Tesco, Poplar Drive, Kingsbridge, Devon: An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Planning Ref: 28/2431/06/O

National Grid Reference: SX 733443

AOC Project No: 30770 Site Code: AR.2010.20

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Tesco, Poplar Drive, Kingsbridge, Devon: **An Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

On Behalf of: ISG Pearce / Tesco Stores Ltd

National Grid Reference (NGR): SX 733443

AOC Project No: 30770

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Non-Technical Summary

Between the 30th June and 1st December 2010, AOC Archaeology Group undertook a watching brief at Poplar Drive, Kingsbridge, Devon on behalf of ISG Pearce / Tesco Stores Ltd. The work comprised the monitoring of ground reductions for the installation of drainage works.

The watching brief was undertaken upon two areas of the development site; the main site (location of the proposed Tesco store, car park and service yard) and the Western Power Distribution (WPD) site.

Within the main site, the watching brief revealed an alluvial deposit within the northern area of the site overlain by a sequence of made ground deposits, include recent pre-development ground build-up.. The alluvial sequence is thought to relate to late post-medieval or modern flooding events.

Predominantly made ground deposits were noted in the WPD site. The only deposits of interest were possibly redeposited 19th / 20th material which contained some residual post-medieval and possibly medieval pottery.

No further work is recommended. Due to the nature of the project, it is recommended that publication be restricted to a summary of results in the Devon Archaeological Society Newsletter and via the Archaeological Data Service. The archive will be deposited with Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief at land located at Poplar Drive, Kingsbridge, Devon (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The proposed development site is located in the market town of Kingsbridge, in the district of South Hams, County of Devon. The site is situated off Cookworthy Road, to the west of Kingsbridge town centre, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SX 7330, 4443 (Figures 1 & 2).
- 1.3 The proposed development site is divided into two areas; the main (Tesco) site and a detached site to the south, referred to as the Western Power Distribution (WPD) Site (Figure 2).

2 Planning Background

- 2.1 The local planning authority is South Hams District Council. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by the Devon County Council Historic Environment Service (HES) Archaeologist, Graham Tait. The northern section of the site is located within the Kingsbridge Conservation Area.
- 2.2 The site does not contain any Scheduled Monuments or Listed Buildings. It is not within a conservation area or within any identified area of archaeological potential, or the like.
 - The proposed development comprises the construction of a proposed Tesco store, service yard and car park in the main (northern) area of the site with additional public car parking created in the WPD (southern) site.
- 2.3 Planning permission to undertake the development was granted in 2010 (Ref. No.: 28/2431/06/O), subject to conditions. The condition requires that:
 - No excavation or development shall take place within the application site until details of a scheme for archaeological treatment is submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme shall be implemented in full accordance with the approved details.
- 2.4 A desk-based assessment of the site was undertaken in 2010 (AOC 2010a). This document recommended a programme of archaeological work. In accordance with *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS 5) (DCLG 2010), and Devon County Council's HES Archaeologist, a programme of archaeological work is to be undertaken in the form of a watching brief, due to the limited impact of the proposed development.
- 2.5 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) (AOC 2010b) was prepared to satisfy the second phase of works in compliance with the Brief for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording produced by the HES archaeologist (Tait 2010).

3 Geology and Topography

- 3.1 The site is situated upon geology of bedrock of Slate, Siltstone and Sandstone of the Meadfoot Group, overlain by a band of alluvium following the route o the watercourse running through the site (AOC 2010a).
- 3.2 The settlement of Kingsbridge was first located on the brow of a spur of land at the head of the estuary with river valleys formed either side. Five small streams originally fed into the estuary. The valley floors of these streams were narrow and the sides steep (QUEST 2011) and although the natural courses have been largely or entirely lost (e.g. replaced by artificial channels or culverts)

- within the modern urban area; it is thought that one of these streams was close to the present site possibly the stream which formed the parish boundary and is thought top be culvert beneath the main (northern) part of the development site (QUEST 2011).
- 3.3 On-site geotechnical site investigations were undertaken between October 2008 and January 2009 (only within the main site) which fully recorded the geological conditions (AOC 2010a). The investigations encountered 'made ground' in all boreholes and hand pits locations except two investigation locations, generally varying in depth from between 0.80mbgl and 1.20mbgl. Alluvial deposits were only encountered in the southern half of the main site, underlying the made ground and varying in thickness from 0.50m to 1.40m (WYG 2009, 14). The underling bedrock was generally found to comprise weak, closely spaced, thinly bedded, red brown mottled slate.

4 **Archaeological and Historical Background**

The following information is drawn from the desk-based assessment (AOC 2010a).

4.1 Prehistoric (c. 500,000 BC - AD 43) and Roman (c.AD 43 - 410) Periods

- 4.1.1 There is little previously recorded evidence of human activity within close proximity of the proposed development site from the prehistoric period to the Roman period.
- 4.1.2 The earliest evidence of activity is a Bronze Age (c. 2200-700 BC) Barrow cemetery at West Charleton, c. 2km to the south-east of the proposed development site (AOC 2010a).
- 4.1.3 There is limited evidence to suggest Roman activity within the Kingsbridge area, although a Roman coin of Nero, Emperor from AD 54 to 68, was discovered.
- 4.1.4 Despite the lack of archaeologically recorded evidence from the prehistoric period through to the Roman period, there is a high potential of possible enlosures noted through cropmarks identified on aerial photographs near Ledstone, c. 1.9km to the north-east and between Dodbrooke and Bowcombe c. 1.1km to the east of the proposed development site (AOC 2010a).

4.2 Early Medieval (c.AD 410 – 1066) and Medieval (c.AD 1066 – 1485)

- 4.2.1 Evidence of early medieval settlement activity in the wider area of Kingsbridge is apparent through place-name evidence and historical documentary sources such as grants, charters and the Domesday Survey of 1086. However, there is little recorded archaeological evidence to support this activity.
- 4.2.2 Settlement of Kingsbridge was originally a vill within the manor and parish of Churchstow, which is thought to roughly equate to the lands of the earlier Manor of Norton (DHER 2010), recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as held by the Abbots of Buckfast Abbey. The Manor of Dodbrooke, the settlement of which has today become inter-mingled with ever expanding Kingsbridge to the southeast, is also recorded in the Domesday Book and was held by 'Bristric the sheriff' at the time of Edward the Confessor and belonging to his widow 'Godeva' following the Conquest (Lysons 1822, 152-174).
- 4.2.3 It is believed that Kingsbridge did not become a separate entity until the 13th century, therefore, there is no specific record in the Domesday Survey. The name of Kingsbridge most likely refers to the crossing of the various streams in this area and the royal prefix (Kings-) could suggest the settlement was of some importance; though it may alternatively simply refer to a crossing linking the two royal estates of West Alvington and Chillington, located on either side of the estuary (Born 1986, 14).

- 4.2.4 By the early 12th century, a chapel was built in dedication to St. Edmund the Martyr (DHER 2010). There is also further evidence of medieval buildings within the area, including the market house, know as the *'Chepe House'* and the 16th century market building 'The Shambles' (DHER 2010).
- 4.2.5 It is important to note the morphology of the medieval borough with the pattern of burgage plots evident in similar medieval settlements. Burgage plots comprised land, usually laid out as part of a planned settlement, with properties fronting on to a main street and long, narrow strips to the rear used as gardens, orchards and areas of outbuildings, workshops, stables etc. A secondary smaller back street can be found running along the rear of these plots (AOC 2010a).
- 4.2.6 The settlement of Kingsbridge developed along the natural spur, Fore Street, with the individual burgage plots coming off at right angles along the sloping topography to the east and west of the spur.

4.3 The Post-Medieval (AD 1536 – AD 1900) and Modern Period (AD 1900 – Present)

- 4.3.1 Kingsbridge was constrained in size by the adjoining parishes and as a result expansion was probably limited to the north of Fore Street, the area of Mill Street and Union Street in the south-west and areas of piecemeal infilling development. Post-medieval structural remains and unstratified pottery of 17th to 18th century date were evident along Fore Street (AOC 2010a).
- 4.3.2 The town continued as an important market place with the estuary providing a perfect sheltered quay side for trade and industry. This included Kingsbridge Mill which is Grade II listed (and of probable earlier origin), shipyards, and a large iron foundry (AOC 2010a).
- 4.3.3 There is also evidence of 17th century structures within Kingsbridge, including a Baptist church, which was founded in 1640 (and redeveloped in 1798), followed by the Quakers (Society of Friends) in the mid to late 17th century. A free grammar school (Grade II * Listed) was founded in the town by Thomas Crispin in 1670 (AOC 2010a).
- 4.3.4 Industrial activity developed through the 18th and 19th centuries and the settlement of Kingsbridge grew. This is evident through the construction of a railway, fire station and cottage hospital (AOC 2010a).

5 Aims of the Investigation

- 5.1 The aims of the watching brief were defined as being:
 - To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
 - To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
 - To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
 - To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
 - To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
 - To enable the archaeology advisor to the Devon City Council HES to make an informed decision
 as to the necessity for any further work that may be required in order to satisfy the
 archaeological condition.
- 5.2 The specific aims of the watching brief were:
 - To determine the presence of any remains of medieval date.

- To determine the presence of any remains of the post-medieval industrial activity.
- 5.3 The final aim is to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions, through ADS OASIS website.

6 Methodology

- The watching brief was carried out between the 15th and 27th October 2010 and was focussed on 6.1 observing the ground reduction taking place in the targeted watching brief area adjacent to the eastern boundary of the site (Figure 2).
- 6.2 The scope of works will comprised the continuous monitoring of intrusive ground excavations in line with the brief supplied by the HES Archaeologist for Devon County Council (Tait 2010) and subsequent consultations.
- 6.3 The original brief indicated that several areas should be subject to archaeological monitoring and recording. Where areas were demonstrably proven to be truncated monitoring works were, in consultation with the HES Archaeologist, discontinued. The areas monitored comprised:
 - A sample trench excavated in the south-east corner of the main site to establish the depths of deposits.
 - Topsoil stripping in the central area of the main site and a sample trench parallel to the existing culvert.
 - Groundworks required for culvert realignment in the eastern part of the main site and creation of attenuation tanks to the immediate south and north of the proposed Tesco store footprint. These works aimed to identify any evidence associated with the rear of the medieval/post-medieval brook/stream (which formed Kingsbridge's parish boundary) and/or potential back-way which may have run alongside this area.
 - Archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks extending below the depth of modern made ground in the WPD site, to the south of the proposed Tesco Store. These works comprised the installation of a large attenuation tank and associated service trenches.
 - Monitoring of the topsoil stripping and removal of 20th century culvert in the north-western part of the main site.

7 Results

Trench 1

7.1 Trench 1 was located within Area 6, in the south-eastern corner of the main site (Figures 3 and 4). The watching brief works comprised the monitoring of a sample trench excavated in order to assess ground conditions in this area. The trench measured 6.5m x 1.8m and was orientated north-west to south-east.

Table 1: Trench 1 Stratigraphy

Context	Description/Interpretation	Depth (mbgl)
101	Mid-brown loam – topsoil	0.00m - 0.30m
102	Stone and loam - made ground/consolidation layer;	0.30m - 0.80m
103	Mid-dark brown loam – possible buried topsoil	0.80m - 1.25m
104	Red/pink clay - possible redeposited natural	1.25m - NFE

- 7.2 The earliest deposit recorded was a red/pink, very compact, clay (104) originally interpreted as the natural horizon (Figure 6). The natural deposist were overlain by a c. 0.45m thick, mid-dark brown silty clay/loam (103), which in turn was overlain by modern made ground (102) and modern topsoil.
- 7.3 No finds were recorded and no archaeological features were identified.

Trench 2

7.4 Trench 2 was located within Area 4; in the southern half of the main site (Figures 3 and 4). The watching brief works comprised the monitoring of the topsoil stripping of an area approximately 16m x 28m and a small 2m x 10m sample trench excavated parallel to the existing modern culvert channel (orientated north to south) to test the depth of deposits in this area.

Table 2: Trench 2 Stratigraphy

Context	Description/Interpretation	Depth (mbgl)
201	Mid-brown loam – topsoil	0.00m0.50m
202	Pink sandstone/clay – re-deposited natural	0.50m0.90m
203	203 Loose grey alluvial clay – alluvium	
204	Red/pink clay – redeposited natural	0.90m - NFE
205	Modern stone deposit – made ground	1.00m - NFE

- 7.5 The earliest deposit recorded was a red/pink, very compact, clay (204) interpreted as the natural horizon (Figure 6). Across the majority of the area the natural deposist were overlain by c. 0.40m thick deposist of red/pink sandstone and clay (202) which was interpreted as either redeposited natural or modern made ground. This was overlain by a mid-brown loam topsoil deposit (201).
- Along the western edge of the trench, (204) was overlain by a loose grey alluvial clay (203) thought 7.6 to represent evidence of a buried stream which was culverted in the 20th century. A localised deposit of modern stone rubble (206) was noted on the 'edge' of the alluvium - which appeared to be wastage from the late 20th century retaining wall which forms the western boundary of the main site and contained two sherds of residual post-medieval pottery..
- 7.7 Apart from the alluvium, no features or finds of archaeological significance were identified during this section of the watching brief.

Trench 3

- 7.8 Trench 3 was located within the WPD site, south of the main site (Figure 5). The watching brief works comprised the monitoring of groundworks for an attenuation tank c. 5m x 14m and the service trenches for associated drainage.
- 7.9 The ground level of the tank trench was recorded as 6.55mOD in the north-east corner, rising slightly to 6.68mOD in the south-west corner. The ground level fell towards the south, to 5.44mOD at the end of the service trench on the southern boundary of the WPD site. The tank and the service trenches were excavated to a maximum depth of c. 1m below ground level.

Table 3: Trench 3 Stratigraphy

Context	Description/Interpretation	Depth (mbgl)
301	Tarmac - made ground	0.00m – 0.10m
302	Bedding layer – made ground	0.10m – 0.40m
303	Gravel and stone hardcore – made ground	0.20m – 0.65m
304	Permeable 'polythene' liner – made ground	0.65m
305	Light grey/orange gravelly clay –made ground	0.65m – 0.95m
306	Orangey brown clay - made ground	0.65m - NFE
307	Bright orangey brown, silty clay - made ground	0.25m – 0.55m
308	Orangey-yellow clay - made ground	0.55m – 0.75m
309	Quartz type stone hardcore – made ground	0.12m – 0.60m
310	Black gravelly/tarmac type material – made ground	0.56m – 0.63m
311	Dark grey/brown silty loam- re-deposited/buried soil	0.24m – 0.84m
312	Mid- brown sandy loam – redeposited/buried soil	0.36m – 1.05m
313	Pink/orange stone and gravel hardcore – made ground	0.16m – 0.35m

- 7.10 The lowest deposit encountered was a compact orange/brown silty clay (306) encountered across the whole tank trench; recorded at its highest at 6.00mOD in the north-eastern area. A lump of concrete was noted within this deposit, at the base of Section 3:1 (Figure 7). It did not appear to relate to any cut above and would suggest (306) was made ground. There were no other finds or inclusions noted.
- 7.11 The made ground overlying (306) varied across the trench - in the northern half this comprised gravely clay (305) overlain by gravel and stone hardcore (303) and topped with bedding layers and tarmac (301 and 302). In the south-west corner, (306) was overlain by silty clay made ground (311 and 308).
- 7.12 Dark grey brown and mid-brown silty loam deposits (311 and 312) were encountered in the southeast corner of the attenuation tank trench (Figure 7 Section 3:5) and along the drainage service trench to the south (Figure 7 Sections 3:6 and 3:7). These deposits both contained residual fragments of post-medieval pottery, with two fragments of possible residual medieval pottery recovered from (312). Contexts (311) and (312) were underlain by (306) and below (309) and (313); all of which have been interpreted as made ground.
- 7.13 No other features of archaeological significance were identified in this area.

Trench 4

- 7.14 Trench 4 was located within the main site and comprised a culvert trench running from the southeast corner of the site to link up with a pre-existing culvert on the northern boundary. The route of the culvert observed during the watching brief ran from approximately the south-east corner of Area 5, through Area 4 and the tip of Area 3, and along the eastern edge of Area 2 (Figure 3).
- 7.15 In total the culvert trench measured approximately 177m in length. The width and depth varied along the length of the culvert, but was generally between 2.75m and 3.75m in width (at the base) with a total depth of between c. 3.00m and 3.60m.
- 7.16 The ground level varied along the culvert and had been substantially built up by recent predevelopment made ground deposits. The final ground level of the base of the trench was kept at a

consistent height of c. 9.00mOD (following the lying of the bedding stone layer). Ground reductions were generally *c* 0.10m-0.20m below this.

7.17 Due to the confines of the site, the culvert trench was not able to be to be stepped for the first c.80m of the trench and then only partially stepped for the remaining length. This meant the works comprised mechanical excavation of c.2m-4m sections at a time, which were immediately laid with stone bedding layer and the concrete culvert section (c. 2m x 2m x 2m) lowered into place. Access to the trench was therefore intermittent and limited to those occasions where access onto or into the concrete culvert was viable.

Table 4: Trench 4 Stratigraphy

Context	Description/Interpretation	Depth (mbgl)
401	Stone, gravel, rubble, clay – recent made ground	0.00m – 1.00m
402	Stone, gravelly clay, rubble – made ground	1.00m – 1.50m
403	Dark grey gravelly clay – made ground	1.40m – 1.60m
404	Orange/brown compact clay – made ground	1.50m – 1.90m
405	Brown/grey silty loam – buried topsoil	1.70m – 2.20m
406	Stone wall foundations	1.45m – 2.10m
408	Orange/red clay	2.10m – 3.10m
409	Yellow/brown gravel clay and stone – made ground	1.00m – 1.60m
	Purple/brown silty clay with slate inclusions - made	
410	ground	2.00m -2.80m
411	Loose, grey brown alluvial clay – alluvium	2.80m - NFE
413	Sub-angular stone deposit – made ground	1.00m – 1.20m
414	Light brown silty gravel – made ground	1.20m – 1.65m
415	Concrete – made ground	1.65m – 1.70m
416	Green/brown compacted gravel – made ground	1.70m – 1.75m
417	Brown/grey silty loam – buried topsoil	1.30m – 1.80m
418	Orange/red clay – same as 408	1.65m – 2.90m
419	Purple slate/stone – made ground	2.85m – 2.95m
420	Green/grey gravel and stone – made ground	0.85m - 1.30m
421	Yellow/brown gravel and stone – made ground	1.10m -1.25m
422	Light grey alluvial clay – alluvium	2.10m – 2.30m
423	Brown/grey alluvial clay – alluvium	2.25m – NFE
424	Tree root	2.60m - NFE
425	Fiberous organic remains	2.50m – 2.60m
426	Tree root	2.60m - NFE
427	Stone, gravel and clay – made ground	0.20m – 0.70m
428	Blue/grey stone, gravel and slate – made ground	0.60m – 1.05m
429	Green/grey stone and clay – made ground	1.00m – 1.30m -
430	Yellow/brown, gravel and stone hardcore – made ground	1.10m – 2.10m
431	Tarmac – made ground	0.65m - 0.75m
	Pink/orange stone and gravel consolidation layer – made	
432	ground	0.75m – 0.95m

7.18 The below ground deposist encountred varied along the length of the trench. Observations of the first c.40m of the culvert trench suggested that the earliest deposits comprised a firm orange/red clay deposit (408) which was overlain by modern made ground, including recent pre-development build-

- up (401 and 402). Deposit (408) was originally though to be natural; however it was not possible to access the trench along this part of its length to confirm this interpretation.
- 7.19 In the middle and north of the trench the earliest deposits recorded comprised a brown grey alluvial clay (411) encountered approximately c.62m along the culvert length. This deposit was encountered at a depth of c 8.90mOD and appeared to be underlying the firm red/orange clay (408) seen in the southern section of the trench. This was, in turn, overlain by deposits of made ground (410), (405), (409) and (401) and (402) (Figure 6 Section 4:2).
- 7.20 Around c. 74m along the culvert trench the band of alluvial was shown to be overlain by a lighter grey clay alluvial deposit, becoming darker with depth, which was assigned context numbers (422) and (423). They may be the same deposit as (411). In this area the deposits were overlain by a firm red/orange clay (418), thought to be the same as (408), which in turn was overlain by made ground deposits (417), (421) and (420).
- 7.21 Within this area, evidence of preserved organic remains was noted, comprising waterlogged wooden. This was encountered at a depth of c.9.00mOD (Plate C). Bulk samples were taken from contexts (423-426) and were environmentally assessed (see Appendix C). The assessment identified waterlogged seeds and wood which were indicative of a wet fen or fen carr type environment and indicated very damp or wet conditions. The organic samples were suggestive of natural debris (i.e. twigs and small branches), probably formed by natural processes.
- 7.22 The alluvial clays were noted containing along the culvert length for at least c. 48m; although ground reductions were shallower towards the northern part of the site and only the top of this deposist was impacted. No further organic remains were noted.
- 7.23 Of the made ground deposits, finds were only recovered from contexts (405), (410) and (417). Context (410) appeared to be modern made ground; although the pottery recovered is currently undated and has been suggested to be of medieval date. Context (405) was first noted c. 60m along the culvert length (Section 4:1) and contained modern sweet wrappers and post-medieval and modern pottery. The foundations of a stone wall, which ran east-west across the trench. lay within and was underlain lain by (405), which appears to relate to the modern footpath which originally crossed this area.
- 7.24 The most recent deposits were made ground consolidation layers, laid down in advance of the proposed development works (401 and 402). These were noted along the majority of the culvert trench length and measured c.1.50m in depth.



PLATE A: Trench 4, Section 1



PLATE B: Trench 4, Section 5



PLATE C: Area of organic material noted within alluvium, Trench 4

Trench 5

- 7.25 Trench 5 was located within Area 7, in the very southern tip of the main site (Figures 3 and 4). The watching brief works comprised the monitoring of groundworks for the excavations for an attenuation tank (c.9m by 5m).
- 7.26 The ground level was recorded at 12.12m OD in the south-west corner of the tank trench, which was excavated to a maximum depth of c. 4.30mbgl.

Table 5: Trench 5 Stratigraphy

Context	Description/Interpretation	Depth (mbgl)
501	Tarmac – made ground	0.00m - 0.10m
502	hard standing – made ground	0.10m - 0.20 m
503	Grey/brown stone and gravel – made ground	0.20m - 0.75m
504	Red/brown gravelly clay – made ground	0.75m – 1.60m
505	Grey brown gravel and clay – made ground	1.60m - 2.80m
506	Tarmac – made ground	2.80m – 2.90m
507	Stone and gravel – made ground	2.90m – 3.00m
509	Red/brown clay – made ground	2.80m – NFE

7.27 The lowest deposit encountered was a compact red/brown clay (509) encountered across the whole tank trench; recorded at its highest at 9.32mOD (Figure 6). This deposits was identified as the same possible made ground deposist in Trench 4 (408 or 418) and was overlain by several further levels of made ground (501–508).

- 7.28 A tarmac surfac and bedding layer were recorded in the southern section of the trench at a depth of c. 2.80 m – suggesting an earlier ground surface in this part of the site.
- 7.29 No archaeological features or finds were identified during this area of the watching brief.



PLATE D: South-west corner of Trench 5

Trench 6

- 7.30 Trench 6 was located within the main site, in the southern part of Area 2 (Figures 3 and 4). The watching brief works comprised the monitoring of groundworks for an attenuation tank (c. 5m by 15m).
- 7.31 The ground surface was recorded at 12.14mOD on the northern side of the trench. The tank was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.10m below ground level.

Table 6: Trench 6 Stratigraphy

Context	Description/Interpretation	Depth (mbgl)
601	Red/brown stone, gravel, clay – made ground	0.00m - 0.65m
602	Tarmac - made ground	0.65m – 0.75m
603	Green/grey stone, gravel, clay – made ground	0.75m – 1.25m
604	Yellow/brown gravel and stone – made ground	1.10m – NFE
605	20 th century culvert pipe	2.05m - NFE

- 7.32 The lowest deposit encountered was a yellow/brown gravel and stone made ground deposit (604) encountered across the whole tank trench (Figure 6). This appearead to be the same as (430), recorded in Trench 4 which ran past Trench 6 on the eastern side.
- 7.33 Overlying this deposit were several further deposits of made ground, which also corresponded with those noted in Trench 4; these being (601) the same as (401/402); (602) the same as (431); and (603) the same as (429). The original 20th century culvert pipe (605), which ran through the centre of the site, was noted at the base of Trench 6, indicating that all the overlying layers are of modern date.

7.34 No archaeological features or finds were identified duringthis section of the watching brief.



PLATE E: Trench 6, Section 1

Trench 7

7.35 Additional works undertaken during the first phase of the watching brief included the monitoring of the topsoil stripping and removal of 20th century culvert in the north-western part of the main site (Area 1 on Figure 3). Only natural/redeposited natural and made ground deposits were identified in this area.

Additional Works

- 7.36 Some observations were also made during tree removal in the north-eastern part of the main site (Area 3 on Figure 3). A filled-in doorway was noted along the stone wall which forms a retaining wall along the eastern side of the site. This was interpreted as probably a back door to one of the gardens which sloped down to this area off the High Street (see historic mapping in desk-based assessment) – prior to the upper car park being built in the 20th century.
- 7.37 A large capping stone to a gatepost was also noted in this area. Possibly 18th-19th century, it was not associated with any other finds or features and was probably part of the dumped material used to fill in the back garden areas when the car park was created.





PLATE F: Stone capping stone and filled in dorrway

8 **Finds**

- 8.1 A small assemblage of finds was collected during the course of the watching brief deriving from contexts (205) (311), (312), (405), (410) and (417).
- 8.3 The finds assemblage primarily consisted of pottery fragments. Other finds comprised a single fragment of undiagnostic clay pipe from context (311); three small red brick fragments from contexts (311), (312) and (417); an undressed, quartz type stone was recovered from (407); four pieces of glass vessel from (305), (405) and (417); four fragments of animal bone (407) and (417); and a tin strap and an iron object from context (405)
- 8.4 The majority of the finds have been interpreted as post-medieval or modern in date; although possible residual medieval pottery fragments were recovered from context (312) and undated pottery which could be medieval in date from (410).
- 8.5 A total of four bulk samples (samples <1> to <4>) were extracted from contexts (423), (424), (425) and (426) and assessed for the recovery of macrofossils, waterlogged wood, insects and mollusca. The results of an initial assessment are presented in Appendix C. None of the samples contained any bone or mollusca and charcoal was present in only one sample (426). Waterlogged plant remains (wood and seeds) were present in moderate to high quantities within all four samples and contexts (423), (425) and (426) contained low to moderate quantities of insect fragments.

9 **Discussion**

- 9.1 There was little evidence of archaeological significance identified during the first phase of the watching brief (Trenches 1 & 2). The only deposist of interest was the alluvial clay (203) noted in Trench 2. The location of this depoist could suggest it relates to evidence of the watercourse which previously ran close to this area; although it could alternatively relate to general flooding or inundation events as previously noted in this area (AOC 2010a).
- 9.2 The alluvial deposits (411, 422, 423) within Trench 4 are of interest. The assessment indicated that the waterlogged seeds and woods recovered were indicative of a wet fen or fen carr type environment, in which alder and elder were growing with an understory of sedges (Appendix C). The sample from (426) indicated very damp or wet conditions. The assessment goes on to suggest that alluvial depositions in this area are likely to have been quite small and fluvially deposited organic remains on the valley floor could represent short periods of time, perhaps no more than the flood debris of a single season or even a single flood event. The samples were indicative of natural debris (i.e. twigs and small branches) probably shed and accumulated by natural processes.
- 9.3 The firm red/orange clay (408 and 418) identified in in Trench 4 is presumed to be the same deposit as that recorded in (104) and (205). Within Trench 4, the firm red/ornage clay (408) was originally interpreted as the natural deposit; however this is contradicted by a localisted deposist of purple stone/slate type material (419) thought to be a made ground dump depoist underlying (408). If (408)/(418) is of modern date, it could suggest the alluvial relates to post-medieval or modern flooding events as have been previously noted in this area (AOC 2010a). It has been suggested that (408/418) could be re-worked natural deposists, used to raise and consolidate a presumably wet groundsurface prior to 20th century development – possibly taken from the valley sides which were substataially truncated during this time (e.g. in the south-eastern area of the main site). The only evidence which may dismiss this theory is several pottery sherds (from two vessles) recovered from (410), which overlies (408), which could be of medieval date.

- 9.4 The deposists encountred in the WPD site all appear to be made ground layers. The exception to this are deposists (311) and (312), both contained residual fragments of post-medieval pottery, with two fragments of possible residual medieval pottery recovered from (312). These overlie (306), which has been interpreted as made ground as suggested by the concrete in Section 3:1, and thereofre contexts (311) and (312) may be re-deposuted material used to rais the ground level in this area.
- 9.5 There was no evidence of post-medieval industrial activity within the WPD site.

10 **Conclusions**

- 10.1 During the course of the watching brief on site the nature and extent of the archaeological potential was observed, in addition to the associated disturbance of this potential. A full sequence of deposits was recorded.
- 10.3 Within the main site the watching brief revealed a sequence of predominantly made ground deposits which, in the northern part of the site (Trench 4), appears to overly alluvial clays. The alluvial sequence has is thought to relate to late post-medieval/early 20th century flooding events.
- 10.4 Apart from the alluvial deposits, no finds or features of archaeological significance were noted during any groundworks in this area.
- 10.5 Within the WPD site, a similar sequence of predominantly made ground deposits were noted. Within the south-east and southern part of this area, only deposits (311) and (312) contained some residual post-medieval and possibly medieval pottery. No finds or features of archaeological significance were noted in this area.
- 10.6 No further work is recommended.

11 **Publication and Archive Deposition**

- 11.1 Due to the nature of the project, publication will be restricted to a summary of results in the Devon Archaeological Society Newsletter and via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) (Appendix D).
- 11.2 The archive, consisting of paper records, drawings, and digital photographs will be deposited with Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery at an appropriate time in the future.

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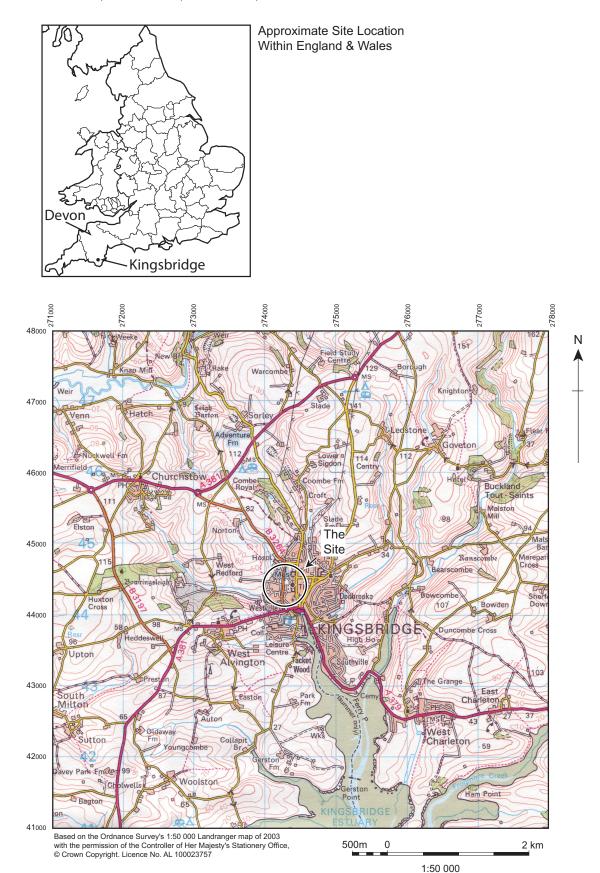


Figure 1: Site Location



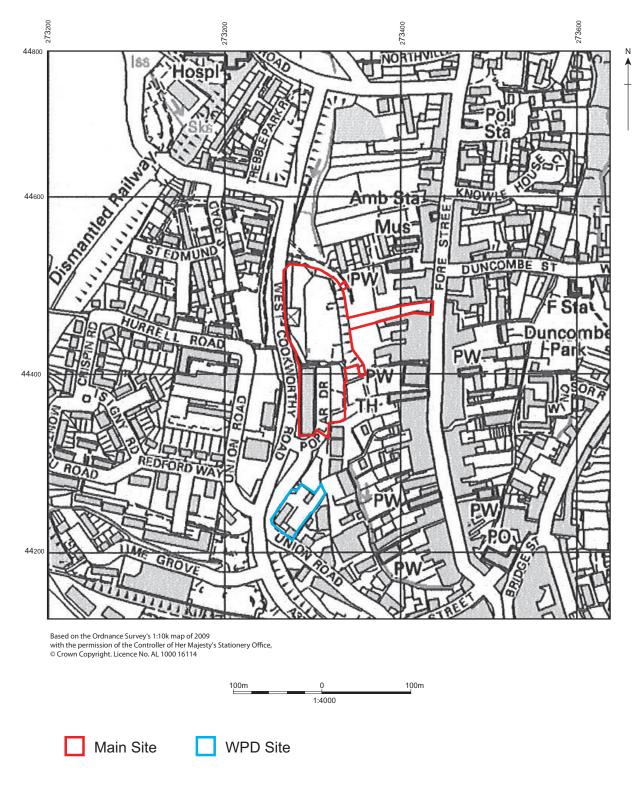
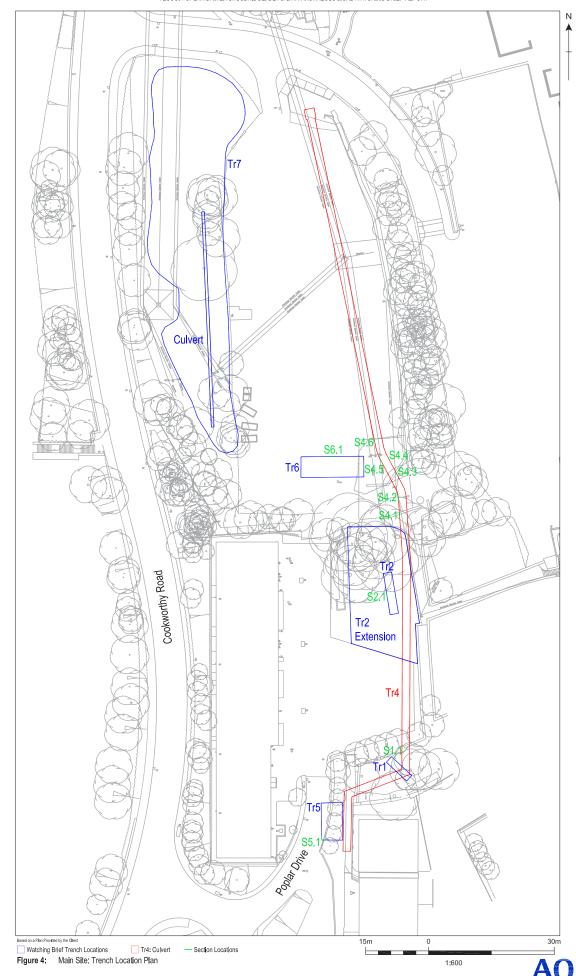
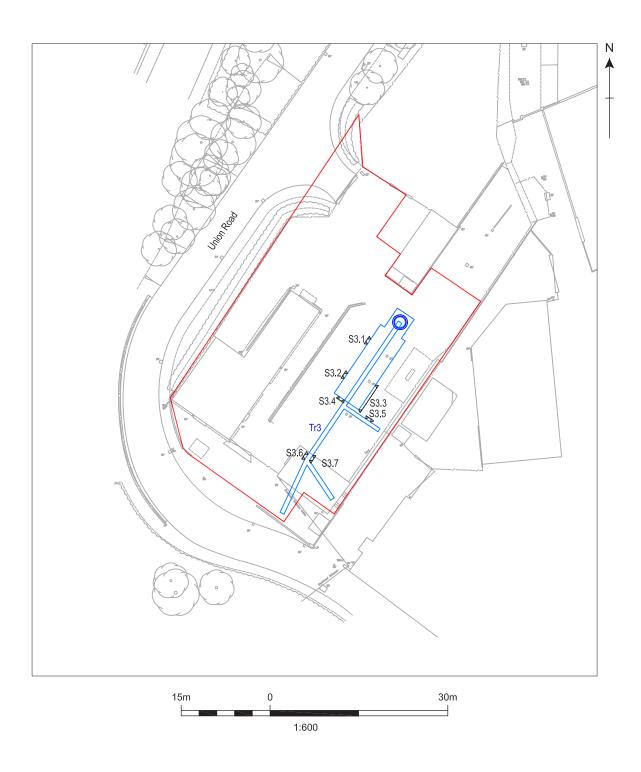


Figure 2: Detailed Site Location Plan





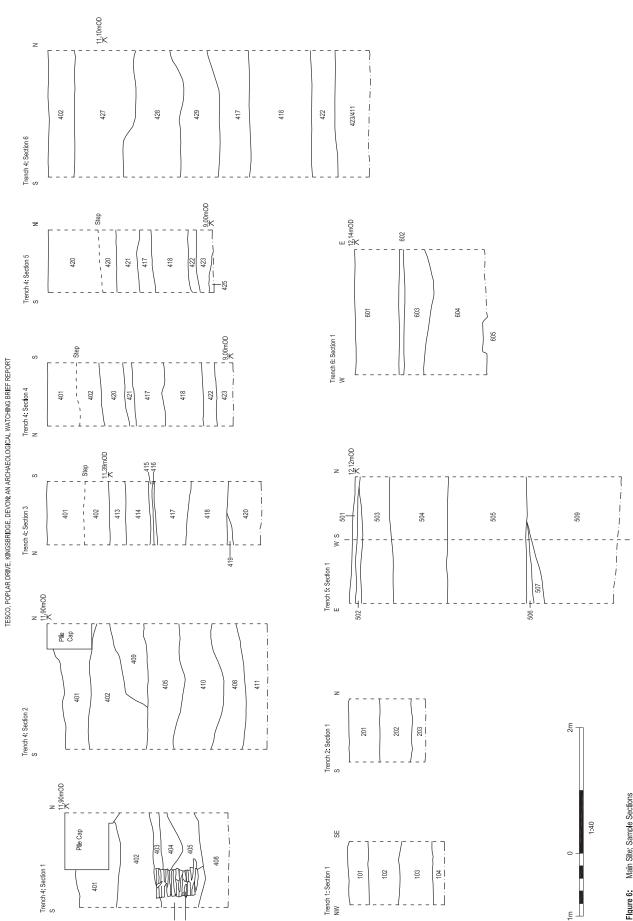




Based on a Plan Provided by the Client

Figure 5: WPD Site: Trench Location Plan





101 102

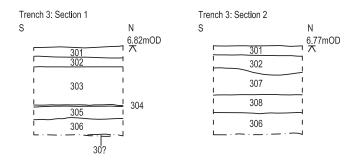
401

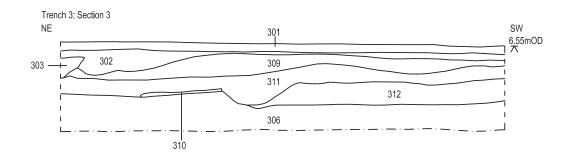
407 —

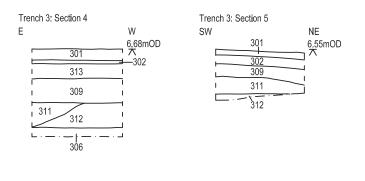
103

Figure 6: Main Site: Sample Sections

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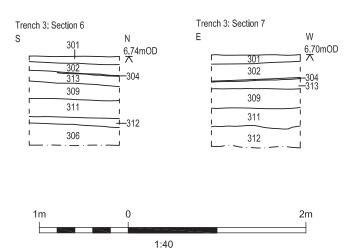


Figure 7: WPD Site: Sample Sections



Appendices



Appendix A – Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth	
101	Mid-brown loam - Topsoil	/	/	c. 0.30m	
	Stone and loam - made ground consolidation				
102	layer;	1	1	<i>c</i> .0.50m	
103	Mid-dark brown loam - buried topsoil	1	/	<i>c.</i> 0.45m	
104	Red / pink clay - Possible redeposited natural	1	/	0.20m - NFE	
201	Mid-brown loam – Topsoil	/	/	<i>c.</i> 0.50m	
202	Pink sandstone / clay – re-deposited natural	/	/	<i>c.</i> 0.40m	
203	Loose grey alluvial clay – alluvium	/	/	c.0.20m	
204	Pink clay - natural	/	/	NFE	
205	Modern stone deposit – made ground	0.60m	0.20m	NFE	
301	Tarmac - made ground	/	/	c.0.10 – 0.20m	
302	Bedding layer – made ground	/	/	c.0.10 – 0.30m	
303	Gravel and Stone Hardcore – made ground	/	/	<i>c.</i> 0.30 – 0.45m	
304	Permeable 'polythene' liner – made ground	/	/	0.01m	
305	Light grey / orange gravelly clay -made ground	/	/	<i>c</i> .0.15 – 0.30m	
306	Orangey brown clay - made ground	/	/	c. 0.25 – NFE	
307	Bright Orangey brown, silty clay - made ground	/	/	c.0.30m	
308	Orangey-yellow clay - made ground	/	/	c.0.20m	
309	Quartz type stone hardcore – made ground	1	/	c. 0.20m	
310	Black gravel / tarmac material – made ground	1	/	c. 0.07m	
	Dark grey / brown silty loam- re-deposited buried	-		c. 0.20m –	
311	soil	/	/	0.40m	
	Mid- brown sandy loam – re-deposited buried soil			c. 0.10m –	
312		1	/	0.30m	
040	Pink / orange stone and gravel hardcore – made	,	,	c. 0.20m –	
313	ground Stone, gravel, rubble, clay – recent made ground	/	/	0.30m	
401	Stone, gravelly clay, rubble – made ground	/	/	c. 0.90 – 1.00m	
402	7 7 7	/	/	c. 0.47m	
403	Dark grey gravelly clay – made ground Orange / brown compact clay – made ground	/	/	c. 0.15m	
404	. ,	/	/	c.0.30m	
405	Brown / grey sandy loam – buried topsoil Stone wall foundations	/	/	c.0.30m	
406		/	<i>c.</i> 0.45m	<i>c.</i> 0.74m	
408	Orange / red clay	/	/	<i>c.</i> 50m	
409	Yellow / brown gravelly clay and stone - made ground	/	/	<i>c.</i> 0.30m – 0.50m	
403	Purple / brown silty clay with slate inclusions –	,	,	0.50111	
410	made ground	/	/	<i>c</i> .0.60m	
411	Loose, grey brown alluvial clay – alluvium	/	/	c. 0.20m - NFE	
413	Sub-angular stone deposit – made ground	/	/	c. 0.20m	
414	Light brown silty gravel – made ground	/	/	c. 0.40m	
415	Concrete – made ground	1	/	c.0.05m	
416	Green / brown compacted gravel – made ground	1	/	c.0.05m	
710	J. J	′	′	0.0.00111	

417	Brown / grey silty loam – buried topsoil	/	/	<i>c</i> .0.20m – 0.50m
418	Orange / red clay – same as (408)	/	/	c.0.40m – 0.60m
419	Purple slate / stone – made ground	/	/	c. 0.10m
420	Green / grey gravel and stone – made ground	/	/	c.0.30 – 0.40m
421 Yellow / brown gravel and stone – made ground			/	c.0.10m – 0.15m
422	Light grey alluvial clay – alluvium	/	/	c.0.20m
423	Brown / grey alluvial clay – alluvium	/	/	c. 0.30m – NFE
424	Tree root	/	/	NFE
425	Fiberous organic remains	/	/	c. 0.10m
426	Tree root	/	/	NFE
427	Stone, gravel and clay – made ground	/	/	c. 0.50m
428	Blue / grey stone, gravel and slate – made ground	/	/	c.0.30 – 0.45m
429	Green / grey stone and clay – made ground	/	/	c.0.30m
430	Yellow / brown, gravel and stone hardcore – made ground	/	/	c.0.50 – 1.00m
431	Tarmac – made ground	/	/	c. 0.05 – 0.10m
432	Pink / orange stone and gravel consolidation layer	1	,	0.10 0.20**
	made ground Tarmac – made ground	/	/	c. 0.10 – 0.20m
501	Tarmac – made ground Tarmac hard standing – made ground	/	/	c.0.07m
502	Grey / brown stone and gravel – made ground	/	/	c. 0.10m
503		/	/	c.0.55m
504	Red / brown gravelly clay – made ground	/	/	c. 0.85m
505	Grey brown gravel and clay – made ground	/	/	c. 1.20m
506	Tarmac – made ground	/	/	<i>c</i> . 0.10m
507	Stone and gravel – made ground	/	/	c. 0.10m
509	Red / brown clay – made ground	/	/	<i>c.</i> 1.30m
601	Red / brown stone, gravel, clay – made ground	/	/	c. 0.65m
602	Tarmac - made ground	1	/	c. 0.10m
603	Green / grey stone, gravel, clay – made ground	/	/	<i>c.</i> 0.30 – 0.50m
604	Yellow / brown gravel and stone – made ground	/	1	c. 0.80 – 1.00m
605	20 th century culvert pipe	/	/	NFE

Appendix B - An Assessment of finds from Poplar Drive, Kingsbridge, Devon

Paul Fitz AOC Archaeology

Summary

A small assemblage of finds was recovered from eight contexts, with the majority being ceramic pottery and building material of the post medieval period, though some residual medieval pot is evident.

The Pottery

A total of 34 sherds of pottery were retrieved from six contexts. Most of the pottery dates from the 18th to 19th (or even 20th) century. A brief spot date summary for each context is listed.

- Context (205) has two sherds of post-medieval red wares<1580-1900>. A rim piece with internal
 orange glaze from a large storage bowl or jar, and a small sherd with internal and external brown
 glaze.
- Context (311) has eight sherds, being transfer printed wares and creamwares. A sherd of black and white transfer print would give a likely date range of <1810-1900>
- Context (312) has five sherds, two of which are medieval wares; one very small, abraded earthenware piece and one with internal green glaze. Also present are a blue and white transfer print<1785-1900>, a plain white glazed earthenware and an olive brown glazed red ware.
- Context (405) has a small sherd of post medieval (?) red ware with olive green glaze <1580-1900>
- Context (410) has seven sherds from two vessels. Two pieces of a pale pinkish-orange fabric with internal green glaze are from the same vessel. Five pieces of a pale pinkish-orange fabric with crushed flint temper prominent on the (olive green) glazed internal side, with a largish piece of rim with a crude attached lifting knob, are from another vessel.
- It is uncertain of the dates of these two vessels, though whilst a medieval date cannot be discounted they are likely to be of a later period.
- From context (417) eleven sherds were recovered with six sherds being from a Sunderland type ware mixing bowl<1800-1900>. Also present are three terracotta sherds, a blue and white transfer print ware <1785-1900> and a base piece from a shallow cream/paste jar.<1740-1900>

Tobacco Pipe

A single stem piece from a white clay tobacco pipe was retrieved from context (311). This is undiagnostic.

Building Materials

Three small red brick fragments (with no complete dimensions) were recovered from contexts (311), (312) and (417). An undressed, dense, quartz type stone was recovered from (304).

From context (407) is a piece of oolitic limestone 110mm wide x 200mm long x 38mm thick. It has traces of white mortar bonding along one side. It is possibly a paver (?)

Glass

Four pieces of vessel glass were retrieved from three contexts. Two small clear glass sherds from (305), a green wine bottle sherd from (405) and a wine bottle punt base from (417). This looks to be of nineteenth century form.

Animal bone

Only four fragments from two contexts were retrieved during the watching brief. Context (407) has three pieces from a small/medium sized mammal whilst (417) has a single mammal limb bone with three distinctive knife cuts.

Metals

A 32mm wide tin strap and an iron object were retrieved from context (405). The iron is a heavily concreted tubular piece of 110mm length. It may be a bolt, rather than a nail.

A part folded, decorated, tin strap with a squared fixing head at one end and an uncertain raised decoration at the broken end. It is likely to be no earlier than the nineteenth century as it has little oxidisation.

Discussion/Recommendations

The finds assemblage is small in size and whilst helping to date the contexts has little significance on a local or national level. The medieval pieces are interesting although are thought to be residual.

It is recommended that the finds are packed and submitted with the archive at a future date to the Plymouth Museum & Art Gallery's guidelines for deposition.

Appendix C – Poplar Drive, Kingsbridge, Devon (NGR: Sx 733 443): Environmental Archaeological Assessment

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INTRODUCTION

This report summarises the findings arising out of the environmental archaeological assessment undertaken by Quaternary Scientific (University of Reading) in connection with the proposed development at Poplar Drive, Kingsbridge, Devon (National Grid Reference: SX 733 443). Four samples (samples <1> to <4>, representing contexts (423) to (426) respectively) from an organic horizon found within alluvial deposits at the site were provided by AOC Archaeology Group for an assessment of their environmental archaeological potential. The town of Kingsbridge stands at the head of the Kingsbridge Estuary. Five small streams originally fed into the estuary within the area now occupied by the town. However the valley floors of these small streams are narrow and the valley sides are steep. The British Geological Survey maps some small areas of Holocene alluvium close to the shoreline of the estuary but none at all in the small valleys feeding into the estuary. The natural courses of the streams within the modern urban area have been largely or entirely lost to view in artificial channels or culverts. The course of the more westerly of the two streams entering the estuary from the north was close to the present site, but no obvious trace of it remains in the modern townscape. Under natural conditions in the valleys draining into the Kingsbridge Estuary, areas of alluvial deposition are likely to have been quite small and susceptible to reworking because of the narrow width of the valley floor. This means that fluvially deposited organic remains on the valley floor are likely to represent short periods of time, perhaps no more than the flood debris of a single season or even a single flood event. Thick alluvial sequences representing long periods of time within the Holocene are unlikely to be preserved.

The aim of this environmental archaeological assessment was to evaluate the potential of the bulk samples for reconstructing the environmental history of the site and its environs. In order to achieve this aim, the assessment consisted of the following techniques:

- 1. Rapid assessment of the preservation and concentration of macroscopic plant, insect and Mollusca remains from the bulk samples,
- Detailed assessment of the preservation and concentration of waterlogged seeds to provide a preliminary reconstruction of the vegetation history and general environmental context of the site,
- 3. Detailed assessment of the preservation and concentration of waterlogged wood to provide a preliminary reconstruction of the vegetation history and general environmental context of the site.

METHODS

Macrofossil assessment

Four bulk samples were processed for the recovery of macrofossil remains including waterlogged plant macrofossils, waterlogged wood, insects and Mollusca. The extraction process involved the following procedures: (1) subsampling 1 litre of the bulk sample, measuring the sample volume by water displacement, and (2) processing the sample by wet sieving using 300µm and 1mm mesh sizes. Each sample was scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications, and sorted into the different macrofossil classes. The concentration and preservation of remains was estimated for each class of macrofossil (Table 1).

Preliminary identifications of the archaeobotanical remains (waterlogged plant macrofossils and wood), have been made using modern comparative material and reference atlases (Cappers et al., 2006; Hather, 2000; Schweingruber, 1990; Schoch et al., 2004). Nomenclature used follows Stace (2005). The quantities of waterlogged seeds and wood were recorded for selected samples, with identifications of the main taxa (Tables 2 and 3). A minimum of 5 waterlogged wood specimens were assessed from each sample. The attributes and general quality of fragment preservation was noted. Each fragment was then thin sectioned using a hand held razor blade, mounted on a slide and examined at magnifications of up to x400, as described in Hather (2000). Specific attributes and features recorded during examination were the diameter of any twig wood and, as a means of determining relative maturity, the number of growth rings.

RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE MACROFOSSIL ASSESSMENT

A total of four bulk samples (samples <1> to <4>) were extracted for the recovery of macrofossil remains including waterlogged plant macrofossils, waterlogged wood, insects and Mollusca (Table 1). The results of an initial assessment indicated that samples <1> to <4> contained no bone or Mollusca. Charcoal less than 2mm in diameter was present in one sample (sample <4>, context (426)). Waterlogged plant remains (wood and seeds) were present in moderate to high quantities within all four samples. Three samples (<1> (423); <3> (425) and <4> (426)) contained low to moderate quantities of insect fragments.

Table 1: Results of the macrofossil assessment, Tesco Kingsbridge, Devon

				1						1
	Insects	7	1	ı	1	~	1	1/2	1	
	Fragments	ı	ı	ı	ı	ı	ı	ı	ı	
o)	llsm2		,							
Bone	Гагде					ı			ı	
sca	Fragments									
Mollusca	әјочм	1	ı	ı	ı	ı	ı	1	ı	= 101+
Waterlogged	spəəs	က	4	2	2	_	4	2	2	51 to 75; 4 = 76 to 100; 5 = 101+
Water	booW	1	4	ı	က	ı	2	1	4	75; 4 = 7
	Сһаff	ı	ı	ı	ı	ı	ı	ı	ı	= 51 to
	spəəs		ı			ı			ı	26 to 50; 3 =
	Charcoal (<2mm)							←		= 26 tc
rred	Charcoal (2-4mm)									, 25; 2
Charred	Charcoal (>⁴mm)									1 = 1 to
	Fraction (e.g. flot, residue, >300µm)	>300µm	>1mm	>300µm	>1mm	>300µm	>1mm	>300µm	>1mm	pecimens (MNS) = 0; 1
	Volume remaining (I, ca.)	9.0		19.0		19.0		19.0		ecimens
	Volume processed (I)	1.0		1.0		1.0		1.0		r of Sp
	(I) bəldmsədus əmuloV	1.0		1.0		1.0		1.0		Numbe
	Context number	(423)		(424)		(425)		(426)		Key: 0 = Estimated Minimum Number of S
	Sample number			<2> (<3>		<4>		Key: $0 = E$

RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE WATERLOGGED SEED ASSESSMENT

The results of the macrofossil rapid assessment indicated that waterlogged seeds were present in moderate to high quantities in all four of the samples assessed, and thus these underwent a more detailed assessment. The results of the waterlogged seed assessment are displayed in Table 2.

The assemblage in samples <1> (423), <2> (424) and <3> (425) were dominated by the herbaceous taxon Carex sp. (sedge). Other herbaceous taxa present in these samples included Polygonum/Rumex sp. (knotweed/dock/sorrel), Silene/Stellaria sp. (campion/stitchwort), Chenopodium sp. (e.g. fat hen) and Cirsium/Carduus sp. (thistle). Tree and shrub taxa were rare in these samples but included Alnus glutinosa (alder) and Sambucus nigra (elder). Aquatic taxa were present and included Apium cf. nodiflorum (fool's water cress) and Apium cf. inundatum (lesser marshwort). This assemblage is indicative of a wet fen dominated by sedges, other herbaceous taxa and aquatic species. Alder and elder were growing on the wetland surface.

The assemblage in sample <4> (426) is dominated by the aquatic taxon Apium cf. nodiflorum (fool's watercress). Shrub taxa were present and included Rubus sp. (e.g. bramble) and Sambucus nigra (elder). The herbaceous taxon cf. Carex sp. (sedge) was also present. This assemblage is indicative of very damp or wet conditions in which fool's watercress was the dominant species.

Table 2: Results of the waterlogged plant macrofossil (seeds) assessment, Tesco Kingsbridge, Devon

Sample Context Waterlogged seeds					
number	number	Main taxa	ain taxa Common name		
<1>	(423)	cf. Carex sp.	sedge	19	
		Apium cf. nodiflorum	fool's water cress	14	
		Polygonum/Rumex sp.	knotweed/dock/sorrel	2	
		Alnus glutinosa catkin	alder	1	
		Apium cf. inundatum	lesser marshwort	1	
		Unknown/unidentified	-	2	
<2>	(424)	Carex sp.	sedge	5	
		Silene/Stellaria sp.	campion/stitchwort	2	
		Apium cf. nodiflorum	fool's water cress	1	
		Sambucus nigra	elder	1	
		Alnus glutinosa fruit	alder	1	
		Chenopodium sp.	e.g. fat hen	1	
		Unknown/unidentified	-	1	
<3>	(425)	cf. Carex sp.	sedge	12	
		Sambucus nigra	elder	1	
		Alnus glutinosa fruit	alder	1	
		Cirsium/Carduus sp.	thistle	1	
<4>	(426)	Apium cf. nodiflorum	fool's water cress	11	
		Sambucus nigra	elder	1	
		Rubus sp.	e.g. bramble	1	
		cf. Carex sp.	sedge	1	

RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE WATERLOGGED WOOD ASSESSMENT

Waterlogged wood was present in moderate to high quantities within all four samples and thus these underwent a more detailed assessment. Of the 20 fragments examined 19 were identified as Alnus glutinosa (alder), all of which derived from twig wood or round wood from small branches. In most instances bark remained attached. One fragment was identified as bark from an unknown taxon. The samples are suggestive of natural debris (i.e. twigs and small branches), associated with a stand of alder; most probably shed and accumulated by natural processes. The quality of preservation was generally very good.

Table 3: Results of the waterlogged wood assessment, Tesco Kingsbridge, Devon

Sample	Context	Waterlogged wood		
number	number	Identification (number)	Comments	C14
<1>	(423)	Alnus glutinosa (5)	Inc twigwood (x2) age 2-3 years	Υ
<2>	(424)	Alnus glutinosa (5)	Inc twigwood (x3) age 2-3+ years	Υ
<3>	(425)	Alnus glutinosa (5)	Inc twigwood (x3) age 3+ years	Υ
<4>	(426)	Alnus glutinosa (4) Indeterminate (Bark) (1)	Inc twigwood (x3) age 4-6+ years unexamined elements c.f. Bark	Y -

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The aim of this environmental archaeological assessment was to evaluate the potential of the four bulk samples for reconstructing the environmental history of the site and its environs. The combined results of the macrofossil assessments of waterlogged seeds and wood demonstrate that samples <1> (423), <2> (424) and <3> (425) are indicative of a wet fen or fen carr in which alder and elder were growing with an understorey of sedges, other herbaceous taxa and aquatic species. The assemblage in sample <4> (426) is dominated by the aquatic taxon fool's watercress, indicating very damp or wet conditions. The presence of alder in the waterlogged wood assemblage indicates that this environment may have consisted of a fen carr comprised of alder and elder with an understorey of herbaceous and aquatic vegetation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Both the preservation and concentration of waterlogged wood and seeds were generally good in all four samples. However, further work on the waterlogged seeds is unlikely to yield more information on the environmental history of the site than is provided in this detailed assessment. Similarly, it appears from this assessment that the waterlogged wood assemblage is overwhelmingly dominated by alder fragments. Further work on these samples is thus not recommended unless they are considered of archaeological significance. Should a chronological framework be required for this organic horizon the alder specimens identified in all four samples are suitable for radiocarbon dating.

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Appendix D – OASIS Form

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-78380

Project details

Poplar Drive, Kingsbridge Project name

Short description of

the project

The watching brief was undertaken upon two areas of the development site the main site and the WPD site. Within the main site, the watching brief predominantly revealed a substantial sequence of made ground deposits, include recent pre-development ground build up on the top. The top of an alluvial deposit was encountered within the northern areas of the site, from which environmental samples were taken. Predominantly made ground deposits were noted in the WPD site. The only deposits of interest were possibly redeposited 19th / 20th material which contained some residual post-medieval

and possibly medieval pottery.

Project dates Start: 13-06-2010 End: 12-12-2010

Previous/future work Yes / No

Any associated project reference codes

30770 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference

codes

AR.2010.20 - Museum accession ID

Type of project Recording project

Conservation Area Site status

Current Land use Other 15 - Other

Significant Finds **CERAMICS Post Medieval**

Significant Finds **CERAMICS Uncertain**

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country England

Site location DEVON SOUTH HAMS KINGSBRIDGE Poplar Drive

Postcode TQ7 1QN

Project creators

Name of Organisation **AOC Archaeology**

Project brief originator

Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District

Archaeologist)

Project design originator

AOC Archaeology

Project

director/manager

Melissa Melikian

Type of

sponsor/funding

body

Developer

Name of sponsor/funding

body

ISG Pearce / Tesco Stores Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient

Devon

Physical Archive ID AR 2010.20

Physical Contents 'Animal Bones', 'Ceramics', 'Glass'

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title Poplar Drive, Kingsbridge, Devon: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

Author(s)/Editor(s) Carter, N.

Date 2010 Issuer or publisher **AOC Archaeology**

Place of issue or

publication

London

Description A4 text and illustrations

Project bibliography 2

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title Poplar Drive, Kingsbridge, Devon: A Written Scheme of Investigation for an

Arcaheological Watching Brief

Fidler, T. Author(s)/Editor(s)

Date 2010

Issuer or publisher **AOC Archaeology**

Place of issue or publication

London

Description A4 text and illustrations

Project bibliography 3

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title Poplar Drive, Kingsbridge, Devon: An Arcaheological Watching Brief Report

Author(s)/Editor(s) N CARTER

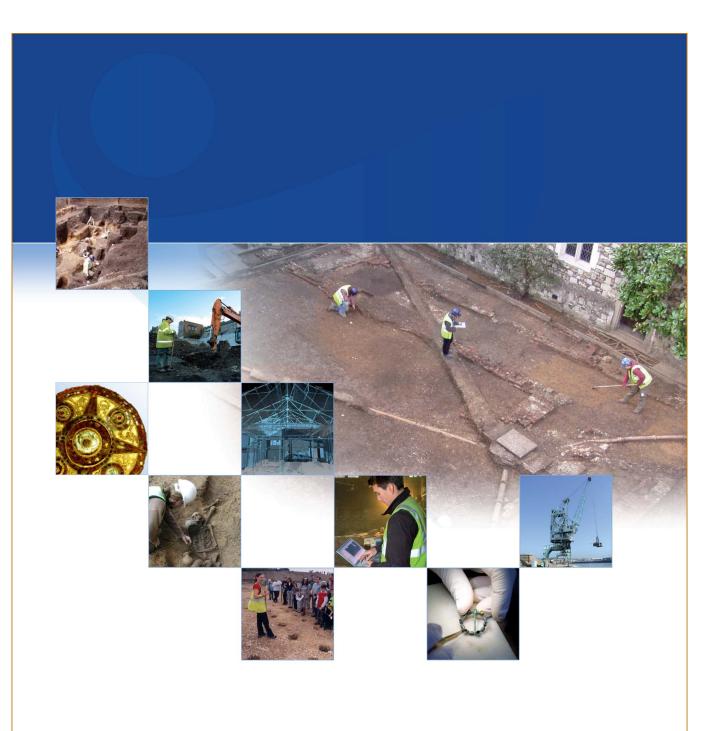
Date 2011

Issuer or publisher **AOC ARCHAEOLOGY**

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Description	Watching Brief report A4, text A4 and A3 illustrations
Entered by	Nick Carter (nick.carter@aocarchaeology.com)
Entered on	31 May 2011





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