

THE THATCHED INN, ABBOTSHAM, DEVON

(NGR SS 42469 26643)

Results of an archaeological watching brief

Torridge District Council planning references 1/1131/2012/FUL,
condition 4 and 1/1173/2012/LBC, condition 4

Prepared by:
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On behalf of:
Mr Leslie Heard

Document No: ACD740/2/0

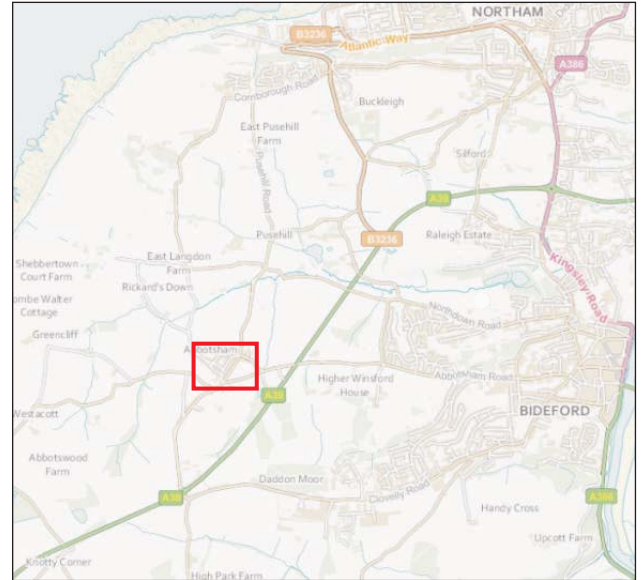
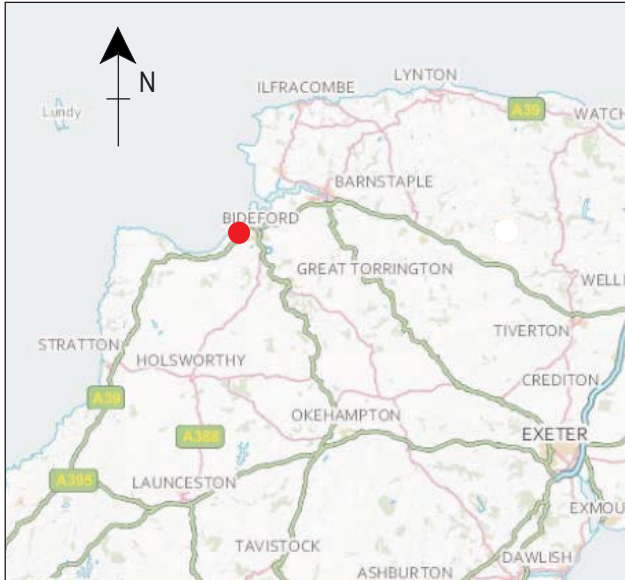
Date: October 2013



archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Abbotsham, Torridge	National Grid Reference SS 42469 26643	Number: (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
Subject: Watching Brief, The Thatched Inn, Abbotsham		Photo attached? N
Planning Application nos: 1/1131/2012/FUL and 1/1173/2012/LBC	Recipient museum: Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon	
OASIS ID: 161270	Museum Accession no: NDDMS2013.34	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD740	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 9-13 September 2013	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>Introduction An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks for the construction of an extension at the side of The Thatched Inn, Abbotsham, near Bideford (Fig. 1). It was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological work required by Torridge District Council as a condition of planning permission as advised by Devon County Council Historic Environment Team.</p> <p>The site is located within the centre of the village and The Thatched Inn is a grade II listed building (National Heritage List no. 11706689), described as an early 17th-century house, with 18th- and 19th-century brickwork. The building has a 2-room and cross-passage layout, with additions, and was a farm in the 19th century. During the excavation of the adjacent Berry Cottage, a midden was discovered. This comprised shells, as well as pottery (of 17th and 18th-century date) and clay pipe fragments, sheep bones and a flint. The aim of the watching brief was to preserve by record any archaeological features or deposits exposed during groundworks associated with the development.</p> <p>Results The groundworks consisted of the levelling of the beer garden area adjacent to the Inn to a maximum depth of 1m and the subsequent digging of foundation trenches (Fig. 2). The overburden consisted of a dark black-brown friable silty loam with abundant remains of building waste including fragments of drain pipes, bricks, concrete, china and glass all of modern date. This material had been deposited during landscaping within the last 40 years.</p> <p>Removal of the overburden revealed natural light greyish-yellow compact clay. The foundation trenches, which measured between 0.8 and 0.9m wide, were excavated into the clay to a maximum depth of 0.9m. No archaeological features were present.</p> <p>Comment It is clear that the site had been extensively landscaped, and that the ground had been levelled prior to the construction of the present beer garden. This had been created through the importation of soils and building debris to form a raised area above the floor level of the public house. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the groundworks, and no finds recovered.</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>		
<p>Recorder: Stella De-Villiers, AC archaeology</p>		<p>Date sent to HER: 18 October 2013</p>



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0 100m
Scale 1:1500@A4



Location of site



Area monitored

PROJECT

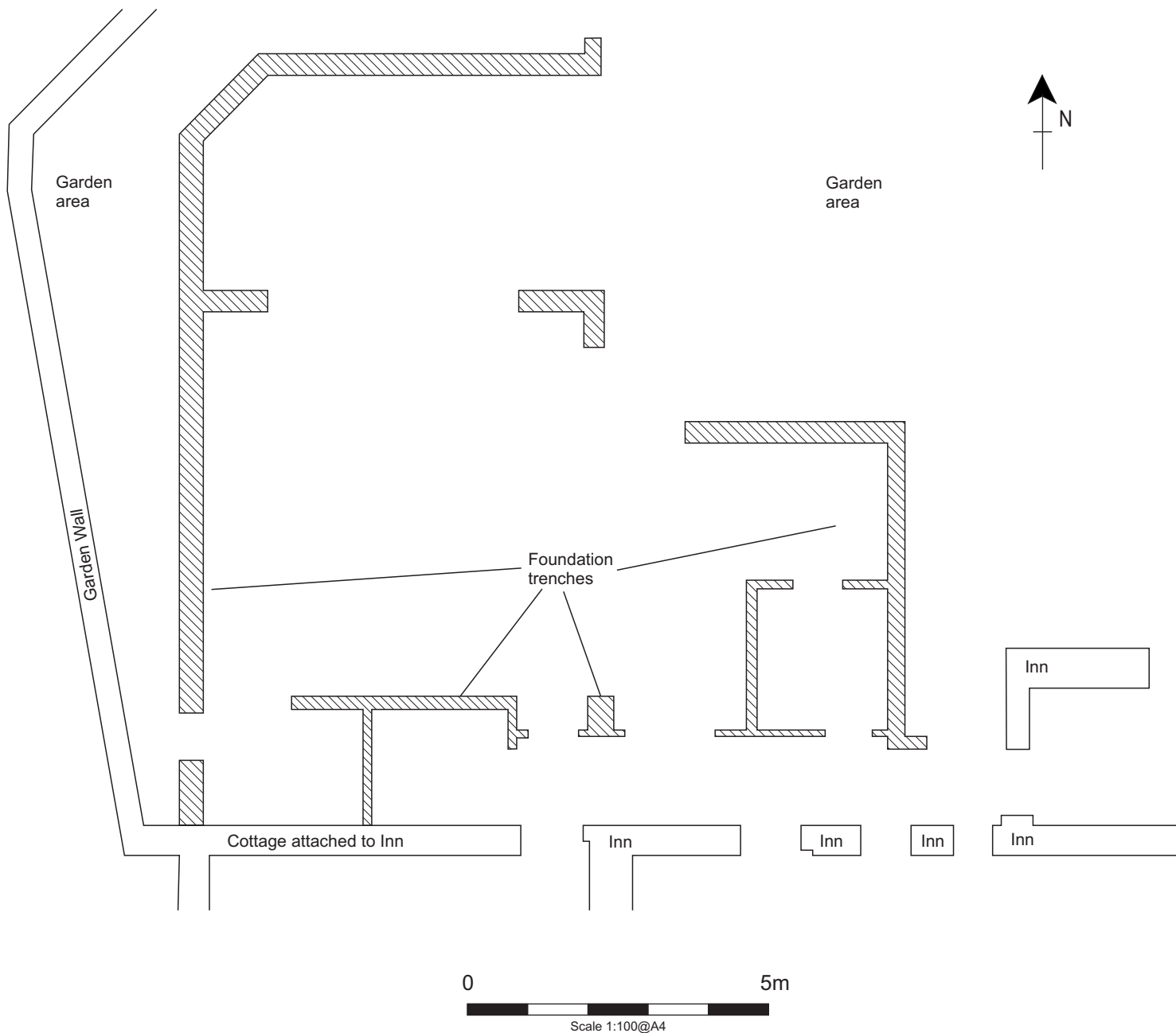
The Thatched Inn, Abbotsham, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Site location



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PROJECT

The Thatched Inn,
Abbotsham, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 2: Location of
foundation trenches

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