



# OAKFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

## Archaeological monitoring and recording at 9 Verney Street, Exeter, Devon



*on behalf of*  
**Mr Oliver Kightley**

**Report No. 16-12**

**Project No. 1374**

**December 2016**



# OAKFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeological Groundworks and Historic Buildings

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## Summary

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken between November and December 2016 by Oakford Archaeology at 9 Verney Street, Exeter, Devon (SX 9269 9312). The work comprised recording on foundation trenches and associated works being excavated inside the existing building.*

*The desk-based appraisal has established that a number of buildings existed within the boundaries of the site from at least 1819, with these replaced by four separate structures on maps of 1876 and additional buildings in 1905. All of these buildings had been removed by 1951, following damage sustained during the second world war, and replaced by a more recent addition of concrete block and brick construction.*

*Evidence for earlier activity was largely confined to the southwestern end of the site where a single ditch and possible pit or posthole were exposed. The posthole contained a single sherd of pottery of late 1<sup>st</sup> century AD date, while the ditch had been previously identified by Exeter Archaeology in 2011 during excavation of the adjacent site.*

*The central area of the site exposed the remains of five substantial, though heavily truncated, post-medieval pits, and a small, probably medieval, ditch, which continued from the adjacent site.*

*The works exposed the heavily truncated remains of a single wall foundation relating to post-medieval buildings shown on Coleridge's 1819 map and an Ordnance survey map of 1905. This was located along the southwestern edge of the development. The remains of a cobbled surface, probably associated with these buildings, was also identified.*

*Due to heavy post-war truncation there was no evidence of archaeological activity at the northeastern end of the site.*

*The finds recovered from the site contained a small quantity of Roman pottery, while large quantities of post-medieval red earthenwares, dating to the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century were recovered, including six sherds of sgraffito decorated North Devon slipware.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared for Mr Oliver Kightley and sets out the results of archaeological monitoring and recording by Oakford Archaeology (OA) in November and December 2016 on land behind 9 Verney Street, Exeter, Devon (SX 9269 9312). The work was required by the local planning authority, Exeter City Council (ECC), as advised by their Principal Project Manager Heritage (PPMH), under condition 10 attached to the grant of planning permission (16/0894/03) for the redevelopment of the site to provide student accommodation and associated works.

### 1.1 The site

The site (Figs. 1-2) lies between Red Lion Lane and Verney Street, to the south of Sidwell Street. It comprised a former commercial building, the construction of which had entailed a degree of truncation of the natural topography, particularly along the Red Lion Lane frontage. The site lies at c.46m AOD.

### 1.2 Geological background

The site is located on a gentle south-east facing slope. The ridge extends in a north-east direction from Exeter, overlooking the Longbrook valley to the west, and that of the Shutebrook to the east. The underlying solid geology consists of Permian red sandstones of the Whipton formation, the oldest division of the Permian sandstones to be found in the area, overlain by blanket head and regolith (Bristow *et al.* 1985).

## 2. AIMS

The principal aim of the archaeological work was to preserve by record any archaeological features or deposits and historic building remains that were present on site and impacted upon by the development, and to report on the results of the project, as appropriate.

## 3. METHODOLOGY

The scope of the required archaeological works was set out by the PPMH in an email to OA dated 18 October 2016. The work was undertaken in accordance with a project design prepared by Oakford Archaeology (2016) detailing the scope and methodology of the archaeological investigation submitted to and approved by the local planning authority under the condition prior to commencement on site. This document is included as Appendix 1.

The site was occupied by a post war building, the outer walls of which were retained. Most of the existing floor slab remained in place and were re-used, with construction ground works confined to new trenches for strip footings and services cut through the slab. The principal requirements of the project were that a watching brief be undertaken during groundworks, and monitoring of all excavations that were likely to expose archaeological deposits

The standard OA recording system was employed. Stratigraphic information was recorded on *pro-forma* context record sheets and individual trench recording forms, plans and sections for each trench were drawn at a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate and a detailed digital photographic record was made. Registers were maintained for photographs, drawings and context sheets on *pro forma* sheets.

## 4. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

### 4.1 Historical background

The development site lies in an area of high archaeological potential on the northeastern edge of the city. It lies in the ancient parish of St Sidwell, to the south of Sidwell Street, which originated as a Roman road, forming one of the principal routes to the Roman fortress at Exeter and the later Roman town and medieval city. Roman cemeteries were commonly sited alongside roads outside the settlement area and the potential site of a Roman cemetery lies to the north of Sidwell Street.<sup>1</sup>

Sidwell Street probably began to be built up in the 12<sup>th</sup> century,<sup>2</sup> and by the late 16<sup>th</sup> century houses extended as far east as St Anne's Chapel and the almshouses.<sup>3</sup> The suburbs were cleared during the Civil War,<sup>4</sup> although by the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the Sidwell Street frontages had been built up again, with ancillary buildings and garden plots to the rear.

The first accurate large-scale map of Exeter was made by John Rocque in 1744 (Fig. 3), and a larger scale map by Coldridge in 1819 (Fig 4). Both of these maps show the Sidwell Street frontages as built up again, with ancillary buildings and garden plots to the rear. Two buildings, divided by an access lane, and part of a further building, are depicted within the site area. By 1840 John Wood's map (Fig. 5) these buildings had gone and others are shown within the edges of the site.

By 1876 (Fig. 6) considerable development had taken place in the vicinity, and a number of houses and ancillary structures, including those on Southards Court and Townsend's Court are shown within the site area. In the west quarter of the site there were additional structures by 1890 and further infilling by 1905 (Fig 7) and 1932.<sup>5</sup>

The Sidwell Street area was badly affected during the bombing of WWII as is evident from aerial photographs taken in 1945<sup>6</sup> and the OS map of 1951 (Fig. 14). No buildings survived within the footprint of the site. During the 1950s the area was redeveloped and the current building was built as an auto spares depot.

### 4.2 Previous archaeological investigations

Previous trial trenches excavated in the pavement outside Nos 149–153 Sidwell Street in 1991 exposed a gravel surface believed to represent the main Roman road leading northeast from the fortress and later town.<sup>7</sup> A watching brief was carried out in 1993 on the site of the former Sidwell Street Motors. No evidence for the Civil War outworks shown in this location was found.<sup>8</sup> Other recent investigations in Sidwell Street and the vicinity have generally exposed post-medieval and later buildings and features.<sup>9</sup>

Finally, an excavation undertaken in 2011 by Exeter Archaeology on the adjacent site exposed activity dating to the Roman period and continuing occupation from the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Exeter City HER No. 10210.

<sup>2</sup> Hoskins 1963, 152.

<sup>3</sup> 'Platt of St Sidwell's Fee'.

<sup>4</sup> Henderson 1999, p.494 inc. Map. 61.13.

<sup>5</sup> OS 1:2500 map of 1932.

<sup>6</sup> EA aerial photograph No. 6403.

<sup>7</sup> Exeter city HER No. 133.01–08.

<sup>8</sup> Exeter city HER No. 184.00.

<sup>9</sup> Exeter City HER Nos 133.01-08; 184.00; 15114; 15141.00; 15157.00.

century. No evidence was found for medieval or later buildings within the site. As Red Lion Lane is a post-war thoroughfare, the medieval and post-medieval pits and ditches lie within what would have been rear plots of properties fronting Sidwell Street. The range of these features is broadly typical of rear garden plots of the period, and is consistent with the 18<sup>th</sup> century mapping which depicts the site as largely undeveloped until the latter 19<sup>th</sup> century, with garden plots present into the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>10</sup>

## 5. RESULTS

### 5.1 Introduction (Fig. 2, pls. 1-4)

The upper part of the site fronting Red Lion Lane had been subject to post-war terracing which had removed most archaeological deposits. The typical sequence was that of modern deposits directly overlying red clay natural, with only deeper features surviving. Towards the centre of the site occasional pockets of post-medieval soil survived, although these had been truncated towards Verney Street where the level of truncation was more acute. Removal of the concrete slab in the central area exposed a complete soil sequence over 1m thick with modern levelling, post-medieval and medieval garden soils sealing an earlier soil below. The later material was completely truncated to the south and along the Verney Street frontage, with the earlier soil horizon partially preserved underneath. The whole site was disturbed by post-war wall footings and service trenches.

### 5.2 Roman (Fig. 10, pls. 5-6)

The principal Roman feature identified consisted of a small, broadly NW-SE aligned linear [1005]. This probable ditch was 0.82m wide and 0.43m deep, with fairly steeply sloping sides and a flat base. Based on its alignment and profile, it is likely to represent a continuation of ditch [461], previously identified in 2011 by Exeter Archaeology on the adjacent site, and likely to represent elements of a Romano-British field system or smaller sub-urban plots. The lower fill (1006) consisted of very mixed light grey-orange silty clay based deposit suggesting an open, wet environment with slow weathering of a possible bank, the natural subsoil and colluviation, while the upper fill (1007) consisted of mid-reddish brown silty clay similar to the overlying topsoil. A single sherd of upper-greensand derived coarseware, dating to the mid-10<sup>th</sup>-early 14<sup>th</sup> century was recovered from this deposit, although this is likely to be intrusive.

In addition, a single small pit or posthole [1008] was identified which was thought to be Roman. The feature was broadly circular with a diameter of 0.42m. It had steep sides, tapering slightly towards the base and was excavated to a depth of 0.27m. It contained a single mid reddish brown silty clay fills (1009) which appeared to have been deliberately backfilled. A single sherd of probably Roman upper greensand derived pottery was recovered from the fill.

### 5.3 Medieval (Fig. 11, pls. 7-8)

Very little evidence was found for medieval occupation across the site. The only feature dating to this period was an extensive ditch (1024 and 1028) aligned NW-SE, parallel with Sidwell Street. The ditch was traced for a distance of 12m and represents a continuation of ditch [650] previously identified by Exeter Archaeology on the adjacent site (Pink 2011). It measured 1.13m wide and was 0.58m deep. It contained a single fill (1025 and 1029) of mid-reddish brown silty clay resulting from erosion of the natural subsoil and colluviation.

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<sup>10</sup> Pink 2011.



Although no pottery was recovered from its single fill it is likely to date to the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> century based entirely on its relationship with the ditch identified on the adjacent site.

#### 5.4 **Post-medieval** (Figs. 11-12, pls. 9-12)

The majority of features exposed during the course of the excavations date to the post-medieval period. These consisted entirely of large pits, concentrated towards the centre and southern end of the site. Unlike on the adjacent site (Pink 2011), where the majority were located to the northwest or the immediate southeast of the ditch [650] seemingly respecting this earlier feature, it was truncated by at least one of the pits [1026], suggesting that on this site this ditch had long gone out of use as a boundary.

Although precise dating of every pit was not possible, the pottery evidence indicates that a large proportion of them date to the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century. The function of these pits cannot be determined with confidence, although many are likely to have been domestic rubbish pits (1010 and 1026) or quarry pits dug for the extraction of the underlying clay subsoil (1012, 1016 and 1014). The largest of the pits [1010] was broadly 3.8m wide and 0.7m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. The pit contained a single dark reddish brown silty clay fill (1011) which appeared to have been deliberately backfilled. A single sherd of South Somerset red earthenware, two clay pipe stems and a single fragment of English green bottle glass dating to the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, were recovered from the fill.

Located to the east, was a further large pit [1026]. This measured 3.38m long and at least 0.78m deep. The single mid to dark reddish brown silty clay fill (1027) contained frequent slate and mortar fragments, together with charcoal and 27 sherds of late 17<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup>-century pottery. The size and dimension of both of these pits, and the nature of their fills, is highly suggestive of rubbish pits.

A further three pits were located to the northwest and southwest of these two features. Pit [1012] lay towards the northwest end of the site. It measured 2.65m in width and 0.67m in depth with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. The pit contained a single fill (1013) of compact mid reddish brown silty clay indicative of deliberate backfilling. No finds were recovered from the fill, although the irregular nature of the base might suggest that the original purpose of the feature may have been the extraction of the clay natural subsoil.

Located immediately to the north of pit [1012], pit [1014] was approximately 1.32m in width and 0.41m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. The feature contained a single compact mid reddish brown silty clay fill (1015), indicative of deliberate backfilling, while no finds were recovered from this.

A large sub circular pit [1016], heavily disturbed by modern foundations, was exposed along the western edge of the site. Measuring 1.12m in diameter and at least 0.38m deep with gradually sloping sides and an irregular base, the basal fill (1017) contained frequent charcoal and ash inclusions. The upper fill (1018) contained a homogeneous mid to dark reddish brown silty clay deposit which is likely to represent a single episode of deliberate infilling. Although no finds were recovered from its fills, their absence might suggest that the primary purpose of the feature may have been the extraction of the clay natural subsoil.

In addition to these a possible northwest-southeast aligned wall foundation (Fig. 11), consisting of large sandstone rubble bonded with cement, and overlying a crushed clay building material (cbm), gravel and cement foundation was located along the southwest edge

of the development. It was approximately 0.5m wide and 0.52m deep and was consistent with structural remains of former buildings depicted on maps of 1819 and 1905.

Sealing all Roman and medieval features within the footprint of the current site was a 0.2-0.5m thick layer of mid to dark brown silty clay (1019), interpreted as a late post-medieval topsoil. This sealed an earlier, Roman and medieval mid-reddish brown soil horizon (1002), which in turn sealed a mid-yellowish brown subsoil (1003).

## 6. THE FINDS

by John Allan

### 6.1 Introduction

This is a very small assemblage composed of Roman, medieval and post-medieval finds. The sherds are largely in a good condition, although some of the material is heavily abraded. The finds are briefly described below and itemised in Appendix 2.

### 6.2 Roman pottery

The Roman pottery consisted of three heavily abraded sherds. A single sherd of 1<sup>st</sup> century AD redware flagon was recovered from the buried soil horizon (1002), while two sherds of probable Roman upper greensand derived coarseware was recovered from the single fill (1009) of pit or posthole [1008].

### 6.3 Medieval pottery

The medieval assemblage consisted of a single sherd of residual Saxo-Norman upper greensand derived coarseware dating to the period 950-1300.

### 6.4 Post-medieval finds

Some 28 fragments of post-medieval pottery were retrieved – mainly local southwest red earthenwares dating from 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> century. A single sherd of local 18<sup>th</sup> century red earthenware was recovered from topsoil (1019), while a single sherd of South Somerset red earthenware, dating from the period 1550-1700, one fragment of English green bottle glass dating to the period 1690-1720, and two 18<sup>th</sup> century clay pipe stems were recovered from the single fill (1011) of pit [1010].

The majority of the post-medieval assemblage derives from the single fill (1027) of pit [1026]. A total of 27 sherds dating to the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> century was recovered from this context. The assemblage is composed of six sherds of North Devon sgraffito decorated slipware, dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> - early 18<sup>th</sup> century, and 21 sherds of South Somerset red earthenwares dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

No foreign pottery imports were identified during the works and this may reflect the fact that the suburb of St Sidwell's was one of Exeter's poorest areas (Pink 2011).

## 7. DISCUSSION

### 7.1 Introduction

The development has exposed Roman, medieval and post-medieval activity, as one may expect, given the location of this site at the rear of suburban properties fronting one of the main routes into Exeter from the Roman period onwards. A number of deposits contained sufficient finds to allow them to be assigned within broad historical periods on the basis of

dating evidence alone, and information from the adjacent site has allowed for some phasing of features exposed by the works. Where such stratigraphic information and dating evidence is absent, some relative phasing has been attempted on the basis of similarities of alignment and nature and character of features. The distribution and interpretation of archaeological features identified during the excavation is shown on Figs. 13.

### **7.2 Roman activity**

No clear evidence has been found for Roman settlement within the boundaries of the site. However, as the site lies some distance from Sidwell Street, the absence of settlement evidence is not surprising. A single enclosure ditch, forming a continuation of the ditch previously identified by Exeter Archaeology in 2011, has been identified within the limits of the site. The absence of any other Roman features suggests a primarily agricultural use of the site. As is the case with the medieval boundary ditch, the Roman ditch is broadly parallel with Sidwell Street. A late 1st- to early 2nd-century date for this activity is suggested by the pottery recovered from the ditch fills on the adjacent site (Pink 2011).

### **7.3 Medieval activity**

As with the adjacent site, no evidence for Saxon and early medieval occupation has been recovered from the site. The earliest medieval feature identified consisted of a northeast-southwest aligned ditch [1024] and [1028], forming a continuation of ditch [650] identified by Exeter Archaeology on the adjacent site and dating to the late 12<sup>th</sup> - early 13<sup>th</sup> century. This ditch appears to represent a long standing boundary, parallel with but some distance from Sidwell Street, and which had gone out of use by the 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century.

### **7.4 Post-medieval activity**

The post-medieval features identified consisted of 5 pits exposed in the centre of the site. Some of these may represent the remains of clay extraction pits, while others may have primarily functioned as rubbish pits. The finds recovered from these would suggest that the infilling represented a period of deliberate backfilling dating to the late 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century, prior to the area being built over by the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

To the southwest, the wall remains (1022/1023) are broadly on the same line and shares the same orientation as a building shown in this approximate position on Coleridge's 1819 map and an Ordnance survey map of 1905.

## **8. CONCLUSIONS**

Despite a significant loss of archaeological material across the site due to the post war development the investigations have provided further exposure of Roman and medieval features previously identified on the adjacent site in 2011. However, a full understanding of the date, profile, extent, and inter-relationships is hampered by a number of factors, notably the small scale of the interventions and the extensive truncation caused by the 20<sup>th</sup> century construction of the current buildings, which has resulted in only parts of features and deposits surviving or being exposed.

The work has nonetheless exposed a range of archaeological features demonstrating activity on the site from the Roman period and continuing occupation throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods. No evidence has been found for buildings of this date within the site, however, as Red Lion Lane is a post-war street, the medieval and post-medieval pits and ditches lie within what would have been rear plots of properties fronting Sidwell Street. The

range of these features is typical of rear garden plots of the period, and is consistent with the 18<sup>th</sup> century mapping which depicts the site as largely undeveloped until the latter 19<sup>th</sup> century, with garden plots present into the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

The identification of further archaeological features shows that even small-scale modern observations in areas of high disturbance are useful in furthering knowledge about the archaeological resource.

## 9. PROJECT ARCHIVE

A project archive will not be produced. The artefacts were not taken by the RAMM and returned to the client. A summary of the archaeological investigations has been submitted to the on-line archaeological database OASIS (oakforda1-271025).

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was commissioned by Mr Oliver Kightley and administered by Marc Steinmetzer (OA). It was monitored for Exeter City Council by the PPMH, Andrew Pye. The fieldwork was carried out by Marc Steinmetzer, the desk-based research and the illustrations for the report were prepared by Marc Steinmetzer.

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 1:2500 map sheets 80.6: 1890, 1905, 1932.  
 1:1250 Plan SX 9293SE: 1951, 1960, 1965, 1984.

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RAF vertical aerial photograph 106G/UK 865 Part V 30 Sept. '45 F/12"/PRDU 6403  
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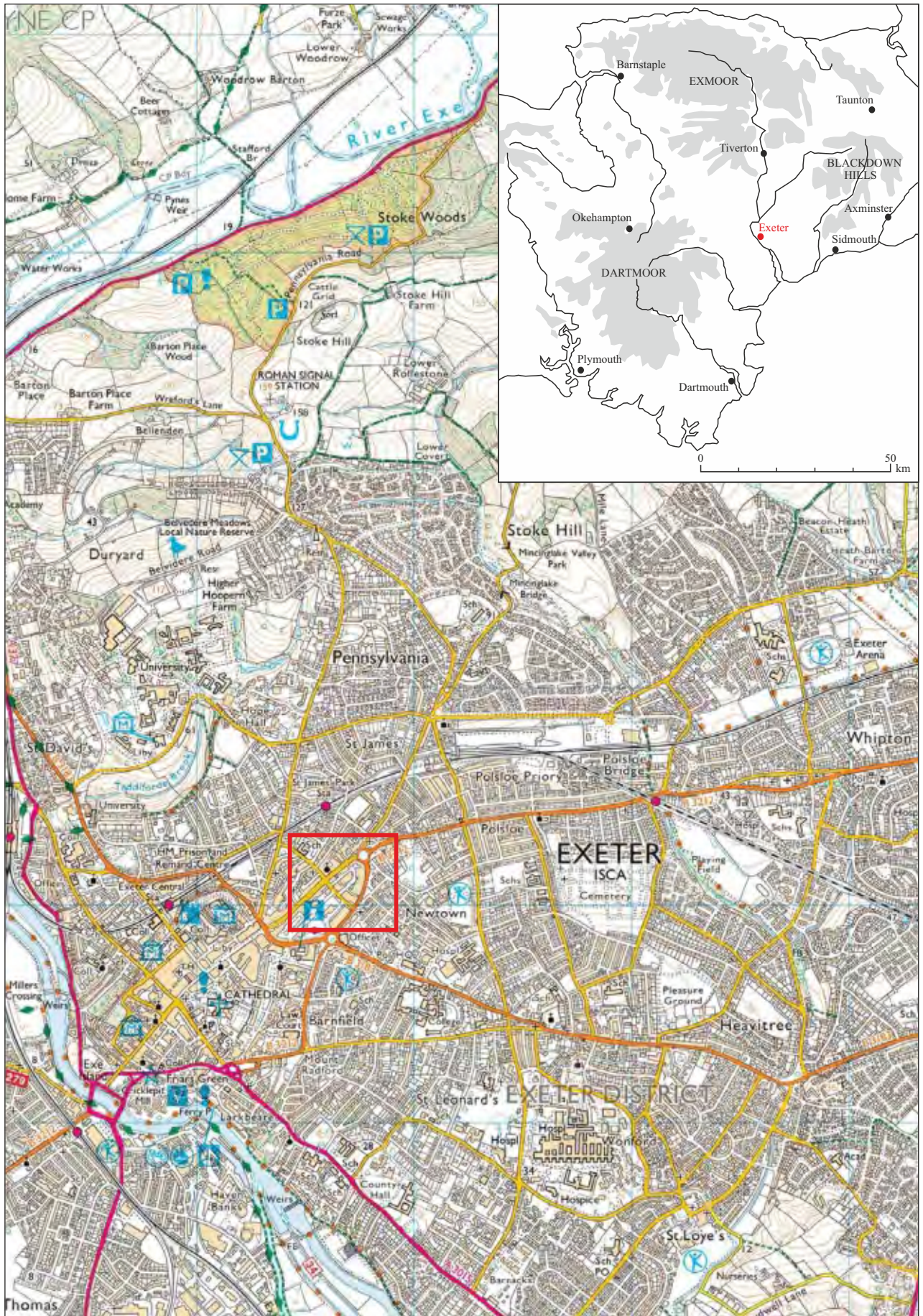


Fig. 1 Location of site.



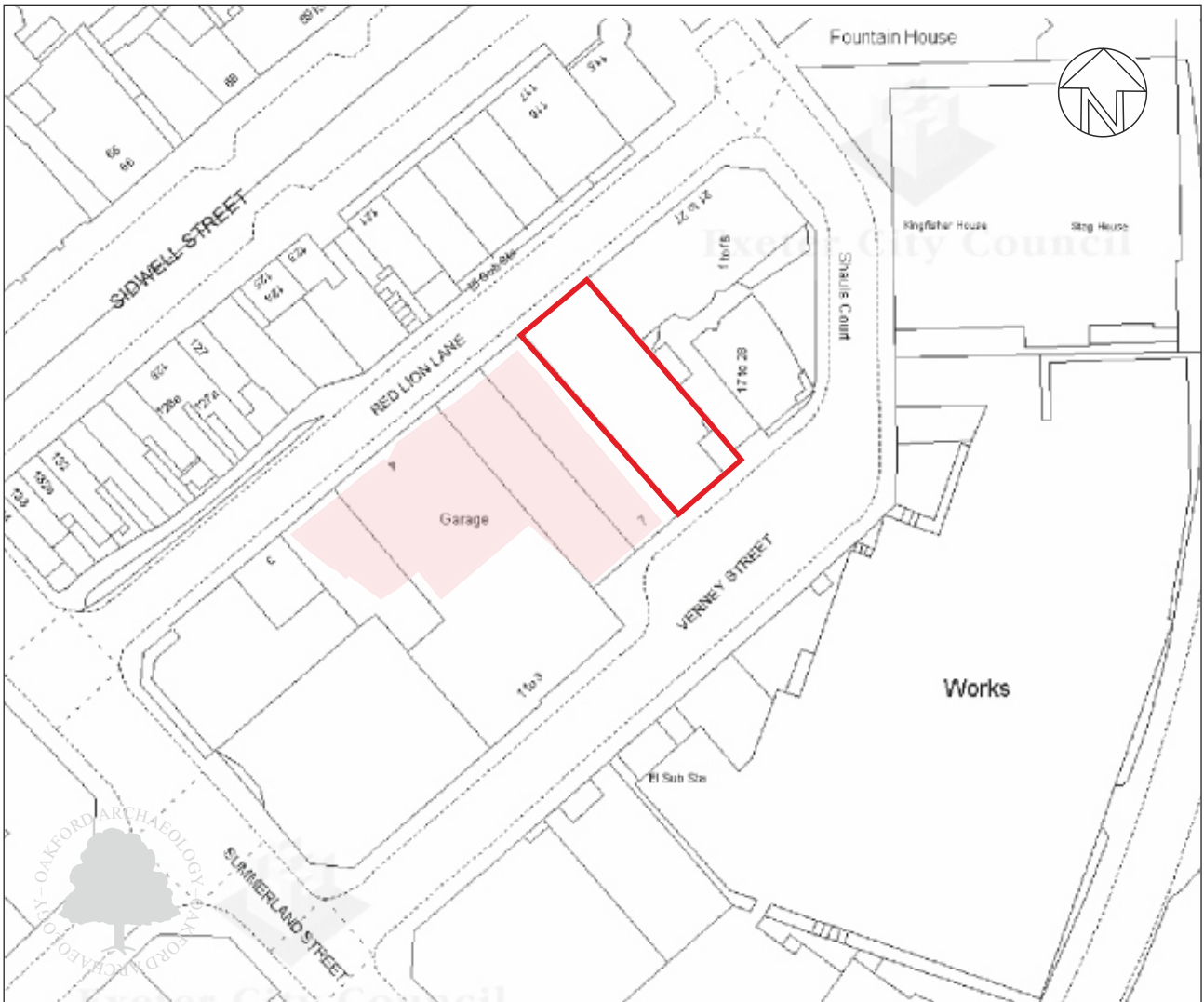


Fig. 2 Location of site with adjacent area of excavation (pink).

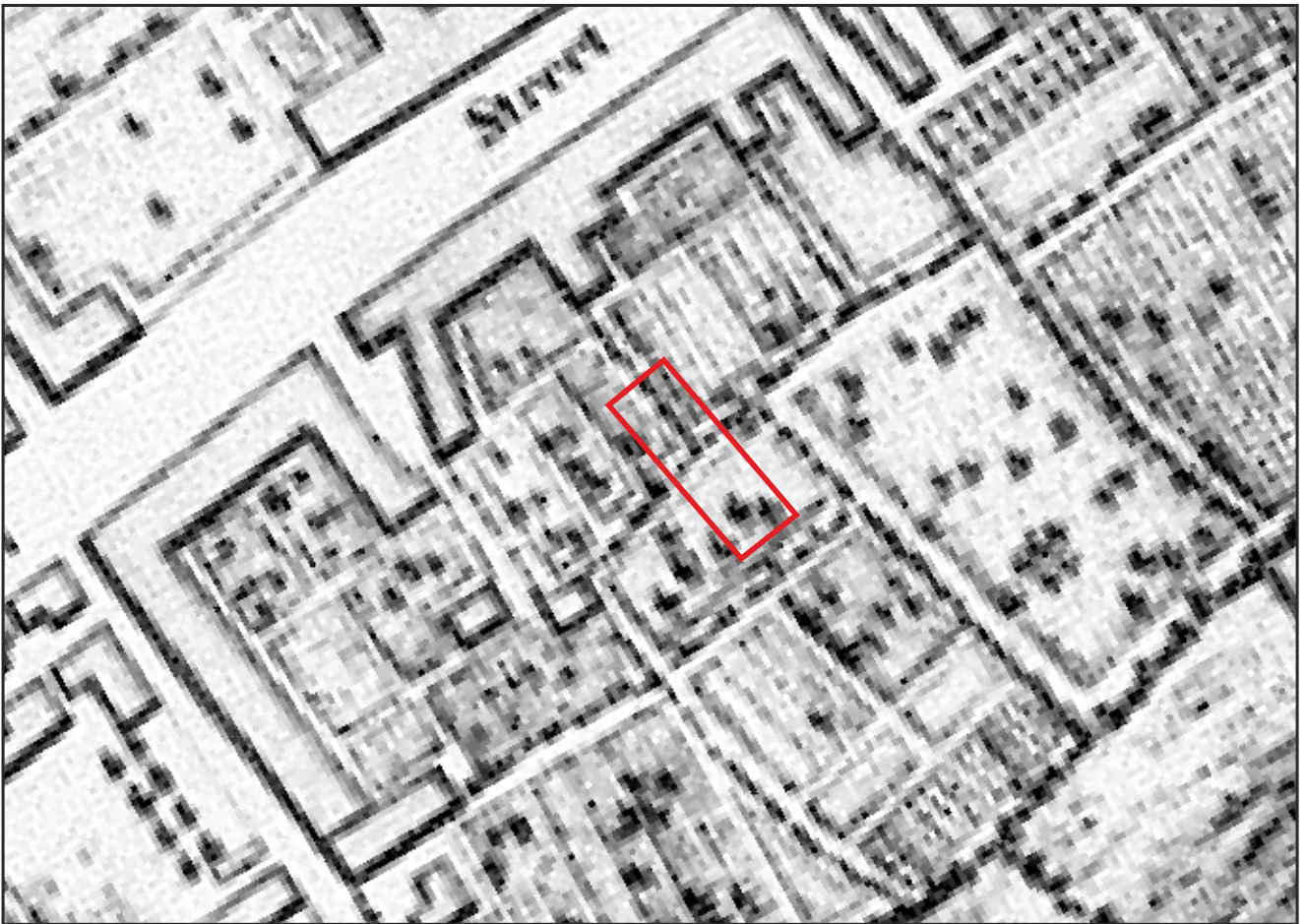


Fig. 3 Extract from the 1744 Rocque map. Scale 1:1250.



Fig. 4 Extract from the 1819 Coldridge map. Scale 1:1250.



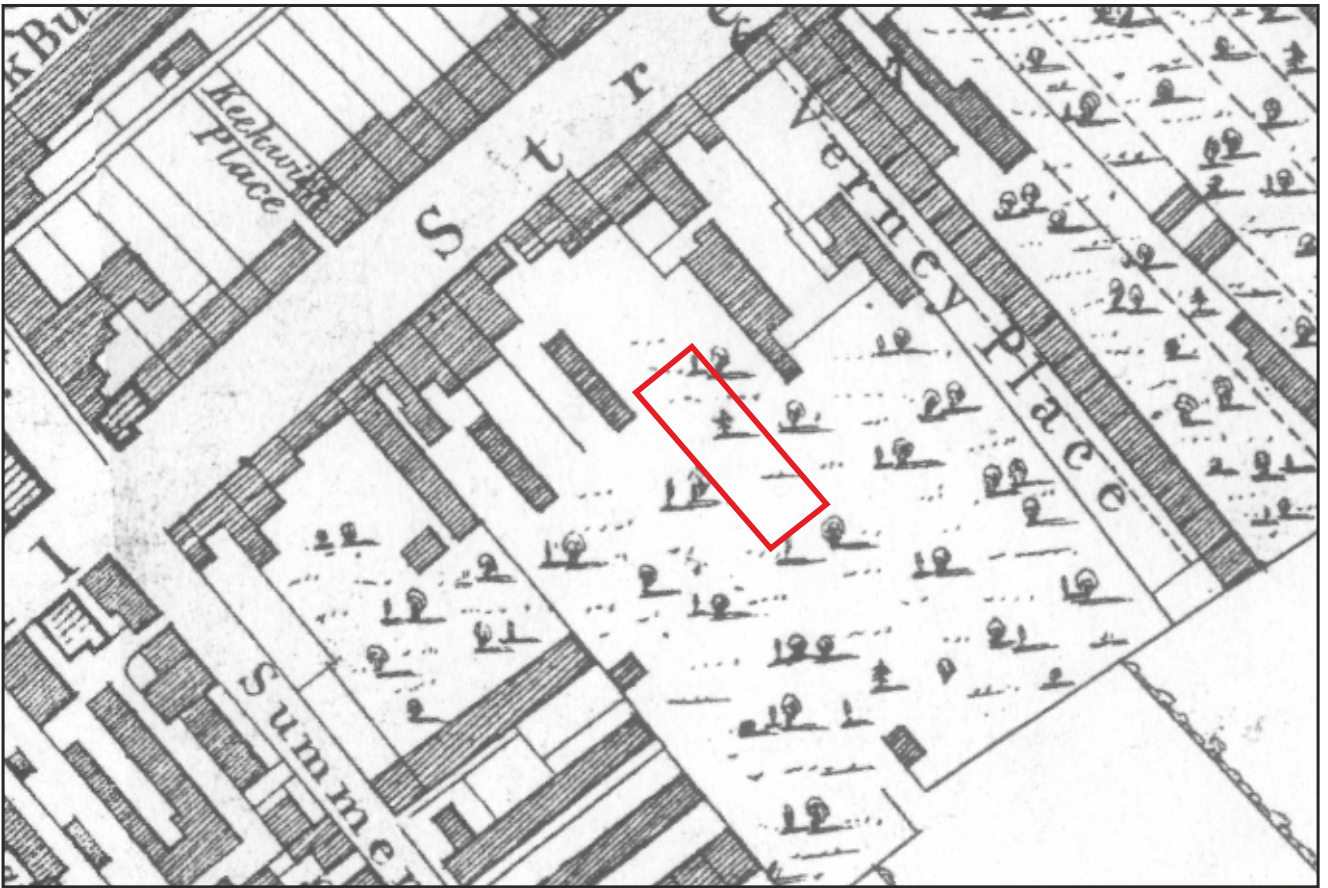


Fig. 5 Extract from the 1840 John Wood's map. Scale 1:1250.



Fig. 6 Extract from the OS 1876 map. Scale 1:1250.



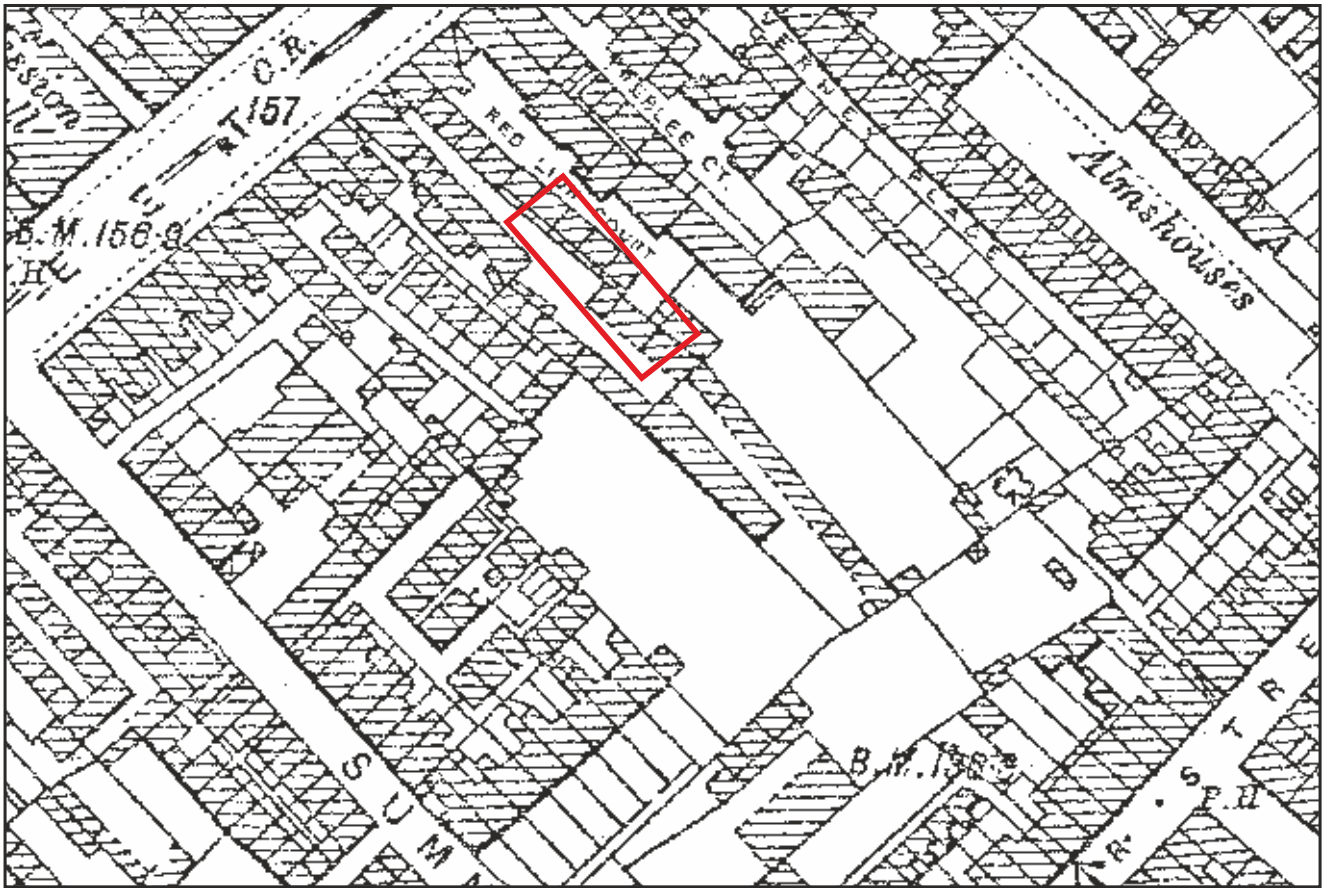


Fig. 7 Extract from the OS 1905 map. Scale 1:1250.

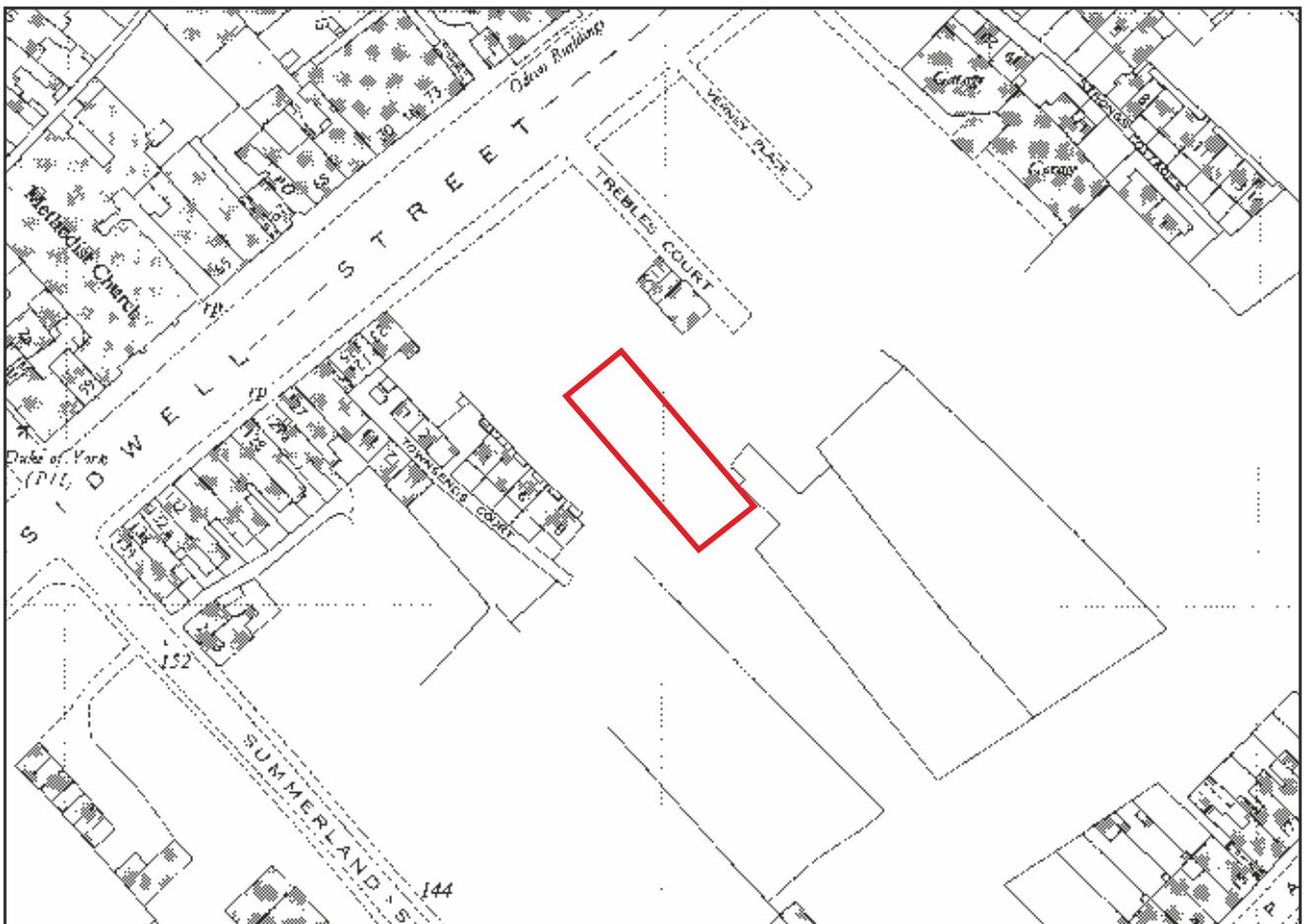


Fig. 8 Extract from the OS 1951 map. Scale 1:1250.

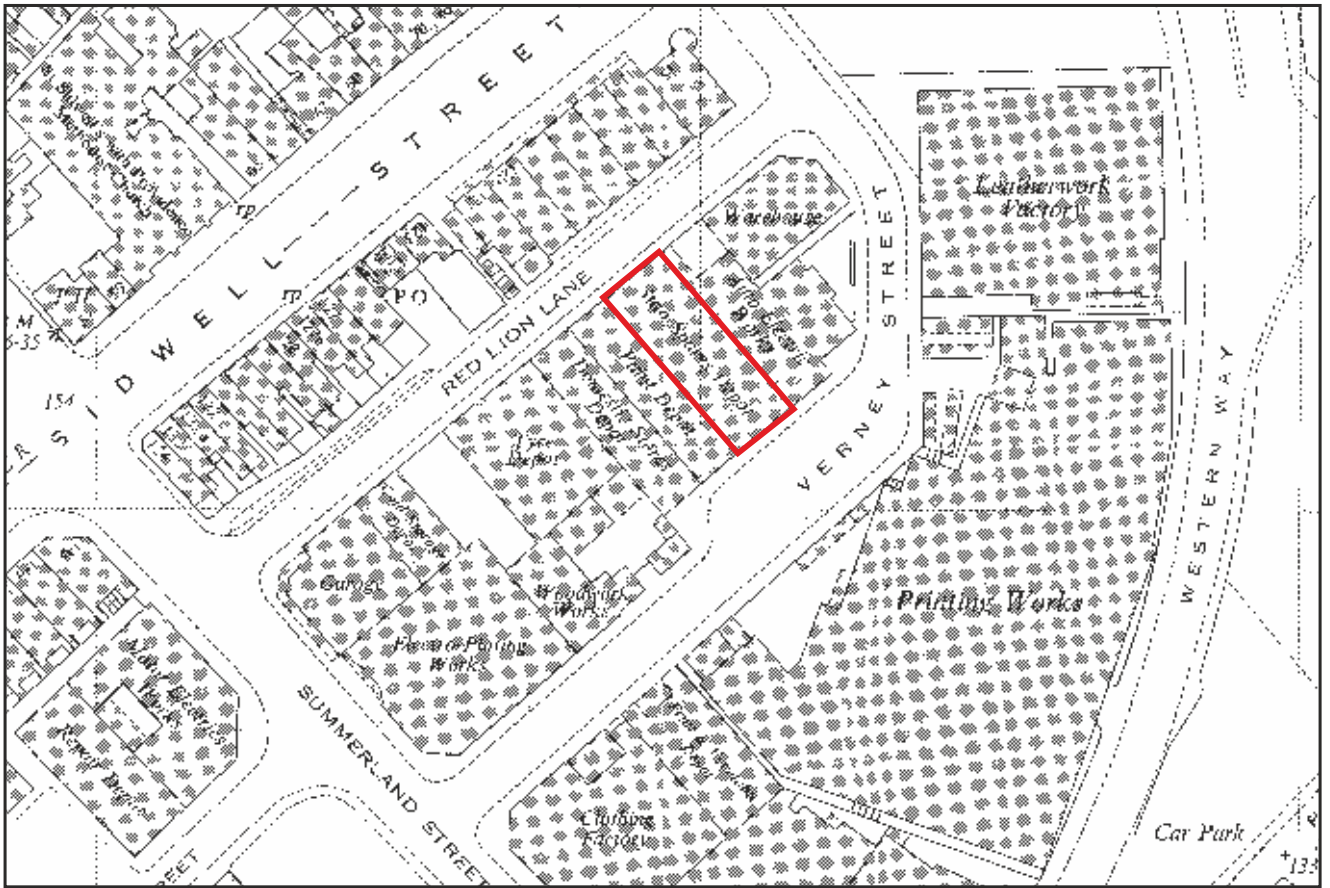


Fig. 9 Extract from the OS 1965 map. Scale 1:1250.

# Sections

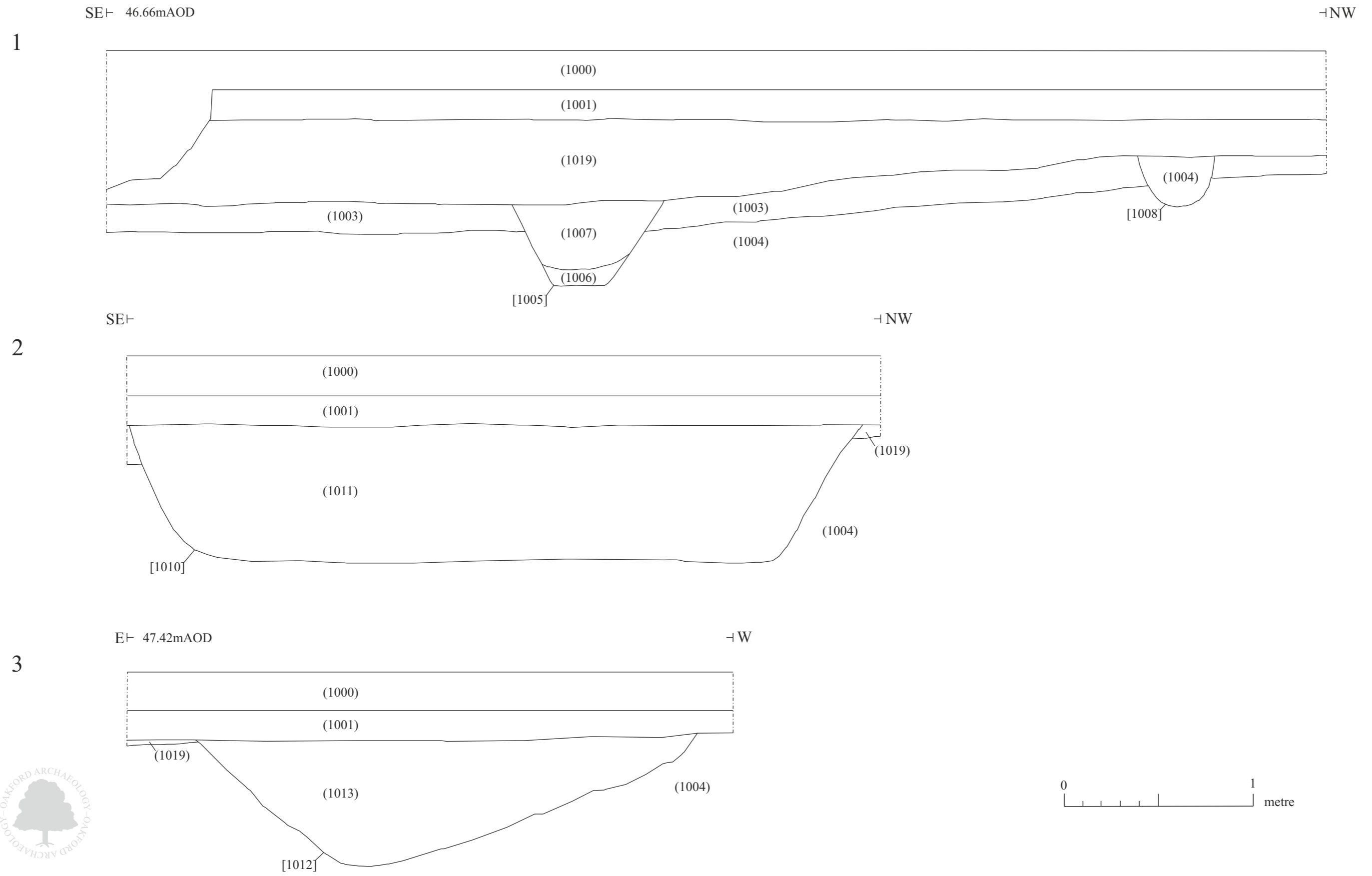
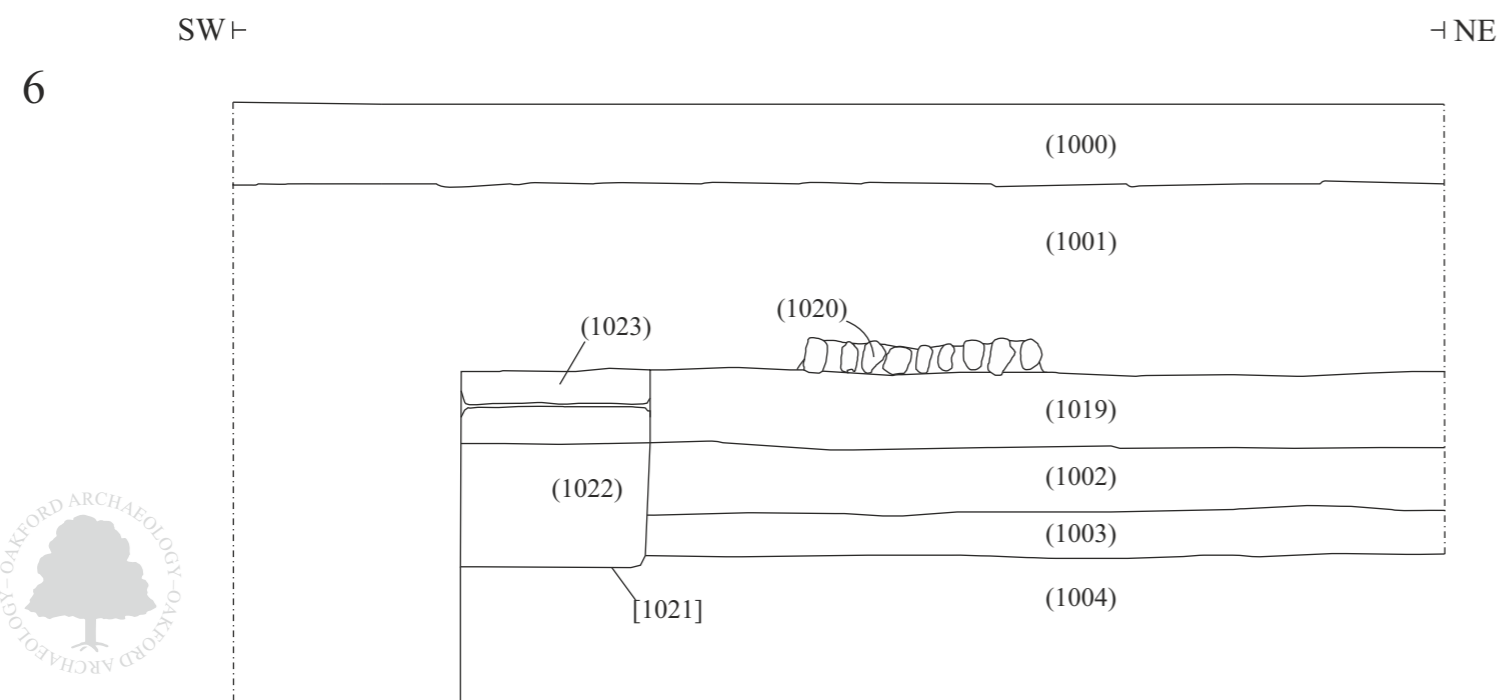
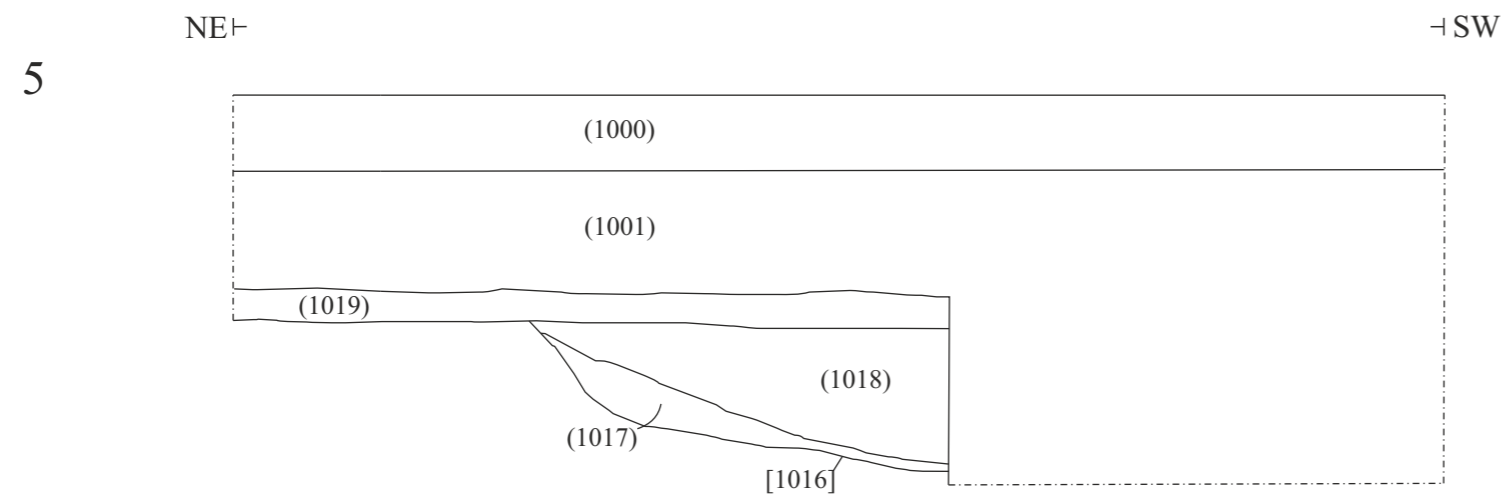
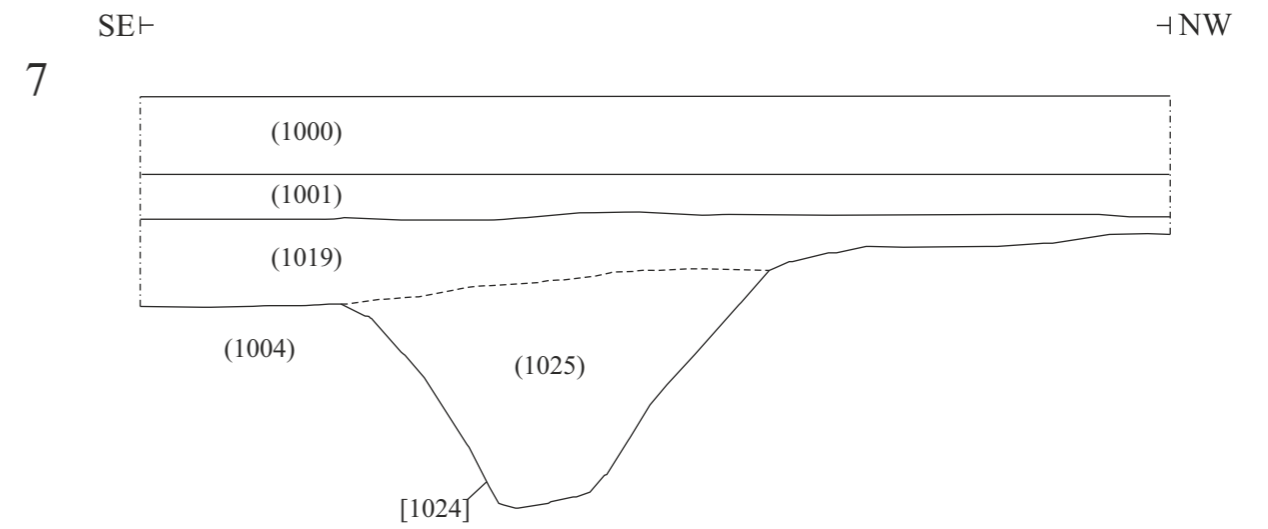
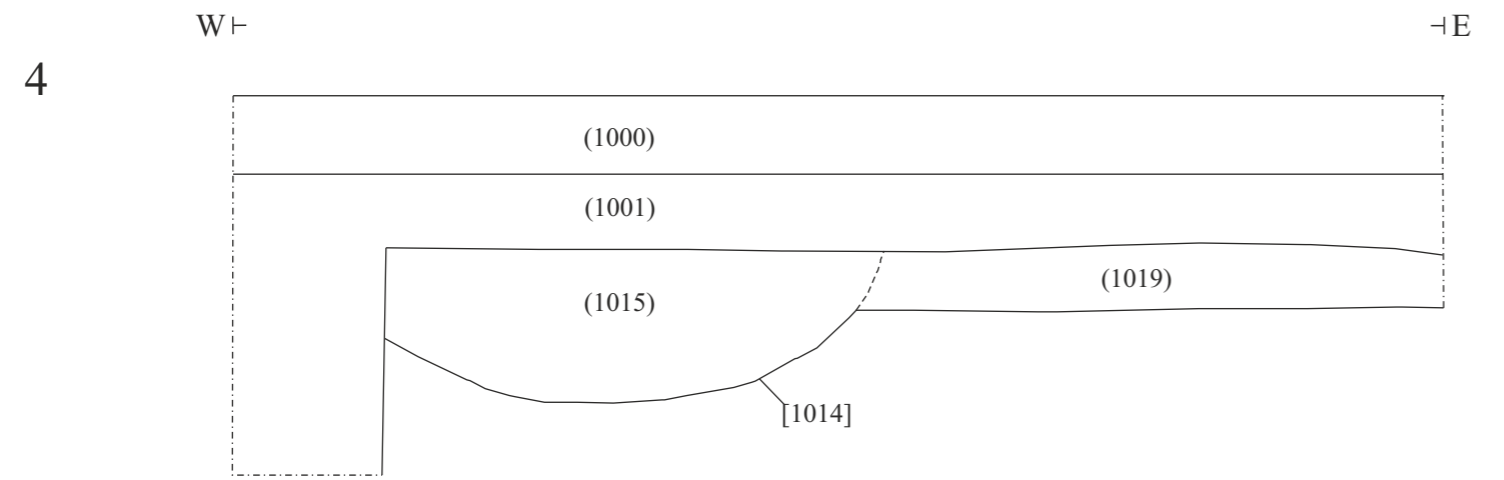


Fig. 10 Sections



# Sections



all datums at 47.42mAOD

Fig. 11 Sections

# Sections

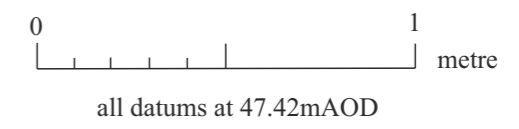
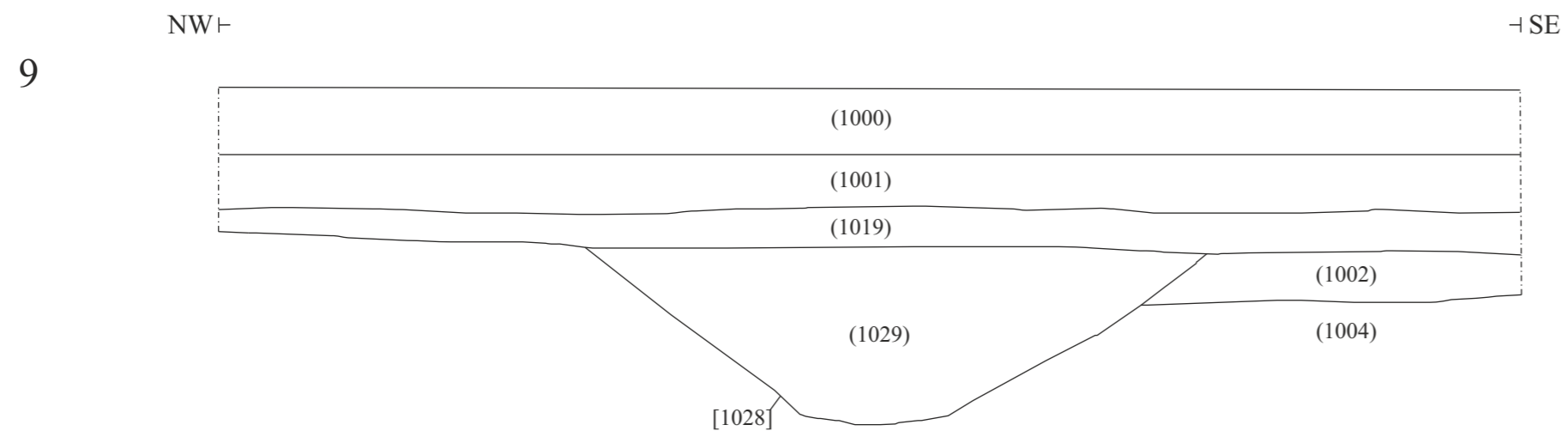
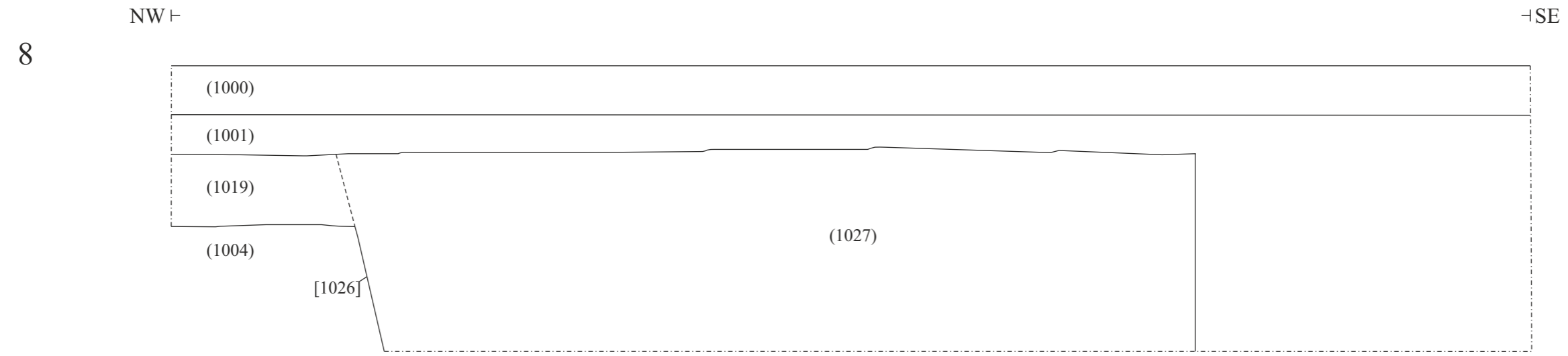


Fig. 12 Sections



Fig. 13 Plan showing location of observations and excavated features from the adjacent site.





Pl. 1 General view of site. Looking northwest.



Pl. 2 General view of site. Looking south.





Pl. 3 General view of site. Looking west.



Pl. 4 General view of site. Looking northwest.



Pl. 5 Section through Ditch [1005]. 1m scale. Looking northeast.



Pl. 6 Section through pit or posthole [1008]. 0.5m scale. Looking southwest.





Pl. 7 Section through Ditch [1024]. 1m scale. Looking northeast.



Pl. 8 Section through Ditch [1028]. 1m scale. Looking northeast.



Pl. 9 Section through pit [1012]. 1m scale. Looking south.



Pl. 10 General view of pit [1010]. 2m scale. Looking northwest.





Pl. 11 Section through pit [1014]. 0.5m scale. Looking north.



Pl. 12 Section showing earlier soil sequence, 19C cobbled surface (1020), 19C wall (1022 and 1023) and post-war levelling (1001) sealing post-medieval topsoil (1019), Roman and medieval soil horizon (1002) and subsoil (1003). 1m scale. Looking northwest.

Appendix 1:

Written Scheme of Investigation for  
Archaeological works

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document has been prepared by Oakford Archaeology (OA) for Mr Oliver Kightley to describe the methodology to be used during an archaeological watching brief at No. 9 Verney Street, Exeter (SX 9269 9312). This document represents the 'Written Scheme of Archaeological Work' required for approval under an upcoming planning permission (16/0894/03) for the construction of student accommodation and associated works. The work is required by the local planning authority, Exeter City Council (ECC), as advised by their Principal Project Manager Heritage (PPMH).
- 1.2 The proposed work lies in an area of high archaeological potential on the northeastern edge of the city. The site lies in the ancient parish of St Sidwell, to the south of Sidwell Street, which is believed to have originated as a Roman road, perhaps forming the principal route to the Roman fortress at Exeter and the later Roman town and medieval city. Roman cemeteries were commonly sited alongside roads outside the settlement area and the potential site of a Roman cemetery lies to the north of Sidwell Street.
- 1.3 Sidwell Street probably began to be built up in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, and by the late 16<sup>th</sup> century houses extended as far east as St Anne's Chapel and the almshouses. The suburbs were cleared during the Civil War, although by the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the Sidwell Street frontages had been built up again, with ancillary buildings and garden plots to the rear.
- 1.4 The Sidwell Street area was badly affected during the bombing of WWII and no buildings survived within the footprint of the site. During the 1950s the area was redeveloped and the current building was built as an auto spares depot.
- 1.5 Previous trial trenches excavated in the pavement outside Nos 149–153 Sidwell Street in 1991 exposed a gravel surface believed to represent the main Roman road leading northeast from the fortress and later town. A watching brief was carried out in 1993 on the site of the former Sidwell Street Motors. No evidence for the Civil War outworks shown in this location was found. Other recent investigations in Sidwell Street and the vicinity have generally exposed post-medieval and later buildings and features.
- 1.6 Finally, an excavation undertaken in 2011 by Exeter Archaeology on the adjacent site exposed activity dating to the Roman period and continuing occupation from the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> century. No evidence was found for medieval or later buildings within the site. As Red Lion Lane is a post-war thoroughfare, the medieval and post-medieval pits and ditches lie within what would have been rear plots of properties fronting Sidwell Street. The range of these features is broadly typical of rear garden plots of the period, and is consistent with the 18<sup>th</sup> century mapping which depicts the site as largely undeveloped until the latter 19<sup>th</sup> century, with garden plots present into the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

## 2. AIMS

- 2.1 The aim of the project is to investigate and record any buried archaeological deposits exposed and/or removed during groundworks associated with the development, and to report on the results of the project, as appropriate.

## 3. METHOD

The site is presently occupied by a post war building, the outer walls of which are intended to be retained. It is understood that most of the existing floor slab will remain in place and be re-used, with construction ground works being confined to new trenches for strip footings and services cut through the slab. The scope of works advised by the PPMH (by email to OA dated 18.10.16) includes that a watching brief be undertaken during groundworks, and monitoring of all excavations that are likely to expose archaeological deposits.

- 3.1 Liaison will be established with the client and their contractor prior to the works commencing, in order to obtain details of the works programme and to advise on OA requirements. If a good working relationship is established at the outset any delays caused by archaeological recording can be kept to a minimum. However, localised delays to site operations may be caused and time will be allowed within the main contractor's programme for the adequate investigation and recording of archaeological material before concrete is poured or services laid.

- 3.2 The below-ground works will include all excavations for the internal ground foundations, as well as all additional ground reductions and the deeper trenching for services. These will be monitored and recorded by the attending archaeologist during the excavation. Provision will be made in the contractors schedule for sufficient time and access for the archaeologist to complete any necessary recording. This may cause localised delays to the groundworks programme, although every effort will be made to keep any such delays to a minimum. Should any potentially significant or sensitive archaeological deposits or remains be encountered within the excavations, but above the required formation or invert level, then these will be hand excavated and recorded by the archaeologist down to the required level. If no such deposits are present then, once natural subsoil has been confirmed, or formation/invert level reached, across the whole of the development area, archaeological monitoring will be terminated. Similarly, if it can be demonstrated that there has been significant modern truncation, then archaeological monitoring will be terminated in these areas.

### ***General project methods***

- 3.4 All archaeological deposits will be stratigraphically excavated by hand down to natural subsoil in the following manner, unless agreed otherwise with the PPMH:

- all significant deposits will be excavated and recorded by hand,



- some less significant and more bulky deposits may be carefully removed by machine with a toothless grading bucket, under direct archaeological supervision and with prior agreement of the PPMH,
- fills of cut features will be excavated by hand as follows: -pits (50%), postholes (50 and then 100%), stakeholes (100%), wells (to be determined on site depending on depth and site conditions), linears (20%, targeted on interrelationships, terminals, etc). Walls will be left in place, unless their removal is necessary to recover artefacts from their fabric or to enable archaeological deposits around and beneath them to be excavated. Surfaces will be completely excavated within the confines of the trenches.
- Variations to these may be required, for example to fully recover important finds and material, or to obtain firmer dating evidence, and these will be agreed with the PPMH and then carried out,
- Spoil will also be examined for the recovery of artefacts.

Should the above percentage 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 environmental samples and the recovery of artefacts.

- 3.5 If present, environmental deposits will be assessed on site, on site by a suitably qualified archaeologist, with advice as necessary from Allen Environmental Archaeology or the English Heritage Regional Science Advisor, to determine the possible yield (if any) of environmental or microfaunal evidence, and its potential for radiocarbon dating. If deposits potential survive, these would be processed by Geoflow using the EH Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology (EH CfA Guidelines 2002/1), and outside specialists (AEA) organised to undertake further assessment and analysis as appropriate.
- 3.6 Initial cleaning, conservation, packaging and any stabilisation or longer term conservation measures will be undertaken in accordance with relevant professional guidance (including *Conservation guidelines No 1* (UKIC, 2001); *First Aid for Finds* (UKIC & RESCUE, 1997) and on advice provided by A Hopper-Bishop, Specialist Services Officer, RAM Museum, Exeter. A retention and discard strategy will be agreed with the RAMM as the receiving museum before artefacts are processed for archiving.
- 3.7 Should artefacts be exposed that fall within the scope of the Treasure Act 1996, then these will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner according to the procedures relating to the Act. 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.
- 3.8 Should any articulated human remains be exposed; these will initially be left *in situ*. If removal at either this or a later stage in the archaeological works is deemed necessary, these will then be fully excavated and removed from the site subject to the compliance with the relevant Ministry of Justice Licence, which will be obtained by OA on behalf of the client. Any remains will be

excavated in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologist Technical Paper No. 13 (McKinley and Roberts 1993). Where appropriate bulk samples will be collected.

- 3.9 The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve artefacts or report on other aspects of the investigations can be called upon (see below). The client will be fully briefed and consulted if there is a requirement to submit material for specialist research.
- 3.10 Health and Safety requirements will be observed at all times by archaeological staff working on site, particularly when machinery is operating nearby. Personal protective equipment (safety boots, helmets and high visibility vests) will be worn by staff when plant is operating on site. A risk assessment will be prepared prior to work commencing.
- 3.11 The PPMH will be informed of the start of the project, and will monitor progress throughout. A date of completion of all archaeological site work will be confirmed with the PPMH and the timescale of the completion of items under section 5 will run from that date.

#### 4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

- 4.1 The standard OA recording system will be employed, consisting of:
  - (i) standardised single context record sheets; survey drawings, plans and sections at scales 1:10, 1:20, 1:50 as appropriate;
  - (ii) colour digital photography;
  - (iii) survey and location of finds, deposits or archaeological features, using EDM surveying equipment and software where appropriate;
  - (iv) labelling and bagging of finds on site from all excavated levels, post-1800 unstratified pottery may be discarded on site with a small sample retained for dating evidence as required.

#### 5. REPORTING AND ARCHIVING

- 5.1 The reporting requirements will be confirmed with the PPMH on completion of the site work. If little or no significant archaeology is exposed then reporting will consist of a completed ECC HER entry, including a plan showing location of groundworks and of any significant features found. The text entry and plan will be produced in an appropriate electronic format suitable for easy incorporation into the HER, and sent to the client and the PPMH within 3 months of the date of completion of all archaeological fieldwork.
- 5.2 Should significant remains be found then a summary report will be produced within six months of the date of completion of all archaeological fieldwork. Any summary report and will contain the following elements as appropriate:

- location plan and overall site plans showing the positions of the excavations and the distribution of archaeological features within them;
  - copies of any relevant historic maps and plans;
  - a written description of the exposed features and deposits and a discussion and interpretation of their character and significance in the context of the known history of the site;
  - plans and sections at appropriate scales showing the exact location and character of significant archaeological deposits and features;
  - a selection of photographs illustrating the principal features and deposits found;
  - specialist assessments and reports as appropriate, including if necessary (see 5.6 below) an outline of, and timetable for the completion of, any further work required to bring the most important results to wider publication.
- 5.3 A pdf version of the summary report will be produced and distributed to the Client and the PPMH on completion of sitework within the timescale above. A copy of the report and pdf version will also be deposited with the site archive.
- 5.4 An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared with reference to *The Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991 2nd edition) upon completion of the project.

The archive will consist of two elements, the artefactual and digital - the latter comprising all born-digital (data images, survey data, digital correspondence, site data collected digitally etc.) and digital copies of the primary site records and images.

The digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) with the permission of the landowner within 6 months of the completion of site work, while the artefactual element will be deposited with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (ref. number *pending*). Any artefacts not taken by the RAMM will be offered to the landowner before being discarded. The hardcopy of the archive will be offered to the RAMM and if not required will be disposed of by OA.

OA will notify the PPMH upon the deposition of the digital archive with the ADS, and the deposition of any material (finds) archive with the RAMM.

- 5.5 A .pdf copy of the updated summary report will be submitted, together with the site details, to the national OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological investigationS) database within six months of the completion of site work.
- 5.6 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 (para 141 of the NPPF) any further analysis that may be necessary – will be confirmed with the PPMH, in consultation with the Client. OA, on behalf of the Client, will then implement publication in accordance with a timescale agreed with the Client and the

PPMH. A final draft publication text and figures will be produced within 12 months of the completion of all phases of archaeological site work unless otherwise agreed in writing.

## 6. CONFLICT WITH OTHER CONDITIONS AND STATUTORILY PROTECTED SPECIES

- 6.1 If topsoil stripping or groundworks are being undertaken under the direct control and supervision of the archaeological contractor then it is the archaeological contractor's responsibility - in consultation with the developer and/or site owner - to ensure that the required archaeological works do not conflict with any other conditions that have been imposed upon the consent granted and should also consider any biodiversity issues as covered by the NERC Act 2006. In particular, such conflicts may arise where archaeological investigations/excavations have the potential to have an impact upon protected species and/or natural habitats e.g. SSSIs, National Nature Reserves, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites, County Wildlife Sites etc.

## 7. COPYRIGHT

- 7.1 OA shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in this document.

## 8. PROJECT ORGANISATION

- 8.1 The project will be undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced archaeologists, in accordance with the Code of Conduct and relevant standards and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (*Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, 1994, revised 2008), plus *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* 1994, revised 2008). The project will be managed by Marc Steinmetzer. Oakford Archaeology is managed by a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

### ***Health & Safety***

- 8.2 All monitoring works within this scheme will be carried out in accordance with current *Safe Working Practices (The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974)*.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

#### *Specialists contributors and advisors*

The expertise of the following specialists can be called upon if required:

*Bone artefact analysis:* Ian Riddler;

*Dating techniques:* University of Waikato Radiocarbon Laboratory, NZ;

*Building specialist:* Richard Parker;  
*Charcoal identification:* Dana Challinor;  
*Diatom analysis:* Nigel Cameron (UCL);  
*Environmental data:* Hayley McParland (Historic England), Geoflow;  
*Faunal remains:* Lorraine Higbee (Wessex);  
*Finds conservation:* Alison Hopper-Bishop (Exeter Museums);  
*Human remains:* Louise Loe (Oxford Archaeology), Charlotte Coles;  
*Lithic analysis:* Dr. Linda Hurcombe (Exeter University);  
*Medieval and post-medieval finds:* John Allan;  
*Metallurgy:* Gill Juleff (Exeter University);  
*Numismatics:* Norman Shiel (Exeter);  
*Petrology/geology:* Roger Taylor (RAM Museum), Imogen Morris;  
*Plant remains:* Julie Jones (Bristol);  
*Prehistoric pottery:* Henrietta Quinnell (Exeter);  
*Roman finds:* Paul Bidwell & associates (Arbeia Roman Fort, South Shields);  
*Others:* Wessex Archaeology Specialist Services Team

**MFR Steinmetzer**  
**21<sup>st</sup> October 2016**  
**WSI/OA1374/01**

## Appendix 2:

### Finds Quantification

Context	Feature	Spot date	Quantity	weight	Notes
1002			1	21g	1 sherd redware flagon 1 <sup>st</sup> century AD.
1007	1005	10 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century	1	7g	1 sherd upper greensand derived coarseware 950-1300.
1009	1008	Roman	2	11g	2 sherds upper greensand derived coarseware prob. Roman.
1011	1010	18 <sup>th</sup> century	4	80g	1 sherd South Somerset red earthenware 1550-1700; 1 sherd English green bottle glass 1690-1720; 2 clay pipe stems 18 <sup>th</sup> century.
1019		18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> century	1	19g	1 sherd local red earthenware 18 <sup>th</sup> century.
1027	1026	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century	27	1496g	6 sherds of sgraffito decorated North Devon slipware 17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> century; 21 sherds of South Somerset red earthenware 18 <sup>th</sup> century.