

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

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| Civil Parish & District: Totnes, South hams | National Grid Reference SX8004 6064 | Number: |
| Subject: Glasshouse at North gate Lodge, Totnes | | Photo attached? Y / N |
| Planning Application no: 56/0626/07/F | Recipient museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter | |
| OASIS ID: 1-38157 | Museum Accession no: 305/2007 | |
| Contractor's reference number/code: TNGLO7 | Dates fieldwork undertaken: 09.08.07, 20.09.07, 15.01.08, 01.02.08 | |
| <p>Description of works.</p> <p>South West Archaeology (SWARCH) was instructed by Shane Maddison of Conservation and Design (the client) to undertake, Historic Building recording, archaeological monitoring and recording during the excavation of test pits prior to the commencement of groundworks and during service trenching and reduction of ground levels associated with extension of the glasshouse at North Gate Lodge, Castle Street, Totnes.</p> <p>Two test pits were dug on 9th August 2007 by hand under close archaeological supervision (see Fig. 1 and 2).</p> <p>Test Pit 1 was 1.55m square and located to the north of the Vine House close to the northern end of garden of North Gate Lodge (see Fig. 1). Natural fractured shale bedrock was encountered at a depth of 0.9m. Over this lay a 0.25m thick layer of grey-brown silty clay subsoil (101) this contained frequent mortar and charcoal flecks, and sherds of post-medieval ceramics including an unmarked tobacco pipe stem, Totnes type coarsewares and two Rhineland drinking vessel body sherds. Sealing this layer was 0.65m of black friable silty-clay topsoil (100). This deposit was typical of deep garden cultivation and contained 19th and 20th century ceramics. No archaeological features were revealed. At a depth of 0.65m a heavily corroded iron drain pipe running N-S was encountered</p> <p>Test Pit 2 was located within the basement level of the Vine House extension, against the stone wall forming the central E-W spine of that building, 4.6m from its E end. The pit measured 0.8m E-W and 0.6m N-S and was excavated to a depth of 0.5m where the wall foundation was seen to be constructed on the surface of fractured shale bedrock. The wall foundation revealed was uniform and consisted of lime-mortared shale rubble, neatly coursed and heavily pointed. No other archaeological features were revealed.</p> <p>A survey of the 19th century glasshouse building was undertaken. The split level building, set on an east-west axis and built across the slope of the garden, was constructed of brick using a lime-mortared rubble stone retaining terrace wall as a central spine with two storeys to the north, below the retaining wall, and a single storey to the south. To the north the interior was comprised of a potting shed at lower ground level with a store and WC above to the north west. A lath and plaster partition separated this from the north east portion which was open to the roof, the floor having been removed. To the south the upper ground level comprised of a glasshouse partitioned in two by a dwarf brick wall topped by framed glass, a partitioned area that once housed a stove and, at the south west end a garden store. The roof was part slate, part galvanized metal sheet roof to the north and glass to the south. The interior was floored with Purbeck limestone and slate slabs to the south with earth to the north at the lower level. Phase 1 of the construction of the building was identified as the rubble stone rear (south) wall of the lower ground level potting shed; a retaining wall containing an alcove at the west end (see Fig. 1). The wall showed no evidence for domestic use and the alcove did not contain a hearth or any evidence of use as a fireplace. A second phase is represented by sections of wall adjoining this to the east and west, identified as later (circa mid-late 19th century) by their relationships to the phase 1 wall. The rest of the existing building fabric on both levels consisted of a third phase, a brick built glasshouse dating from the late 19th - early 20th century. The survey revealed no evidence of the use of the site as domestic in function, or evidence clearly relating to an earlier building on the site. The earliest fabric can be relatively dated to the late 18th century at the earliest and would appear to have been constructed as a retaining wall for the garden to the south.</p> <p>Further archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during works associated with the construction of the glasshouse extension. A footings trench (see Fig. 1) of less than 1m in depth showed a single context below turf layer similar to/same as that found in the pre-excavation test-pit, where it overlay the bedrock. This trench contained a variety of mid-late Victorian pottery sherds. The area inside the footings was also dug out to above 1m in depth; this showed the same context as the footings, with no notable finds or archaeological features or structures. As the previous test-pit had suggested, the ground of the construction site appears to be no earlier than mid nineteenth century. At the far north end this soil is immediately above the natural bedrock and elsewhere the depth of construction did not penetrate beyond this context. It is likely to be a redeposited Victorian soil used to level out a garden area.</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: Robert Waterhouse, Jon Freeman and Dave Elliot of South West Archaeology | Date sent to HER: | |

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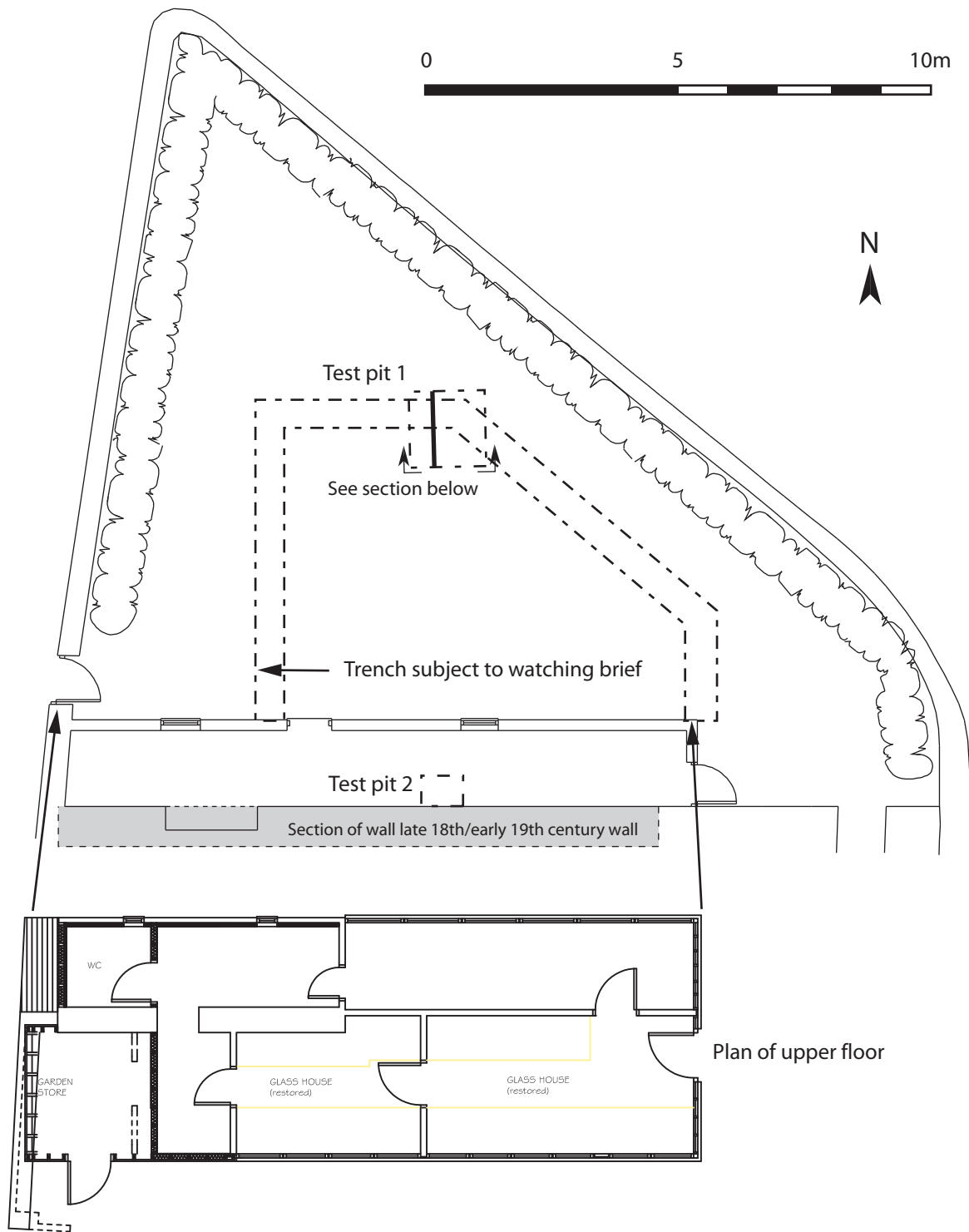


Fig. 1: Plan showing location of test pits, existing buildings and footings subject to watching brief. (based on plan provided by Conservation and Design, Shane Maddison).

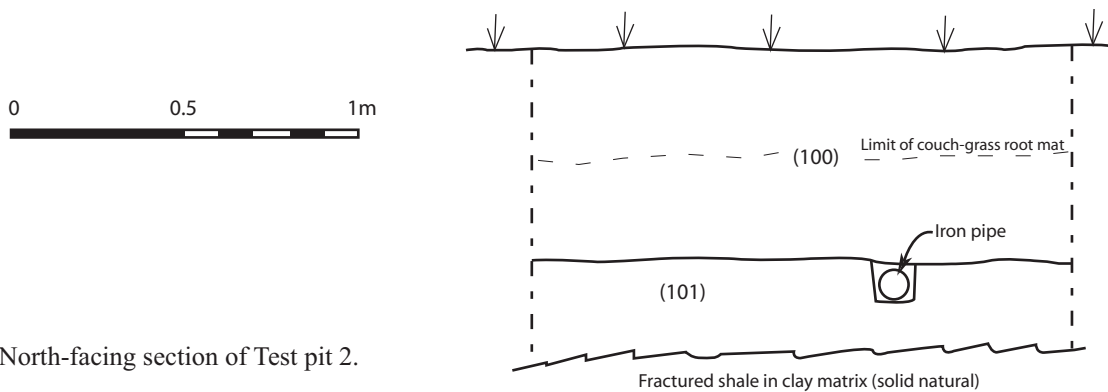


Fig. 2: North-facing section of Test pit 2.