

## Exeter City Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Exeter	<b>National Grid Reference:</b> SX 9210 9249	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording on land behind the Pearson Library, Exeter Cathedral, Exeter.		<b>Photo attached:</b> Y
<b>Planning permission no:</b> n/a	<b>Recipient museum:</b> n/a	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> oakforda1- 509235	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> n/a	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> OA1955	<b>Date fieldwork undertaken:</b> 10/10 & 03/12/2022	
<p><b>Description of works:</b> A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology between October and December 2022 on land behind the Pearson Library, Exeter Cathedral, Exeter (SX 9210 9249). The site (Fig. 1) was part of the rear garden plot of the first and second cannon's house and a property known as 'Three Chambers', a tenement of medieval origin which housed minor clergy in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Following the construction of the Pearson Library the gardens became part of the Three Chambers until its demolition in 1893, and the work was therefore required by the Archaeological Consultant to the Dean and Chapter of Exeter Cathedral.</p> <p><b>Results:</b> A watching brief (Fig. 2, pls. 1-3) was maintained during works associated with the excavation of a new electrical service trench. The work involved the excavation of a single trench measuring 30.3m long, 0.3m wide and 0.45-1m deep.</p> <p>Inspection of the trench exposed a mid brown clayey silt (105) at a depth of 0.27-0.85m. This contained frequent mid pinkish white lime mortar, cbm and volcanic trap fragments and roofing slate and has been interpreted as a demolition deposit. This was overlain by a 0.1m thick mid brown clayey silt (104) with frequent white lime mortar flecks. This deposit was in turn sealed underneath a 0.35m thick mid brown clayey silt (103) with rare gravel, charcoal flecks and roofing slate inclusions. These deposits probably represent landscaping following the demolition of the 'Three Chambers' and were in turn located underneath a 0.13m thick mid greyish brown clayey silt (102). These were underneath a 0.14m thick light to mid greys clayey silt (101) with frequent ash and coal flecks, roofing slate and white lime mortar flecks. These deposits have been interpreted as construction deposits associated with the construction of the Pearson in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The sequence was sealed by a 0.13m thick mid brown clayey silt (100) topsoil.</p> <p>Within the road and the pavement the excavations exposed a dark brown clayey silt (106) at a depth of 0.35m possible garden soil pre-dating the construction of the 'Three Chambers' this was sealed underneath a 0.19m thick deposit (107) containing frequent volcanic trap and Heavitree stone rubble, as well as brick, light yellowish white lime mortar and roofing slate. Interpreted as a demolition deposit associated with the demolition of the building in 1893 this was in turn located underneath two successive layers of tarmac (108-9).</p> <p><b>Finds:</b> by John Allan</p> <p>A small collection of archaeological material was recovered from the works. In total 19 finds, weighing 126g, and post-medieval in character were recovered from the trench. They consist of a single fragment of inlaid floor-tile (13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century), one sherd of late 17<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> century London delftware; five sherds of late 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> century industrial whitewares including cream ware, Staffordshire transfer printed ware and shell edge ware; two sherds of South Somerset red earthenware (18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century); six fragments of 19<sup>th</sup> century brick; two fragments of English Green Bottle Glass including one neck with</p>		

applied strip (late 17<sup>th</sup> century); one fragment of 19<sup>th</sup> century bottle glass; one clay pipe stem (18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century) and two clay pipe bowls (late 17<sup>th</sup>-early 18<sup>th</sup> century).

**Project archive and OASIS entry**

Due to the limited nature of the findings a project archive will not be produced. A summary of the investigations has been submitted to the on-line archaeological database OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological InterventionS).

**Recorder:**

M. Steinmetzer (Oakford Archaeology)

**Date sent to HER:**

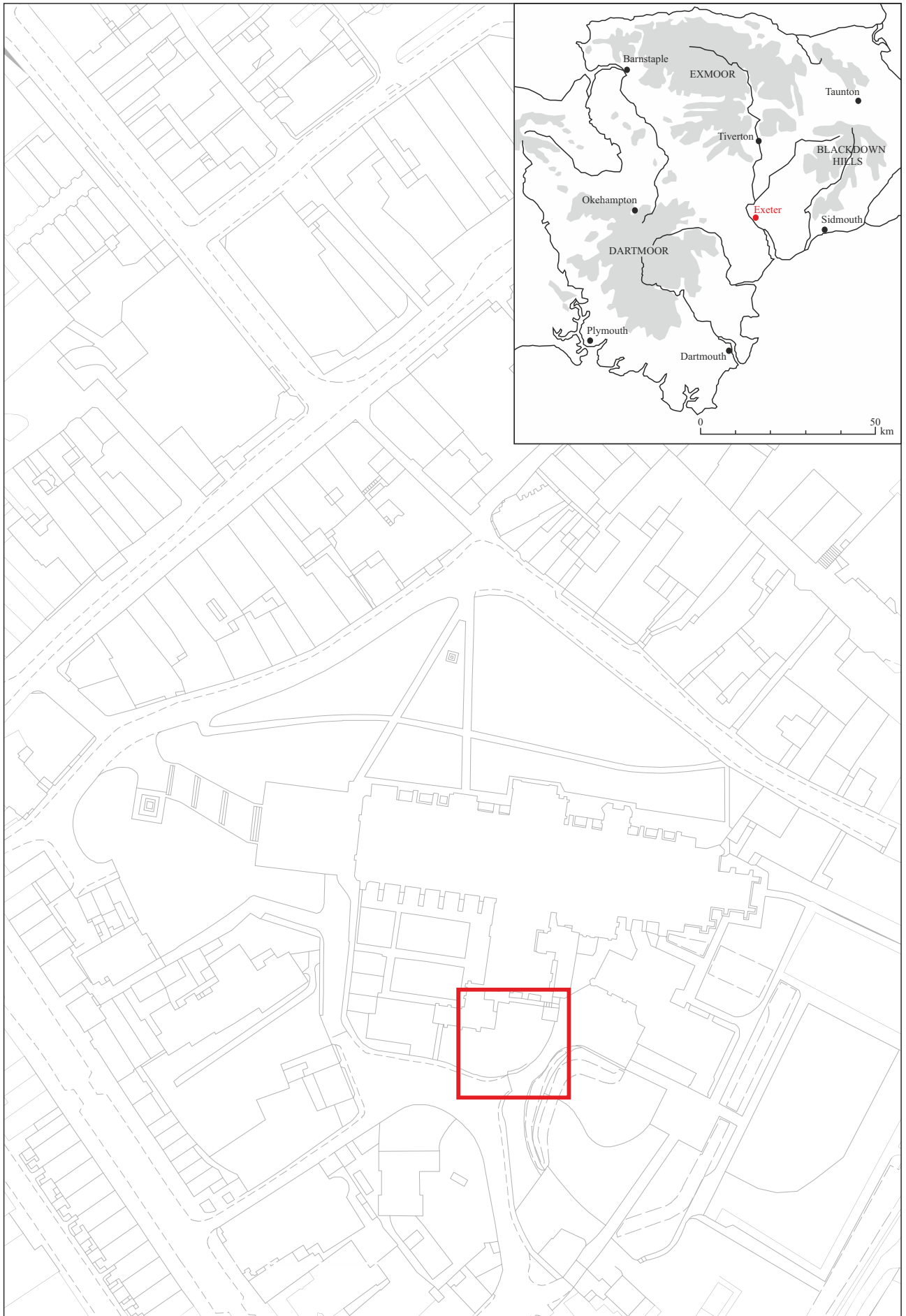


Fig. 1 Location of Site



Fig. 2 Plan showing line of service trench in relation to the position of the Three Chambers recorded in the late 18th century.





Pl. 1 General view of new service trench showing extensive late 19th century landscaping deposits (103-4). 2m scale. Looking northeast.



Pl. 2 Section through extensive late 19th century landscaping deposits (103-4) overlying demolition deposit (105). 2m scale. Looking southwest.





Pl. 3 General view of new service trench showing demolition deposit (105). 2m scale. Looking northwest.



Pl. 4 General view of the roadside trench. Looking northeast.