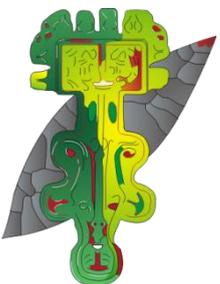


Absolute Archaeology LLP

2014

Results of an Archaeological Watching Brief on Land Belonging to

South Prospect, Park Estate, La Route des Genets, St Brelade, Jersey



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On behalf of

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Summary

This document sets out the results of a programme of archaeological investigation on land belonging to South Prospect, Park Estate, La Route des Genets, St Brelade (hereafter referred to as the Project Site). Permission has been granted for the demolition of the existing dwelling (South Prospect) and the construction of a new five bedroom dwelling with garage and outdoor swimming pool.

The programme of monitoring forms the second stage of a phased programme of work, which was informed by the unpublished desk based assessment completed by Absolute Archaeology, 28th April 2014. The work was commissioned by Mr A Colwill, Form Management Limited (the Agent) on behalf of the developer, Mr S Nixon and was carried out from the 2nd- 4th December 2014.

The results of the watching brief revealed an imported topsoil sealing truncated natural granite across the footprint of the development area. Monitoring confirmed that the Project Site has been stripped of all upper stratigraphy, most likely in line with the development of the property known as South Prospect in the 20th century.

The archaeological potential of the Project Site has been significantly reduced by the historic ground reduction and Jersey Heritage have advised that no further work is recommended in line with the current redevelopment.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Mr Simon Nixon (the Developer) & Mr Alan Colwill (the Agent) for their assistance in arranging the fieldwork. Our thanks also go to Mr David Houze (Contracts Director) and Mr Paul Adamson (Site Manager) for Houze Construction Ltd for their assistance on site. We would also like to thank Ms Olga Finch (Curator of Archaeology, Jersey Heritage) and Ms Tracey Ingle (Principal Historic Environment Officer, States of Jersey) for their help and expertise.

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1. Introduction

This document sets out the results of a programme of archaeological investigation on land belonging to South Prospect, Park Estate, La Route des Genets, St Brelade (hereafter referred to as the Project Site). Permission has been granted for the demolition of the existing dwelling (South Prospect) and the construction of a new five bedroom dwelling with garage and outdoor swimming pool.

The programme of work comprised an archaeological watching brief and was commissioned by Mr A Colwill, Form Management Limited (the Agent) on behalf of the developer, Mr S Nixon. The programme of monitoring was carried out from the 2nd- 4th December 2014.

The programme of work was informed by the specific condition of planning, no. 3 which states the following:

“No development authorised by this consent shall take place until such time as the Minister for Planning and Environment has agreed arrangements for the completion of the archaeological Desk Based Assessment, as well as the archaeological Watching Brief which must be maintained during the course of works.”

...“in order to secure and safeguard the provision for inspection and recording of matters of archaeological importance associated with the site which may be lost or disturbed during the course of development, under the provisions of Policy HE 5 of the 2011 Island Plan”.

And in line with the *Brief for an Archaeological Watching-Brief: South Prospect, Park Estate, St Brelade, Jersey* (States of Jersey and Oxford Archaeology 2014).

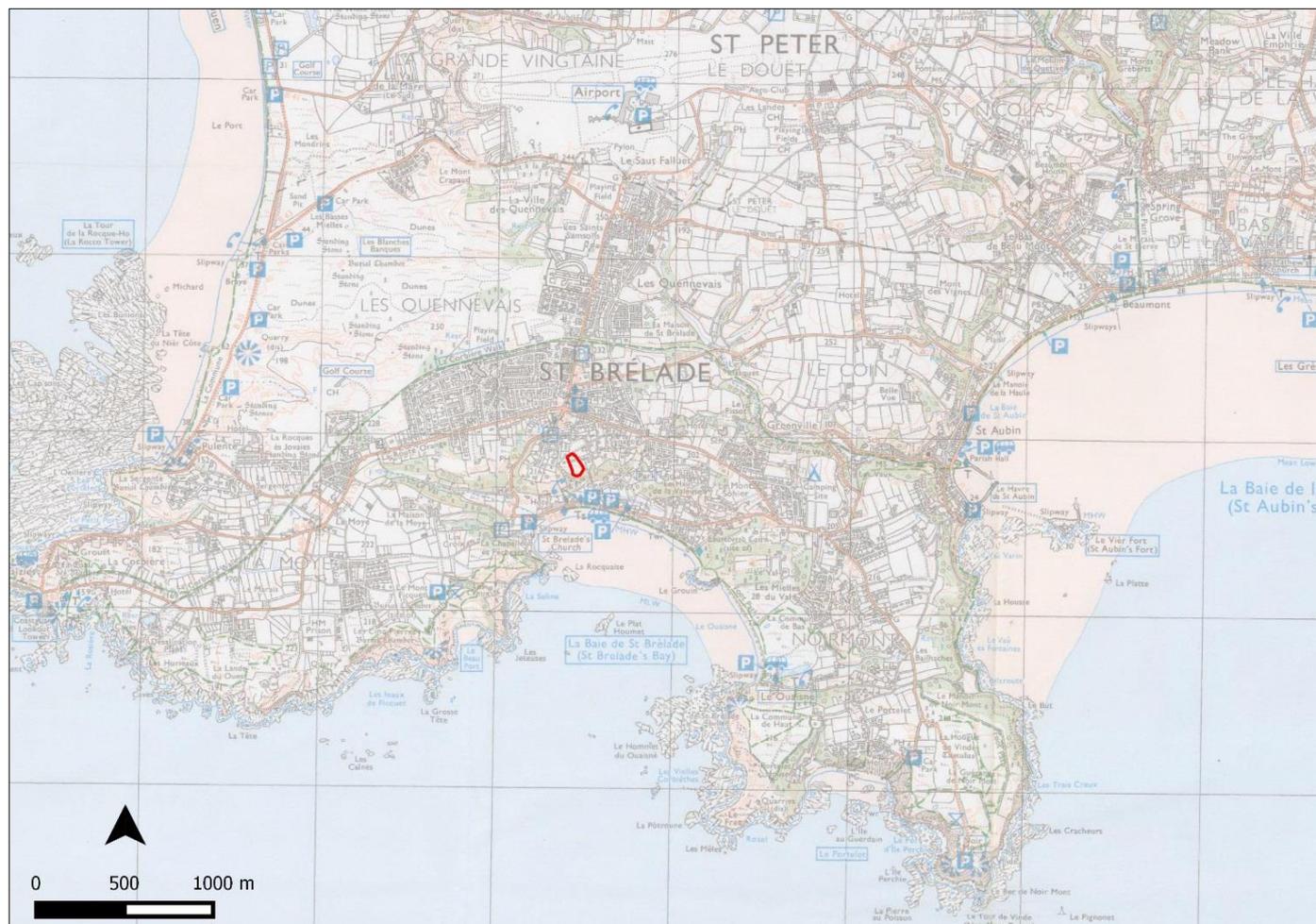
The programme of monitoring forms the second stage of a phased programme of work, which was informed by the desk based assessment completed by Absolute Archaeology, 28th April 2014.

2. Project Site

The Project Site is located in the SW of Jersey within Park Estate, St Brelade. The development area comprises c. 1,600 sq. m of land previously occupied by a detached dwelling, known as South Prospect, with landscaped gardens to the north and south. The site is situated on the edge of a steep cliff, with gardens leading down to La Route de la Baie, which borders St Brelade bay to the north.

The Project Site is located c. 60m aJD and is defined by coarse grained granite of Corbière type.

Figure 1 Location Plan



3. Archaeological Background

The Project Site is defined as a Listed Place (formerly an Area of Archaeological Potential) based on the proximity to La Marquanderie Hoard. The coin hoard was discovered on April 22nd 1935 by Mr W AUFREY, one of the workmen building the foundations for a house at La Marquanderie field. The only fully published account of this hoard and its discovery is by Rybot (1936), despite hints of a forthcoming further publication by Dr H L Stapleton in the Rybot report. The only other sources of information are from Rybot's notes and a record in the 1935 Société Archéologique Section report, although this only informs the reader of the discovery at La Marquanderie. Unfortunately the exact location of the deposit is unclear. Hawkes (1939: 126) commented (based on Rybot) that the coin hoard was discovered during the excavation of foundations ahead of the construction of a property on La Marquanderie Hill.

There is no mention, either in the finished report by Rybot or in his notes, of the actual name of the property whose construction led to the discovery of the hoard. The only reference is to a Villa Wilwyn, but the notes do not make clear if this property was already standing and used as a reference to measure to, or if it was the property under construction. Examination of legal documents in the Jersey Public Registry has failed to trace the property named Wilwyn and any connection with South Prospect or White Doves can be disregarded, as they clearly have defined names and were not constructed at the time of the discovery. Furthermore, examination of *Jersey Place Names* has failed to identify the name Wilwyn.

However, Robert Waterhouse of the Société Jersiaise has recently undertaken an assessment of Rybot's unpublished notes and suggests that the coin hoard is likely to have come from a location to the northeast of the Project Site, rather than directly from it. He has identified that Rybot's report in type states that the hoard was found four hundred yards south of Route de Tabor (now known as Route des Genets) and "not far" from the Rouges Maisons (Red Houses), but the *four hundred* has been crossed out in pencil and replaced by *one hundred*. In addition, Rybot's sketch plan of the discovery claims that it was found 130 paces directly south of Route des Genets and south east of Rouge Maisons Crossroads. This would place it to the north of the current proposed site at South Prospect by 100-150m.

The site is designated as an Area of Archaeological Potential (AAP) which covers the gardens of South Prospect and the adjacent property of White Doves, based upon the presumed location of the Marquanderie Hoard.

The Desk-Based Assessment prepared for the site in April 2014, highlighted the archaeological potential of the area, but recognised that the coin hoard is likely to occur c.150m to the NE of the Project Site (Driscoll 2014).

4. Methodology

4.1. Approach to Archaeological Investigation

The broad aim of the watching brief was to identify and record features of archaeological interest discovered during groundwork associated with the development, in order to mitigate the impact of the works on the archaeological resource and to enable the discharge of the planning condition.

All work was undertaken in accordance with the IFA *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (revised 2008 and updated 2013).

The primary aims sought to:

- Assess the potential for archaeological activity associated with the Project Site;
- Record and identify archaeological features and deposits to a level appropriate to their extent and significance;
- Undertake sufficient post-excavation assessment to interpret archaeological features and phasing identified during site works, and to place these within their local and regional context;
- Create a site archive for deposition in a suitable repository.

4.2. Methodology

Cover of ground disturbance was intensive (present during sensitive groundwork), as defined by the IFA Standard and Guidance for an archaeological Watching Brief (revised 2008 and updated 2013: 4).

The investigation took the approach of an archaeological watching brief, with provision for the recording of archaeological features or finds revealed during groundwork. The programme of work was designed to inform the record on the extent of preserved archaeological remains on the Project Site and to allow for the implementation of a suitable strategy in order to mitigate the impact of the works on any archaeological resource and enable the discharge of the planning condition.

The monitoring archaeologist was present during all groundworks which could potentially have had an impact on buried archaeological remains and worked closely with the main contractor to ensure that the method of excavation sought to optimise the potential for discovery of archaeological features, layers, deposits, artefacts and ecofacts, should they be present.

Mechanical excavation was carried out using a toothless (ditching) bucket, where practical, and archaeologists were afforded access to the entire site in order to inspect and record potentially significant deposits.

5. Results

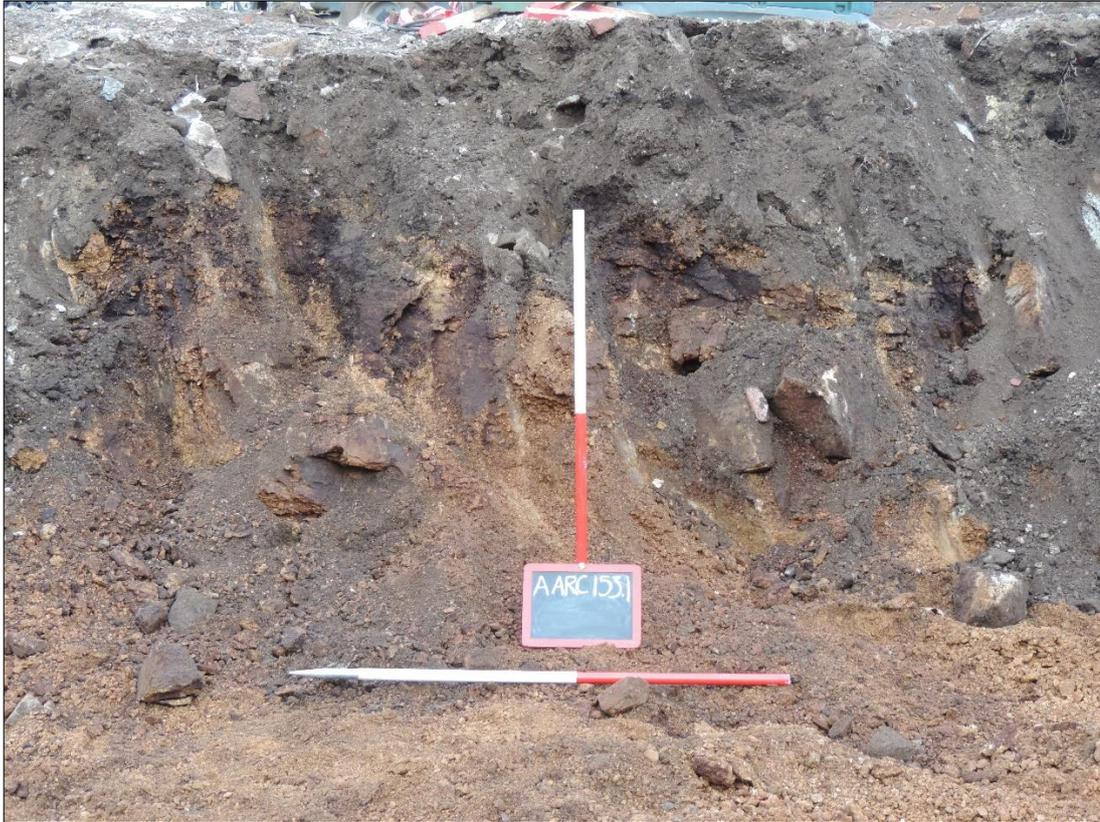
The mechanical ground reduction of the main site revealed an imported topsoil layer (1), measured to a depth of 300mm – 400mm across the development area. The topsoil was seen to overlay truncated natural granite and scree (2). Monitoring continued on site during the reduction of the footprint of the swimming pool and new dwelling and the truncation was seen to be comprehensive. No evidence of the natural subsoil or topsoil was preserved across the development area.

The results were negative, with no natural stratigraphy remaining. Finds were represented by two 20th century glass bottles, which were not retained.

Figure 2 Project Site plan with area of significant groundwork marked in red. Reduction of ground to the north did not exceed the depth of the imported topsoil © Page Architects



Photograph 1 SSE facing section of terraced foundation showing granite bedrock (2) sealed by imported topsoil (1) (scales 2 x 1m)



Photograph 2 WSW facing section of terraced foundation showing granite scree sealed by imported topsoil (1) (Scales 1 x 1m)



Photograph 3 NE facing view of development area (scales 2 x 1m)



6. Discussion

Outcrops of granite noted in the gardens to the SSE of South Prospect prior the commencement of groundwork indicated that the natural geology lay close to the current ground level. This was confirmed during the watching brief, when the reduction of the development area revealed that topsoil had been imported to create a garden, following the construction of South Prospect. The project site had clearly been reduced to prepare the site for development in the 20th century.

Although the natural stratigraphy is not known, it is possible that prior to the development of South Prospect the unprotected high ground was defined by deposits of blown sands, similar to those identified during the evaluation of Windward, which occupies a similar seaward plateaux 1km to the SE of the Project Site. In 2010, a trench evaluation carried out by Absolute Archaeology revealed a shallow turfline overlaying blown sands to depths measuring 500mm on average, which were seen to seal bare granite and granite scree. Residual worked flint and prehistoric pottery confirmed activity on the promontory in the Neolithic – Early Bronze Age

period. However, there was a notable lack of subsoil/ topsoil. It was suggested at the time that, due to the elevated coastal location, the natural stratigraphy may have been constantly abraded by blown sands and sea winds.

The similar location occupied by the Project Site suggests that, when it was first developed, loose sands may have made up the main stratigraphy. This would explain the stripping of the site to the bedrock and the need to import a loamy topsoil to enable a garden to be established.

7. Conclusion

The results of the watching brief confirmed that the Project Site has been stripped of all upper stratigraphy, most likely in line with the development of the property known as South Prospect in the 20th century.

A monitoring visit carried out by Olga Finch, on behalf of Jersey Heritage, confirmed that the archaeological potential of the Project Site had been significantly reduced by the historic ground reduction.

No further work was recommended in line with the current redevelopment.

8. Report

A digital copy of the final report will be submitted to the States of Jersey Department of the Environment, (Planning and Building Services), and Oxford Archaeology (Heritage Management Services) for assessment prior to submission of the completed document. Once approved a digital copy in pdf format will be issued to the States of Jersey Historic Environment Record on the understanding that it will become a public document after an appropriate period of time (generally not exceeding six months).

A hard and digital copy of the report will be accessioned into the public resources held by the Planning and Environment Department, by the Jersey Heritage Trust and by the Société Jersiaise *no later than three months* after the project has entered the public domain.

The results will be published as a note in the Société Jersiaise annual publication.

9. Bibliography

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Appendix 1 Chronological Table (Guide Only)

Period	Date	Information
Prehistoric	250000 – 100/56 BC	Generalised period from the earliest human activity in the island to the official conquest of Gaul by the Romans.
Palaeolithic	250000 - 10000 BC	Defined by a number of key sites showing Neanderthal and Early Human activity, for example La Cote de St Brelade. Mobile groups, ephemeral habitation evidence, stone tool technology.
Mesolithic	10000 – 5000 BC	Period of major transformation in the European environment and landscape after the end of the last Ice Age and the beginning of the Holocene. Mobile hunter-gatherer communities, sophisticated tool technology and some semi-permanent settlement with evidence for the exploitation of the coastal zones of the islands. Example at Lihou Priory on Guernsey.
Neolithic	5000 – 2400 BC	The Channel Islands saw an earlier transition to the Neolithic than in Britain. Emergence of monumental architecture, first (potentially) with menhirs later by chambered tombs and subsequently gallery graves. Development of complex society, more sedentary lifestyles and more clearly defined symbolic behaviour.
Chalcolithic/Beaker phase	2400 – 1800 BC	Earliest introduction of copper to western Europe. Expansion of the pan-European Beaker phenomenon, including prestigious material culture and individual burials. Bell Beakers found throughout the archipelago including local emulations called Jersey Bowls. Cist-in-Circle monuments.
Bronze Age	1800 – 800 BC	The Introduction of Bronze as a material, used by the elite at first and later available to the populace more widely. Barrows/tumuli for the dead in the early stages replaced by a lack of monuments and the preponderance toward hoard deposition. Large quantities of bronze metalwork found throughout the islands and in Jersey in particular.
Iron Age	800 – 100/56 BC	Little change to domestic life in the islands. Return of monumental architecture in the form of promontory forts (at C��tel Rozel, Fremont etc) in the earlier periods, followed by warrior and horse burials in the Middle to Later stages (Guernsey only).
Gallo-Roman	100/56 BC – 400 AD	Used to describe a fusion of indigenous late Iron Age traditions in France and the Channel Islands with Roman culture. Represented by the identification of Gallo-Roman ceramics and roofing material recently excavated at Grouville Parish Church, confirming the first evidence of Gallo-Roman occupation in Jersey.
Early Medieval	400 – 973 AD	Represents the time from the end of the Roman period c.400 AD to the annexation of the Channel Islands as a region of Normandy under William Longsword in 973.
Medieval	973 – 1600 AD	Norman and post-Norman phases of Channel Island life. The islands remained loyal to the English crown despite the loss of territories in NW France under King John. Period of fortification building throughout the archipelago and in Jersey at Mont Orgueil and later at Elizabeth Castle. 1600 AD is an arbitrary date, but enables the separation of periods with more intensive industries.
Post-Medieval	1600 – 1900 AD	Period of rapid change in Jersey including the growing urbanisation of St Helier, the involvement of the island in the English Civil War and the Napoleonic Wars. Industrial activity did not impact the island as it did Britain and the rest of Europe.
Modern	1900 – 1950 AD	Radical alterations to the landscape during WWI and particularly WWII. Extensive defensive fortifications across the Channel Islands and forming part of Hitler's Atlantic wall.