

An archaeological watching brief at 18 Northumberland Place, Teignmouth, Devon

NGR SX9379672736

Prepared by:

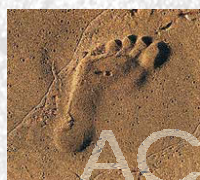
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On behalf of:

Mr P. Johns

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archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Teignmouth, Teignbridge	National Grid Reference NGR SX9379672736	Number:
Subject: An archaeological watching brief at 18 Northumberland Place, Teignmouth, Devon		Photo attached Plates 1 and 2
Planning Application no: 06/05334/COU	Recipient museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter	
OASIS ID: 62834	Museum Accession no: 25/2009	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD41	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 22 June 2009	

Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks associated with the construction of a single storey flat extension to the rear of the house (Fig. 1 and Plate 1). The site lies within the historic core of Teignmouth on a sand bar which was reclaimed during the 18th century. The area was formerly an important location for both the saltworking and fishing industries which saw increased demand during the medieval period. The underlying natural layer sequence comprises marine and estuarine alluvium over a solid geology of Teignmouth Breccia.

Methodology

The extension was 4.5m long x 3m wide and the watching brief was carried out during excavation of two 0.8m wide foundation trenches along both the southern and eastern edge of the extension (Fig. 1). The remaining north wall, which abuts the existing boundary wall, is to be constructed onto a reinforced pad. All excavations were carried out by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket.

Results

The eastern foundation trench was excavated down to a depth of 0.7m onto the top of a deliberate clay infilling deposit (104). The recorded layer sequence is summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: The recorded layer sequence within the eastern foundation trench

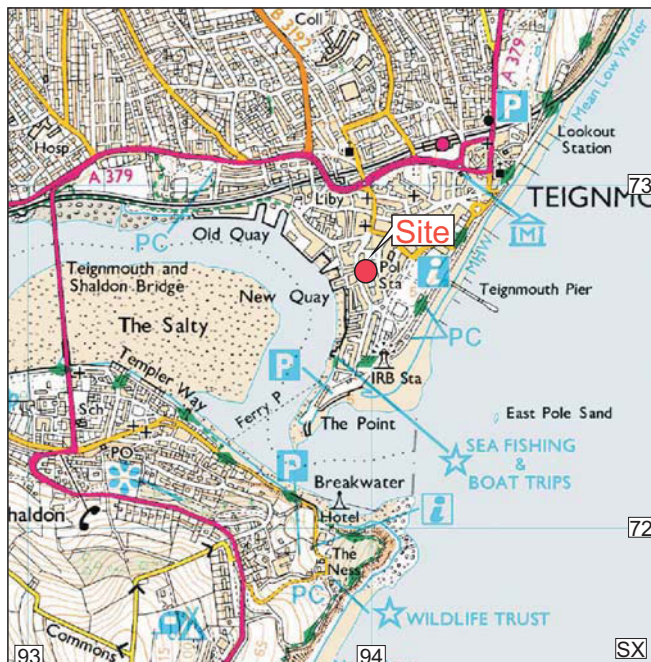
Context	Depth	Interpretation	Description
105	0-0.15m	Concrete surface	A concrete yard surface for the existing house
100	0.15-0.5m	Topsoil	Dark brown friable silty sand with frequent small sub-angular stones <0.02m and rare to occasional stones 0.02-0.05m
103	0.5-0.7m	Infilling layer	A mixed mid yellow-brown soft silty sandy clay with frequent small sub-angular stones <0.02m, frequent small fragments of ceramic building material and rare stones >0.02m.
104	0.7m +	Infilling layer	Dark brownish-red firm silty clay with frequent-common small slate fragments

The southern foundation trench was excavated down to a depth of 0.2m, through layers (105) and (100) to expose the southern edge of a stone and brick built cistern (F101). This was cut into infilling deposit (103) and comprised a vaulted brick roof supported to the south by a 0.3m thick mortared stone wall. The wall was east-west aligned and was constructed of large Breccia stone blocks. A slate-capped manhole, 0.6m long by 0.4m wide, with an integrated lead infill/outflow pipe was set within the brick roof towards the southeast corner of the cistern. Inspection within this showed the cistern to be of rectangular shape with internal dimensions of 4m long x 2m wide x 1.7m deep. The cistern was lined with an internal render and had been partly infilled with general domestic debris and building rubble which suggest it was abandoned in the early part of the 20th century.

Comment

The watching brief has established the presence of deliberate infilling layers exposed within the eastern foundation trench of the extension. These were recorded to a depth of at least 0.7m below ground surface and were probably deposited as part of a general process of land reclamation during the 18th century, prior to the construction of the existing house. The base of these layers was not reached. The probable 19th century cistern was clearly constructed into these earlier infilling deposits.

Recorder: R. Sims, AC Archaeology	Date sent to HER: 4 August 2009
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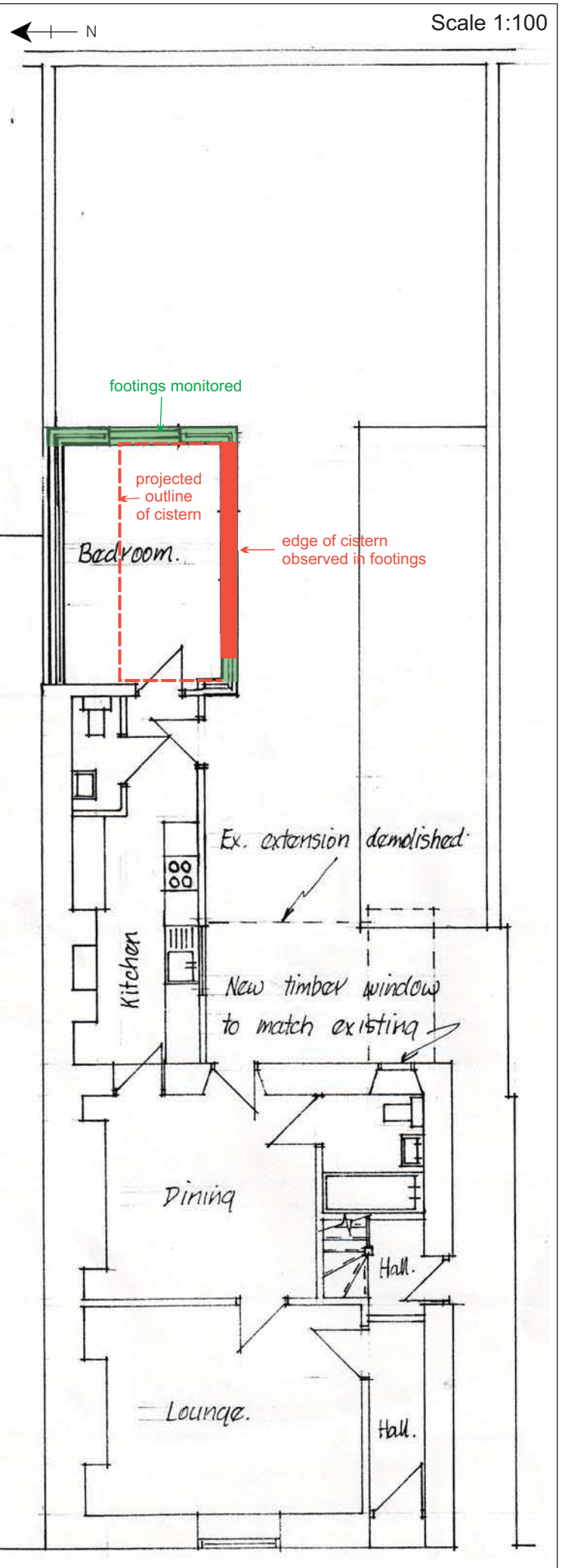


Fig. 1:
Location of site and area
of archaeological monitoring



Plate 1: General view of site looking to the northeast

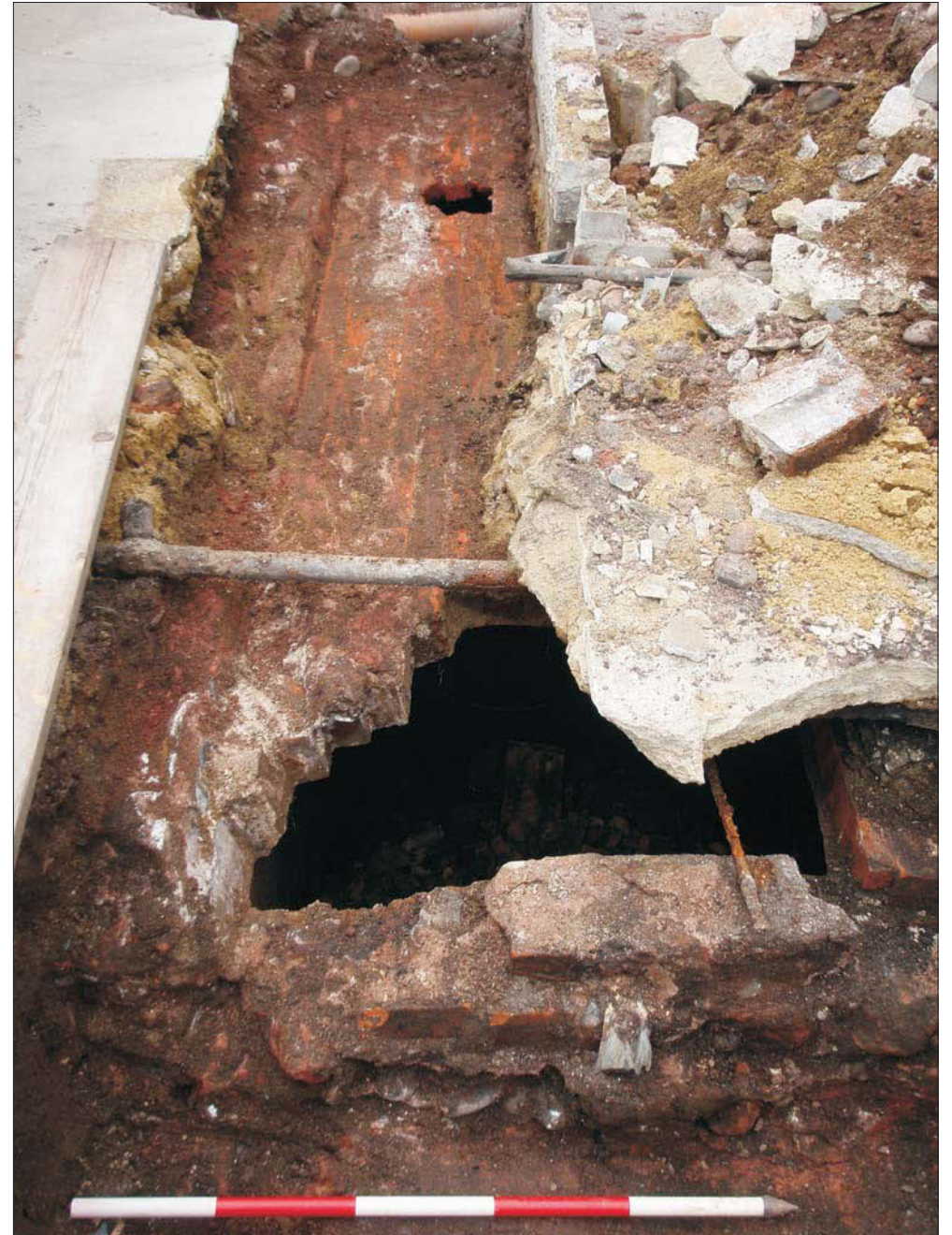


Plate 2: General view of cistern, F101, looking to west
(Scale 1m)

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