

St David's Church of England First School, Dinham Road, Exeter, Devon.

An Archaeological Excavation.



CONTEXT ONE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

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**St David's Church of England First School,
Dinham Road, Exeter, Devon.**

An Archaeological Excavation

for

NPS South West Ltd.

by



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Front cover image: the Site during initial machining. © Context One Archaeological Services 2008

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Non-technical summary

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out an Archaeological Excavation at St. David's Church of England First School, Dinham Road, Exeter, Devon over eight days between the 13th and 22nd of January 2008. The investigation was commissioned and funded by NPS South West Ltd.

The excavation was requested by Devon County Council on the advice of Mr Stephen Reed (Archaeological Officer, Historic Environment Service (HES), Devon County Council), as a condition of granting planning permission for the construction of a single storey teaching block - including toilet, reception/entrance and covered walkway to link with existing school building (planning ref. 07/1848/26). The excavation formed the final stage of an archaeological programme of works in mitigation of the proposed development which commenced with an archaeological field evaluation carried out by Exeter Archaeology in 2005.

The work was completed successfully and has confirmed the presence of archaeological features of Roman date within the school grounds, although little detail has been added to the results of the earlier evaluation. A northwest-southeast aligned ditch, including a terminal, was located at the south end of the trench and appears to share a common alignment with one side of an 'enclosure' examined during the evaluation. It is not known if this feature represents the south side of the enclosure or just one element of a larger co-axial arrangement. A second linear feature, to the south of and sub-parallel to the first, was also excavated. This may also be of Roman date, but was not established conclusively. The paucity of Roman artefacts and other features tends to suggest that the Site was not located in proximity to a settlement site.

In addition to the above, a single elongated pit or ditch terminal was examined at the north edge of the Site and can be ascribed a late medieval date. The remaining features are of late 19th and early 20th century date. These findings accord with the generally held view that this part of Exeter remained undeveloped through the medieval and post-medieval periods prior to 19th development of the site as part of a charitable 'village'.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out an Archaeological Excavation at St. David's C of E First School, Dinham Road, Exeter, Devon, (hereafter referred to as the 'School') over eight days between the 13th and 22nd of January 2008. The investigation was commissioned and funded by NPS South West Ltd.
- 1.2. The excavation was requested by Devon County Council on the advice of Mr Stephen Reed (Archaeological Officer, Historic Environment Service (HES), Devon County Council), as a condition of granting planning permission for the construction of a single storey teaching block (the 'Site') - including toilet, reception/entrance and covered walkway to link with existing school building (planning ref. 07/1848/26). The excavation formed the final stage of an archaeological programme of works in mitigation of the proposed development which commenced with an archaeological field evaluation carried out by Exeter Archaeology in 2005.
- 1.3. The evaluation of the School consisted of the excavation of 15 trenches (hand dug and machine excavated) and a geophysical survey of the playing fields. The Site occupies only a small part of the School, but contains two of the evaluation trenches within its footprint. Two further trenches were located immediately to the east. The results of the evaluation are summarised in Section 4, below, and it is suffice to note here that there was evidence for a buried soil of probable medieval date within the Site and a ditch of Roman date immediately to the east. The latter may indicate an enclosure that could have encompassed the Site.
- 1.4. Mindful of the above, it was considered appropriate that the impact on established and potential archaeological remains generated by the proposed redevelopment of the Site should be mitigated by further archaeological work – principally excavation and recording in advance of development. A Brief and subsequent Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the work were prepared by Devon County Council and COAS respectively.
- 1.5. The request for the archaeological work follows advice given by Central Government as set out in *Planning Policy Guidance Note 1 (PPG1), General Policy and Principles*, 1997, and *Planning Policy Guidance: Note 16 (PPG16)*, issued by the DoE in 1990. The recommendation also conforms to Policy CO8 (Archaeology) of the Devon Structure Plan 2001 to 2016 (adopted September 2004).
- 1.6. This report summarises the topographical, geological, archaeological setting of the site, and presents the results of the excavation as well as the interim findings of the watching brief.

2. Definition and objectives of an Excavation

- 2.1. An Archaeological Excavation is defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) as:

“...a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. The records made and objects gathered during fieldwork are studied and the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the project design.” (IFA

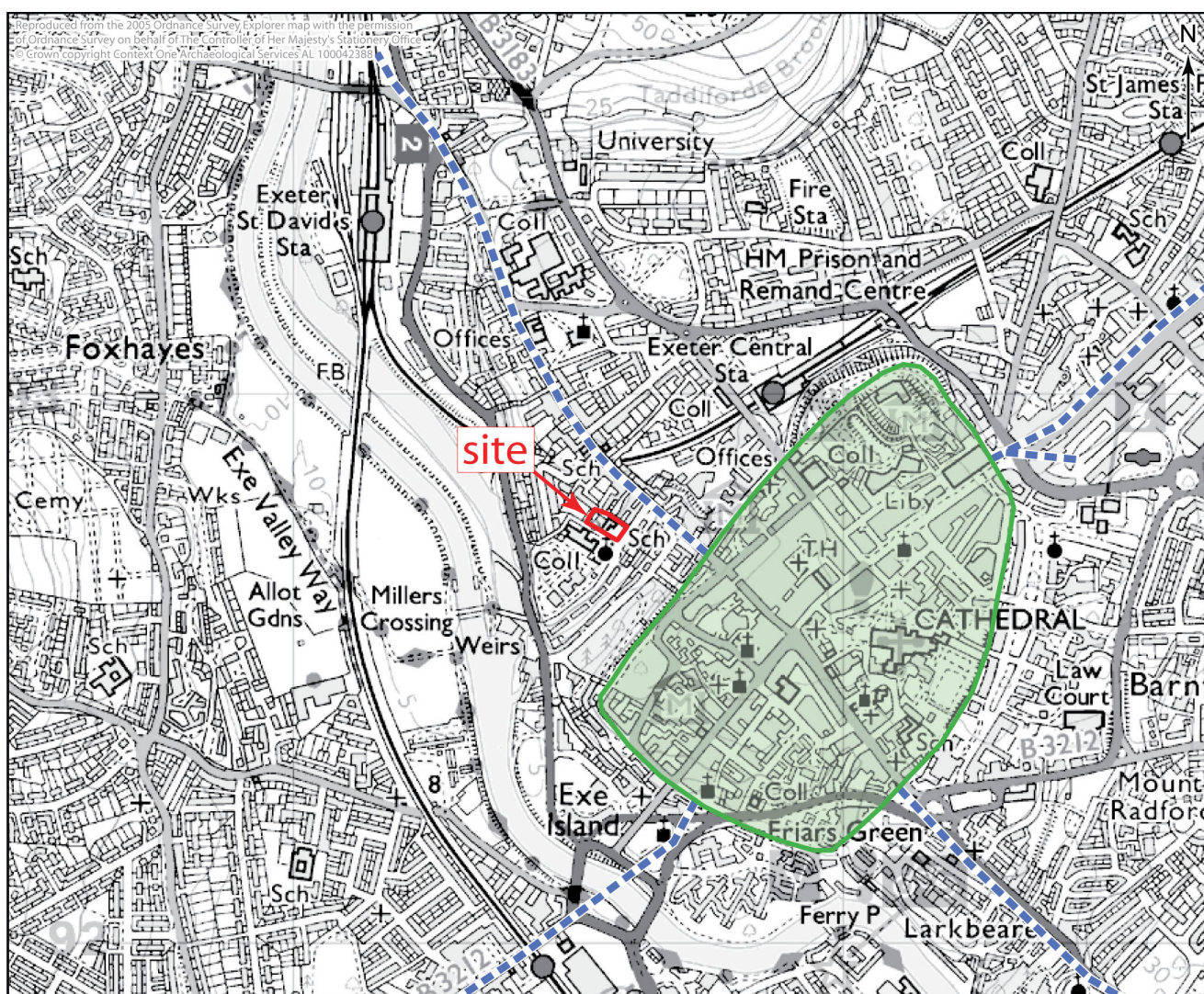
rev.1999)



- 2.2. The purpose of an Excavation is also defined by the IFA as:

“...to examine the archaeological resource within a given area or site within a framework of defined research objectives, to seek a better understanding of and compile a lasting record of that resource, to analyse and interpret the results, and disseminate them.” (IFA rev.1999)

3. Site location, topography and geology

- 3.1. The Site (centred on NGR SX 9155 9276) is located c. 570m west of the historic core of Exeter and some 300m outside of the defences of the Roman town (**Figure 1**). The Site occupies roughly level terrain, c. 31m above Ordnance Datum (AOD), overlooking the river cliff of the Exe to the south-west and the Longbrook Valley aligned perpendicular to this to the south east. The subsoil is a red or yellowish-brown clay; the soils in this area are characterised by slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC), 2008).



-  approximate extents of late Roman town and defences
-  principal Roman roads

0 1km



PROJECT TITLE

Exeter St David's C of E First School,
Dinham Road, Exeter, Devon

FIGURE TITLE

Site setting

SCALE

as shown

PROJECT CODE

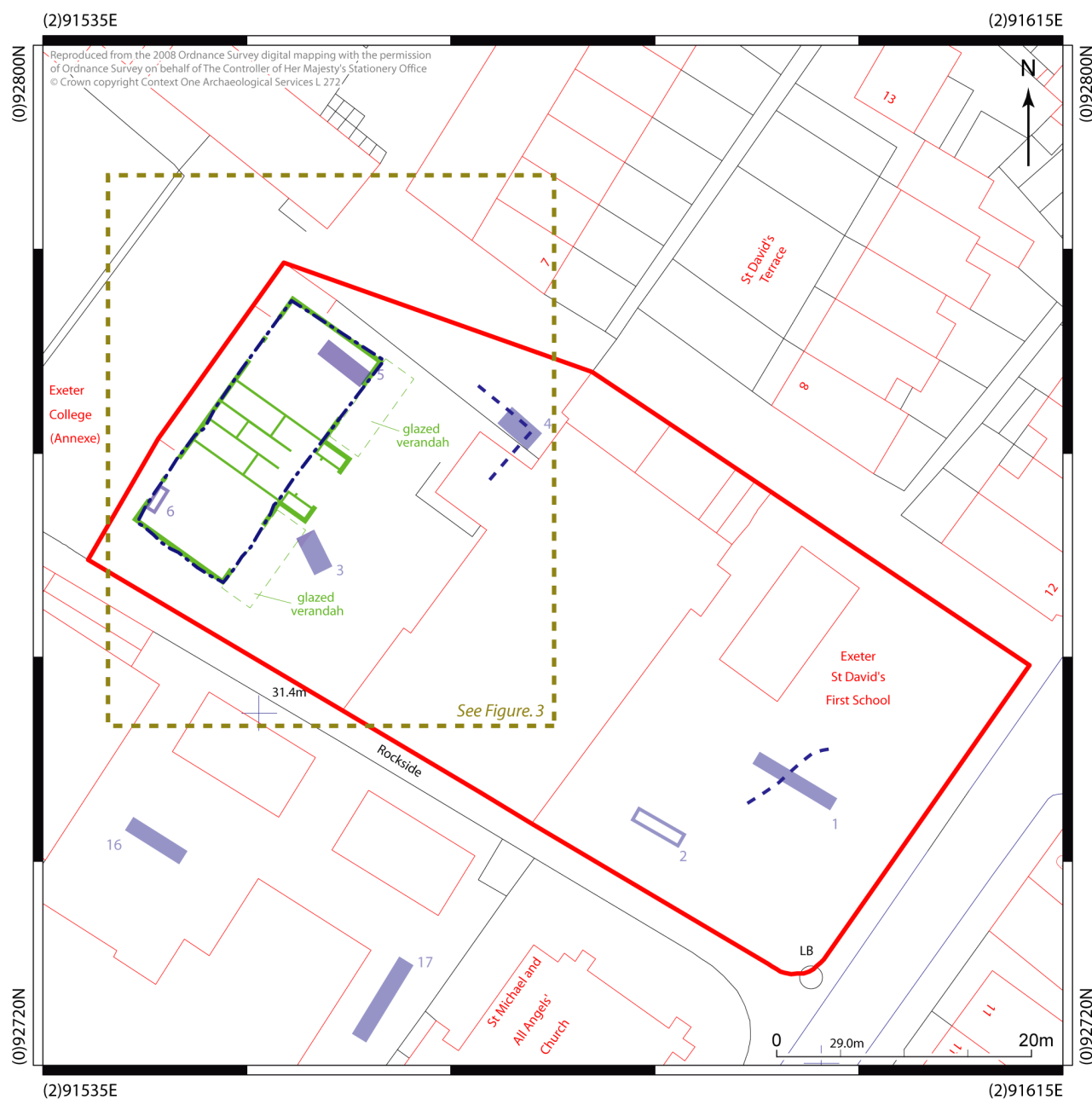
COAS/ EXC/08/SDE

FIGURE NO.

1

4. Archaeological background

- 4.1. The archaeological background for the Site has been drawn from secondary sources. This principally comprises the earlier evaluation report for the School (Exeter Archaeology 2005) and other published and unpublished secondary sources, including Exeter City Council on-line resources. The principal items and areas of interest are located on **Figures 1** and **2**, with other specific finds referred to in the text as appropriate.
- 4.2. As noted above, the Site is located beyond the boundary of the Roman and medieval town - which lies some 200m to the south-east - with the recorded alignment of the road from the north gate of the Roman town following more or less the line of St David's Hill approximately 100m to the north-east. The earlier evaluation established the presence of Roman deposits and features within the school site that suggested "...settlement and perhaps agricultural activity of probable mid to late 2nd century date" (Exeter Archaeology 2005, 7). These included a large feature in Trench 4 that was interpreted as the corner of a ditched enclosure (**Figure 2**). If correct, the Site, or part of it, would lie within this enclosure. Other excavated features of Roman date included ditches/gullies in Trenches 1 and 15 and several pits in Trench 1. A buried soil of possible medieval date was recorded in Trenches 3, 5, 16 and 17. From the available evidence it would appear the main area of Romano-British features/deposits lies just to the east of the Site. However, the paucity of finds may indicate that these features represent the periphery of a settlement rather than its core. Two fragments of Roman brick or tile from Trench 1 may infer the proximity of a building or other structure.



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> site boundary excavation area new foundations evaluation trenches (<i>Exeter Archaeology 2005</i>) evaluation trenches with Romano-British and/or medieval features (<i>ibid 2005</i>) alignments of Romano-British ditches (<i>ibid 2005</i>) 	PROJECT TITLE		
	St. David's First School, Dinham Road, Exeter, Devon		
	FIGURE TITLE		
	Detailed site setting showing proposed new building		
SCALE	PROJECT CODE.	FIGURE NO.	
as shown	COAS/EXC/08/SDE	2	

5. Methodology

- 5.1. The programme of archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (COAS 2007) prepared by COAS and agreed with Devon County Council, Historic Environment Service. The work also adhered to the *Standards and Guidance for archaeological excavation* published by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) in 1995 (revised 1999), the *Code of Conduct* issued by the IFA in 1985 (revised 2000), and the *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* (1990, revised September 2000). Current Health and Safety legislation and guidelines were followed on site.
- 5.2. The area of excavation, which was defined by the footprint of the new school building and measured approximately 12.5m x 22.5m (**Figure 3**), was set out on site from digital drawings provided by the County Council. Areas of hard standing were cut away prior to the removal of overburden by machine to the depth of archaeological interest established by the evaluation. This process was undertaken in two stages to allow temporary storage of spoil on site before backfilling of the first 'half' and excavation of the second.
- 5.3. Following machine excavation, the subsoil was cleaned by hoe and trowel to reveal and define any features or other deposits, which were then excavated and sampled in accordance with the WSI agreed for the project. All deposits and archaeological features were sampled by manual excavation to establish stratigraphic relationships, recover sufficient artefacts to establish 'absolute' dates, determine feature/deposit morphology and character and to recover economic and palaeoenvironmental indicators. Features and deposits were recorded on dimensionally stable media at scales of 1:20 (plans) and 1:10 (sections). All features/deposits were recorded using standard COAS *pro-forma* recording sheets. Soil colours were recorded using a Munsell soil colour chart. A photographic record of the work was prepared and involved the use of monochrome photographs and digital images. The photographic record included shots of the excavated area, individual features, and working shots to illustrate the nature of the archaeological operation mounted. Artefacts collected from archaeological features/deposits were bagged using a combination of site code and context numbers. All finds from the Site were retained for processing in preparation for further analysis and archiving. Specialist reports of the artefact assemblage were compiled using both descriptive and tabular formats (**Section 7**).
- 5.4. A monitoring visit was made by Stephen Reed, the local authority archaeologist, prior to backfilling of the first 'half' of the Site. The opportunity was also taken to observe work by Exeter Archaeology on an adjacent site, which was seen to contain linear features of Roman date that might extend into the Site.

6. Results

- 6.1. The deposits and features encountered during fieldwork are listed and described in Appendix 1 and represented as a site matrix in Appendix 2. In the text, context numbers for cuts appear in square brackets, e.g. [1004]; layer and fill numbers appear in standard brackets, e.g. (1002). Where a feature is discussed, it is referenced with its cut and associated fill numbers.

- 6.2. In general, the excavated sequence follows a simple progression of natural clay (115) overlain successively by a post-medieval subsoil (102), a 19th century 'garden soil' (101) and finally a modern demolition layer (100). Locally, these deposits were cut by or overlaid a range of features of modern, medieval and Roman date.

Roman features

- 6.3. Ditch [128](127)=(130)(129)=(131) was sectioned at two locations, including its south-east terminal. It was aligned north-west - south-east, had steep sides with a slightly rounded base and measured 0.95m wide and 0.45m deep (**Figure 3; Figure 4**, section 5). Five sherds of Roman coarse ware were recovered from its upper fills (127)(130) and one sherd from its primary fill (131).
- 6.4. Ditch [126](125) was narrower and shallower than Ditch [128] (**Figure 3; Figure 4**, section 7) and contained no dateable artefacts. However, its proximity to and sub-parallel alignment with the larger feature may indicate that they are contemporary.

Medieval features

- 6.5. 'Pit' [104](103) was located along the north-east edge of the Site and contained pottery of both Roman and late-medieval date. It was elongated in plan (**Figure 3**) and could possibly represent the terminal of a shallow ditch (**Figure 4**, section 1).

Post-medieval sub-soil

- 6.6. The above features were all sealed by a 0.25m thick sub-soil (102), which contained an admixture of artefacts dateable from the medieval period through to the 19th century. This may indicate incorporation through time rather than formation sometime in the 19th century or later.

Modern features and deposits

- 6.7. Land drain [106](105) consisted of two drains aligned perpendicular to each other (**Figure 3**). The fill contained 80% angular stone rubble with brick and tile. Artefacts recovered from the fill include glass and ceramics of 17th to 19th century date.
- 6.8. Drain [106] was cut by a square, slate-lined pit [119](121)(118)(120) (**Plate 1; Figure 3; Figure 4**, section 4). The lining slates were up to 10mm thick; the wall slates having first been pushed into the natural clay before the base lining was laid flat and butted up against the walls. Artefacts recovered from the backfill indicate that it was 'decommissioned' some time after c. 1880. The function of this feature is not known, but a cess pit is a possibility.

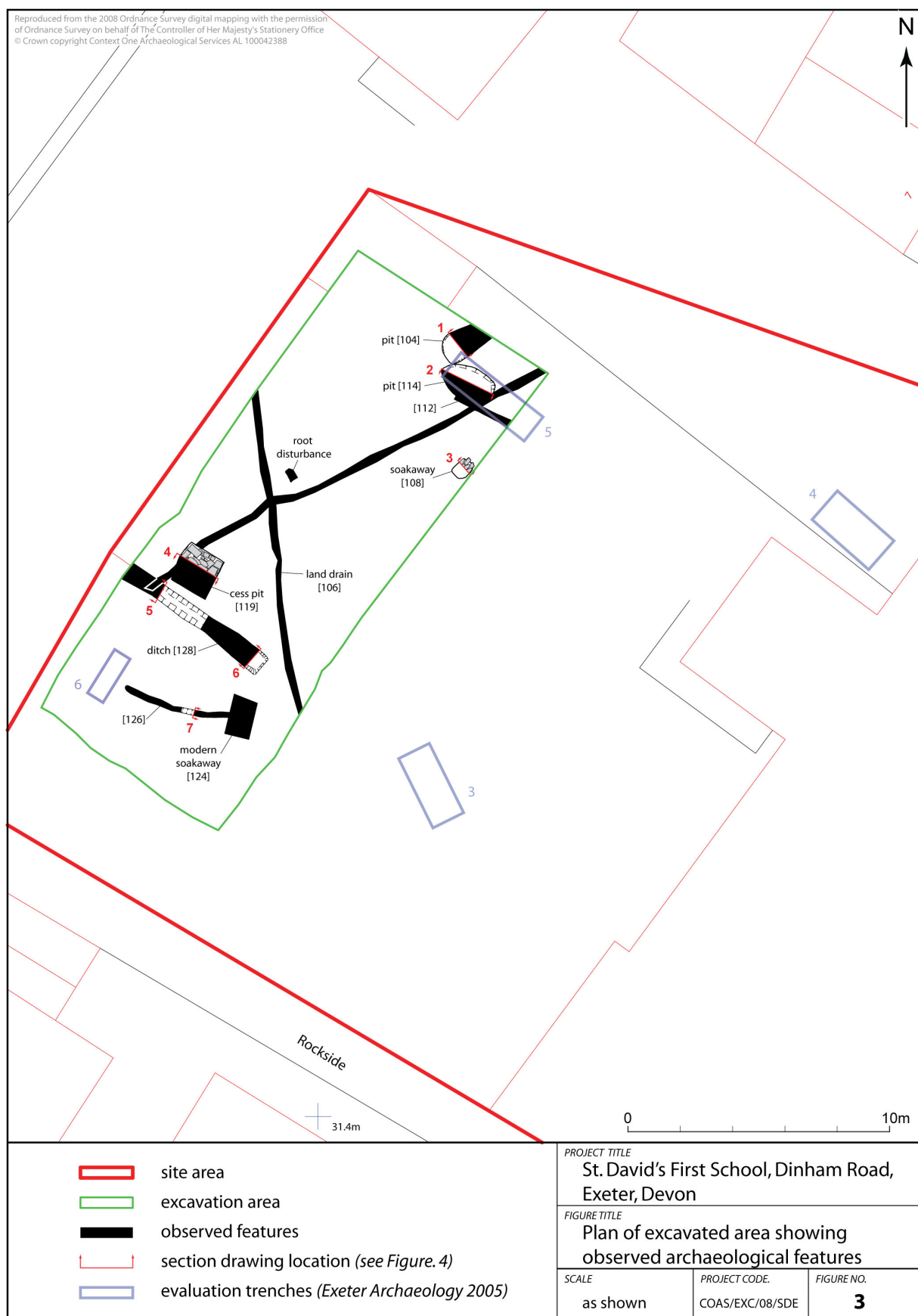


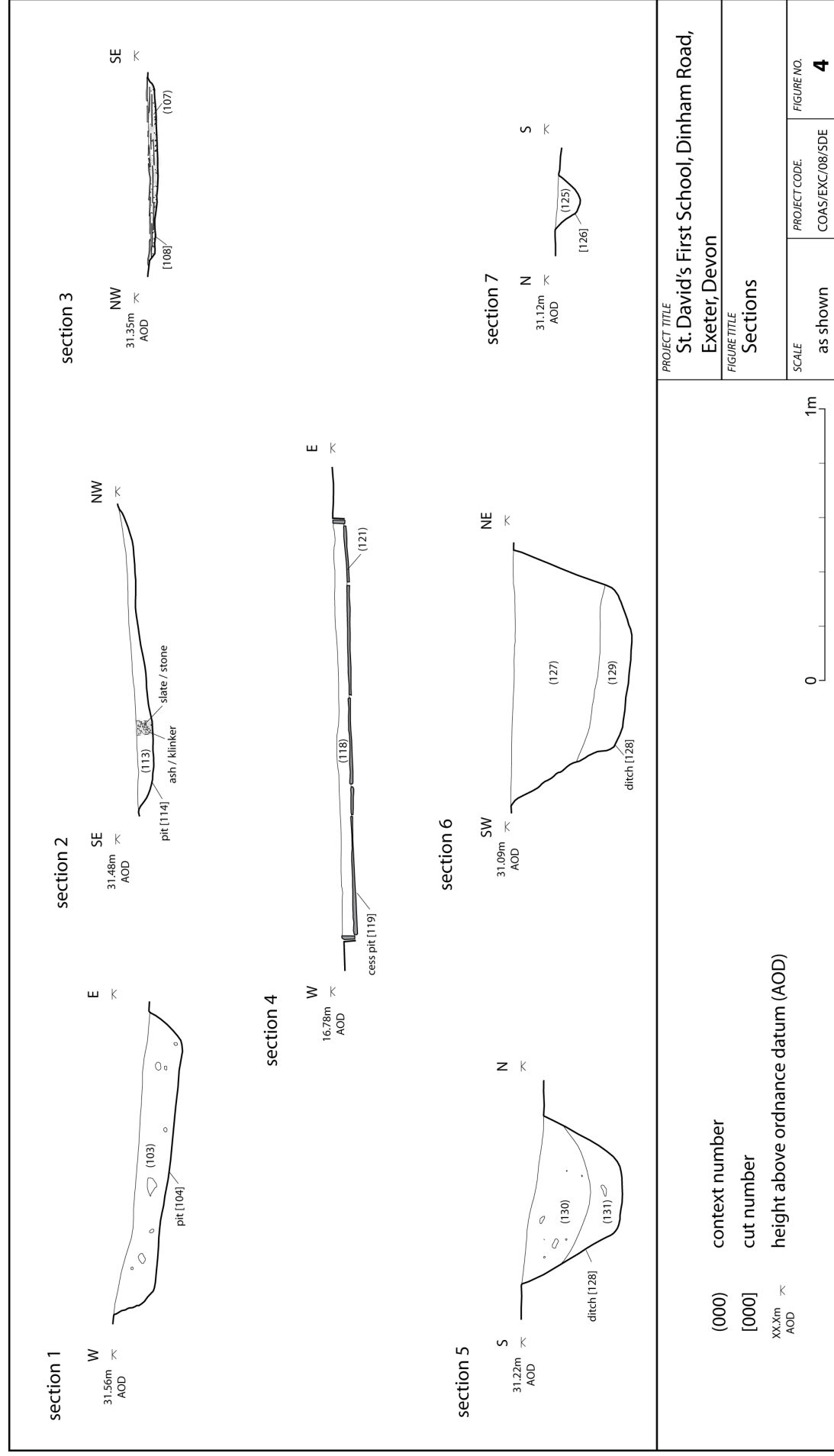
Plate 1. Pit [119] under excavation

- 6.9. Pit [119] was truncated by soil layer (101), a possible garden soil containing artefacts of late 19th to mid-20th century date.
- 6.10. Layer (101) was in turn cut by pit [108](107), water pipe [110](109), drain [112](111) and soakaway [123](122) – all of 20th century date.
- 6.11. An elongated 'pit' [114] comprising a single fill (113) of brownish black silt with frequent slate debris almost certainly relates to Trench 5 from the Exeter Archaeology evaluation.

Environmental Sampling

- 6.12. Two bulk soil samples totalling 80 litres were collected from pit fill (103) and basal ditch fill (131) with the aim of retrieving preserved organic remains such as charred plant macro fossils. Both samples were sub-sampled (7.5 litres each) and wet-sieved in a flotation tank using a tier of 250mm and 500mm micron sieves to collect the flots, and a 500mm mesh to collect the heavy residues. These were allowed to air dry and then bagged. Neither of the sub-samples produced any macrofossils and there was no evidence of any small bone, artefacts or heavy archaeobotanical material in the residues. On this basis, no further processing of the remaining bulk samples was carried out and the deposits were discarded.





7. The Finds

7.1. All finds recovered from the Excavation were washed and marked, where possible, with an accession number issued by the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (723/2007) (identifying the site, followed by the context number. The finds were separated into artefact types and quantified by context number, quantity and weight in grams. This data is presented as a table (**Table 1**). Bulk finds such as post-medieval and modern brick/tile and slate were noted on the context sheets but not collected. A request has been made to the site owner(s) to transfer the title of all finds recovered to the Royal Albert Memorial Museum.

7.2. A total of 48 artefacts were recovered during the watching brief. The assemblage comprises 38 pottery sherds, 1 complete glass bottle, 6 shards of glass, 2 fragments of clay tobacco pipe and 1 fragment of roof tile.

Pottery

7.3. Of the 38 sherds of pottery recovered 10 are Romano-British, 6 are medieval and the remaining 22 are post-medieval or modern.

Romano-British

7.4. Most of the Romano-British material (5 sherds) was recovered from contexts (127) and (130); these are all heavily abraded sandy coarsewares. In addition context (131) produced a single sherd of grey ware. The remaining assemblage; consisting of 2 sherds of Samian ware and 2 sherds of grey ware, were all recovered as residual material from later contexts.

Medieval

7.5. Two of these sherds can be identified as imported Saintonge ware; this was imported from the mid 13th to mid 16th centuries. The remainder consists of glazed and unglazed earthenwares.

Post-medieval

7.6. The majority consists of red earthenwares; these are likely to be of local origin and include Scraffito and North Devon gravel tempered wares. In addition, a grey stoneware rim sherd likely to derive from a chamber pot and two sherds of imported German stoneware were recovered.

Modern

7.7. The mass produced wares recovered include Creamware, Whiteware, Yellow ware and White glazed stoneware. Two objects of local interest were collected from (101); one is a toothpaste or cream pot printed with the words *MILTON & SON, PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMISTS 265 High Street. EXETER*. This company was established sometime before 1889, but after 1878, the premises is used as a booksellers. The business was operated by Arthur Milton in the 1920s, and is likely to have continued in operation until the area was destroyed during heavy bombing of the high street in 1942.

7.8. The other object relates to the joining sherds of an internally screw stoppered ginger beer bottle printed with the words *BREWED GINGER BEER, W. H. GRAFTON, EXETER*. This company is likely to have formed sometime between 1902 and 1913, following a split of the aerated water manufacturers *Kerswell & Grafton*.

Glass

- 7.9. A complete Glass mineral water bottle and two joining shards of local interest were recovered; The complete bottle is embossed with the words KERSWELL & GRAFTON, SAINT THOMAS AERATED WATER WORKS EXETER. The shards are embossed W. H. and EXETER with the monogram WHG. These are all from companies owned by James Kerswell and William Henry Grafton. Kerswell & Grafton was a major mineral water manufacturer in Exeter that is likely to have formed in the mid 1880s, trade directories indicate they were certainly in existence by 1889. At some point between 1902 and 1913 the company was split into Kerswell and sons and W.H. Grafton; both of which were still in operation after 1919.

Table 1. Artefacts quantified by context

Context Number	No.	Weight	Period	Comments
Pottery				
101	5	387g	c.1910 - 1940	Conjoining sherds of a pale brown transfer printed ginger beer bottle with an internal screw stopper.
101	1	148g	c.1885 - 1942	White stoneware toothpaste pot
102	2	29g	Mid C16 th - C19 th	North Devon gravel tempered earthenware
102	1	6g	C16 th - C19 th	Westerwald stoneware
102	1	4g	C16 th - C19 th	Frechen stoneware
102	1	49g	Mid C17 th - C18 th	Scraffito slipware
102	1	4g	Late medieval	Saintonge ware
102	1	6g	Medieval	Earthenware
102	1	18g	Late medieval	Green glazed earthenware jug handle
103	1	2g	Medieval	Earthenware
103	1	5g	Late medieval	Saintonge ware
103	1	10g	Late medieval	Olive brown glazed earthenware with applied decoration in a white clay
103	2	15g	Roman	Grey ware
103	2	2g	Roman	Samian ware
105	1	75g	C17 th - C19 th	Slipware
105	1	23g	C19 th / C20 th	Transfer printed whiteware
105	1	40g	Mid C19 th - C20 th	Yellow ware cup or bottle base
113	2	7g	Late C18 th /early C19 th	Creamware
113	1	5g	Late C18 th / early C19 th	Hand painted creamware
118	1	2g	C19 th / C20 th	Whiteware dolls house toy bowl
118	1	8g	C19 th / C20 th	Whiteware
118	1	11g	C17 th - C19 th	Grey salt glazed stoneware; possibly a chamber pot rim
120	1	11g	Mid - late C19 th	Flowing colours ware
120	1	109g	Late C19 th	White stoneware cream pot
127	4	4g	Roman	Heavily abraded sand tempered coarseware
130	1	6g	Roman	Heavily abraded sand tempered coarseware
131	1	49g	Roman	Grey ware
Clay pipe				
105	1	3g	Post-medieval/ Modern	Stem
113	1	6g	Post-medieval/ Modern	Stem
Glass				
101	1	642g	c.1880 - 1910	Aqua marble stoppered mineral water bottle
105	3	294g	c.1780 - 1830	Neck and base of dark green free blown wine

Context Number	No.	Weight	Period	Comments
				bottle with double string ring
113	1	4g	C19 th / C20 th	Clear glass bottle sherd
120	2	121g	c.1910 - 1930	Joining sherds of an aqua marble stoppered mineral water bottle
Brick/tile				
113	1	54g	Post-medieval/ Modern	Roof tile

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 Kelly's Directory of Devon and Cornwall 1893
 Kelly's Directory of Devon and Cornwall 1902
 Kelly's Directory of Devon and Cornwall 1913
 Kelly's Directory of Devon and Cornwall 1919

8. Discussion and conclusions

- 8.1. The work was completed successfully and has confirmed the presence of archaeological features of Roman date within the school grounds, although little detail has been added to the results of the earlier evaluation. A north-west - south-east aligned ditch, including a terminal, was located at the south end of the trench and appears to share a common alignment with one side of the 'enclosure' examined during the evaluation. It is not known if this feature represents the south side of the enclosure or just one element of a larger co-axial arrangement. A second linear feature, to the south of and parallel to the first, was also excavated. This may also be of Roman date, but was not established conclusively. There was no evidence that the Roman ditch recorded in evaluation trench 15 continued into the excavated area. The paucity of Roman artefacts and other features tends to suggest that the Site was not located in proximity to a settlement site.
- 8.2. In addition to the above, a single elongated pit or ditch terminal was examined at the north edge of the Site and can be ascribed a late medieval date. The remaining features are of late 19th and early 20th century date. These findings accord with the generally held view that this part of Exeter remained undeveloped through the medieval and post-medieval periods prior to 19th development of the site as part of a charitable 'village'. There was no evidence for the medieval buried soil noted from some of the evaluation trenches, and it is possible that these deposits are more likely to be of post-medieval date as observed during the excavation.

9. Archive

- 9.1. The site archive is currently held at the offices of Context One Archaeological Services Ltd and consists of monochrome photographs and digital images in .jpg format, drawn plans and sections of stable drawing film and the written paper record – including context sheets, COAS *pro-forma* profile log sheets and various registers. Arrangements will be made to deposit the archive with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum within 12 months following the submission of this report.
- 9.2. Copies of the Excavation report will be deposited with:

NPS South West Ltd.

Room 280
County Hall
Topsham Road
Exeter
EX2 4QW

Historic Environment Service

Devon County Council
Environment, Economy and Culture Directorate
Matford Offices
County Hall
Exeter
EX2 4QW

- 9.3. As part of our commitment to public archaeology, an e-report will be available to view online or download as an Adobe Acrobat™ file from the COAS website at www.contextone.co.uk/devon.htm following entry onto the County Historic and Environment Record (HER) and Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS), where it will become a publicly accessible document.

10. COAS Acknowledgements

- 10.1. Context One Archaeological Services Ltd would like to thank Mr Jorge Pineda-Langford for his kind assistance throughout the course of the excavation, City Plant (Devon) Ltd for mechanical excavation of the Site, Mr Stephen Reed (Archaeological Officer, Historic Environment Service (HES), Devon County Council) for curatorial advice and finally Exeter Archaeology for allowing the COAS field team to visit the adjacent site.

11. Bibliography

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**Context One Archaeological
Services Ltd. 2007**

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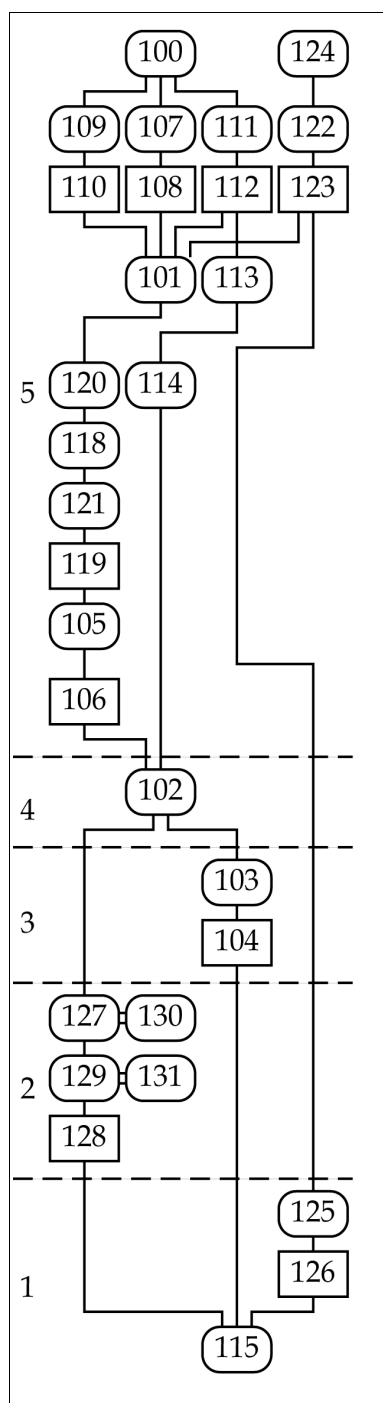
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Appendix 1. Context Summary

CONTEXT NO.	PERIOD	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	LENGTH	WIDTH/ DIAMETER	THICKNESS/ DEPTH
100	Modern	Layer	Demolition layer. Brownish grey (5YR 4/1) friable matrix with 50% brick and stone rubble.	-	-	0.20m
101	Modern	Layer	Made ground. Brownish black (5YR 2/1) silty clay with 20% brick rubble, stone tile & clinker.	-	-	0.30m
102	Post-medieval	Layer	Buried ploughsoil. Brown (7.5YR 4/6) silty clay with 10% small angular stones.	-	-	0.25m
103	Medieval	Fill	Fill of pit. Brown (7.5YR 4/6) silty clay with 10% small angular stones.	1.95m	1.10m	0.15m
104	Medieval	Cut	Pit. North-south aligned, sub-circular with concave sides and a flat base.	1.95m	1.10m	0.15m
105	Modern	Fill	Fill of land drains. Brown (7.5YR 4/6) silty clay with 80% angular brick, stone and tile rubble.	-	0.20m	-
106	Modern	Cut	Cut of land drains. Two modern land drains set out perpendicular to each other.	-	0.20m	-
107	Modern	Fill	Fill of pit. Brownish black (10YR 3/2) ashy silt with occasional 'platey' stone fragments and moderate slate fragments.	0.72m	0.67m	0.04m
108	Modern	Cut	Pit. Sub-rectangular with straight sides and a flat base.	0.72m	0.67m	0.04m
109	Modern	Fill	Fill of modern water pipe trench.	-	-	-
110	Modern	Cut	Trench for modern water pipe.	-	-	-
111	Modern	Fill	Fill of modern drain.	-	-	-
112	Modern	Cut	Trench for modern drain.	-	-	-
113	Modern	Fill	Fill of EA evaluation trench. Brownish black (10YR 3/2) silt with occasional angular pebbles and frequent fragments of slate.	2.20m	1.2m	0.12m
114	Modern	Cut	Part of EA evaluation trench. Aligned North East to South West with concave sides and a sloping base.	2.20m	1.2m	0.12m
115	Unknown	Layer	Natural. Reddish brown (5YR 4/6) silty clay.	-	-	-
116	-	-	Number not used.	-	-	-
117	-	-	Number not used.	-	-	-
118	Modern	Fill	Fill of pit. Brown (7.5YR 4/3) silty clay with 10% angular stones and bricks.	1.80m	1.60m	0.20m
119	Modern	Cut	Pit. Square with straight sides and a flat base.	1.80m	1.60m	0.20m
120	Modern	Fill	Fill of pit. Brownish grey (5YR 5/1) silty clay with 10% angular stones and bricks.	1.80m	1.60m	0.5m

CONTEXT NO.	PERIOD	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	LENGTH	WIDTH/ DIAMETER	THICKNESS/ DEPTH
121	Modern	Fill	Slate lining of pit. Very dark bluish grey (Gley 2 4/5PB) slates used to line pit. The slates are laid on end and pressed into underlying natural to form the sides and laid flat for the base.	1.80m	1.60m	0.10m
122	Modern	Fill	Fill of soakaway.	-	-	-
123	Modern	Cut	Soakaway.	-	-	-
124	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Soft brown (7.5YR 4/3) silty clay with 5% small angular stones.	-	-	0.20m
125	unknown	Fill	Fill of gully. Cemented reddish brown (5YR 4/6) clay with no inclusions.	3.00m	0.19m	0.08m
126	unknown	Cut	Gully. West-east aligned gully with straight sides and a tapered base.	3.00m	0.19m	0.08m
127	Roman	Fill	Fill of ditch. Reddish brown (5YR 4/6) clay with occasional angular fragments of stone.	-	0.94m	0.34m
128	Roman	Cut	Ditch. Aligned East to West with straight sides and a flat base.	3.20m+	0.94m	0.43m
129	Roman	Fill	Fill of ditch. Reddish brown (5YR 4/6) silty clay with 10% small angular stones.	-	0.65m	0.12m
130	Roman	Fill	Fill of ditch. Reddish brown (5YR 4/6) clay with 5% small angular stones and frequent lumps of redeposited natural clay.	0.62m	0.80m	0.21m
131	Roman	Fill	Fill of ditch. Reddish brown (5YR 4/6) silty clay with 10% small angular stones.	2.00m+	0.50m	0.20m

Appendix 2. Site Matrix



Appendix 3. Devon County Council Historic Environment Service: Brief for Archaeological Excavation, Monitoring and Recording.

BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION, MONITORING AND RECORDING

Location: St David's First School, Dinham Road

Parish: Exeter

District: Exeter

County: Devon

NGR: SX 9155 9276

Proposal: New building and services

Historic Environment Service ref: Arch/cm/ex/10189

1. INTRODUCTION AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This brief has been prepared by Devon County Council Historic Environment Service (HES), at the request of Jorge Pineda-Langford of Devon Property. A planning application will be submitted to Devon County Council for the construction of a new building at the above site.
- 1.2 In accordance with PPG16 (1990) Archaeology and Planning Policy, and the Devon Structure Plan Policy CO8 Archaeology - should consent be granted, the Historic Environment Service has advised that it should be conditional upon a programme of archaeological work being undertaken. The standard condition to be used is set out below and requires that:
'No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority.'
The development shall be carried out at all times in strict accordance with the approved scheme, or such other details as may be subsequently agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.
- 1.3 The principal objective of the programme shall be to investigate, excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the proposed development.
- 1.4 The proposal lies within the Exeter Conservation Area. The site consists of a rectangular area of approximately 0.5 hectares including buildings, car parking, playing field and hard play area. The site lies in an elevated position on the northwest edge of the Longbrook Valley. It lies at approximately 34m OD. The underlying natural deposit comprises a red or yellowish-brown clay.

The site lies just outside the boundaries of both the Roman and Medieval settlements, close to the recorded position of the Roman road which leads northwest from the north gate of the town. Previous archaeological investigations in the Exe Street/North Street area have identified evidence for early Romano-British activity, and the Archaeological Evaluation referred to above recorded features of Roman date around the present school building.

In the medieval period the outskirts of Exeter were largely undeveloped, and the vicinity of the site appears to have been open country owned by St. Nicholas' Priory. Limited development may have taken place in the area in the post-medieval period, and cloth drying racks appear to have been erected in the vicinity in the later 17th- and early 18th centuries.

The site formed part of an educational and charitable 'village' which was developed in the 1860s, and the existing school building incorporates the former St. David's National Boy's School, which was part of

that establishment. This part of the existing building (which is Listed Grade II) is proposed to be retained, with a new extension to its south.

Fifteen evaluation trenches were excavated in 2005. The key finds in the areas covered by the present proposal site were as follows:

- Trench 1. Romano-British deposits; medieval buried soil.
- Trench 2. Medieval buried soil.
- Trench 3. Medieval buried soil.
- Trench 4. Romano-British deposits; medieval buried soil.
- Trench 5. Romano-British pottery; medieval buried soil.
- Trench 7. Romano-British pottery.

The extent of trenching able to be undertaken during the Evaluation was limited by site constraints, and therefore other features of Romano-British date might be present in areas not examined as part of that exercise. Many of the recorded features clearly continued beyond the evaluation trenches.

- 1.5 The proposed development lies in the area investigated by trenches 3 - 6 and shown to lie in an area containing Romano-British and medieval deposits. In addition, the excavation of trench 5 suggests that the development site may also lie within a Romano-British enclosure.
- 1.6 This Brief covers the application area as defined by the hatched area on the attached plan.

2. WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

This document sets out the scope of the works required to appropriately investigate, record and sample archaeological features and deposits within the area affected by the development, and will form the basis of the *Written Scheme of Investigation* to be prepared by the archaeological consultant to be approved by the HES and the Local Planning Authority prior to works commencing on site.

3. PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS

- 3.1 Topsoil or overburden across areas affected by the proposed development should be excavated by a 360° tracked or JCB-type machine - fitted with a toothless grading bucket - under the direct control of the site archaeologist to the depth of formation, the surface of *in situ* subsoil/weathered natural or archaeological deposits whichever is highest in the stratigraphic sequence.
- 3.2 Where archaeological deposits are exposed machining will cease and excavations continue by hand to clean the exposed surface. Archaeological features will be excavated by hand (unless exposed features are of a substantial nature, to be agreed by the HES) and recorded as per the *IFA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (1995)*, as amended (1999).
- 3.3 Where archaeological features are exposed, as a minimum:
 - small discrete features will be fully excavated
 - larger discrete features will be half-sectioned (50% excavated)
 - long linear features will be excavated to sample 20% of their length - with investigative excavations distributed along the exposed length of any such feature
 - Should the above % excavation not yield sufficient information to allow the form and function of archaeological features/deposits to be determined full excavation of such features/deposits will be

required. Additional excavation may also be required for the taking of palaeoenvironmental samples and recovery of artefacts

The full depth of archaeological deposits will be excavated.

Any variation of the above shall be agreed in consultation with the HES.

- 3.4 Should deposits be exposed that contain palaeoenvironmental or datable elements appropriate sampling strategies should be initiated. The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve or report on finds or advise or report on other aspects of the investigation (e.g. palaeoenvironmental analysis) can be called upon and undertake assessment and analysis of such deposits - if required.
- 3.5 Topsoil should be examined for the recovery of artefacts.
- 3.6 A programme of monitoring and recording will be maintained on excavations for services associated with the development.
- 3.7 Artefacts should be labelled and bagged on site.
- 3.8 All features shall be recorded in plan and section at a minimum scale of 1:20, larger where necessary.
- 3.9 The photographic record shall be made in B/W print supplemented by digital or colour transparency. If digital imagery is to be the sole photographic record then suitably archivable prints must be made of the digital images by a photographic laboratory. Laser or inkjet prints of digital images, while acceptable for inclusion in the report, are not an acceptable medium for archives. The drawn and written record will be on an appropriately archivable medium.
- 3.10 Human remains must be left in-situ, covered and protected. Removal can only take place under appropriate Home Office and environmental health regulations. Such removal must be in compliance with the relevant primary legislation.
- 3.11 Should gold or silver artefacts be exposed, these will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act 1996. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

4. MONITORING

- 4.1 The archaeological consultant shall agree monitoring arrangements with the County Historic Environment Service and give two weeks notice, unless a shorter period is agreed with the HES, of commencement of the fieldwork. Details will be agreed of any monitoring points where decisions on options within the programme are to be made.
- 4.2 Monitoring will continue until the deposition of the site archive and finds.

5. REPORTING

- 5.1 An illustrated full report on the investigation shall be prepared collating the written, graphic, visible and recorded information outlined above. The report shall include plans of the trenches or areas of excavation and location of features in relation to the site boundary and the British National Grid, as well as details of trench stratigraphy, section and plan drawings. The report will also describe features, description of deposits and artefacts together with their interpretation. A copy of this brief shall be included in the report.

- 5.2 The HES would normally expect to receive the report within three months of completion of fieldwork - dependant upon the provision of specialist reports, radiocarbon dating results etc the production of which may exceed this period. If a substantial delay is anticipated then an interim report will be produced. A copy of this brief shall be included in the report.
- 5.3 It is recommended that a draft report is submitted to the HES for comment prior to its formal submission to the Local Planning Authority.
- 5.4 On completion of the report, in addition to copies required by the Client, hard copies of the report shall be supplied to the HES on the understanding that one of these copies will be deposited for public reference in the HER. In addition to the hard copies of the report, one copy shall be provided to the HES in digital format - in a format to be agreed in advance with the HES - on the understanding that it may in future be made available to researchers via a web-based version of the HER.
- 5.5 The archaeological consultant shall complete an online OASIS (*Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS*) form in respect of the archaeological work.
- 5.6 *Publication*
Should particularly significant remains, finds and/or deposits be encountered, then these, because of their importance, are likely to merit wider publication in line with government planning guidance. If such remains are encountered, the publication requirements – including any further analysis that may be necessary – will be confirmed with the HES.

6. PERSONNEL

- 6.1 A professional archaeological consultant, to be agreed with the HES, shall carry out the programme of works. Staff must be suitably qualified and experienced for their project roles. All work should be carried out under the control of a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (MIFA), or by a person of similar standing. The Written Scheme of Investigation will contain details of key project staff and specialists who may contribute during the course of the works - excavation and postexcavation.
- 6.2 All staff, including subcontractors, must be fully briefed and aware of the archaeological work required under the brief and written scheme of investigation, and must understand the aims and methodologies of the project.
- 6.3 Health and Safety matters, including site security, are matters for the consultant. However, adherence to all relevant regulations will be required.
- 6.4 The work shall be carried out in accordance with *IFA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (1995)*, as amended (1999).
- 6.5 The archaeological consultant shall give the HES two weeks notice of commencement of works and shall be responsible for agreeing monitoring arrangements. Details will be agreed of any monitoring points where decisions on options within the programme are to be made.

7. DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE AND FINDS

- 7.1 The archaeological consultant shall contact the museum that will receive the site archive to obtain an accession number and agree conditions for deposition. *The accession number will be quoted in the Written Scheme of Investigation.*
- 7.2 An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with *The Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991 2nd edition) upon completion of the entire project. This

will be deposited with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum in consultation with the curator of antiquities.

- 7.3 Archaeological finds resulting from the investigation (which are the property of the landowner), should be deposited with the appropriate museum - in a format to be agreed with the museum, and within a timetable to be agreed with the HES. The museum's guidelines for the deposition of archives for long-term storage should be adhered to. If ownership of all or any of the finds is to remain with the landowner, provision and agreement must be made for the time-limited retention of the material and its full analysis and recording, by appropriate specialists.
- 7.4 The condition placed upon this development will not be regarded as discharged until the report has been produced and submitted to the HES, the site archive deposited and the OASIS form submitted.

8. CONTACT NAME AND ADDRESS

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2 March 2007