

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Kilmington, East Devon	National Grid Reference: SY 2729 9821	Number:
Subject: Archaeological evaluation on land behind the Old Inn, Kilmington, Devon.		Photo attached: Y
Planning Application no: 14/1410/FUL	Recipient museum: n/a	
OASIS ID: oakforda1-248413	Museum Accession no: n/a	
Contractor's reference number/code: OA1326	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 05/04/2016	
<p>Background: The site (Fig. 1) lies immediately to the south of the old Roman road leading eastwards from Exeter to Dorchester. This was exposed in excavation east of Kilmington and was found to have a width of 9.5m (Weddell <i>et al.</i> 1993, 52) although this was probably exceptional due to the terrain it was crossing; on higher ground the road was found to be about 6m wide. In the same paper Weddell notes that '<i>where modern roadlines are encountered the course (of the Roman road) can again be followed on the A35 up Gammons Hill towards Kilmington</i>' (<i>ibid.</i> 81). Margary (1955, 106) makes the same point: 'beyond the Axe the main road up Gammons Hill, Kilmington is on the alignment' (of the Roman road). Archaeological evaluation at the junction of Gammons Hill and George Lane by South West Archaeology in 2010 produced only evidence of post-medieval field drains (Walls 2010).</p> <p>In addition, the site is located in an area where 'ash' fieldnames are recorded on the 1840 Kilmington Tithe map. These may be indicative of the presence of fuel or slag debris within these fields that may be associated with the iron industry that thrived on the Blackdown Hills in the Roman and medieval periods (Griffith and Weddell 1996).</p> <p>Description of works: An evaluation was carried out prior to the start of groundworks. Three trenches, measuring 40m in total, were excavated (Fig. 2), covering the footprint of the proposed development. The layer sequence revealed by the trenching typically consisted of the following:</p> <p>0-0.3m mid to dark reddish brown silty clay (topsoil) 0.3-0.6m mid reddish brown silty clay (subsoil) 0.6m+ mid yellow silty clay (natural subsoil)</p> <p>Trench 1 (Pls. 1-2): 100 0-0.25m mid to dark reddish brown silty clay (topsoil) 101 0.25-0.55m mid reddish brown silty clay (subsoil) 102 0.55m+ mid yellowish red silty clay (natural subsoil) 103 0.55-1.15m pit 104 0.55-1.15m mid greyish brown silty clay (fill of pit 103)</p> <p>Finds: by John Allan</p> <p>The post-medieval pottery, consisting of 11 sherds (total weight 156g) and recovered from the fill of pit [103], is of late 18th-19th century industrial wares, including 3 sherds of Staffordshire type plain whitewares, 2 sherds of Staffordshire transfer decorated white earthenware and 6 sherds of late 19th century flowerpot. In addition, 2 clay pipe stems and 1 partial bowl (19th century) were also recovered from the single fill of pit [103].</p>		

Conclusion:

The trench evaluation constitutes a thorough examination of the site, with trenches positioned to provide a comprehensive sample of those areas affected by the development. Topsoil and subsoil deposits (up to 0.6m deep) have been confirmed, across the whole of the site, but the total removal of this material within trenches 2 and 3 has failed to reveal any evidence for buried archaeological features or deposits.

Trench 1 exposed the remains of a probable pit and provides the only potential evidence for 19th century activity.

The lack of pottery and lithics from the remainder of the site, despite examination of spoil heaps, further indicates that the potential for significant archaeological survival is low. This is the only report on these works.

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 and J Salvatore (Oakford Archaeology)

Date sent to HER:

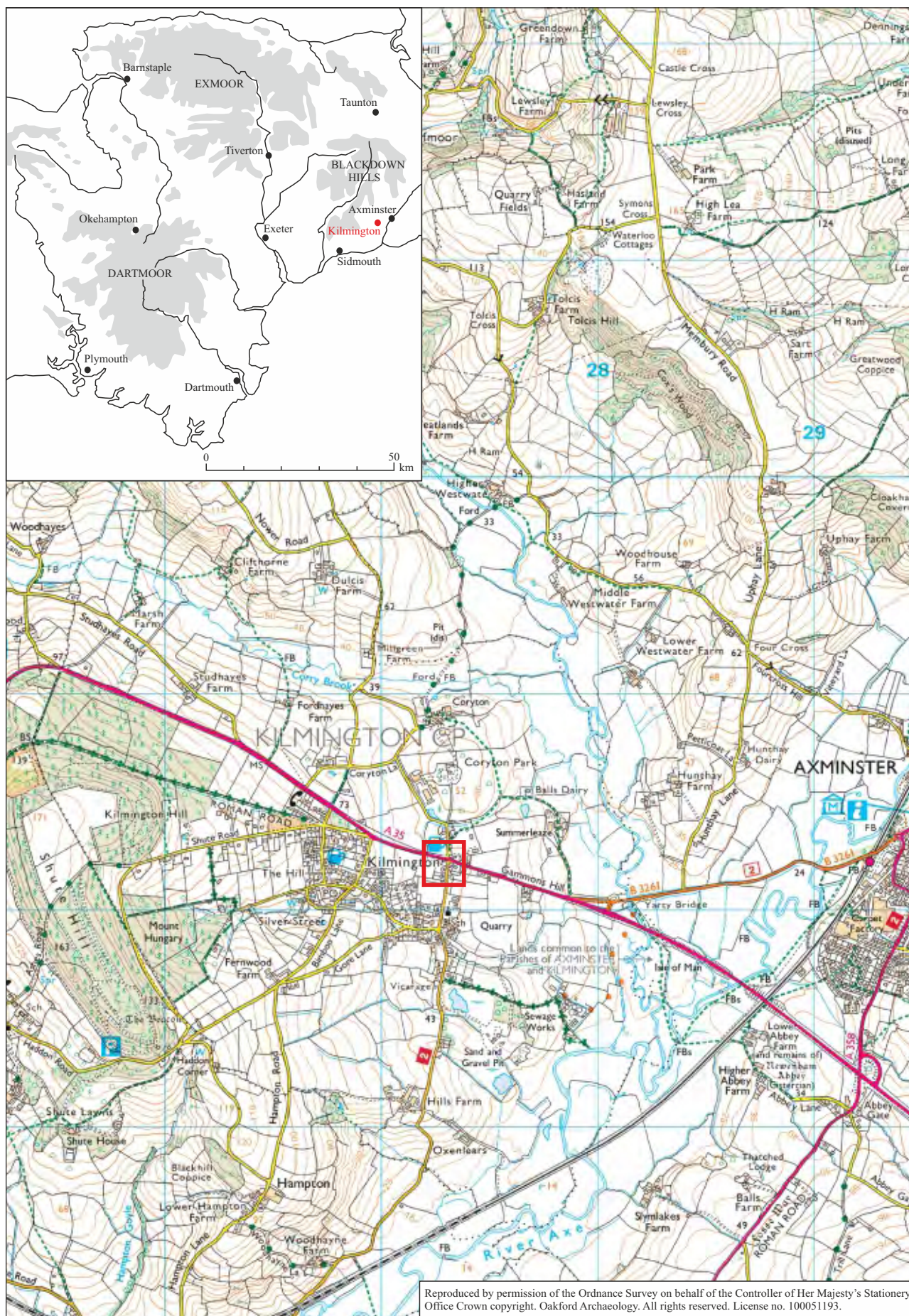


Fig. 1 Location of site.

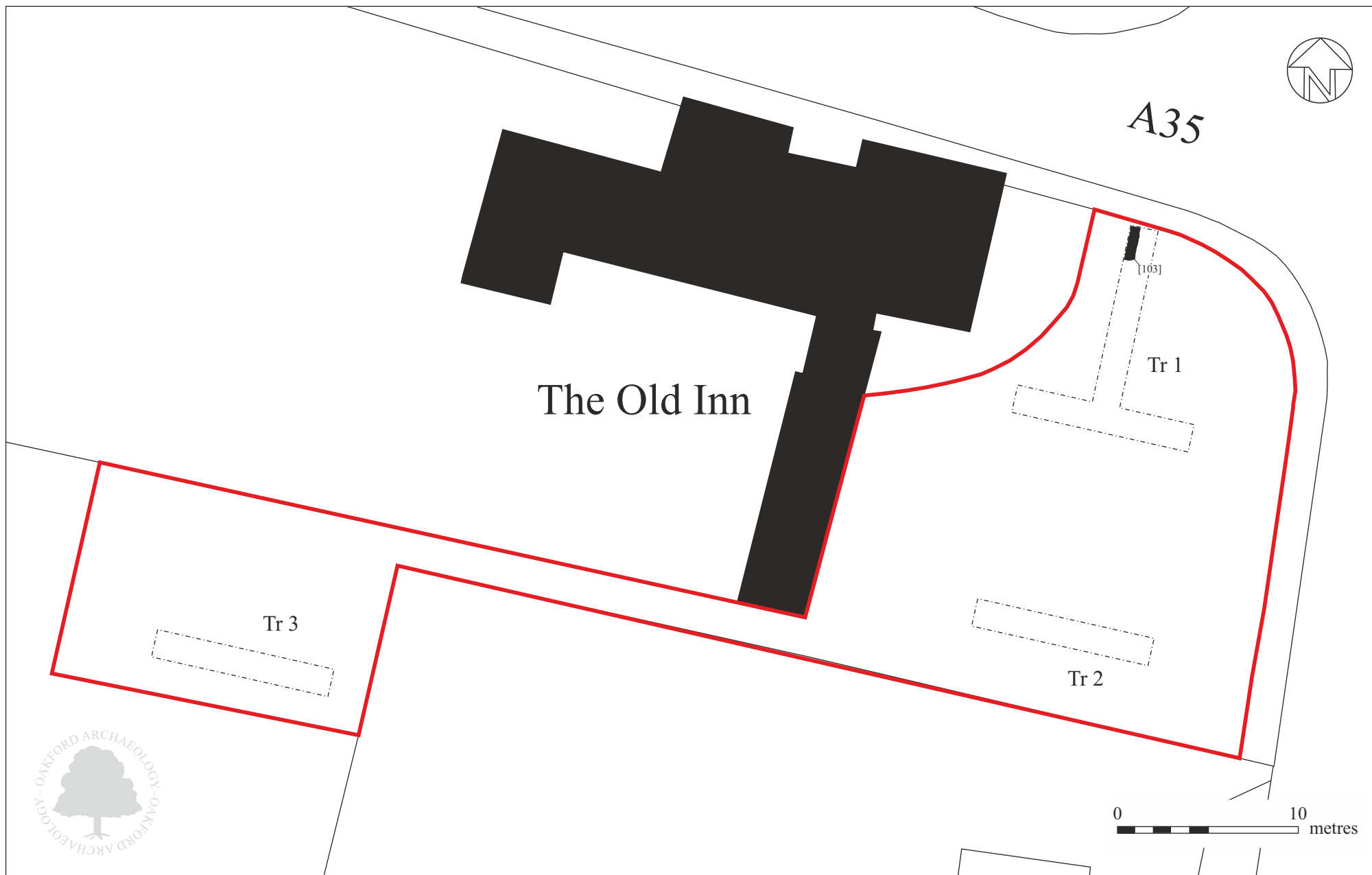


Fig. 2 Plan showing location of trenches.



Pl. 1 General view of Trench 1 with pit [103] in background. 2m scale. Looking north.



Pl. 2 Section through pit [103]. 2m scale. Looking west.