

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Tavistock, West Devon	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SX 47943 74377	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording in advance of construction 2 bedroom mews cottage off Garden Lane, rear of 21 West Street, Tavistock		<b>Photo attached?</b> YES
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 3380/16/FUL	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Plymouth City Museum	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> Southwes1-288533	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> TWS17	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 25 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	
<p><b>Description of works</b></p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Tom Rogers (Rogers &amp; Jones Architects) on behalf of Mr and Mrs Downing (the Client) during the construction of a 2 bedroom mews cottage off Garden Lane, rear of 21 West Street, Tavistock, West Devon, Devon. The monitoring work was carried out by E. Wapshott on 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017; the weather was fine and dry on the first day, then overcast and dry on the second. This work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Boyd 2017) drawn up in consultation with Bill Horner of the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>The proposed development is located on West Street, just west of the parish church of St. Eustachius, the Tavistock United Reformed Church and the Cornish Arms public house. The Tavistock Conservation Area Appraisal describes West Street as 'mainly commercial in use closest to the town and contains a number of unlisted buildings which retain attractive historic shopfronts, making a positive contribution to the special interest of the conservation area'. The buildings are mostly 19th century, but there are a few C18th townhouses which have since been converted to shops. The Historic Landscape Characterisation notes this area as Historic Settlements. Archaeological monitoring in the adjacent property (Jones 2011) recovered a fragment of floor tile dating to c.1300 with a white slip and green glaze. Within 30m to the west of the site is the location of the Old British School, which was replaced in 1856 by the 7th Duke of Bedford (Devon HER Ref MDV104278).</p> <p>The development site lies to the east of the terraced houses along West Street, at the end of the stone walled garden plot, terminating in Garden Lane, a small through-alley between the gardens of West Street and of Plymouth Road beyond. The garden is enclosed to the north and south by tall rubble stone walls of mixed phasing, probably 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century. The site was occupied by concrete block garaging, which has recently been demolished and removed. On the north side, the garden wall has been replaced by a modern concrete and brick small garden dwelling. To the south is a rubble stone shed in the adjacent plot, possibly 19<sup>th</sup> century. There is a small tarmac area facing onto Garden Lane for car parking. An area 16.5m deep from the eastern boundary was stripped of topsoil and subsoil to reveal a mottled, pale yellowish red-brown clay natural, with common blue-grey shillet inclusions.</p> <p>The garden consists of a raised paved terrace behind the house and a gently sloping lawn running back to the site of the demolished garages. This slope appears to consist of mostly made ground, with deep upper soil layers and little subsoil. The soils consisted of topsoil - a dark greyish clay-silt, churned by the builders and machinery, approx 0.1-0.15m deep. A lower topsoil, a relatively thin layer of dark greyish black loamy silt-clay which has been disturbed by modern service trenching and garden landscaping, 0.5m deep. Beneath this, a deep moist rich dark brown silt clay subsoil (historically redeposited?), rising from c.0.1 to the east end to more than 1m in depth at the 16.5m limit of excavation. The overall depth of soil (c.1.7m at 16.5m point) and surprisingly clean and uniform appearance (only one sherd of 20<sup>th</sup>C porcelain and one 20<sup>th</sup>C floor tile fragment) may indicate a significant makeup of the slope.</p> <p>Foundation trenching for the former garages crossed the site 8.7m from the eastern boundary and ran parallel to the north wall, both trenches 0.4-0.5m in width. A modern cut for service trenching, with both stoneware and plastic piping, runs at a slight oblique along the north wall, approx 1m from the wall, about 0.3m wide. Some minor brown mottling of the natural clay towards the east end of the excavated area is due to the large tree stump which has been dug out here.</p> <p><b>Conclusions</b></p> <p>The monitoring work did not identify any archaeological features or deposits. The two finds were not retained.</p> <p><b>Bibliography</b></p> <p>Boyd, N. 2017: 21 West Street, Tavistock, West Devon, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation No.TWS17WSiv1</p> <p>British Geological Survey 2014: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. <a href="http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html">http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html</a> [accessed 25.09.2017].</p> <p>Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> E. Wapshott	<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 29/09/2017	

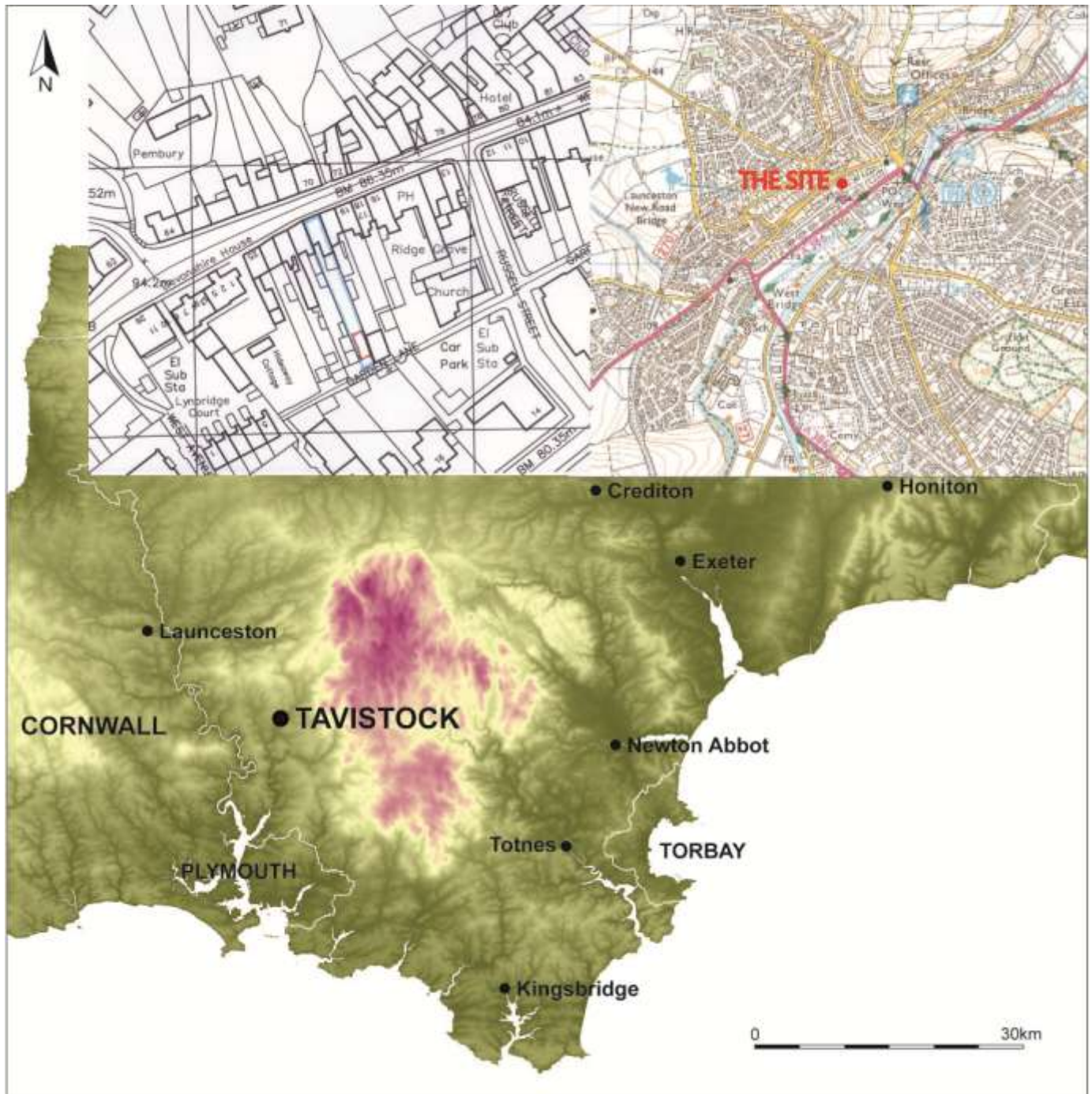


Figure 1: Site location.





Figure 2: Wide and long view, with concrete foundations to the east, natural to the west; from the west (2m scale).



Figure 3: Concrete foundation trenching for garage; from the north (2m scale).