

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish: Torrington	National Grid Reference 249349.119247	Number: (Leave blank)	
Subject: Archaeological watching brief on groundworks at Devon Soup Company, 50 New Street, Torrington		Plan/Photo attached? Y	<i>(should show the location of areas investigated excavated and features exposed)</i>
Planning Application no: 1/0315/2007/FUL			
Description of works. <p>Groundworks associated with the construction of an extension northwards of the present property at 50, New Street were monitored by South West Archaeology (SWARCH) staff. The work conformed to a written scheme of investigation (WSI) drawn up by SWARCH in consultation with Devon County Historic Environment Service (DCHES).</p> <p>No site visit was made prior to the watching brief and on arrival on site it was noted that lean-to buildings had been demolished. Extant remains of a part of the west wall of the former toilet are described under T5. The footings are described as dug, commencing with T1 and T2 which formed a dog-leg from the existing factory to the main east footing of the new building (see plan).</p> <p>T1 ran N/S and was approximately 1.5m in length with 0.25m of topsoil and rubble sealing natural clay. Total depth of T1: 0.8m. These were the approximate depths for other trenches apart from slight variations caused by steps cut halfway down the N/S trenches.</p> <p>T2 ran E/W for c. 2.5m with a similar profile to T1. Part of a terracotta drainage pipe was evident.</p> <p>T3 (c.7.5m length, N/S) followed the exact cut for the drainage pipe. Some seepage into the subsoil was evident as blackish staining. An east/west wall, evidently truncated by the drain cut, was visible in the west facing section (but not in the east facing one). This was c. 0.6m width, lime mortared, rubble build and sat on the subsoil at a depth of 0.6m. A truncated residual portion of wall was evident in the east boundary wall and although clay-bonded was on a similar alignment.</p> <p>T4 (c. 7m length, E/W) was bisected by a concrete footing for an extant (base course) concrete wall. At this point T5 was begun.</p> <p>T5 (c. 9m length, N/S) was excavated from the south. This entailed the extraction of some 1.5m of the foundation of the clay bonded wall which appeared to correlate to the portion which had been left extant abutting the end of the west side of the present factory. This extant portion (of the former toilet) comprised c. 0.7m maximum length of wall (width 0.36 - 0.39m) which appeared to have been splitting down the middle, bowing outwards. The outer face had been poorly repaired with cement.</p> <p>Some 3.5m north of the beginning of the trench was an inspection chamber/junction for waste water. The fill of a cut for a waste pipe running adjacent to T5 was partially cut by T5. The seepage caused by leaking collar joints had caused considerable ingress of sewage into the clay natural, with characteristic blackish staining. Damage to the brickwork of the chamber while excavating T5 accelerated contamination of T5, making inspection of base and lower part of the</p>		Reference.	Date. of site visit(s) 12.06.07

<p>trench section difficult.</p> <p>There was in effect no west facing section due to the pipe cut but in the east facing section a cut was visible (which was picked up again in T4) of what may be interpreted as a C18/19 pit of building debris, comprising mortared faced stone, brick sections and post-medieval bottle glass, within a dark brown silty clay. A sherd of a N. Devon sgraffito plate from the base of the cut was recovered, dating the deposit.</p> <p>The remainder of T4 was then excavated as far as the concrete footing previously mentioned. Apart from a concrete base for a C19/20 tiled floor, no further features were noted.</p>		
<p>Recorder (name and organisation) Chris Preece (SWARCH)</p>	<p>Date sent to HER</p>	

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