

THE TWYFORD INN, TIVERTON, DEVON

(NGR SS 95585 12808)

Results of an archaeological watching brief

Mid Devon District Council planning reference
15/00316/FULL, condition 3

Prepared by
Andrew Passmore BSc MCIfA

On behalf of
Kingston Building Contractors

Document No: ACD1154/2/0

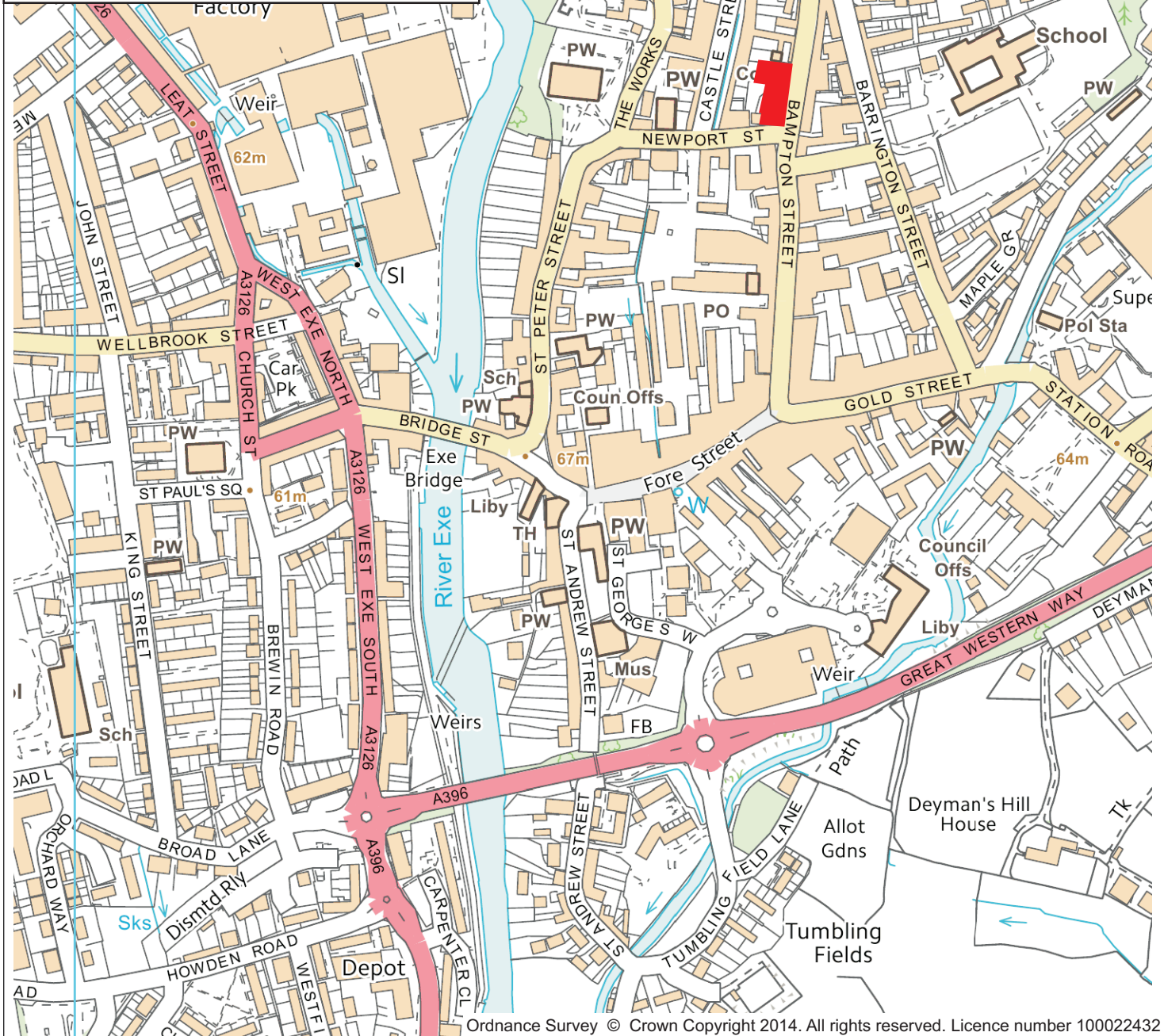
Date: October 2015



AC archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Tiverton, Mid Devon	National Grid Reference SS 95585 12808	Number: (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
Subject: The Twyford Inn, Bampton Street, Tiverton, Results of an archaeological watching brief		Photo attached? Y
Planning Application no: 15/00316/FULL	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS ID: 223452	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD1154	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 30 June 2015 to 20 July 2015	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p><i>Introduction</i> A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks for the construction of 8 dwellings on the site of the former Twyford Inn public house, Bampton Street, Tiverton (Fig. 1). The public house and outbuildings had been demolished prior to works and monitoring commencing. The building is documented from the early 18th century, and the current footprint (prior to demolition) had been established by 1809; the building may have been rebuilt in c. 1799. The main public house was refaced in the late 19th century (Passmore 2015). The public house was severely damaged by fire in April 2014.</p> <p>The site is a prominent corner property at the junction of routeways in the centre of the historic town. The plot therefore had the potential to contain below-ground archaeological deposits relating to the historic development of Tiverton.</p> <p><i>Results</i> Monitoring took place during the excavation of foundation trenches for the new dwellings, after the demolition of the public house and outbuildings, and removal of the associated internal and external ground surfaces (Fig. 2; Plate 1). Along the east side of the site the stone footings for the east wall of the outbuildings survived; those of the public house had been partially removed. Elsewhere the deposit sequence comprised sterile layers of gravelly clay and sand totalling 0.50m thick overlying river gravels. In the northern part of the site these were partially sealed by deposits of mid-dark brown sandy clay measuring between 0.05m and 0.40m thick.</p> <p>The only feature present was a stone and brick well. This was exposed by the contractors adjacent to a monitored foundation trench to a minimum depth of approx. 1.50m below the surface. A pump is shown on historic Ordnance Survey maps (see Passmore 2015, fig. 4) within a former rear courtyard, and the well is probably associated with the public house.</p> <p>Along the Newport Street frontage demolition had exposed a cellar that measured 8.75m long by 4.36m wide and 1.96m deep (Plates 2-5). At its northwest corner was a flight of concrete steps formerly overlain by later wooden stairs that led into a short corridor. There had been a doorway at the south end of this corridor. The cellar was constructed of local stone bonded with pale yellow-white lime mortar, and had a cobbled floor that had been sealed with a thin skim of concrete. The cellar also had a beer ramp on the Newport Street frontage, and a narrow (0.36m wide) brick-lined opening on the Bampton Street frontage.</p> <p><i>Summary</i> Other than the well, which is probably associated with the public house, no archaeological deposits or features were exposed. There was no evidence of any earlier settlement along Bampton Street – an ancient routeway into Bampton – and the construction of the cellar along Newport Street had removed any archaeological deposits alongside this road.</p> <p>This report and the associated OASIS entry represent the archive for the project.</p> <p><i>Source Consulted</i> Passmore, A., 2015, <i>The Twyford Inn, Newport Street, Tiverton, (NGR SS 95585 12808), Results of an historic building appraisal</i>, AC archaeology document no. ACD1032/2/0</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: Paul Cooke, AC archaeology		Date sent to HER: 8 October 2015



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PROJECT

Twyford Inn, Newport Street, Tiverton

TITLE

Fig. 1: Site location



0 25m

Scale 1:750@A4

1
Site location



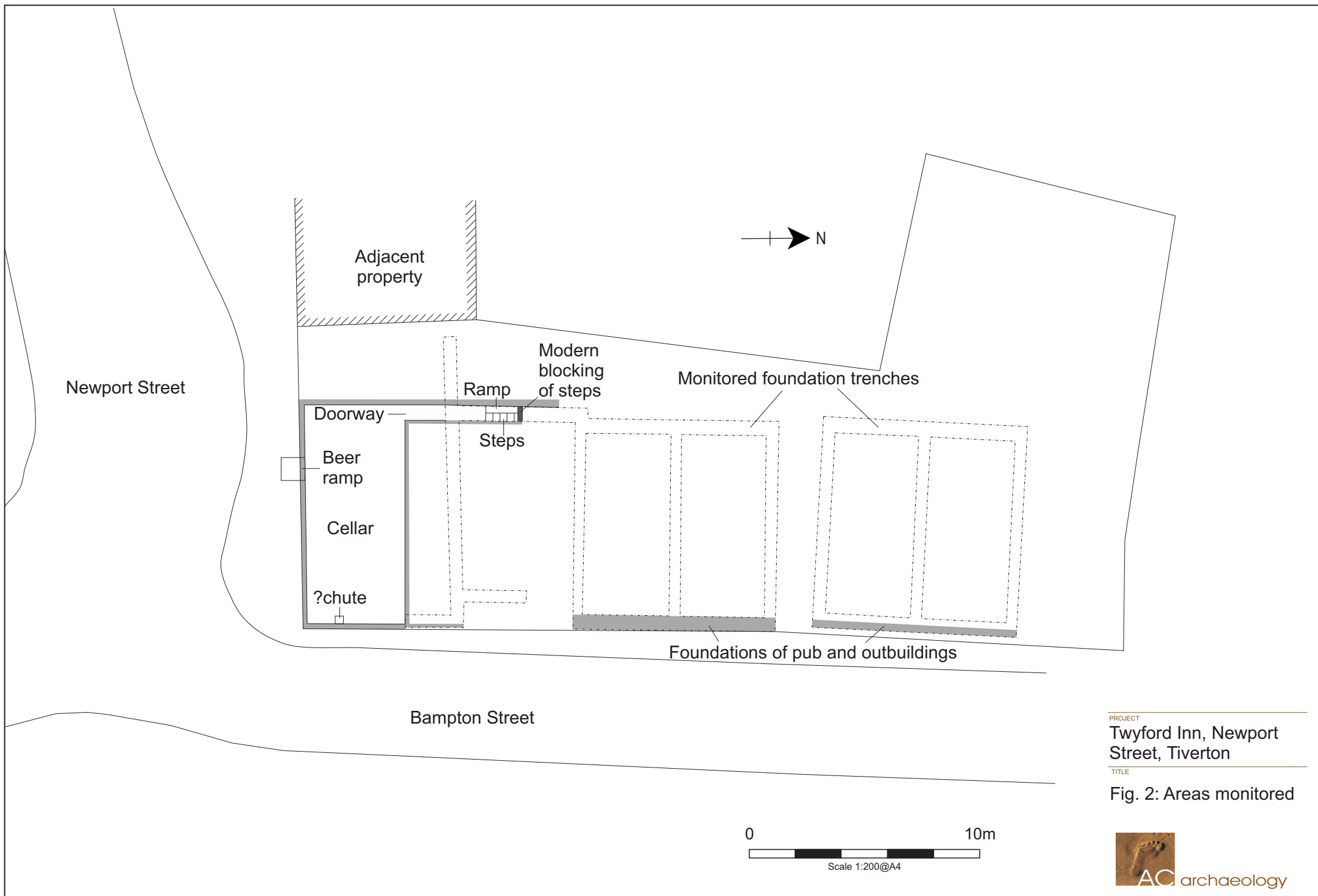




Plate 1: General view of the north end of the site during the excavation of foundation trenches, viewed from the south west.



Plate 2: The cellar viewed from the east.



Plate 3: The cellar viewed from the southeast



Plate 4: The west end of the cellar showing the short corridor at the northwest corner, viewed from the south. 1m scale



Plate 5: The steps down into the cellar viewed from the south. 1m scale

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