

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Tiverton, Mid Devon	National Grid Reference SS 95660 14550	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Front Lodge, Knightshayes, Tiverton, Devon during groundwork associated with improvements to drainage and replacement of a soakaway		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: N/A	Recipient museum: National Trust Archive	
OASIS ID: southwes1-366138	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: TKL19	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 9 th -16 th September 2019	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) on behalf of the National Trust (the Client), during groundwork associated with the improvement of drainage and renewal of an existing soakaway at Front Lodge, Knightshayes, Tiverton, Mid Devon (Figure 1). This work was undertaken through September 2019 in accordance with a Project Design drawn up in consultation with Martin Papworth (National Trust Archaeologist).</p> <p>The site lies in the ancient ecclesiastical parish and Hundred of Tiverton, in the Prebend of Pitt. At one point the land here was probably within a park associated with Tiverton Castle. By 1679 Knightshayes was a single farm of 40.5ha. In c.1720 cloth merchant George Thorne built a pleasure house on the site, and in 1787 a Benjamin Dickinson built a new house c.100m to the south of the current one. The current Knightshayes House was built for Sir John Heathcoat-Amory in 1869-74 to the designs of William Burges. Front Lodge was built in 1871, also to the designs of William Burges. The House (GI) and Lodge (GII) are set within an extensive Registered park (GII*). The agricultural fields to the south of the Lodge, characterised as medieval enclosures based on strip fields by the Devon Historic Landscape Character, contains a large Scheduled area that includes a 1.4ha Roman Fort (MDV12371) occupied c.AD65 to c.AD90 (Maxfield 1991) and three other possible cropmark enclosures. The fort is located c.150m to the south-south-west of Front Lodge, but one of the cropmark enclosures (MDV73435) is only 120m to the west. Flint scatters have also been reported from these fields (MDV30284; MDV40939). The key archaeological discovery for Front Lodge was made in 1871: a lead casket 35.5×18×18cm that contained a potential cremation burial dated to the Roman period. It was found during the grubbing out of the hedgebank along the road, the top of the casket being level with the road surface (NTHBSMR105297). The clear implication is that there is the potential for further burials to be encountered within the garden. Front Lodge is located at the main gate to Knightshayes off Bolham Lane at an altitude of c.100m AOD. The soils of this area are the well-drained gritty reddish loamy soils of the Crediton Association (SSEW 1983), which overlie superficial regolith deposits with the breccias of the Halberton Breccia Formation at depth (BGS 2019).</p> <p>Areas 4.4m×4.2m and 3.9×1.4m were excavated in the garden of the lodge to establish the current- and insert the new soakaway. Within the courtyard and at the downpipes of the lodge excavations were made to add, improve or clean drains. Outside the garden, only made-ground and relatively modern drainage was encountered. In the garden the extant, failing, soak-away was encountered; it was sealed with plastic sheeting. At the south end of the newly excavated soak-away was made-ground associated with late 19th century or 20th century drainage that included a demolished brick and stone structure and a ceramic sewer pipe.</p> <p>In the courtyard c.0.03m of slab overlaid c.0.21m of made-ground, including concrete ((102)-(105)); these overlaid a probably redeposited mid-light yellow-red, soft sandy-clay subsoil (106). Subsoil (106) was similar to the redeposited subsoil/made-ground, (101) surrounding the drainage in the driveway. In the garden Tospoil (107) was a mid-red-grey, friable sandy-silt 0.15m thick. It overlaid Subsoil (108), a mid-yellow-brown, friable sandy-silt loam, which overlaid Fills (110) and (112). Fill (110) was a dump of 20th century ceramic roof tiles within the failing Soakaway [109], a sub-oval pit c.4m across and 0.45m deep sealed with a plastic sheet and fed by both a plastic and ceramic pipe. It contained a 1983 penny. Fill (112) was the upper fill of relict drain/soakaway [111], which also contained fill (113): both fills were mostly redeposited natural and subsoil and (113) contained late 19th-20th century brick and pottery including flowerpot (×4 sherds; 428g) and white refined earthenware (×2 sherds; 6g). Cut [111] was over 4.2m wide and c.1.9m deep.</p> <p>The site contained no significant archaeological features or deposits.</p> <p>Maxfield, V. A. 1991: 'The Roman Fort at Tiverton (Bolham): excavations 1981-1986', <i>Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society</i> 45. 25-98. Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales (a brief explanation of the constituent soil associations)</i>. British Geological Survey 2019: http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html.</p>		
Recorder: J. Bampton	Date sent to HER: 17/10/2019	

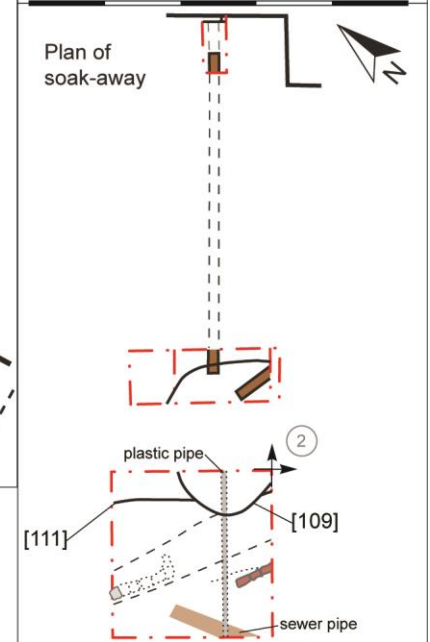
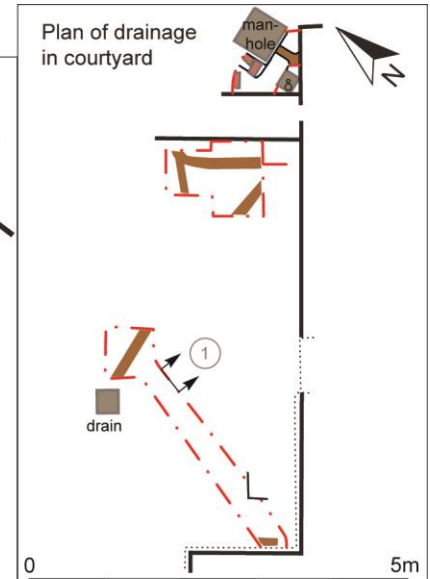
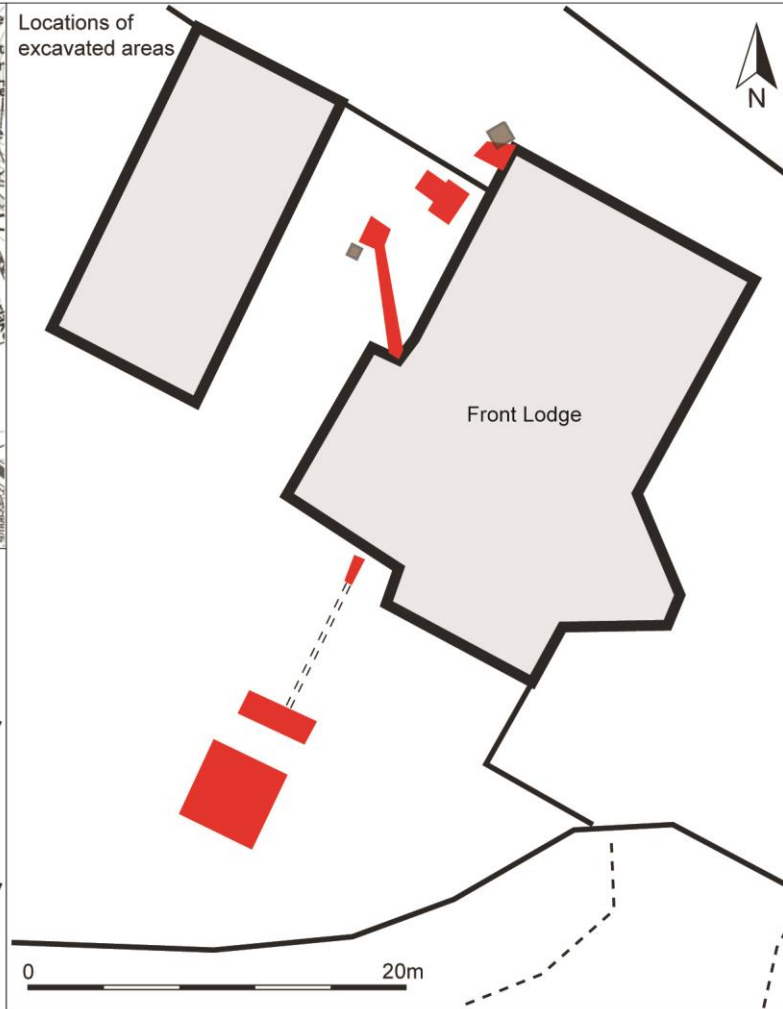
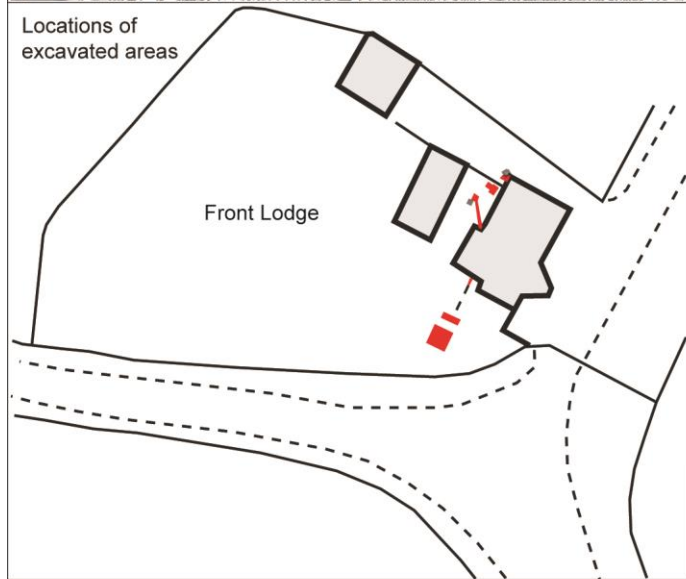


FIGURE 1: SITE AND EXCAVATION LOCATIONS AND PLANS.

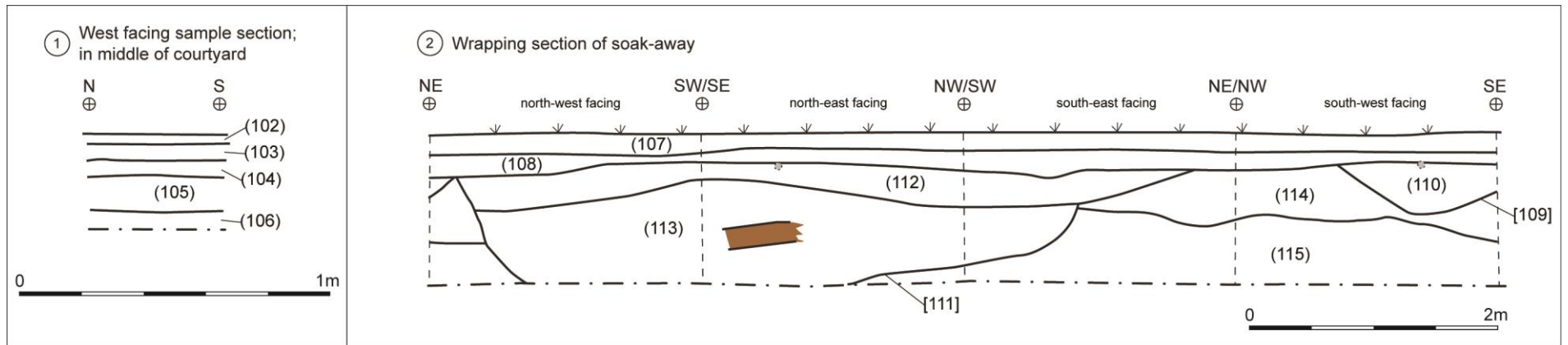


Photo 1: Excavation in north-east corner of courtyard showing multiple phases of services; viewed from the south-west (1m scale)



Photo 2: Soak-away, showing earlier soak-away [109]; viewed from the south-west (1m scale).



Photo 3: Soak-away, showing earlier soak-away [111]; viewed from the north-east (1m scale).

FIGURE 2: SECTION DRAWINGS AND SITE PHOTOGRAPHS.