

Tintagel Castle, Cornwall

Archaeological watching brief during replacement of interpretation boards



Historic Environment Projects

Report No

2010Rxxx

Report Name

Tintagel Castle, Cornwall
Archaeological watching brief during replacement
of interpretation boards

Report Author

James Gossip

Event Type

Watching brief

Client Organisation

English Heritage

Client Contact

Lorna Batty

Monuments (MonUID)

SM 15446

Fieldwork dates (From)

08/11/2010

(To)

08/11/2010

(Created By)

James Gossip

(Create Date)

14/03/2011

Location (postal address; or general location and parish)

Tintagel, North Cornwall

(Town – for urban sites)

(Postcode)

PL34 0HE

(Easting) X co-ord

SX 0512

(Northing) Y co-ord

8897

List of Figures

Cover: Breaking out the existing concrete posthole adjacent to The Garden.

Fig 1: Location of replacement interpretation boards covered by watching brief

Fig 2: Fig 2: Posthole 2 - breaking out concrete from the existing posthole adjacent to The Tunnel.



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Project Background

In November 2010 Historic Environment Projects, Cornwall Council (HE Projects), carried out a watching brief for English Heritage during the installation of three new interpretation signs at Tintagel Castle on 8 November 2010.

Aims and objectives

The purpose of the watching brief was:

- To investigate, identify, describe and evaluate the archaeological resource.
- To monitor the excavation of the postholes and provide advice if necessary for the preservation of buried deposits.
- To record and adequately describe any features identified during the watching brief.
- To assess the significance of any features identified during the watching brief.

Working methods

The watching brief methodology was guided by a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by HE Projects (Johns 2010) for Heather Sebire, Territory Properties Curator (West), English Heritage.

The HE Projects archaeologist was present during the excavation of three postholes for the new signs. The locations and dimensions of the postholes were recorded as were any deposits through which the postholes were cut. A photographic record was made of the work in progress and the excavated postholes. Excavated spoil was inspected for artefacts.

Results

Posthole 1 – The Garden (Fig 1)

The existing lectern stand had been set into a concrete-filled posthole on a grassy bank to the west of the garden entrance adjacent to the path. The concrete was broken out and the posthole cleaned out to a depth of 0.60m below ground level. The posthole was 0.4m in diameter and cut through weathered slate bedrock. No archaeological deposits were exposed.

Posthole 2 – The Tunnel (Fig 1, Fig 2)

The existing lectern stand had been set into a concrete-filled posthole to the south of the tunnel fence adjacent to the path. The concrete was broken out and the posthole cleaned out to a depth of 0.40m below ground level. The posthole was 0.35m in diameter and cut through slate bedrock. No archaeological deposits were exposed.

Posthole 3 – Lower Ward (Fig 1)

The existing lectern stand had been set into a concrete-filled posthole to the south-west of the adjacent cobbled path. The concrete and rusty lectern post were broken out with difficulty during poor weather conditions and the post removed, the posthole cleaned out to a depth of 0.45m below ground level. The posthole was 0.4m in diameter and cut through slate bedrock below a covering of turf. No archaeological deposits were exposed.

Posthole 4– Lower Ward

Excavation of a posthole for a lectern stand originally planned for the Lower Ward did not take place on this occasion due to time constraints and difficulty excavating through the existing cobbles surface.

Conclusion

The three replacement lectern posts were situated in locations already disturbed by the existing lectern postholes. Replacement of all three lecterns required the removal of existing rusted lectern posts set into concrete set into postholes cut into the natural weathered slate bedrock.

No archaeological deposits or features were observed during the watching brief and no finds were recovered.

References

Johns, C, 2010. Tintagel Castle, Cornwall: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief during Installation of Interpretation Panels (Historic Environment, Cornwall Council).

Project archive

The HE project number is **2010112**

The project's documentary, photographic and drawn archive is housed at the offices of Historic Environment, Cornwall Council, Kennall Building, Old County Hall, Station Road, Truro, TR1 3AY. The contents of this archive are as listed below:

1. A project file containing site records and notes, project correspondence and administration.
2. Digital photographs stored in the directory \Images\Sites\Tintagel Castle Interpretation 2010\2010112
3. English Heritage/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-95978
4. This report text is held in digital form as: \HE Projects\Sites T\Tintagel Castle Interpretation Panels 2010112

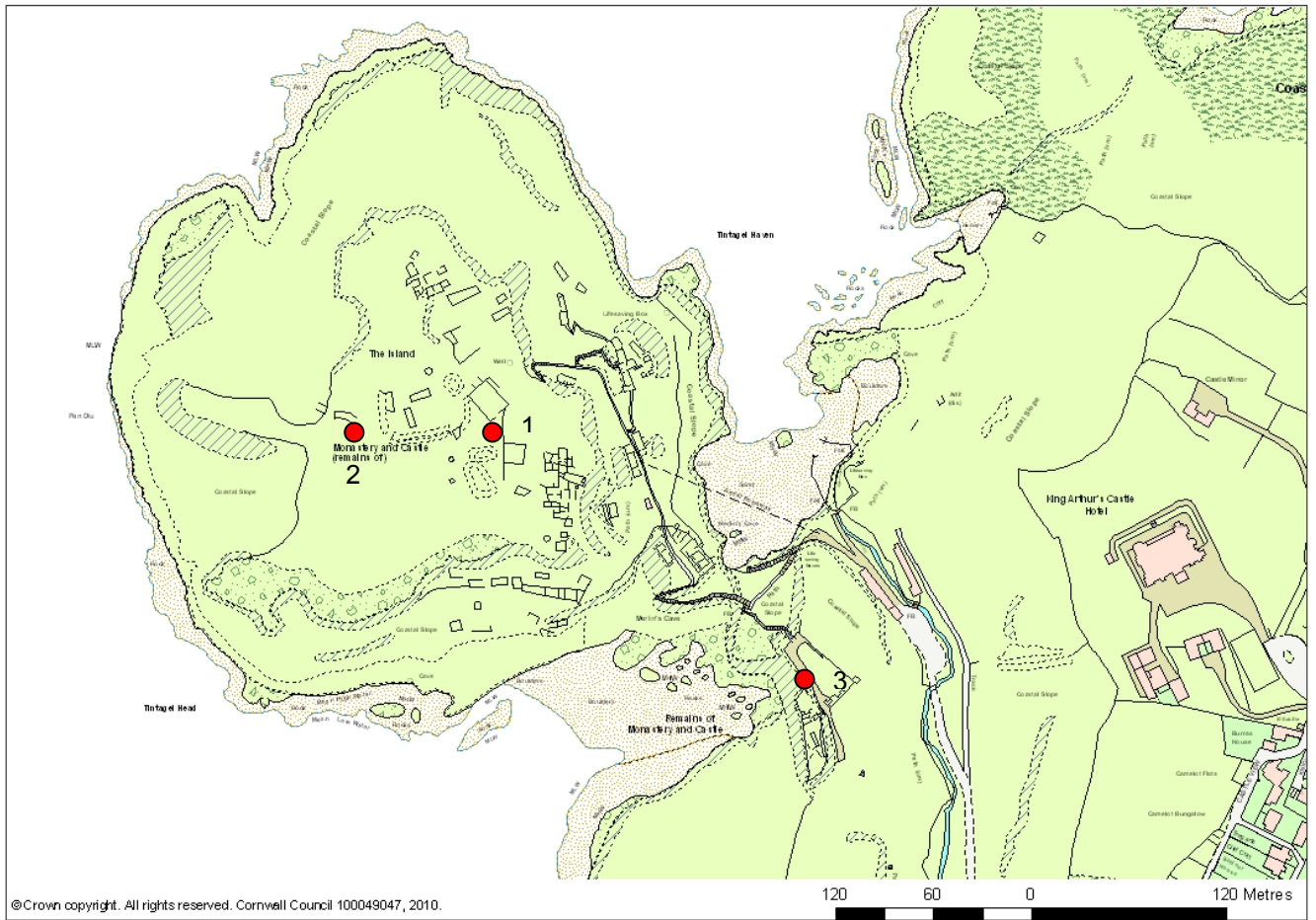


Fig 1: Map of Tintagel Headland showing extents of castle and postholes 1, 2 and 3



Fig 2: Posthole 2 - breaking out concrete from the existing posthole adjacent to The Tunnel.