

Paignton Geoplay Park, Paignton, Torbay

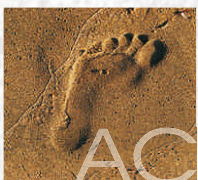
Results of an archaeological watching brief

Prepared by
Paul Jones and Kerry Kerr-Peterson

On behalf of Stride Treglown Management

Document No: ACD318/2/0

Date: January 2012



AC archaeology

Torbay Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Paignton, Torbay	National Grid Reference SX 89325 60745	Number:
Subject: Paignton Geoplay Park, Paignton, Torbay. Results of an archaeological watching brief		Photo attached Yes
Planning Application No: 09/1209 PA	Recipient museum: Torquay Museum	
OASIS ID: 116501	Museum Accession no: TBA	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD318	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 12/10/11-17/10/11	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks associated with the construction of the new Paignton Geoplay Park on Paignton Green. The work was carried out by AC archaeology and was commissioned by Stride Treglown Management on behalf of Torbay Council.</p> <p>The site lies at around 2m aOD, and is situated between the East Esplanade to the east and the Esplanade to the west (Fig. 1; Plate 1). The underlying solid geology comprised interbedded Breccia and Sandstone.</p> <p>The site is located immediately to the north of the former 'Old Torbay House' that may have originated in the medieval period. Until the 19th century, when much of the surrounding area was reclaimed, the house was only accessible via boat or across sand dunes, as it was situated on the shore. The house was demolished in the latter part of the 19th century. The parish tithe map of 1840 also shows a series of other buildings to the north of 'Old Torbay House', seemingly beneath the Flagship Public House, which might also be of an early date.</p> <p>Aim</p> <p>The aim of the watching brief was to preserve by record any archaeological features or deposits exposed during groundworks, with particular reference to any evidence for medieval or early post-medieval settlement.</p> <p>Methodology</p> <p>The watching brief was carried out during the excavation of a large soakaway and three ancillary groups of drains (Groups 1-3) immediately to the west and northwest of the soakaway (Fig. 2). All groundworks were carried out using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket and working under constant archaeological supervision.</p> <p>Results</p> <p><i>Soakaway</i></p> <p>This was located within the south-east part of the development and was oriented roughly southwest to northeast, and measured 44m by 5m by 1.20m deep. The exposed deposits comprised up to 0.3m of topsoil, over a reclamation deposit of reddish-brown clay containing moderate amounts of slate, 19th–20th century ceramic building material fragments and occasional post-1800 pottery fragments. This deposit was between 0.50m (north end of site) and 1.00m deep (south end of site), and overlaid homogenous banded former foreshore sand.</p> <p><i>Drainage trenches</i> (Plate 2)</p> <p>The three ancillary groups of drainage trenches (1-3) totalled 145m long and were excavated up to a maximum depth of 2.2m. Additional soakaway pits were monitored to a depth of 3m. The deposit sequence was identical to that recorded in the soakaway.</p> <p>A total of seven sherds of post-medieval pottery, weighing 254g, were collected from the spoil as a representative sample. These included one sherd of North Devon grit-tempered ware, one sherd of South Somerset lead-glazed earthenware and one sherd of stoneware, all of 18th-19th century date, as well as two sherds of yellow earthenware, one flower pot sherd and one piece of blue and white transfer print ware all dating to the 19th-20th century. A sample of these finds was retained.</p> <p>Conclusions</p> <p>No <i>in situ</i> archaeological features or deposits were exposed during the watching brief, and no evidence for pre-19th-century activity was found. Natural foreshore sand was exposed across the site overlain by a thick layer of 19th-century reclamation material. The demolition material within this deposit may have derived from earlier buildings in the vicinity, although they could have been brought in from elsewhere.</p>		
Recorder: Paul Jones & Kerry Kerr-Peterson (AC archaeology)		Date sent to HER: 10 January 2011



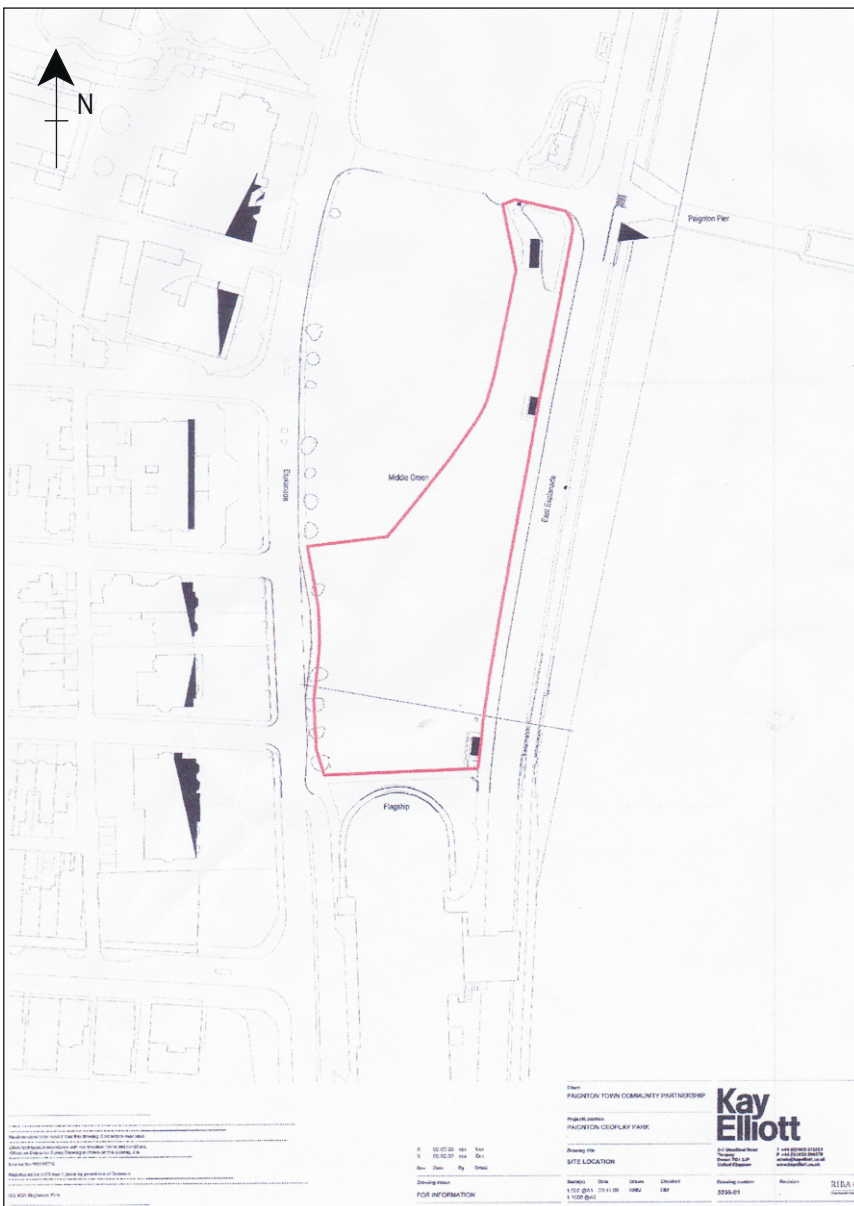
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SX

90

61

60



site boundary



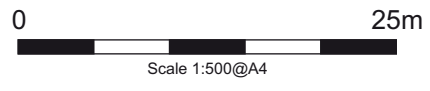
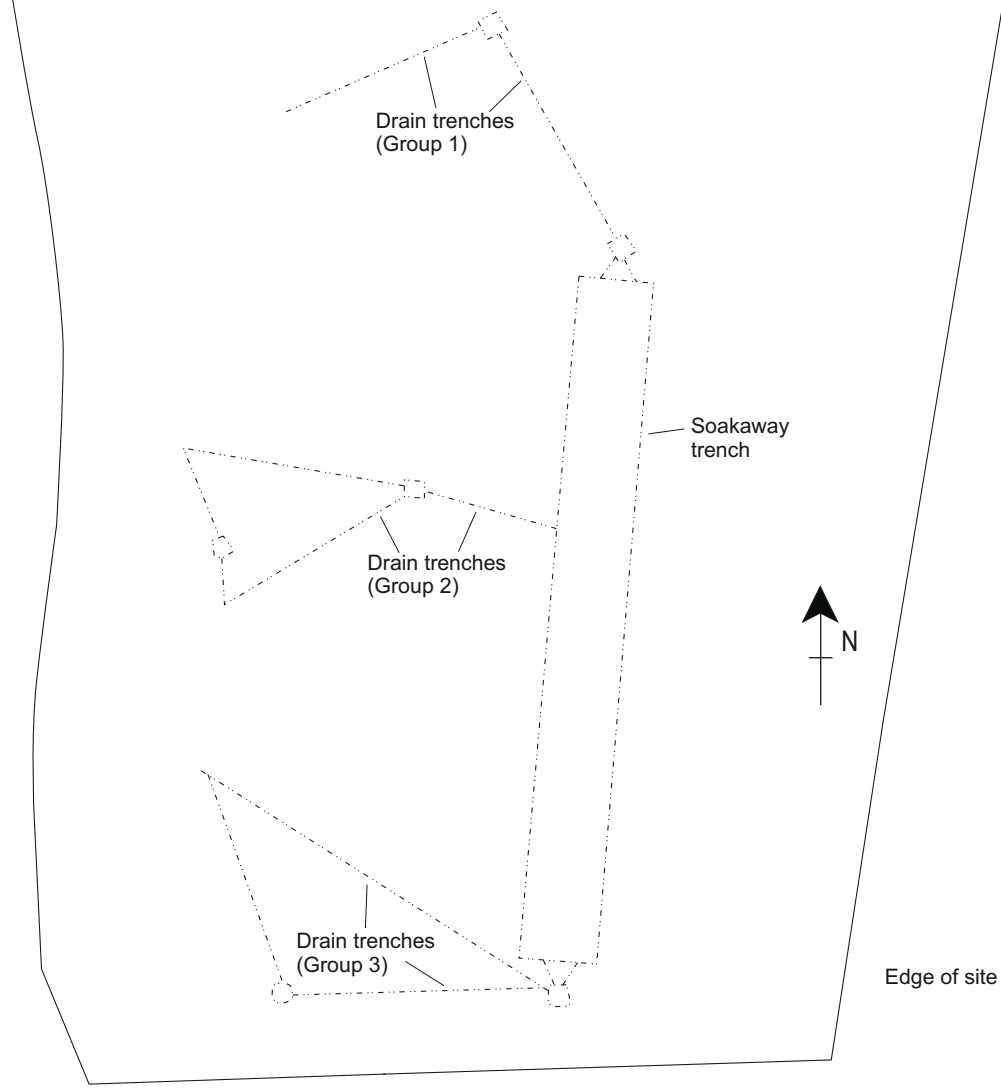
PROJECT

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TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of site





scale 1:500

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Fig. 2: Plan of drainage and soakaway trenches in southern half of site





Plate 1: General view of site, viewed from the North



Plate 2: Representative section of drainage trenches. Viewed from the South, scale 1m

Devon Office

AC archaeology Ltd
Unit 4, Halthaies Workshops
Bradninch
Nr Exeter
Devon
EX5 4LQ

Telephone/Fax: 01392 882410

Wiltshire Office

AC archaeology Ltd
Manor Farm Stables
Chicklade
Hindon
Nr Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP3 5SU

Telephone: 01747 820581
Fax: 01747 820440

www.acarchaeology.co.uk