

Plymouth City Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Plymstock, Plymouth	National Grid Reference: SX 5013 5375	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring at Yacht Haven Quay, Plymstock, Plymouth		Photo attached: N
Planning Application no: 07/00253	Recipient museum: Plymouth	
OASIS ID: exeterar1-50259	Museum Accession no: AR.2008.23	
Contractor's reference number/code: EA6280	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 02/04-25/04/08	
<p>Description of works:</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the construction of a dry stack building. The archaeological work was required under a condition attached to the grant of planning consent for the redevelopment of the site, as advised by Plymouth City Council Historic Environment Service.</p> <p>The site lies in an area of limestone geology, which has the potential to contain natural caves and fissures known to produce environments conducive to the preservation of archaeological deposits and faunal remains dating back to the Palaeolithic period. Previous finds have been made during the operation of Breakwater Quarry in the 19th century, in caves known as Oreston Bone caves and Oreston Great Cave.</p> <p>The footprint of the proposed building encompasses an area roughly measuring 60m by 70m. Excavation was carried out in a controlled manner using a mechanical 360° excavator with a toothed bucket.</p> <p>The ground works that were monitored for this project involved the excavation of a series of foundation pile trenches. Each trench measured between 2.00m² and 2.50m² in plan. Limestone bedrock was exposed within a number of the trenches at depths of between 0.30m and 1.40m. The incline of the bedrock was not perceptible due to the size of trenches excavated. Sealing the bedrock was 0.10m-0.40m of thick natural subsoil consisting of dark brown clayey silt containing frequent amounts of limestone fragments. Overlying this was a demolition-derived material composed of frequent limestone and ceramic building fragments. This appears to have been utilised as a levelling deposit and was overlain by an associated former tarmacadam surface. The surface probably relates to known immediate post-war development.</p> <p>No fissures, natural caves, or other archaeological features were observed. No finds were retrieved.</p>		
Recorder: P. Jones (Exeter Archaeology)		Date sent to HER: 13-11-09