

# THE MANSION HOUSE, FORE STREET, TOTNES, DEVON

NGR SX 8054 6034

Results of an archaeological watching brief

Planning Refs: Devon County Council DCC/3515/2013 & South  
Hams District Council 56/1242/13/CM

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Prepared by:  
Alex Farnell

On behalf of:  
NPS South West Ltd

Document No: ACD792/2/0

Date: March 2014



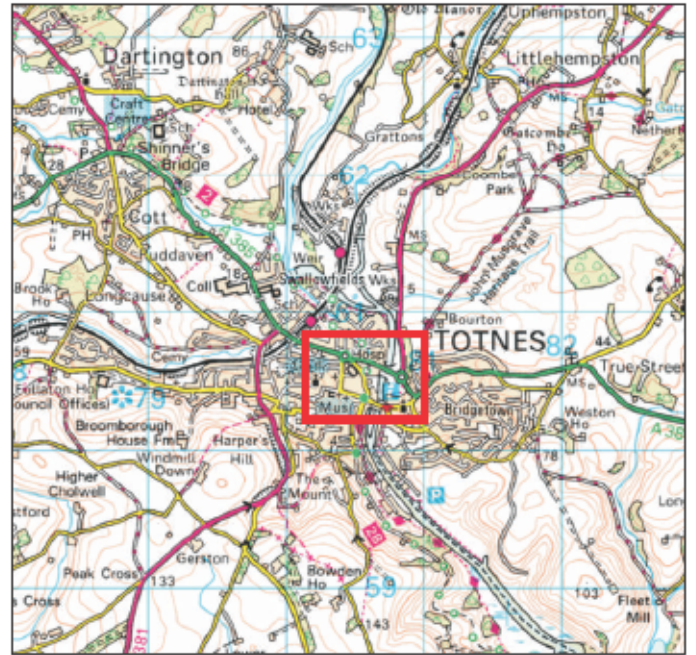
AC archaeology

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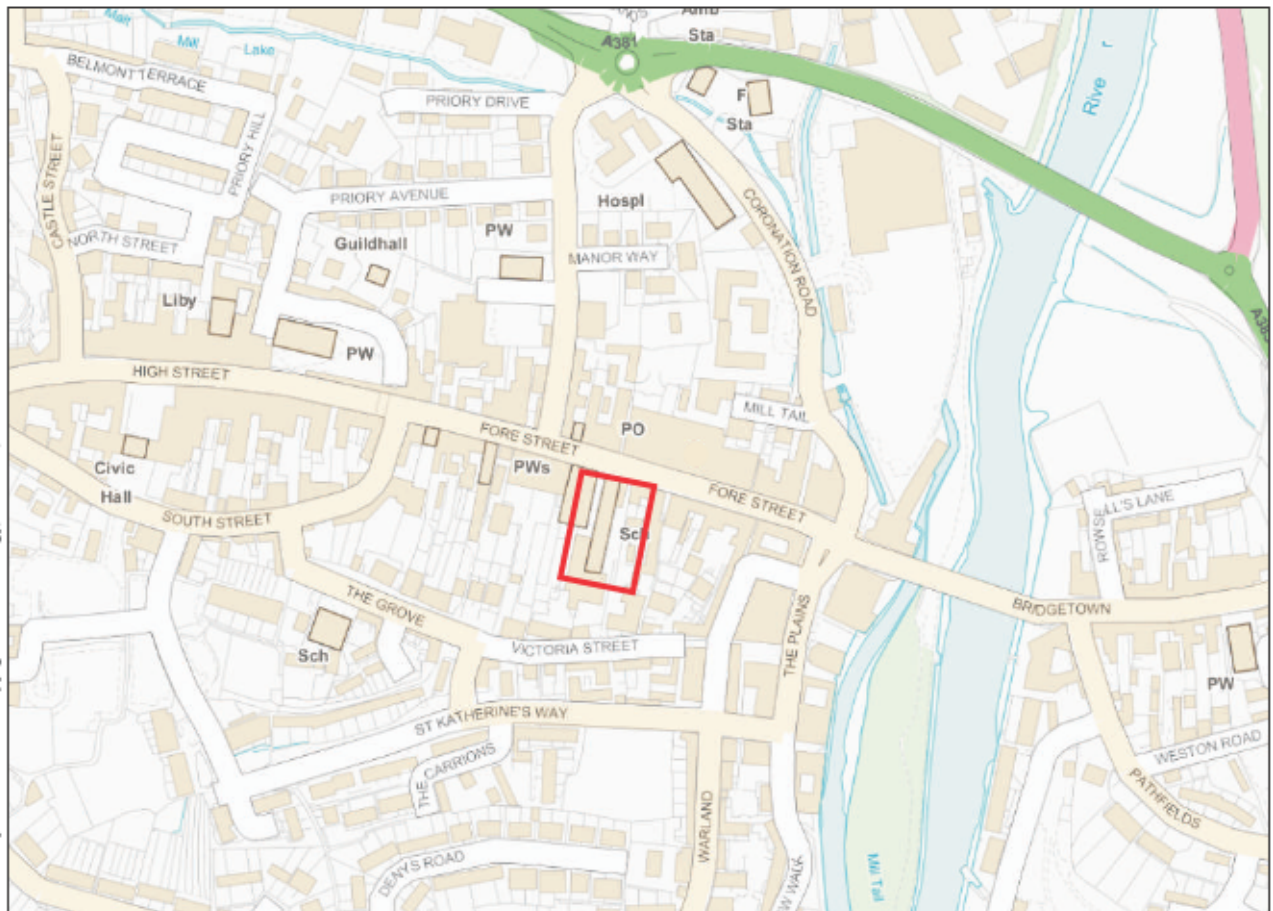
# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Totnes, South Hams	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SX 8043 6034	<b>Number:</b> (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
<b>Subject:</b> The Mansion House, Fore Street, Totnes: Results of an archaeological watching brief		<b>Photo attached?</b> Y
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 56/1242/13/CM	<b>Recipient museum:</b> N/A	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> 176005	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> ACD792	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 06.11.13-22.11.13	
<p><b>Description of works.</b></p> <p>The excavation of two tree pits was monitored during construction of a new paved area and landscaping within the rear courtyard of The Mansion, Fore Street, Totnes (Figs 1-2). The Mansion House was rebuilt in 1797 and is on the site of a 17th-century property, orchard and chapel. The site (no. 36 Fore Street) is located within one of the medieval burgage plots on the south side of Fore Street. An archaeological evaluation undertaken prior to the construction of a nursery at the rear of the site identified evidence for activity from the 11th century to the present day.</p> <p><i>Tree pit 1</i> This pit measured 1m by 0.9m by 0.35m deep. Natural subsoil was encountered at a depth of 0.17m directly below the modern tarmac surface. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed.</p> <p><i>Tree pit 2</i> This pit measured 1.5m by 1.7m. A large late 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup>-century water tank was encountered below 0.15m of modern crushed tarmac overburden, and was partially exposed within the trench. It measured 2.5m long (N/S) by 1.3m wide (E/W), and was built of slate slabs bonded with grey mortar that had been constructed into the natural. The tank was capped by large slates, measuring 1.55m long by 0.40m wide by 0.06m deep bonded in clay. In the southwest corner it was fed by two ceramic pipes and a lead pipe.</p> <p><i>Summary</i> Other than the water tank, no archaeological features or deposits were exposed. It is clear that this part of the property has been heavily landscaped in the 20th century with only substantial cut features surviving.</p>		
<p><b>A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.</b></p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> Alex Farnell, AC archaeology		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 28 March 2014

Please email completed form to: [archaeol@devon.gov.uk](mailto:archaeol@devon.gov.uk) or post to County Archaeology Service, Environment Directorate, Matford Lane Offices, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QW. Information recorded on this form will be added to the Historic Environment Record, and made available to all researchers. Any plans or photographs embedded within or attached to this form remain the copyright © of the recorder, and must not be reproduced in any publication without the explicit consent of the copyright holder.



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Location of site

PROJECT

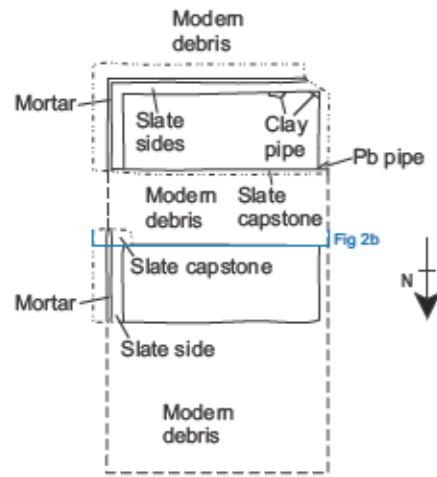
The Mansion House, Totnes, Devon

TITLE

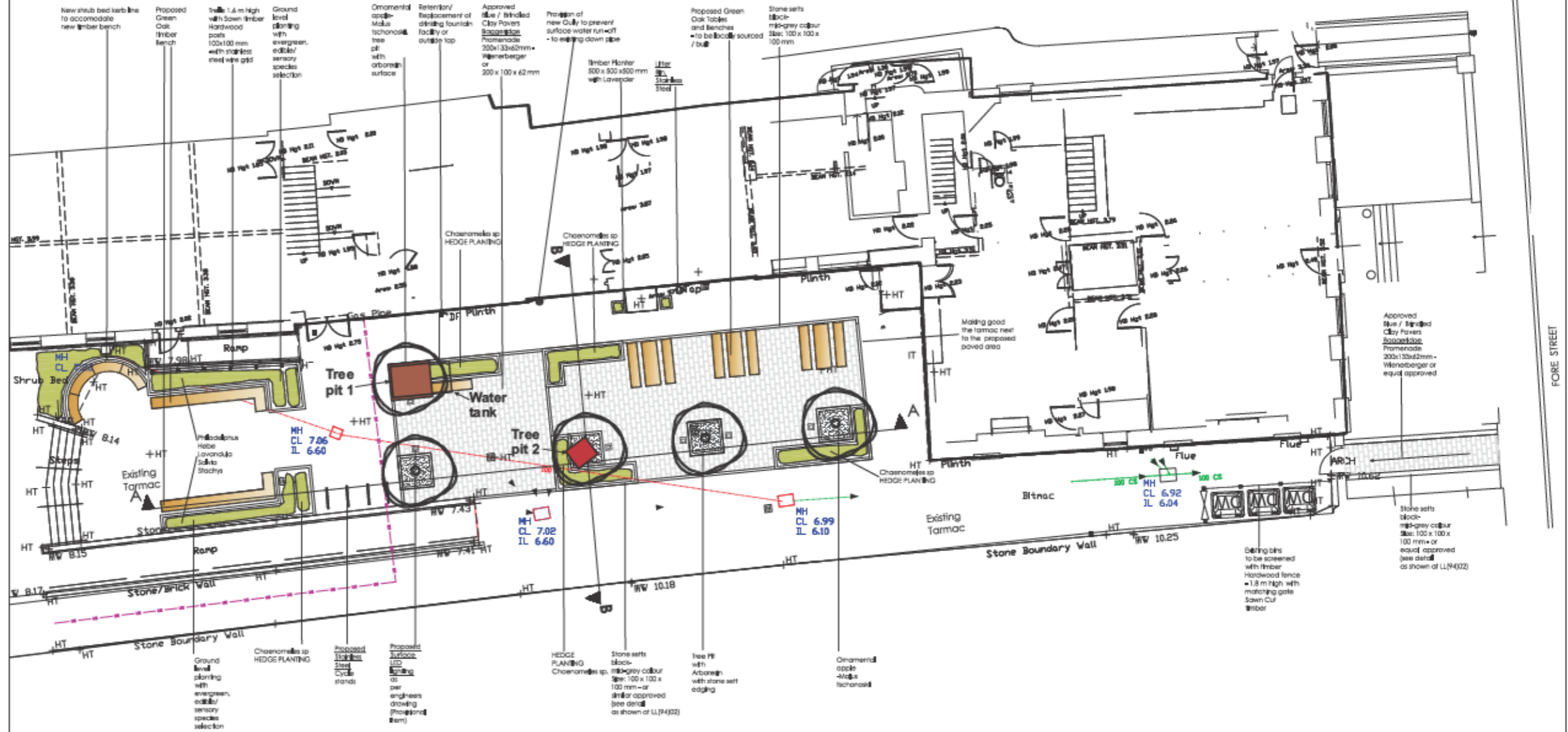
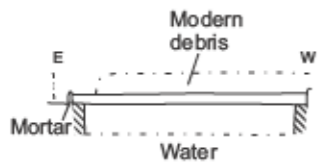
Fig. 1: Site location



a) Plan of water tank



b) Section through tank



**Key**

Tree pits



**PROJECT**

The Mansion House, Totnes, Devon

**TITLE**

Fig. 2: Plan showing monitored areas





Plate 1: Tree pit 1, viewed from the west (0.3m scale)



Plate 2: The water tank in tree pit 2, viewed from the southwest (1m scale)

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