

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Landkey, North Devon	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SS 259130 131185	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring to the rear of Ring O' Bells Cottages, Manor Road, Landkey, Devon		<b>Photo attached?</b> YES
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 64254	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon (MBND)	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> southwes1-336975	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> 26.2018A	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> LMR22	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	
<p><b>Description of works.</b> Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Woodward Smith Chartered Architects (the Agent) on behalf of a private client (the Client) during groundworks associated with the construction of a single residential dwelling on land to the rear of Ring O' Bells Cottages, Manor Road, Landkey, Devon. This work was carried out by P. Webb between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> April 2023 in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Balmond 2019) drawn up in consultation with Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCHET), ClfA guidelines and best practice.</p> <p>The site is located within the historic core of Landkey, c.1.8km south-east of Barnstaple, to the south of the A361 North Devon Link Road and a tributary of the River Taw. The site comprises a sub-rectangular plot to the rear of the former Ring O Bells public house, on the site of the former car park to the pub; and is situated on the south-facing slopes towards the base of a river valley at an altitude of c.35m AOD (see Figure 1). The soils here are the well-drained fine loamy soils of the Denbigh 2 Association bordering the slowly-permeable seasonally-waterlogged clayey fine loamy and fine silty soils of the Hallsworth 2 Association (SSEW 1983). These overlie the mudstone of the Codden Hill Chert and Doddiscombe Formations with superficial gravels, sands and silts of the Taw River Terrace Deposits (BGS 2023).</p> <p>The site lies in an area of archaeological potential, within the core of the medieval settlement of <i>Landechei</i> ('church-site of St. Cai'; Gover <i>et al</i> 1973), c.50m east of the site of the medieval manor and c.55m north-east of the 13<sup>th</sup> century parish church (List 1107687). The site lies to the rear of the former Ring O' Bells public house, the structure of which is believed to date back to the late 15<sup>th</sup> century; the pub closing in 2012 to be converted into housing.</p> <p>A single sub-rectangular area (Area 01) measuring c.10.5m × 9.5m and orientated approximately east to west, was excavated by mechanical excavator to the depth of <i>in situ</i> weathered natural (up to 1.2m below present ground levels) using a toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision. Exposed archaeological deposits were excavated by hand in accordance with the WSI and ClfA guidelines.</p> <p>The stratigraphy of the site comprised topsoil (100), dark grey-brown soft friable clay-silt-loam c.0.25m thick; overlying levelling material (101), mid-dark grey-brown friable slightly clay-silt with abundant sub-angular stone c.0.20-0.25m thick; demolition material (102), mid slightly grey-yellow-brown friable-soft silt-clay with abundant sub-angular stone, engineering brick fragments and mortar 0.15-0.30m thick; buried soil (103), mid grey-brown soft slightly silt-clay-loam 0.20-0.30m thick; (104), mid yellow-brown soft silt-clay with plaster and lime mortar fragments c.0.05m thick; subsoil (105), mid red-yellow-brown soft silt-clay and shillet up to 0.20m thick; and the natural (106), shillet bedrock within mid yellow firm-soft clay.</p> <p>No archaeological features were identified during the works.</p> <p>Finds recovered during the excavation included: post-medieval pottery from topsoil (100), demolition layer (102) and buried soil layer (103); multiple later 19<sup>th</sup> century and/or early 20<sup>th</sup> century glass bottles from levelling layer (101) and demolition layer (102); and a steel sword with brass hilt with a decorative griffin head and guard was recovered from topsoil layer (100), see Figure 2.</p> <p><b>Conclusions</b> The archaeological monitoring identified a series of demolition and levelling layers likely associated with the creation of a car park to the rear of the former Ring O' Bells public house. These overlay a buried soil associated with historic garden plots to the rear of the cottages along Manor Road.</p> <p><b>Bibliography</b> <b>Balmond, F.</b> 2019: <i>Ring O Bells Cottages, Manor Road, Landkey, North Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation v2</i>. SWARCH report no. LMR18v2. <b>British Geological Survey</b> 2023: <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> <b>Gover, J., Mawer, A &amp; Stenton, F.</b> 1973: <i>The Place-Names of Devon</i>. Cambridge. <b>Soil Survey of England and Wales</b> 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> P. Webb		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 09.05.2023

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Figure 1: Location Plan showing the excavated area, with photos of the area post-excavation and a representative shot of the made-ground levels.



Figure 2: Photo of the Sword recoverd from the topsoil (100) deposit on site (0.15m scale).