

# BELMONT HOSPITAL LODGE, TIVERTON, DEVON

(NGR SS 95818 12966)

Results of historic building recording

Mid Devon District Council planning reference 13/1354/LBC,  
condition 3

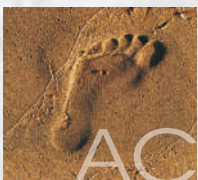
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Prepared by:  
Stella De-Villiers MA PCIfA

On behalf of:  
Devonshire Homes

Document No: ACD1145/2/0

Date: June 2015



AC archaeology

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# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Tiverton	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SS 95821 12968	<b>Number:</b> (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
<b>Subject:</b> Belmont Hospital Lodge, Tiverton, Devon: Results of historic building recording		<b>Photo attached?</b> Y
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 13/01382/LBC	<b>Recipient museum:</b> N/A	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> 215666	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b>  ACD1145	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b>  21 May 2015	
<p><b>Description of works.</b></p> <p><i>Introduction and historical background (Fig. 1)</i> Historic building recording was undertaken by AC archaeology on behalf of Devonshire Homes during the conversion of the derelict lodge at the former Belmont Hospital, Tiverton into residential accommodation. The works were required under condition 3 of the grant of Listed Building Consent by Mid Devon District Council (planning reference 13/01382/LBC). The lodge is listed Grade II (National Heritage List no. 1384768), under the name "Pedestrian Gateway and Gate and Entrance Lodge to Belmont Hospital". It is situated within the Tiverton Conservation Area, and is located to the southwest of the workhouse at the former main entrance from Water Lane. The geology of the area consists of Permian Lower Sandstone which has been quarried locally including to the immediate south of the former hospital grounds.</p> <p>The hospital site occupies 1.4ha, with the principal building originating as the Tiverton Union Workhouse, which was constructed by the partnership of Sir George Gilbert Scott and William Moffatt in 1837–8. The Tiverton Union Workhouse replaced an earlier workhouse that was completed in 1704 (Collings and Passmore 2008). An infirmary (The Twyford Building) was added in the later 19th century, and was demolished in 2014. The workhouse became Belmont Hospital on the foundation of the National Health Service in 1948, and closed in the noughties following the construction of a new Tiverton and District Hospital elsewhere in the town.</p> <p><i>Results (Fig. 2; Plates 1-10)</i> The lodge is constructed of light reddish-grey sandstone and bonded in a pinkish-white lime mortar. In the north and east external elevations – the principal elevations within the former workhouse grounds – the masonry is squared blocks laid in neat courses; elsewhere the stonework is rubble masonry laid in rough courses. There are projecting bands of stonework at the base of the walls and at eaves level; neither extend around to the rear (south) elevation. The principal north elevation is of three-bays, and symmetrical with a projecting pedimented porch with an outer tall, breccia round-headed opening. There is a window opening either side of the porch, each with flat breccia lintels, and white limestone sills. The windows have been removed.</p> <p>The building has a fully hipped slate roof above which a yellow brick chimney projects. The brickwork extends from the top of the rear wall. The top four courses project outwards forming a decorative chimney cap, and are finished with a yellow chimney pot which has a red terracotta cap. The roof structure is formed of king post trusses, with diagonal struts, that support back purlins. These are original timbers, whilst the ridge purlin and common rafters are modern replacements.</p> <p>Internally the lodge originally had a two room plan though the partitions had been removed prior to the survey. The front door originally opened into a larger western room, with a smaller room to the east. The walls are finished in a pinkish-white lime plaster painted cream, with occasional patches of cement repair visible. During the course of the survey, the lower portion of the walls and the area in the south elevation where a new opening will be created the plaster was removed. No blocked openings or historic features are present here beneath the plaster. The western room was heated by a fireplace in the south wall. This is set within a slightly projecting chimney breast and has a brick and stone hearth. A black-painted wooden surround had been removed from the opening.</p> <p>The floor had been partially removed prior to the survey. In the western room there had been a wooden floor above a 300mm deep void. The eastern room has a concrete floor, which was partially removed under archaeological control. The concrete is 60mm thick and overlays a deposit of medium red-brown sandy-clay, which was exposed for a depth of 300mm. No archaeological features were exposed.</p>		

The gateway is integral to the northwest corner of the lodge, as well as to the south end of the western boundary wall of the former workhouse. It has been designed in a classical style with a round-headed archway, incorporating a projecting keystone, under a pediment. A fine-grained breccia has been used for some of the detailing. The gate is iron and has diagonal cross-bracing with a central roundel. The arch above is filled with a fixed panel of iron bars.

*Comments*

The lodge is located at the former original entrance to the workhouse. The gate, lodge and boundary wall would have formed a physical and visual barrier to those visiting or confined to the workhouse. A further gateway would have been present at the (now-demolished) main entrance to the workhouse building itself. More recently, when the site was the Belmont Hospital, the gate used as part of an access route through the complex.

The lodge is a simple structure that would have originally accommodated a gate keeper. It comprised two rooms, one of which was heated, presumably a main living room and a smaller bedroom.

This report and the associated OASIS entry represent the archive for the project.

*Source consulted*

Collings, A.G. and Passmore, A.J. 2008 *Belmont Hospital Tiverton, Devon: An Archaeological Assessment and Historic Building Appraisal*, Exeter Archaeology Report **08.46**.

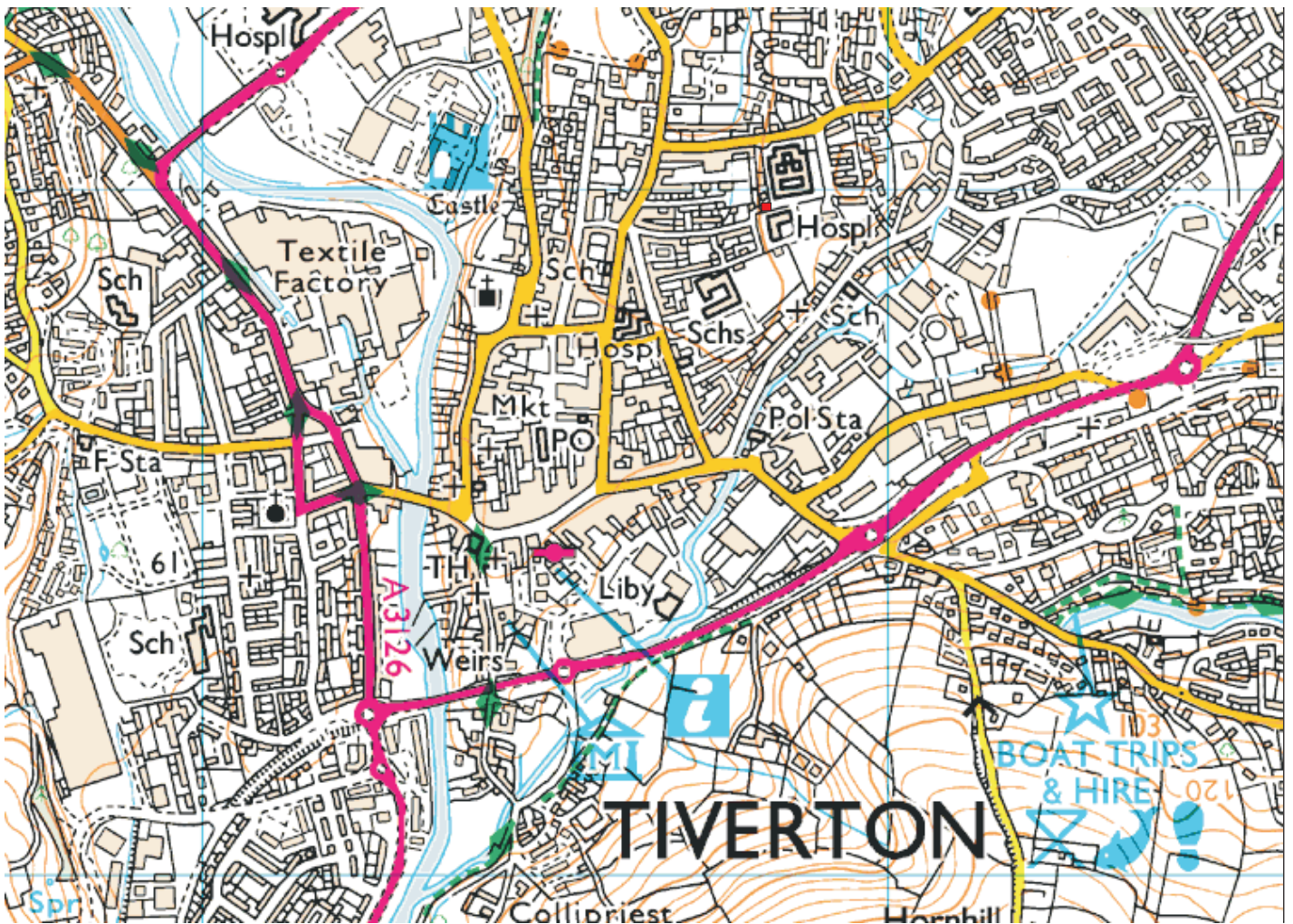
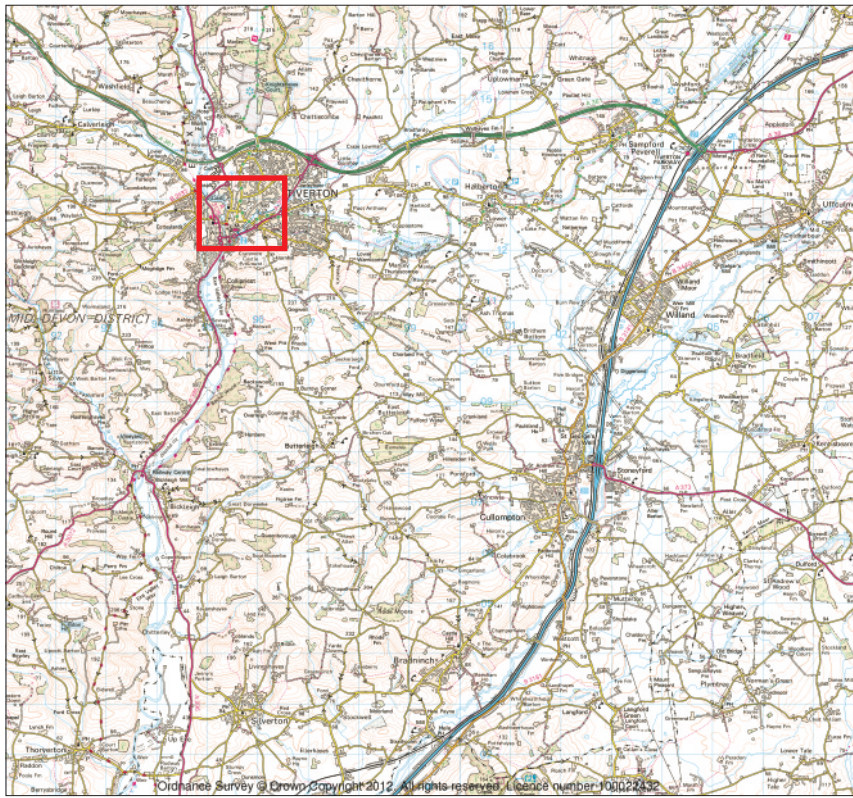
**A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.**


**Recorder:**

Stella De-Villiers, AC Archaeology.

**Date sent to HER:**

26 June 2015



 Location of site

0  500m  
Scale 1:12,500@A4

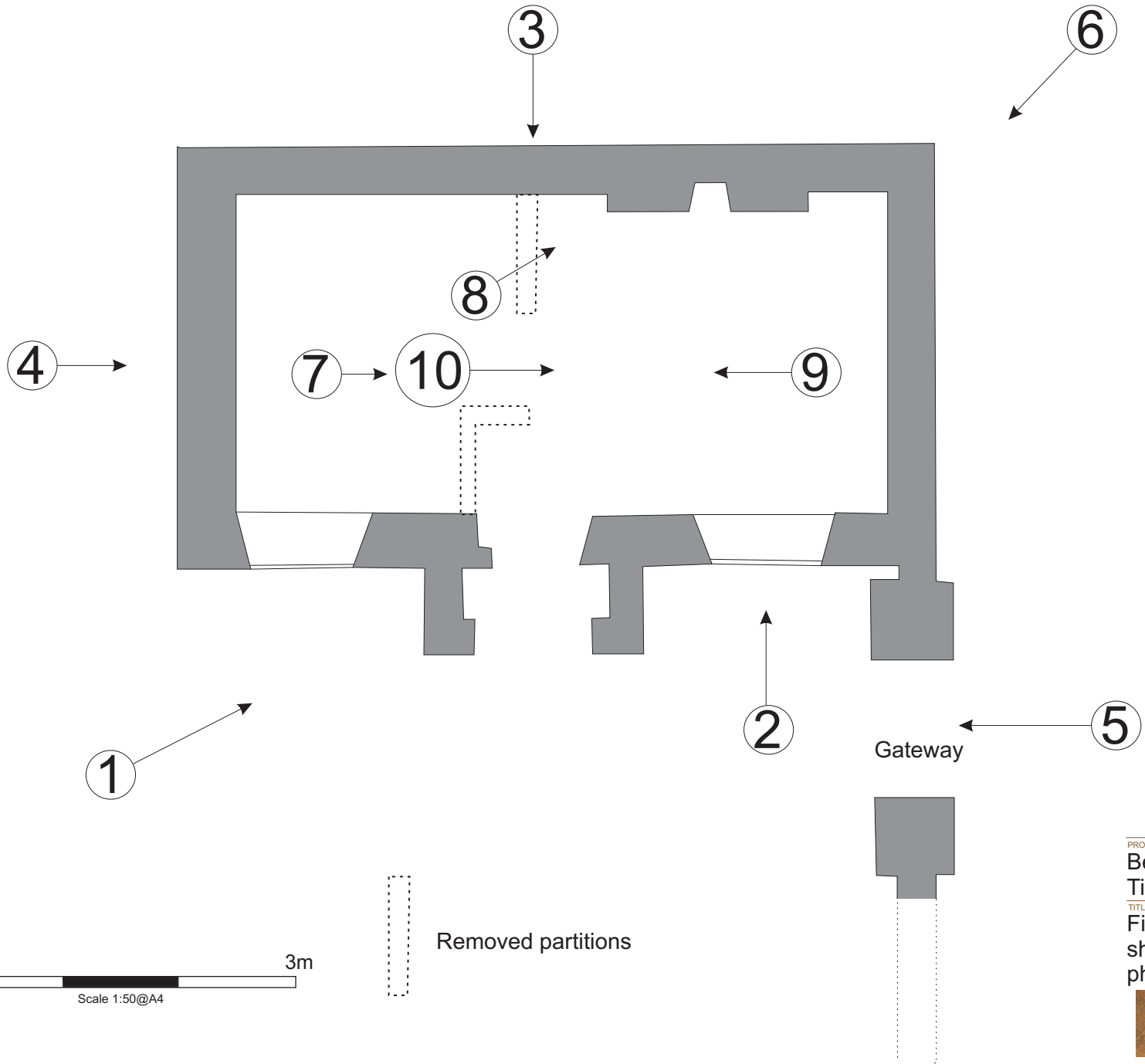
PROJECT

Belmont Hospital Lodge, Tiverton, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Site location





Removed partitions

PROJECT  
Belmont Hospital Lodge,  
Tiverton, Devon  
TITLE  
Fig. 2: Plan of lodge,  
showing location of  
photographs





Plate 1: North elevation of the lodge, with the gateway in the background, looking from the northeast (1m scale)



Plate 2: West window in the north elevation of the lodge, looking from the north (1m scale)



Plate 3: South elevation of the lodge, looking from the south (1m scale)



Plate 4: East elevation of the lodge, looking from the east (1m scale)



Plate 5: West elevation of the gateway, looking from the west (1m scale)



Plate 6: View of the lodge and gateway with the hospital and new development in the background, looking from the southwest



Plate 7: Interior of the lodge,  
looking from the east (1m scale)



Plate 8: Interior of the lodge, showing the  
area in which the new opening will be  
created, looking from the northeast  
(1m scale)





Plate 9: Interior of the lodge, looking from the west, showing the removed fire surround (1m scale)



Plate 10: Roof truss in the lodge, looking from the east

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