

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Bideford, Torridge	National Grid Reference SS45432652	Number:
Subject: 6a The Quay, Bideford: Demolition of existing building & erection of shop		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 1/0223/2010/FUL	Recipient museum: Museum of Barnstaple & North Devon	
OASIS ID: southwes1-83044	Museum Accession no: NDMS 2010.52.	
Contractor's reference number/code: BQ210	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 14 th October 2010 & 16 th February 2012	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by South West Archaeology Limited (SWARCH) at the request of Mr Ian Cox of Greencliffs (the Client) in association with the construction of a new shop at 6a The Quay, Bideford (Figure 1). This work was undertaken by Dr S. Walls and Dr L. Bray.</p> <p>A historic building assessment was completed by SWARCH in 2010 (SWARCH report 100317) that demonstrated that No.6a The Quay was a 19th century building constructed up against No.6 (a Grade II Listed 17th century structure) to which it was associated through ownership or tenancy.</p> <p>The first stage of monitoring (in October 2010) was conducted during the excavation of two geo-technical pits in the front portion of the property (see Figure 1), which was followed (in February 2012) by the excavation of a c.1m wide ring beam slot within this same vicinity. The geo-technical pits were excavated by hand under archaeological supervision, whilst the ring beam slot was excavated by machine using a 0.8m wide toothless grading bucket. The modern concrete floor which overlay this area was broken up by jackhammer and machine.</p> <p>Geo-technical pit #1 was excavated 2m from the east elevation of the building and 0.6m south of the northern wall, although it was subsequently extended to about this elevation. Beneath two layers ((101) and (102)) of concrete floor (0.11m thick) was a 0.05m thick deposit of yellow-grey sandy-silt soil (103) containing frequent mortar flecks and coal fragments. This thin deposit of sandy-silt soil (102) overlay a 0.3m thick 'rubble rich' deposit of heterogenous loose grey sandy-silt (104) with frequent stone inclusions (>250mm), occasional brick fragments and slate fragments. A pipe trench containing an iron water pipe cut [107] into this 'rubble rich' deposit (104) and ran east-west across geotechnical pit #1. Below deposit (104) was a further 0.39m thick layer of 'rubble' (105), which was a darker grey sand-silt containing abundant stone (>450mm) and occasional hand-made brick fragments.</p> <p>Geo-technical pit #1 was extended to the north in order to locate the cut for the 17th century wall of No. 6. This was not visible in rubble deposit (105) but in the layer below, a clean homogenous fine yellow sand (110) containing occasional large sub-angular blocky stones (>400mm). This clean sand (110) had an east-west orientated cut [111] visible along its northern edge (0.12m from the north elevation) which probably represents the wall trench for the northern elevation of No. 6a. The yellow sand deposit (110) had an excavated depth of 0.15m and overlay and surrounded the top of a wall or wall foundation {113} (Fig. 1A & 2)), which presumably relates to the foundations of the northern elevation. Only the top of {113} was exposed, but it was of blocky stone construction with a hard white lime mortar bonding.</p> <p>Geo-technical pit #2 was positioned 3m from the eastern elevation of the building and against the south wall. This revealed a similar stratigraphic sequence as geotechnical pit #1, with two layers of concrete floor (0.12m thick) over a 0.45m thick deposit (203) of yellow-grey sandy-silt soil containing frequent mortar flecks, brick fragments, and sub-angular stones (>350mm). Deposit (203) is probably the same as (104) from geo-technical pit #1. Below (102) was a 0.1m thick deposit of dark grey sandy-silt (204) containing common cinders and coal fragments. Deposit (204) had no comparable deposit within geo-technical pit #1, which suggests some differential use/dumping. Below (204) was a homogenous buff-grey sand-silt (205) this was similar to (203) but slightly cleaner, and contained occasional charcoal flecks and large sub-angular stones (>400mm). Deposit (205) was excavated to a depth of 0.3m, but its full extent was not observed, although it is most likely approximately 0.39m deep, as it is similar in nature to (105).</p> <p>The area excavated for the ring beam slot included both geotechnical pits. The entire area inside the beam slot was stripped of the concrete floors and deposits (103) and (104/203). The area for the 1m wide ring beam slot</p>		

around the edge of this area was then reduced by a further c.0.3m. The excavations revealed a similar pattern of deposits as seen within the geotechnical pits with two layers of concrete floor (101) and (102) overlying a thin (0.05m thick) and patchy deposit of yellow-grey sandy-silt soil (103) containing frequent mortar flecks and coal fragments. Below (103) was a 0.15-0.2m thick layer of grey sandy-silt with common building rubble (104). In the northern section a deposit of clean yellow sand (301) underlay this rubble layer (103), but this deposit undulated in thickness, particularly towards the south where it was considerably thinner. This deposit of sand (301) was simply included as part of (103) during the geo-technical pit excavations as it had been considerably less distinct. Below (301) it was clear that the cut for the foundations for the northern elevation [111] were visible cutting into (105). No trace of a wall cut was seen for the south (19th century) elevation of the building, except in the area of a red brick repair toward the eastern end. However, deposit (301) petered out before the south elevation which may suggest that it had been truncated by a cut for this wall.

The coal rich deposit (205) seen in geo-technical pit #2 was again encountered within the vicinity of the south-western part of the excavation (by geo-technical pit #2), and was contained within a discrete area (approximately 1.4mx0.5m), although it appeared that this did not sit within a cut, suggesting that it was just a dumped deposit. The limit of excavation was 0.6m below the existing floor level and a clean yellow sand (110), which clearly undulated dramatically as in places deposit (105), survived at the limit of excavation.

The finds include 2x sherds of 18th century North Devon Gravel tempered wares (31g), 10x sherds of white refined earthenware (82g), 2x 18th century clay pipe stems (3g), 2x slag fragments (130g), 1x polystyrene fragment (0.5g).

Bibliography,

SWARCH, 2010: *6a, The Quay, Bideford, Devon: Results of a Historic Building Assessment*. SWARCH Report No. 100317

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: 23.02.2012

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.

Any plans or photographs embedded within or attached to this form remain the copyright © of the recorder, and must not be reproduced in any publication without the explicit consent of the copyright holder.

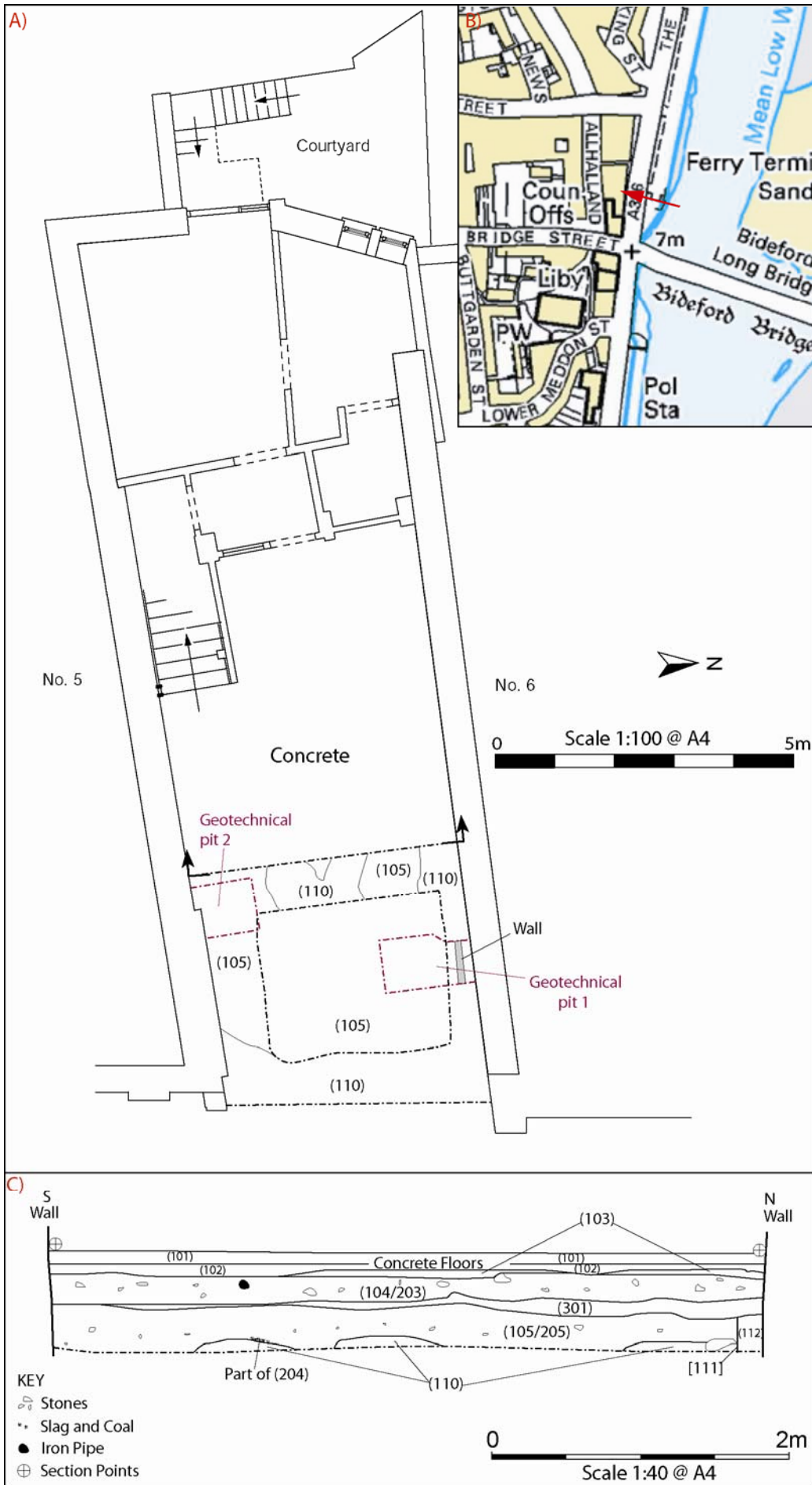


Figure 1: (A) Plan of the excavated areas; (B) Site location; (C) east facing section of the ring beam trench.



Figure 2: Wall {113} visible in the base of Geo-technical pit #1, viewed from the south (0.5m scale).

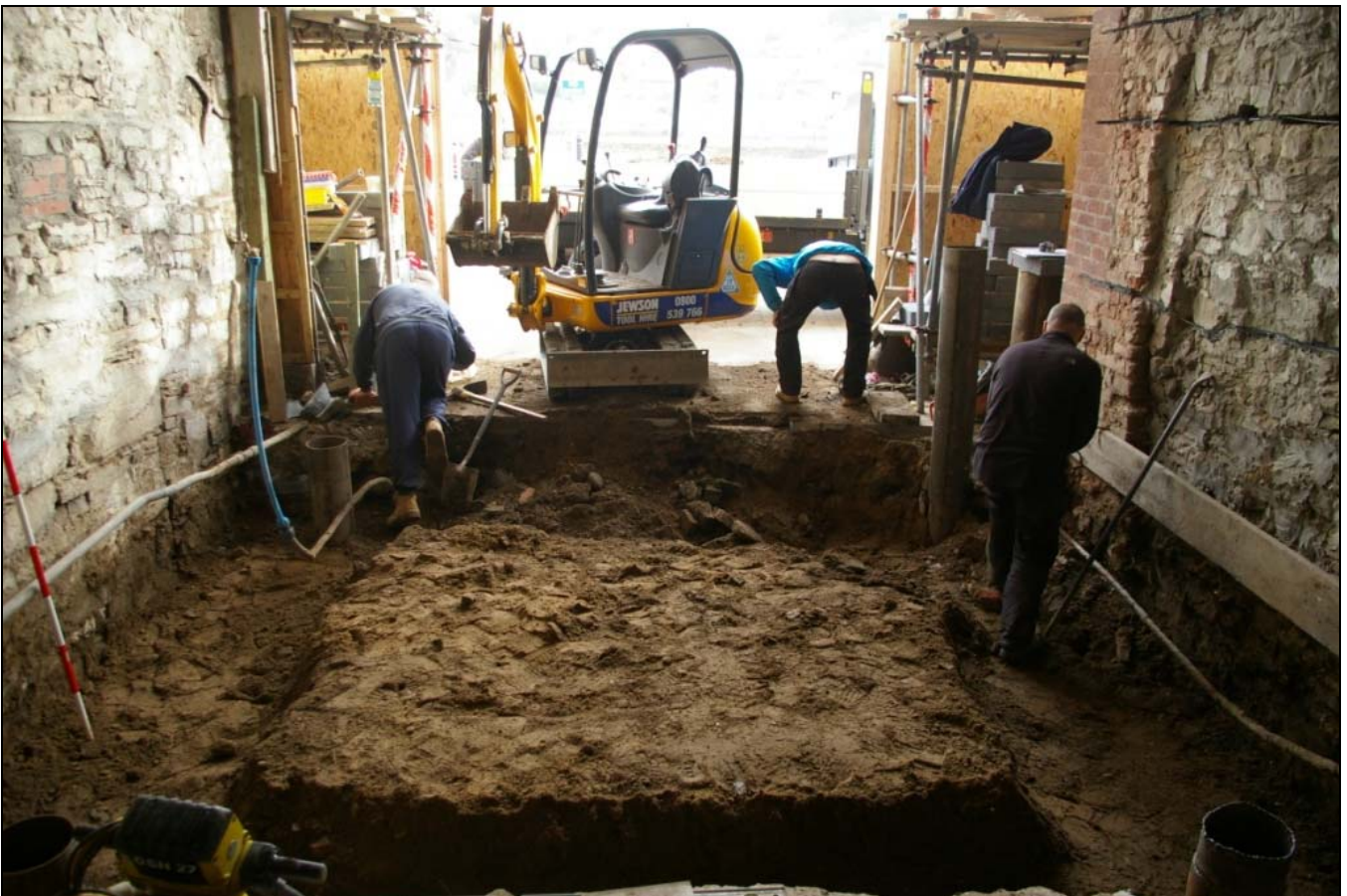


Figure 3: Ring beam trench during excavation, viewed from the west (2m scale).