

THE QUEENS HEAD, WEST STREET, TAVISTOCK, DEVON

(NGR SX 48005 74429)

Results of an archaeological trench evaluation

Condition 5 of West Devon Borough Council planning  
reference 01468/2014

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Prepared by:  
Paul Cooke

On behalf of:  
K.D. Paine & Associates

Document No: ACD1091/3/0

Date: March 2015

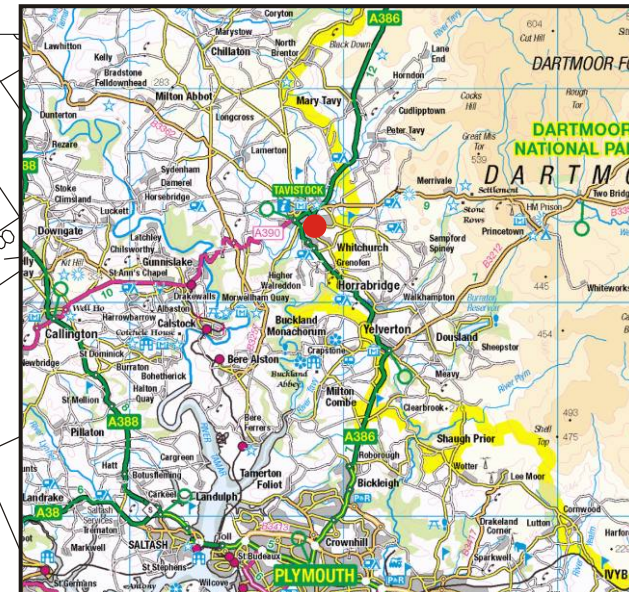


AC archaeology

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# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Tavistock, West Devon	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SX 48005 74429	<b>Number:</b> (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
<b>Subject:</b> The Queens Head, West Street, Tavistock, Devon: Results of an archaeological trench evaluation.		<b>Photo attached?</b> Yes
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 01468/2014	<b>Recipient museum:</b> N/A	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> 206551	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> ACD1091	<b>Date fieldwork undertaken:</b> 11 March 2015	
<p><b>Introduction</b> (Fig. 1)</p> <p>An archaeological trench evaluation was carried out by AC archaeology in advance of construction of an extension, and other associated works, to the Queens Head, Tavistock, Devon (SX 48005 74429). The site occupies 0.1ha on the north side of West Street within the centre of the historic core of the town. The topography of the area slopes down to the east. The front of the site is located at a height of approximately 84m aOD. The rear of the property has been terraced into the hillslope, into the solid bedrock of Carboniferous sandstone and argillaceous rocks of the St Mellion formation. The evaluation was undertaken within the rear yard and along the access along the east side of the property.</p> <p>The site is located within the historic core of the medieval town, in an area characterised by burgage plots situated along the main thoroughfares, within the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site, and the Tavistock Conservation Area.</p> <p>The property, along with the adjacent no. 79, is designated as a Grade II Listed Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest (National Heritage List No. 1326202), described as being of 18th-century date and remodelled in c. 1840. The building had broadly developed in its current form by the mid 19th century, when it comprised two long, narrow ranges either side of a central passage and yard. Wood's plan of 1842 depicts the rear range partially enclosed, as well as ranges of buildings to the east associated with no. 81 West Street. The latter have been demolished and this land now forms the access to the rear property.</p> <p><b>Results</b> (Fig. 2; Plates 1-4)</p> <p>The evaluation consisted of the excavation of two trenches and three smaller test pits totalling 25m long, all 1.1m wide. Excavation was carried out by a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket. The trenches were located to target areas of the new development, such as new walls, but avoiding existing manholes. Due to space restrictions trench 2 was excavated in sections and backfilled before excavation continued.</p> <p>In all five interventions the natural consisted of solid bedded slate/mudstone, which was exposed at depths of between 0.15m and 0.23m from the surface. This had been cut through by the excavation of modern services, and was overlaid by modern gravel and sand forming a bedding layer for the modern paved yard surface. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed, and no finds were present.</p> <p><b>Discussion</b></p> <p>It is clear from the results of the evaluation that there has been significant truncation of the ground level within the site, and that this occurred in the later 20th century, perhaps when the rear range of outbuildings were converted in residential accommodation. No archaeological deposits or features were exposed, and it is concluded that the whole of the rear yard has been landscaped, and there is no potential for the survival of below-ground archaeological remains within the outside spaces.</p> <p>This report and the associated OASIS entry represent the archive for the project.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> Paul Cooke, AC Archaeology		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 17 March 2015



Site location

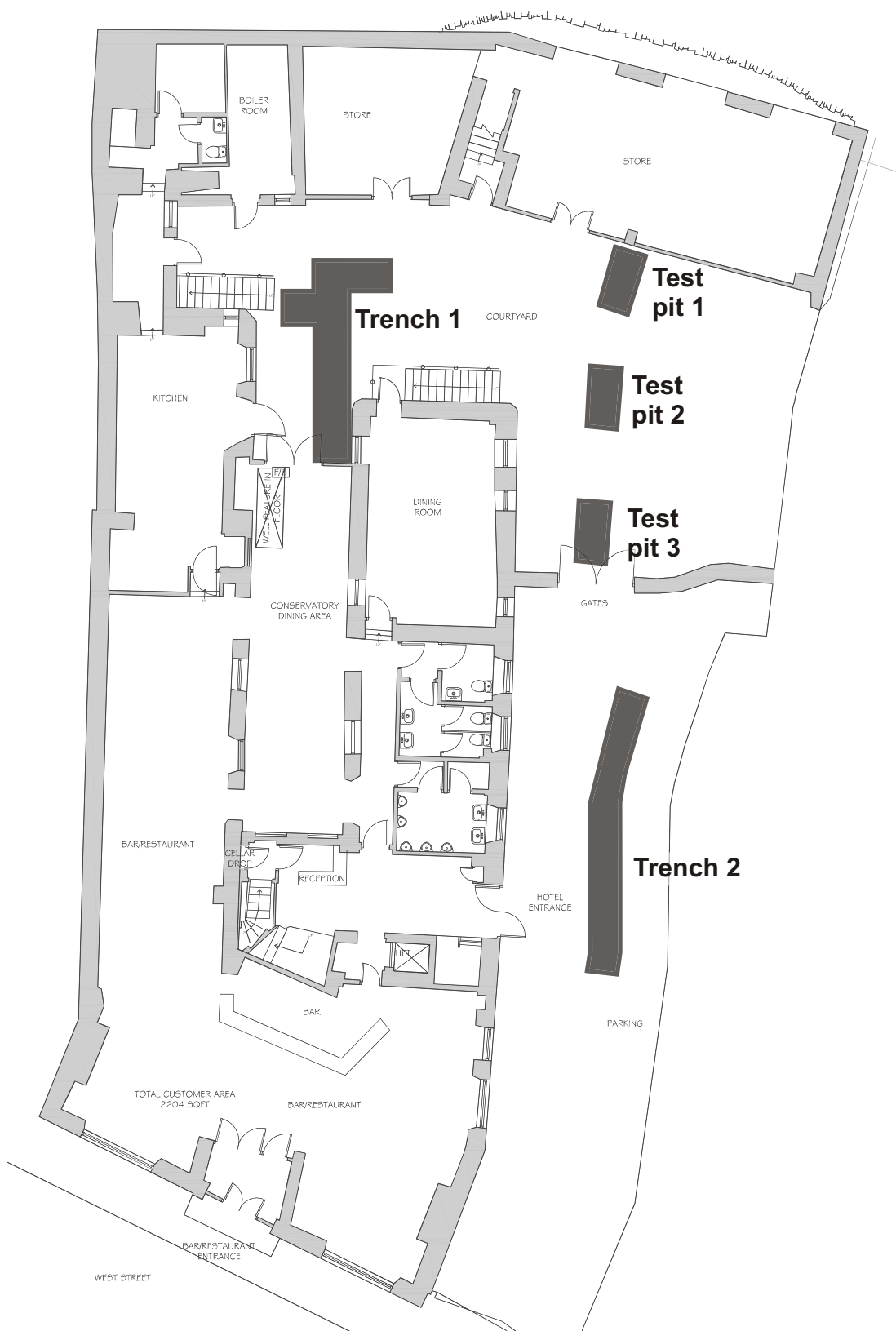
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0 25m  
Scale 1:750@A4

PROJECT  
The Queens Head, West  
Street, Tavistock

TITLE  
Fig. 1: Location of site





0 10m  
Scale 1:200@A4

PROJECT

The Queens Head, West Street, Tavistock

TITLE

Fig. 2: Site plan showing  
location of trenches and test pits



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Plate 1: General view of site, looking southwest from the rear range. The location of Trench 1 is beyond the brick pier, with test pits 1-3 behind the machine.



Plate 3: Test pit 1, east facing section showing modern deposits over bedrock. 1m scale



Plate 2: Trench 1, general view looking southeast, 1m scale



Plate 4: The middle of trench 3 showing exposed bedrock, looking north. 1m scale

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