained modern pottery and glass, however, a single sherd of a North Devon Medieval coarseware jar (55g) with thumb-strip decoration between the neck and the body was recovered from bank material (104). An unstratified, extremely worn, post-medieval grindstone was also recovered from the hedgebank. All finds except the grindstone and medieval coarseware were discarded.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> J. Bampton		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 28/02/17

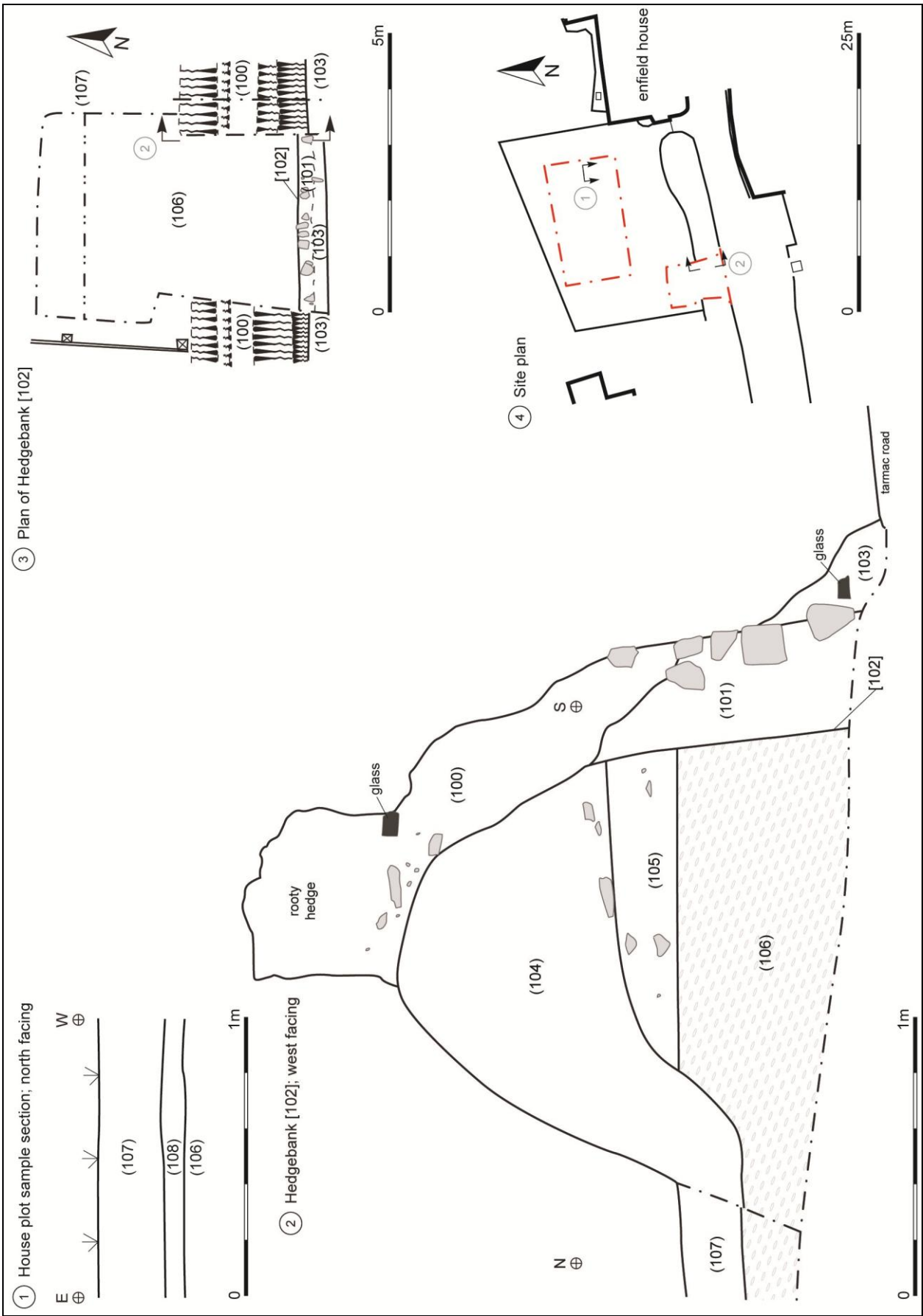


Figure 1: Site and feature plans and section drawings.



Figure 2: Hedgebank [102], viewed from the west (1m scale).



Figure 3: Site entrance, viewed from the south (1m scale).



Figure 4: Site shot mid-excavation; viewed from the north-west (1m scale).