

THE STABLE BLOCK, LUPTON HOUSE, BRIXHAM, TORBAY

SX 9023 5504

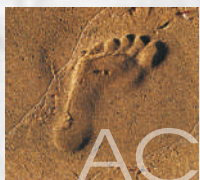
Results of archaeological recording

Prepared by:
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On behalf of:
The Lupton Trust

Document No: ACD1127/1/0

Date: June 2015



AC archaeology

Torbay Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Brixham, Torbay	National Grid Reference SX 9023 5504	Number: (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
Subject: The Stable Block, Lupton House, Brixham		Photo attached? Y
Planning Application no: NA	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS ID: 213823	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD1127	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 8 May 2015	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>An archaeological survey was undertaken by AC archaeology on behalf of the Lupton Trust during conservation works in one of the ancillary buildings attached to the stable block at Lupton House (Fig. 1). The works consisted of removing a 20th-century wooden floor, which exposed the earlier flagstone floor. The works were required by the asked for by the Senior Historic Environment Officer of Torbay Council Hal Bishop.</p> <p><i>Historical background</i></p> <p>Lupton house is a Grade II Listed building located within Lupton Park, a Registered Park and Garden. The present house dates from around 1772 (Exeter Archaeology 2007). The stable block is detached from, and situated to the north of, the main house. It is also a Grade II Listed building (National Heritage List no. 1293114), described as formerly containing stables, a coach house, a brew house, kennels and other outbuildings. They probably also date to c. 1772, and were altered and enlarged in c. 1843. The recording was carried out in the former brew house, which had later been used as a gymnasium when the main house was a school.</p> <p><i>Aim and methodology</i></p> <p>The aim of the work was to preserve by record the exposed flagstone floor. A photographic record was made prior to and following the removal of concrete block dwarf walls that had supported a removed wooden floor. A 1:20 plan of the flagstone floor was made, along with a written description of this surface and a summary description of the building.</p> <p><i>Results (Fig. 2; Plates 1-4)</i></p> <p>Externally the majority of the building is rendered apart from the northeast end which is painted rubble stonework. The interior is entirely rendered. There are doors into the building in the northwest and southeast elevations, with a blocked doorway into the former coach house in the southwest elevation. This is at a higher level than both the stone surface and the removed wooden floor. There is a second door in the southeast elevation that has been partially blocked and converted into a window; externally there are two steps up to the former threshold. There are a further three windows in this elevation, two in the northwest elevation and a large central one in the northeast elevation. Towards the south end of the northwest elevation there is a fireplace within a stack that projects slightly into the room. The opening has a flattened arch head with an ovolo moulding that does not have a stop at its base. Inside this is a hollow chamfer moulding. Above the arch is a small circular ball decoration.</p> <p>The flagstones survive across approximately two-thirds of the building, with two main areas of historic floor separated by a central area of later concrete. The smaller flags present in neat rows at the southwest end appear to be original, perhaps with some of the larger flags being later replacements. The western row, against the northwest wall, respects the projecting masonry of the fireplace, and the three larger flags in front of the fireplace probably represent original hearth stones. One of the stones incorporates a cover for a drain below the surface.</p> <p>The area of floor at the northeast end is much less regular than that to the southeast, and does not appear to be original. However, at the northeast end of the building there is a row of flagstones that are clearly different from the adjacent surface. These could be remnants of the original surface, but could equally be a later replacement. Beyond these, the final row of flags had been historically removed. The large irregular surface contains larger flags seem to have been deliberately placed immediately inside the threshold of the doorways. Some of the stones have clearly been reused from an earlier surface since two contain small circular holes that would have held upright (door) posts; these are not <i>in situ</i>.</p>		

Comments

The recording has identified that this part of the stable blocks contains a flagstone floor that is probably primary to the building, along with later stone repairs, which may be indicative of intensive use. More recent repairs, carried out using concrete have also been recorded, and these predate the last floor, which was finished with wooden boards suspended above the level of the earlier surface.

No evidence for the use of the building has been recorded on the early stone surface (e.g. scars of semi-permanent fixtures). However, the drain cover probably indicates the presence of a below-ground waste water system, although whether this served this part of the building, or flows from the adjacent stables, is unknown.

This report and the associated OASIS entry represent the archive for the project.

Source Consulted

Exeter Archaeology, 2007, *Archaeological Assessment of Lupton House, Brixham*

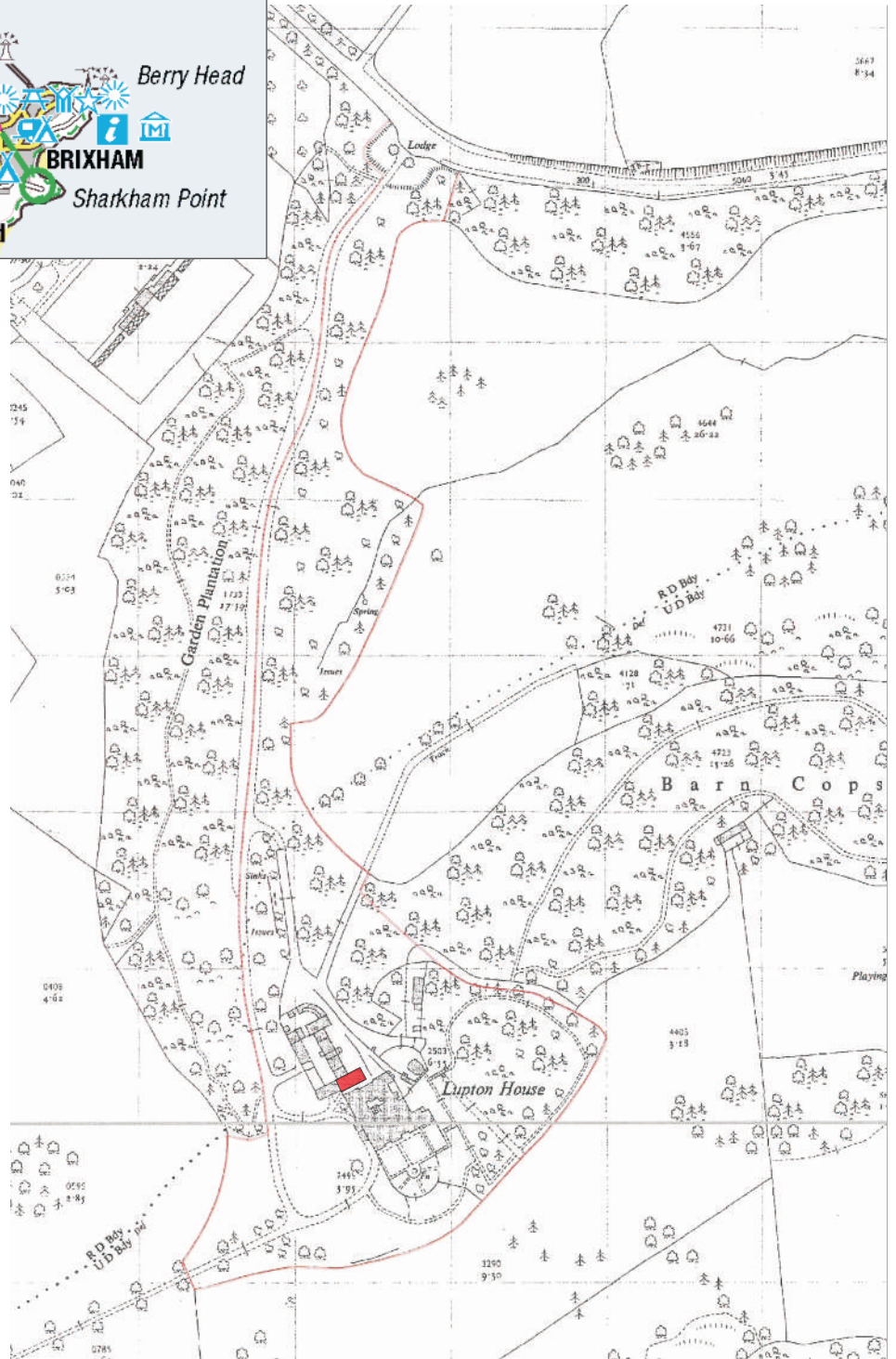
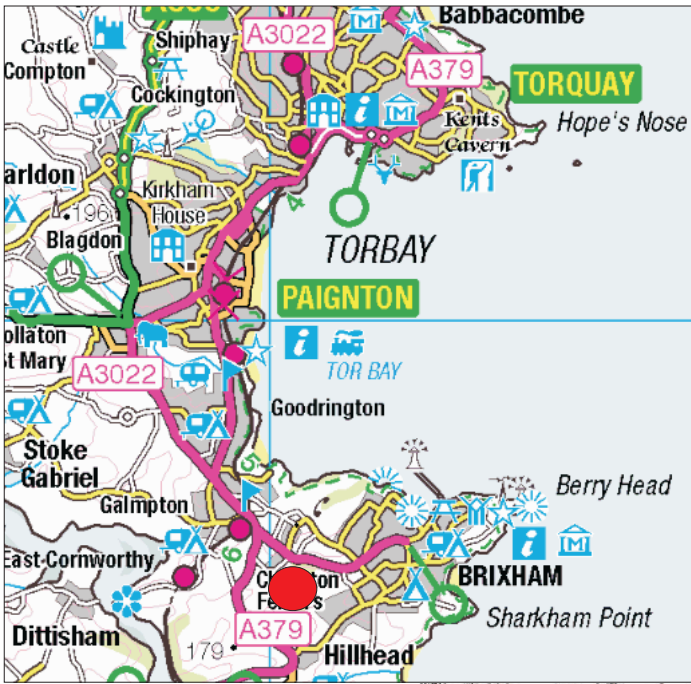
A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.

Recorder:

Stella De-Villiers, AC archaeology

Date sent to HER:

11 June 2105

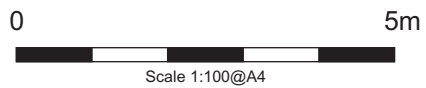
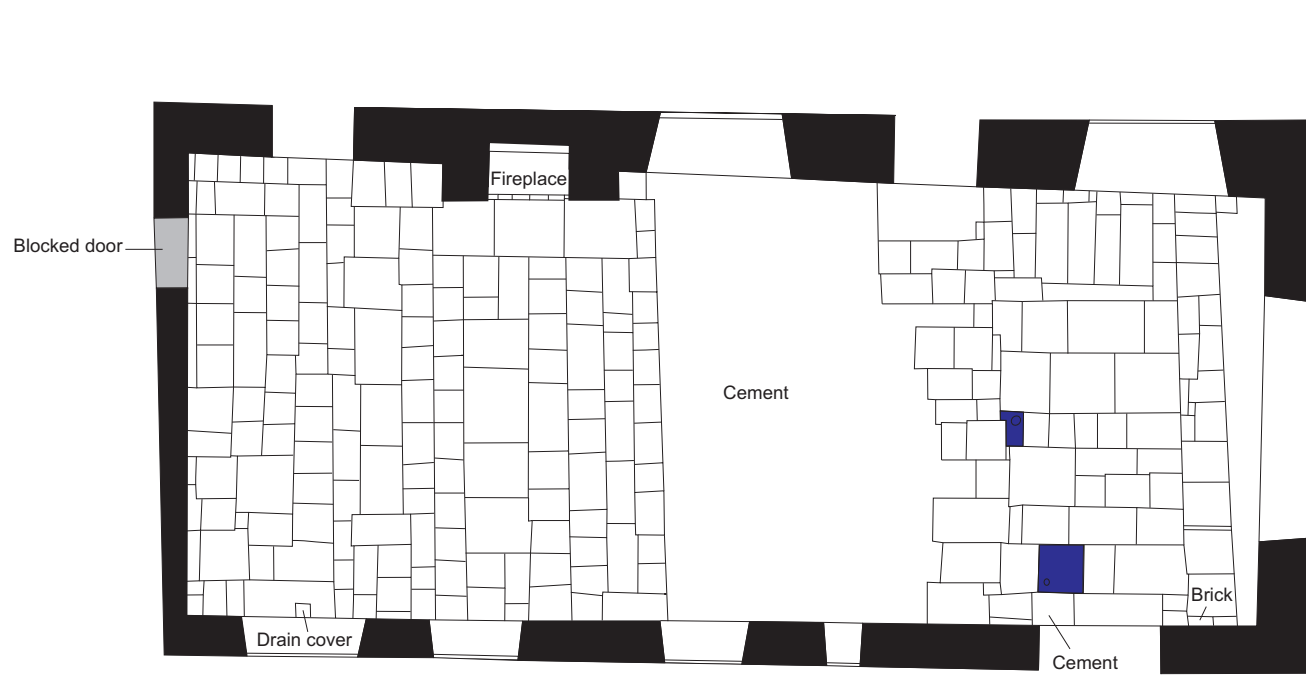



PROJECT

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TITLE

Fig.1: Site location



 Reused flagstone

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TITLE
 Fig. 2: Plan of flagstone
 floor



Plate 1: Floor prior to modern blockwork being removed, looking southwest (1m scale)



Plate 2: Floor after modern blockwork has been removed, looking southwest (1m scale)



Plate 3: Floor after modern blockwork has been removed, looking northeast (1m scale)



Plate 4: Fireplace, looking northwest (1m scale)

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