

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Exminster, Teignbridge	National Grid Reference: SX 9630 8595 SX 9722 8443	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording on the Turf Hotel to Powderham Church cycle way, Exminster, Devon.		Photo attached: Y
Planning Application no: 08/04550/DCR3 and 12/03552/DCR3	Recipient museum: n/a	
OASIS ID: oakforda1-190731	Museum Accession no: n/a	
Contractor's reference number/code: OA1083	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 19/05, 27/05, 29/05, 02/06, 05-06/06, 10-11/06, 17/06, 19/06, 23/06, 25/06, 27-28/06, 30/06, 02/07, 04/07, 08/07, 11/07, 16/07, 24/07/2014	
<p>Description of works:</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology between May and August 2014 on the Turf Hotel to Powderham Church cycle way, Exminster, Devon (SX 9630 8595 to SX 9722 8443). The site (Fig. 1) lies in an area of archaeological potential on the south side of the River Exe, in an area between the Turf Hotel and Powderham Church. Due to its location it is possible that palaeo-environmental deposits may be exposed which have the potential for preserving significant environmental information and may even contain waterlogged organic deposits or even preserved organic artefacts such as worked wood, leather etc. Following discovery of Bronze Age pottery on the under-Exe Transco pipeline in 2007 there is potential to discover further evidence of human activity.. Part of the development lies within land reclaimed from the marshland along the edge of the River Exe in the post-medieval period. Further sites of archaeological interest in the vicinity include the early 18th century riverside reclamation bank, saltworkings in the area of Powderham marshes and the site of the former Brunel Atmospheric Railway pumping house. Powderham Church was the site of a Civil War skirmish and it is possible that evidence dating to this period may be exposed. The work was therefore required by the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>A watching brief (Fig. 2) was maintained during works associated with the construction of a new cycle path and bridge. The topsoil stripping for the site access road and compound adjacent to Powderham Church was monitored in May 2014. This covered an area 350m long and 6-10m wide, extending to a depth of 0.2-0.3m. The topsoil stripping for the remainder of the cycle path and ditch widening was intermittently monitored between June and July 2014. This extended on average to a depth of 0.2-0.3m for the cycle path and approximately 0.5m for the ditch. The works for the new bridge were monitored in June and July 2014 and extended to a depth of 0.3m.</p> <p>Results:</p> <p>Inspection of the cycle path excavation areas showed little evidence of archaeological activity. It contained a 0.15m thick dark brown silty clay loam topsoil (1000), overlying a mid reddish brown clay reclamation deposit (1001).</p> <p>Work on the northern bridge abutment identified 0.15m thick dark brown silty clay loam topsoil (1000), overlying a mid reddish brown silty clay reclamation deposit (1001). Work on the southern abutment identified a 0.3m thick mid reddish brown silty clay loam topsoil (1000), overlying a mid red clayey silt with frequent gravels and coarse sand inclusions (1002). This has been interpreted as an alluvial deposit.</p> <p>Conclusion:</p> <p>No early archaeological features or deposits were exposed. The works identified a layer above the alluvial sands and gravels which almost certainly represents a deposit of made ground associated with the reclaiming of the area in the 18th century.</p>		

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:

MFR Steinmetzer (Oakford Archaeology)

Date sent to HER:

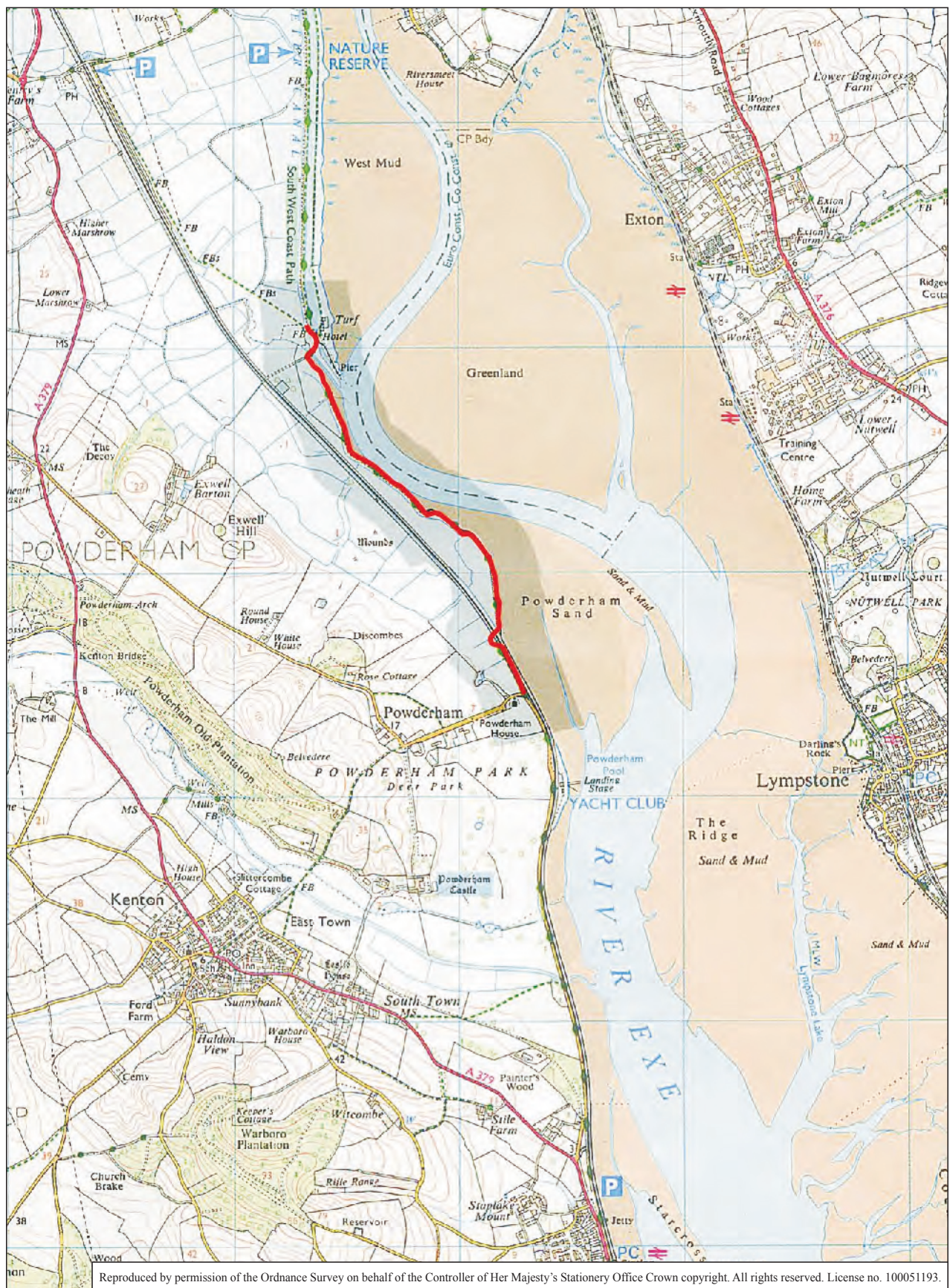


Fig. 1 Location of site.

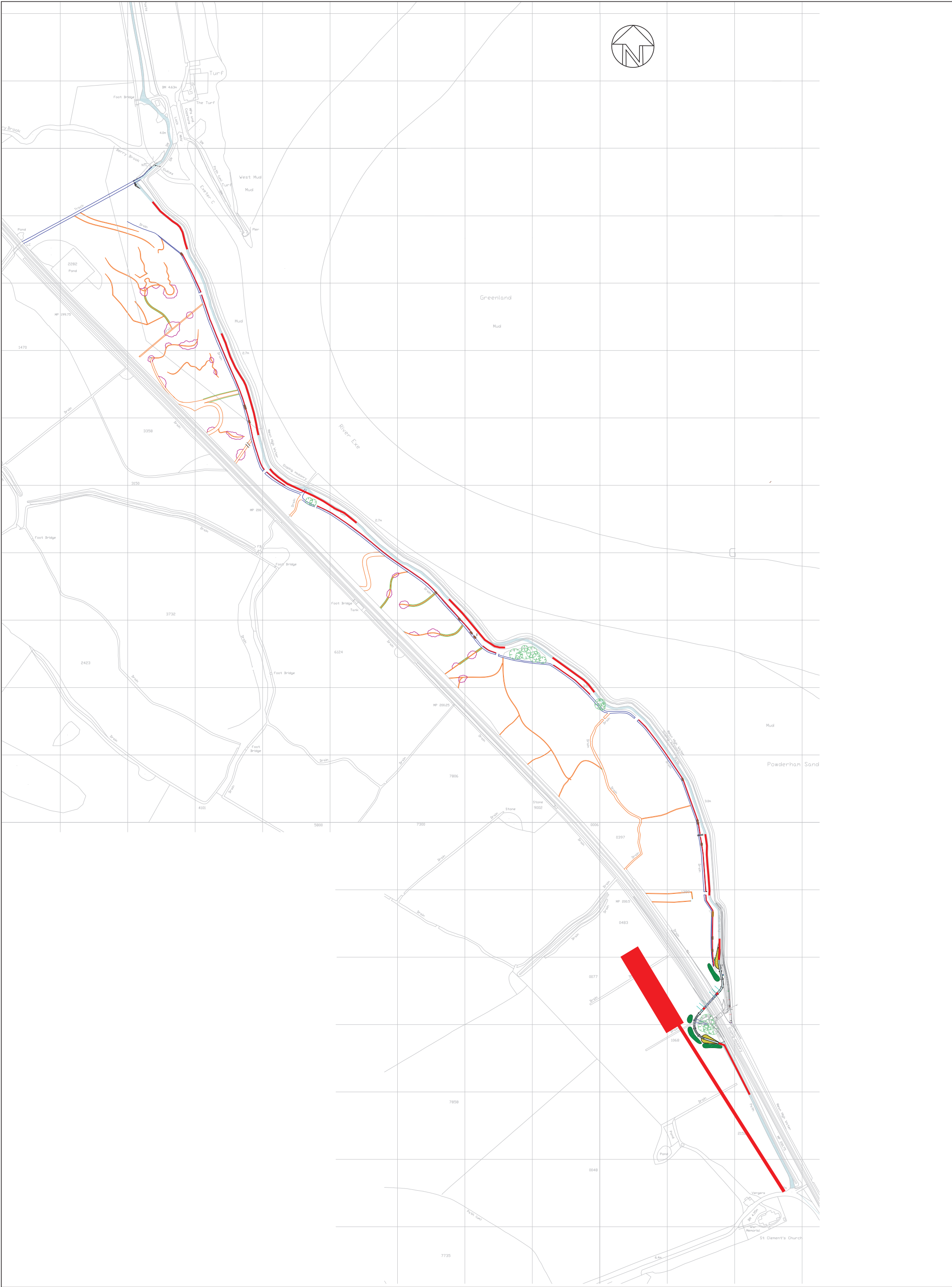


Fig. 2 Site location showing extent of groundworks and watching brief areas (red).



Pl. 1 General view of cycle path excavations showing shallow depth of topsoil (1000) over reclamation deposit (1001). Looking southeast.



Pl. 2 General view of cycle path excavation showing rapid nature of path construction. Looking southeast.



Pl. 3 General view of cycle path excavation near southern bridge abutment showing shallow topsoil (1000) overlying alluvial silts and gravels (1002). Looking northwest.



Pl. 4 General view of ditch re-profiling showing level of groundwater. Looking northwest.