

# LAND AT ALLER ROAD, KINGSKERSWELL, DEVON

(NGR SX 8781 6895)

## Results of an Archaeological Trench Evaluation

Teignbridge District Council Planning Reference:  
16/02402/MAJ (Condition 4)

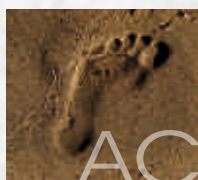
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Prepared by:  
George Gandham

On behalf of:  
Howard Developments (Torquay) Ltd

Report No: ACD1978/2/0

Date: October 2019



AC archaeology

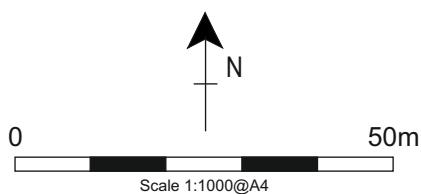
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# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Kingskerswell, Teignbridge	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SX 8781 6895	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Land at Aller Road, Kingskerswell, Devon: Results of an archaeological trench evaluation		<b>Photo attached</b> Plates 1-3
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 16/02402/MAJ	<b>Recipient museum:</b> N/A	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> 339754	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> ACD1978	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 29-30 August 2019	
<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by AC archaeology in advance of the construction of 12 new dwellings on land at Aller Road, Kingskerswell, Devon (SX 8781 6895). The site lies at the current north extent of Kingskerswell on land between Aller Road to the southwest, Torquay Road (the former A380) to the northeast and the Barn Owl Inn to the west (Fig. 1). Prior to commencement it comprised an overgrown former pasture plot (Plate 1).</p> <p>The Barn Owl Inn, originally 'Manor Farm with outbuildings', is a Grade-II listed building believed to have 17th century origins. Aller was the site of the Domesday estate of <i>Alra</i>, mentioned also in the Testa de Nevil (book of fees) in 1244, and the site is reputedly the location of the medieval manor house. Remains of this are recorded on the 1888 First-Edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey map. Recent work carried out by AC archaeology on land immediately to the west and adjacent to the Barn Owl Inn exposed several ditches and gullies and a small number of pits and natural features. The artefactual evidence indicated that they represented the use of the site during the medieval and post-medieval periods. There was no evidence for buildings or settlement on the site itself, but the features related to field, orchard and garden use of the site near the long-lived settlement of Aller and particularly the Barn Owl Inn, formerly Aller House.</p> <p><b>Results</b></p> <p>The work comprised the machine-excavation of five trenches totalling 70m in length, with each trench 1.2m wide. (Fig. 1). Natural subsoil, which comprised variations of yellow sand, grey clay and gravels was exposed at a depth that ranged from 0.35m to 1.25m below existing ground level. It was overlain in Trenches 1 and 3 by dumped layers of clay and gritty silty sand (Plate 2). This was then overlain by a dark grey brown clayey-loam topsoil, which directly sealed the natural subsoil in Trenches 2, 4 and 5.</p> <p>Trench 4 contained a 2m wide and 0.5m deep east to west aligned ditch (F402). It contained a dark grey silty-clay fill into which three ceramic drains had been inserted (Plate 3). Trench 5 contained 4m wide modern intrusion (F501) that contained dumps of clay and gravels that extended beyond the intrusion to the west as a layer of made ground (Plate 4). No finds were recovered.</p> <p><b>Comments</b></p> <p>The results of the trial trenching were negative. Much of the site had evidence of having been recently dumped upon or, as with Trench 5, had been recently dug into. Ditch F402, which was the only archaeological feature, was likely to represent a former field drain that had been replaced with ceramic drains. Although undated, this was of likely 19th century origin. No evidence for earlier activity relating to the adjacent medieval manor was exposed and no finds were recovered.</p> <p>This report forms the archive for the project</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> George Gandham, AC archaeology		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 17 October 2019



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PROJECT  
Land at Aller Road, Kingskerswell, Devon

TITLE  
Fig. 1: Location of site and trial trenches in relation to development plan







Plate 1: General view of site looking southeast with Trench 1 in foreground



Plate 2: Trench 1, representative section with made ground deposit (scale 1m)



Plate 3: Trench 4, ditch F402 with ceramic drains. View to southwest (scales 2 x 1m)



Plate 4: Trench 5 showing modern intrusion F501. View to northwest (scales 2 x 1m)

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