

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Great Torrington, Torridge	National Grid Reference SS48561932 to SS49581924, SS48651921 to SS48661930	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording during the replacement of the gas main along New Street and Torridge View.		Photo attached? YES
Wales and West Utilities ref: R10100625	Recipient museum: Museum of Barnstaple & North Devon	
OASIS ID: southwes1-109149	Museum Accession no: NDDMS 2011.17	
Contractor's reference number/code: TNS11	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 04/04/11, 07/04/11, 13/04/11, 11/05/11, 01/06/11, 13/06/11, 30/06/11, 27/07/11 and 30/08/11	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Mr Barry Sale of Wales and West Utilities (the Client) during the replacement of the gas main along New Street and Torridge View, Great Torrington. The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) conforming to the brief provided by Ann Marie Dick of Devon County Historic Environment Service (DCHES). The work was undertaken by S. Walls over various dates between April and August 2011.</p> <p>The pipe trench was excavated by a mechanical excavator using a toothed bucket, typically to a depth of 0.65-0.8m, reaching a maximum depth of 1m along a small portion of its length. The trench was excavated to a typical width of 0.6m, although in the areas of junctions it was excavated to a width of c.1m. The work was carried out in stages and took place with limited direct archaeological supervision, but the excavations were regularly visited, with the sections and locations of the trenches recorded and photographed.</p> <p>Broadly speaking there was a relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence of four main deposits which extended, with slight variations, along the full length of the trenching along New Street (Figures 2a-b). These consisted of the modern tarmac road surface which included in places at least three identifiable layers of previous road surfaces and hardcore. These tarmac and hardcore layers (101) extended up to 0.3m below the present ground level. These surfaces overlay a very mixed deposit (typically 0.15-0.3m thick) of loose greyish-yellow gritty sandy-clay (102) containing common small sub-angular stones (up to 50mm), as well as frequent brick and slate fragments. This deposit overlay a cleaner gritty yellow-grey clay-silt (103), which contained occasional sub-rounded pebbles (up to 80mm), rare charcoal smears and mortar fragments. In a few places along the excavated length of the trench a clean and compact yellow clay (104) was visible at the base of the section. This deposit (104) was not excavated to its full extent, but was at least 0.1m thick where revealed.</p> <p>A large number of modern services cut through these deposits, along the whole length of the excavated trench, but only a single historic feature, wall {106}, was identifiable. This was located towards the western end of New Street, directly below the driveway to the Woodland Vale Care Home (Figure 1a). This feature {106} took the form of the footing of a roughly coursed and dressed stone wall constructed from sub-angular stones (typically 0.2m in length) with a hard greyish-cream lime mortar bonding (see Figure 2d). The wall {106} cut through (102) and had been truncated by the modern road surface and hardcore (101). The location of the wall suggests that it is related to the surviving northern boundary wall (see Figure 2c) of the grounds of the Torrington Union Workhouse, built in 1837, which preceded the modern Woodland Vale Care Home. It would therefore appear that this boundary wall had originally continued across at least part of the current drive, prior to it being widened, presumably to enable vehicular access.</p> <p>The only finds recovered from the excavations were all of a post-medieval (probably 18th-19th century) date. These were; two clay pipe stems and two sherds of white refined earthenware recovered from deposit (102).</p>		
A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.		
Recorder: S. Walls		Date sent to HER: 05.09.2011

Please email completed form to: archaeol@devon.gov.uk or post to County Archaeology Service, Environment Directorate, Matford Lane Offices, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QW. Information recorded on this form will be added to the Historic Environment Record, and made available to all researchers.

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Figure 1: Location plan of the trenches along New Street and Torridge View.



Figure 2: South facing section of inspection pit outside Lidl (a); north facing section outside 83a New Street (b); New Street trench running west from Torridge View (c); wall footings viewed from the north beneath the drive to the Woodland Vale care home (d). All photos were taken with a 2m scale.