

TORRE ABBEY MEADOW FENCE, TORQUAY, TORBAY

(NGR SX 90759 63603)

Results of an archaeological watching brief

Scheduled Monument no. 24840: Torre Abbey

Prepared by:
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On behalf of:
Torbay Council

Document No: ACD916/2/0

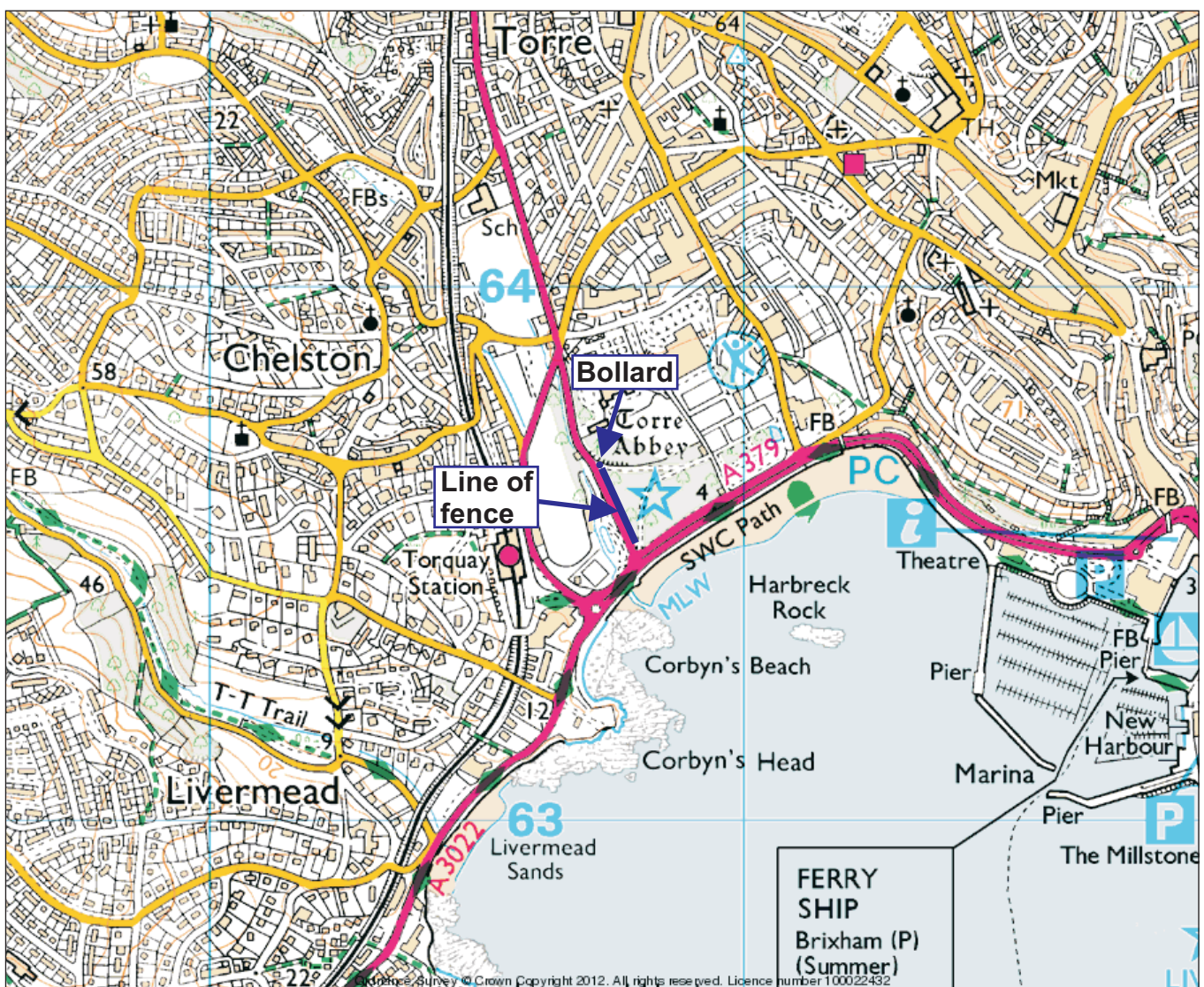
Date: June 2014



archaeology

Torbay Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Torquay	National Grid Reference SX 90759 63603	Number:
Subject: Torre Abbey Meadow Fence, Torquay, Torbay: Results of an archaeological watching brief		Photo attached? Plates 1-6
Planning Ref no: N/A – Scheduled Monument No. 24840	Recipient museum: Torquay Museum	
OASIS ID: 180555	Museum Accession no:	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD916	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 7th-14th May 2014	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>This document provides the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out during the erection of a post and rail fence and a bollard by Torbay Council at Torre Abbey Meadow, Torquay. The site lies within the Scheduled Monument of Torre Abbey, and the work was required under condition iv of the grant of Scheduled Monument Consent for the works. The monitoring was commissioned</p> <p>The location of the fence is adjacent to The King's Drive, along the western edge of Torre Abbey Meadow (Figure 1; Plates 1 and 2). This is within the outer precinct of the Abbey, situated between the upstanding buildings and the foreshore. The topography of the site is that it slopes gently down to the south-east towards the foreshore and lies at c.3-5m aOD. The underlying solid geology comprises inter-bedded Breccia and Sandstone of the Torbay Breccia Formation.</p> <p>Results</p> <p>The watching brief consisted of the monitoring and recording of exposed deposits and/or artefacts during ground works associated with the construction of the post and rail fence. The groundworks consisted of the excavation of 105 fence post holes each measuring c. 350³ and the excavation for the footing of one bollard located in the centre of the western end of raised footpath that runs to the south of the abbey grounds.</p> <p>The excavations exposed a layer sequence (Plate 3) consisting of modern sandy clay loam topsoil (100) up to 0.15m thick overlying a series of relatively modern made ground deposits (101). Although quite varied these generally comprised red-brown to purple-brown sandy clays and sandy silty clays with varying amounts of sub-round to sub-angular poorly to moderately sorted gravels (>35mm). Mixed in with these deposits was a range of coarse components of modern date (brick, blue and white transfer printed china, stoneware pottery, plate glass and bottle glass, plastic, coal, tarmac, mortar and concrete fragments etc.), none of which was retained. In post-hole 67 two nickel-brass alloy threepenny bits dating from 1958 and 1960 were noted within (101).</p> <p>The post-holes were spaced at intervals of c.1.8m, and were excavated beginning at the south end of the fence. They were numbered in the order in which they were excavated. In post-hole 61 remains of a small, mortar bonded, rubble built foundation (F102) for a wall running parallel with The King's Drive were recorded. Remnants of this feature were also recorded in post-holes 59 and 60. Modern bottle glass and pottery (not retained) were recovered from beneath this foundation layer indicating the wall is of recent date. In post-hole 69 (located c.80m from the north end of fence) two angular limestone cobbles (F103) were recorded (Plate 4). No bonding material was present but the way in which the cobbles were over-lapped (and roughly shaped) suggested they had been deliberately placed in this position, possibly suggesting remnants of another wall. However this feature was not visible in the adjacent post-holes. Within this post-hole, deposit (101) had less modern material than in other post-holes but no artefactual remains were recorded in association with feature F103 so it is not possible to assign it a date to the stones.</p> <p>The bollard was a 1m high iron cylinder with a rounded top (Plate 5). The hole for its concrete base measured 200 x 200 x 350mm. The deposit sequence consisted of 0.04m of modern tarmac overlying two bands of associated hardcore (Plate 6).</p> <p>Comments</p> <p>The post-holes and trench for the bollard were excavated entirely through modern deposits. The only feature that may have any archaeological significance is possible wall remnant F103 recorded in post-hole 69. The lack of any associated dating evidence and the limited size of the intervention precludes any meaningful interpretation and dating.</p>		
Recorder: William Smith (AC archaeology)		Date sent to HER:



0 500m

Scale 1:12,500@A4

PROJECT

Torre Abbey Meadow Fence, Torquay, Torbay

TITLE

Fig. 1: Site location with location of fence line and bollard shown



Plate 1: General view of site



Plate 2: Finished post and rail fence



Plate 3: Section through blank post-hole, showing made ground



Plate 4: Plan view of limestone cobbles F103 within post-hole 69 (Scale 0.25m)



Plate 5: Bollard in place



Plate 6: Post-hole for bollard

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