Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish: Ermington	National Grid Reference SX 6320 5186	Number: (Leave blank)		
Subject: Sequers Bridge, Ermington, South Hams, Devon		Plan/Photo attached? Y		
Planning Application no: DCC/337/2012				
Description of works		Ref	erence.	Date.
Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Sequers Bridge, on the A379 between Modbury and Yealmpton, Ermington, Devon (centred on NGR SX 6320 5186; Figure 1). The work took place during the installation of an <i>in situ</i> reinforced concrete invert slab around the piers and abutments of Sequers Bridge with a sheet piled cut-off wall on each side of the bridge. The project was commissioned by Devon County Council.		COA COA OAS conte Acce 2012	S site code: S/WBF/12/SBE IS ID: exto1-123979 ssion no: .24	of site visits 08/05/2012 09/05/2012 16/05/2012 17/05/2012 13/06/2012 14/06/2012 29/06/2012 21/09/2012
The archaeological works were required by the Local Planning Authority (Devon County Council) as a condition of granting planning permission for the above works (Listed Building Consent Application No: DCC/337/2012).				
The nature of the archaeological works required was determined by Mr Graham Tait (Archaeologist, Devon County Council). In an archaeological brief for archaeological monitoring and recording (ARCH/CM/SH/18695) Mr Tait stated that:				
"Sequer's Bridge is a road bridge over <i>I</i> either the late 18 th century or it is a rebuil around the mid 19 th century. It is constru- spans with round arches. The bridge is The application has been submitted with a possible that the remains of an earlier bu of the proposed invert slab."	River Erme, and dates to ding of the 1794 bridge in ucted of ashlar with three a Grade II listed building. a Heritage Statement. It is ridge exist within the area			
Given the archaeological and historic signific determined that a reasonable archaeologic the proposed works would be to car archaeological monitoring and recording.	cance of the structure, it was al response in mitigation of rry out a programme of			
The requirement for the archaeological we Central Government as set out in Planning Planning for the Historic Environment (207 Framework Policy on Archaeology and Dev Note set out in The Historic Environment and	ork follows advice given by g Policy Statement (PPS) 5: 10), the Local Development on County Council Practice d Development (2009).			
Prior to work in the field a desk-based rese photographs and other documents relating Devon Record Office and by the Devon H The Tithe Map for Ermington shows the brid whereas the 1842 Holbeton Tithe Map sho with its present appearance (Figure 2 ; Plate	earch identified old maps, air g to the bridge held at the istoric Environment Service. Ige with five arches (Plate 1) bws it with three, consistent e 2).			
The construction methodology comprised compound on the west bank of the River E south of the bridge. A piled cut-off wall was on both sides of the bridge to allow work at and under the arches. The groundworks we by a qualified archaeologist.	stripping of topsoil for a rme, immediately north and constructed across the river its junction with both banks ere monitored and recorded			
The soil sequence within the compound com	prised a topsoil (100) of mid			

reddish brown, friable, sandy silt, rarely including limestone pebbles. The underlying subsoil (101) was of a similar character, but including rare granite, as well as limestone, pebbles. The subsoil overlay alluvium (102). Relatively recent formation of subsoil (101) was indicated by gravel metalling in vehicle ruts cutting into (102). Removal of the east bank's topsoil exposed a group of modern stakes (1000), driven into silts concealed below the waterline, which appeared to have served as temporary revetting where massive stone blocks had started to collapse (Figure 2 ; Plate 3). They were sealed by substantial concrete reinforcement, although this did not appear to have been effective. On the west bank a succession of riverine deposits, from the top downwards silty clay loams (106), (107), silty sand (108) and slightly gravelly sand (109), had formed over two phases of revetment (Figure 2 ; Plate 4), (105) and (104). The blockwork of (105) clearly butted against the stone of the bridge (316) but was part covered and butted by the massive blocks of (105) (Figure 2 ; Plate 5). Full exposure of the bank section showed that (105) lay directly over a large slate against which the base of the bridge (316) was set (Figure 2 ; Plate 6). The slate lay over slightly gravelly sand (314) which in turn sealed sand (315),		
both clearly riverine deposits predating the bridge. Deposits (310) and (311) (Figure 2 ; Plate 7), against the east side of the west arch, had been stabilised within now degraded concrete, seemingly retained in a succession of episodes by stakes (301) to (308) and (312) and (313) (Figure 2 ; Plate 8) which eventually had been submerged as the deposits continued to form. When first exposed this ongoing process created the appearance that the stakes might predate the bridge (316). However, the stake point facets appeared modern and some retained patches of the concrete into which they had been inserted. They are likely to be of mid 20 th century date. No evidence was found for an earlier bridge and two episodes of revetting on the river banks clearly post date its foundation. The only find was a plastic top from a sweet tube in (108), testifying to the recent formation of even relatively low riverine silts. It has not been retained.		
Richard Tabor, Context One Archaeological Services Ltd.	16/03/2011	



Plate 1. Sequers Bridge shown on the Ermington Tithe map

Plate 2. Sequers Bridge prior to repair work (from N)

Plate 3. East bank revetment and retaining stakes (from WNW; 0.50m scale)

Plate 4. The bridge and revetments (105) and (104) (from NE; 1m scale)

Plate 5. Relationships between the bridge, left, and revetments (105), centre and (104), right (from E; 1m scale)

Plate 6. Full depth of revetment (105) resting on natural slate (from E; 1m scale)

Plate 7. Stakes (301) to (308) under the east side of the bridge's west arch (from NE; 1m scale)

Plate 8. Full depth of revetment (105) resting on natural slate (from ESE; 1m scale)

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