

## Exeter City Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> St Thomas, Exeter	<b>National Grid Reference:</b> SX 9209 9196	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Piazza Terracina, St Thomas, Exeter.		<b>Photo attached:</b> Y
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 17/0453/03	<b>Recipient museum:</b> n/a	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> oakforda1-338222	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> n/a	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> OA1454	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 31/07, 01/08-03/08/2018	
<p><b>Description of works:</b></p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology between July and August 2018 during building work on land at Piazza Terracina, St Thomas, Exeter (SX 9209 9196). The site (Fig. 1) is located beyond the southwestern edge of the city, on reclaimed ground within the former floodplain of the river Exe. A detailed assessment produced by Exeter Archaeology in 2000 (EA report No. 00-18) showed that the site was located on the western edge of the area of 19<sup>th</sup> century development of the canal basin and its associated structures, and immediately to the north of the late 17<sup>th</sup> century diversion canal known as the 'New Cut'. The work was therefore required by Exeter City Council (ECC) as advised by Andrew Pye, the Principal Project Manager Heritage (PPMH).</p> <p>A watching brief was maintained during works associated with the construction of a new restaurant and associated groundworks. The area was subject to cut-and-fill, with the northern half of the development reduced to a depth of 0.6m below current ground level (6.9m AOD) and the southern half filled. In addition, the excavation of six pits, extending to a depth of 1.04-1.2m (6.46-6.5m AOD) was also monitored.</p> <p><b>Results:</b></p> <p>The groundworks (Fig. 2, Pl. 1) in the northern and southern areas of the development exposed a mid-brown loamy sand deposit (107) with sub-rounded gravels. This has been interpreted as redeposited alluvial silts, used as a made-ground during the construction of the 19<sup>th</sup> century canal basin. This was in turn overlain by 0.1m thick very light brown loamy sand (106) and interpreted as 19<sup>th</sup> century made ground. This was overlain by two larger deposits of purple red coarse sand (105) with sub-rounded gravel and mid-red sandy loam (101) with sub-rounded gravels. Both are likely associated with the 19<sup>th</sup> century canal basin. This deposit sequence was sealed underneath a 0.35m thick mid-to-dark brown modern topsoil (100). Evidence from the northeastern foundation pit exposed heavily mixed deposits suggesting parts of the site have been recently disturbed, perhaps by excavations associated with the construction of the flood defence wall. Alluvial clays were not exposed during the excavations.</p> <p>Finally, the ground reduction provided further exposure of the former canal basin boundary wall. This consisted of a rubble limestone wall surviving to a height of 0.3m and a breccia rubble footing extending to a depth of at least 0.4m. Both are bonded with white lime mortar.</p> <p><b>Conclusion:</b></p> <p>The results of the archaeological works demonstrated that earlier deposits, associated with the 19<sup>th</sup> century development of the canal basin survived below modern deposits. However, no features or finds associated with the canal basin were exposed by the development. This is the only report on these works.</p> <p><b>Project archive and OASIS entry</b></p> <p>Due to the limited nature of the findings a project archive will not be produced. A summary of the</p>		

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:**



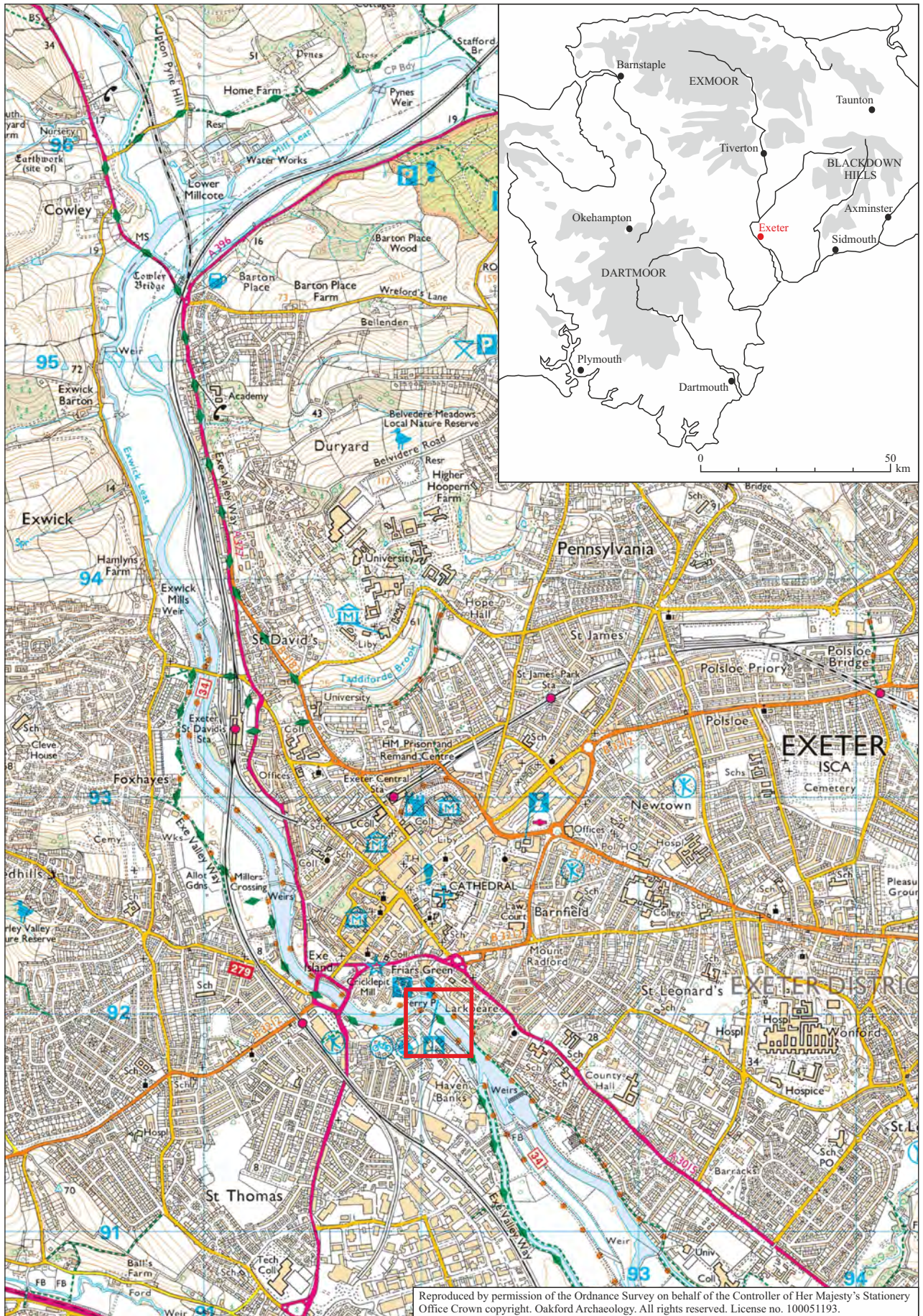


Fig. 1 Location of site.



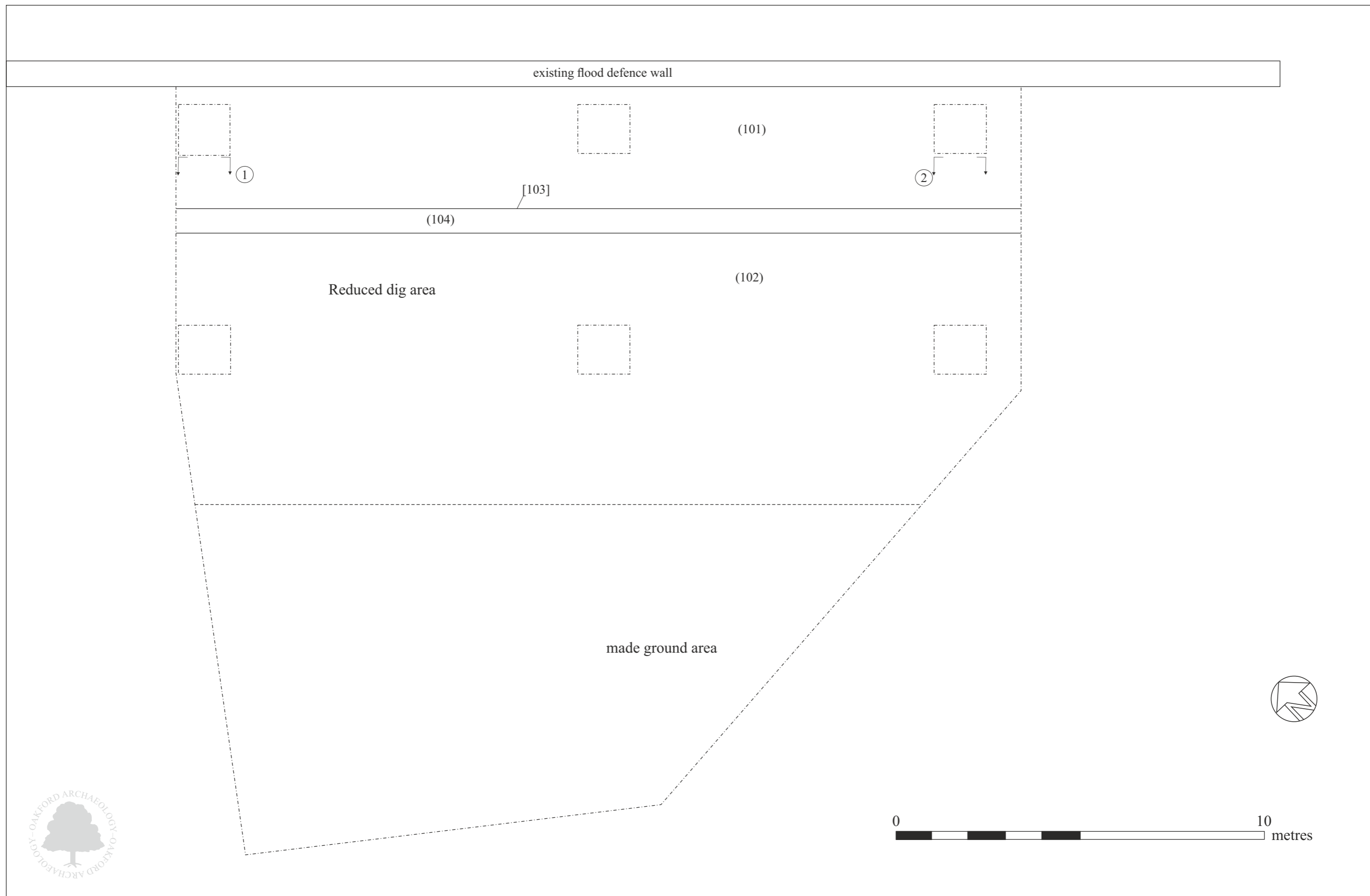


Fig. 2 Plan showing location of observations.



General view of Canal basin with site in foreground. Looking southwest.



Pl. 2 General view of former canal basin boundary wall (104). 0.5m and 2m scales. Looking southeast.





Pl. 3 Foundation pad 1, Section 1 showing made ground sequence (101-107). 0.5m and 1m scales. Looking southwest.



Pl. 4 Foundation pad 6, Section 2 showing homogeneous made ground (108). 1m scale. Looking southwest.