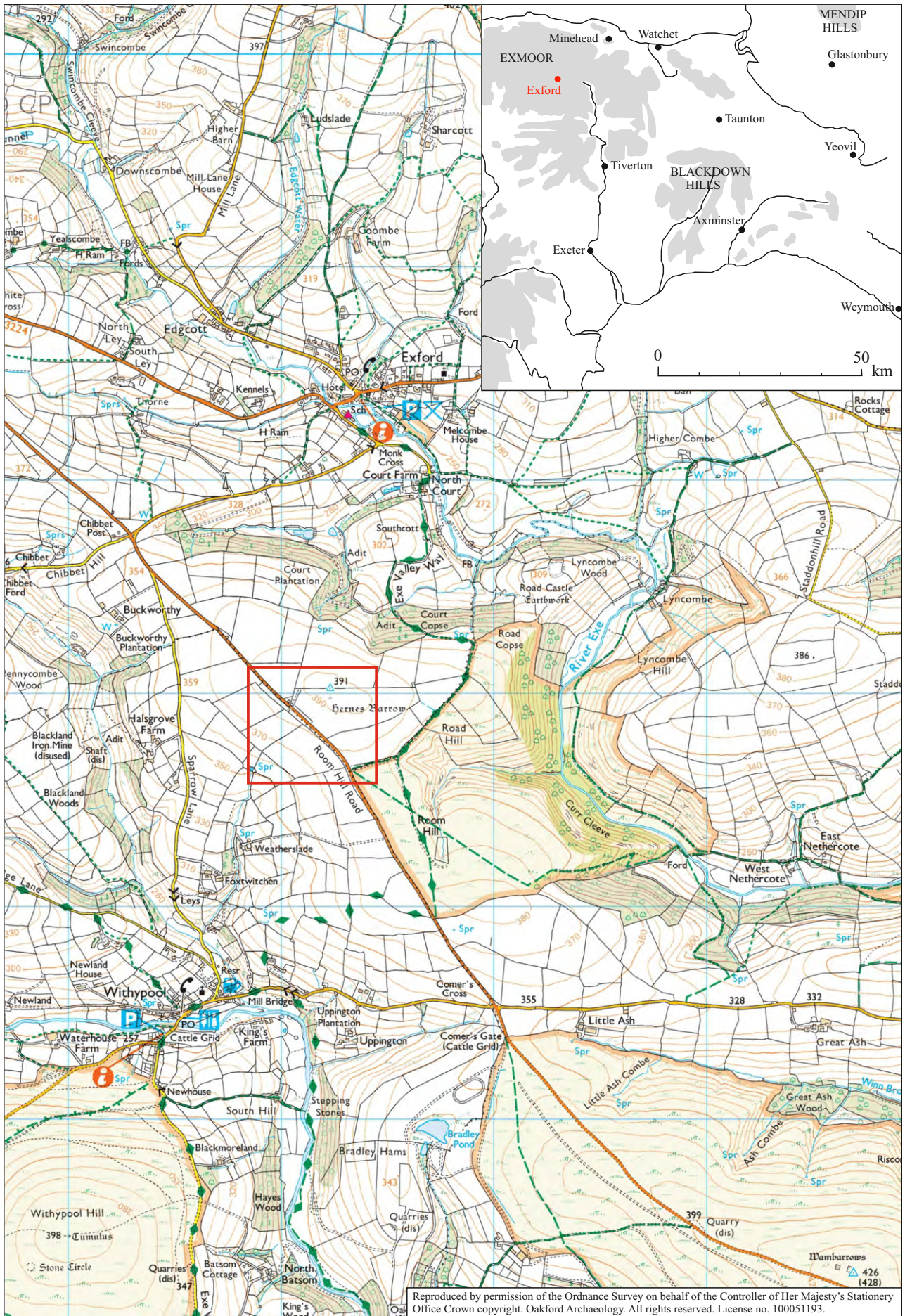


## Exmoor National Park Authority Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Exford, Somerset West and Taunton	<b>National Grid Reference:</b> SS 8507 3692	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording on land to the north of Room Hill Road, Exford, Somerset.		<b>Photo attached:</b> Y
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 6/13/19/107	<b>Recipient museum:</b> n/a	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> oakforda1-405182	<b>Museum Reference no:</b> n/a	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> OA1729	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 19/11/2020	
<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology for the client in November 2020 on works associated with the construction of a new agricultural building and associated works on land to the north of Room Hill Road, Exford, Somerset (SS 8507 3692). The work was required by Exmoor National Park Authority (ENPA), as advised by Shirley Blaylock, the Exmoor National Park Authority Conservation Officer.</p> <p>The site (Fig. 1) lies in an area of high archaeological potential some 140m to the southwest of two round barrows (MSO11248 and MMO2863) and a circular ditched hilltop enclosure (MMO2864) that have been identified through aerial photography and LidDAR. In addition to these an undated linear feature (MEM24693) roughly parallel with the modern road and interpreted as a former routeway has also been identified.</p> <p><b>Description of the works</b></p> <p>A watching brief was maintained during the terracing of the site and the excavation of the foundations (Fig. 2, pls. 1-2). The works entailed the excavation of an area of terracing approximately 28m long and 25m wide to a maximum depth of 0.35m. In addition, a 24.5m long and 4-20m wide access track and area of hardstanding was also monitored at the northwestern end of the development. The works revealed a simple deposit sequence extending across the whole site. This exposed light to mid yellow clay and degraded mortar natural subsoil (100) at a depth of 0.35m below current ground level. This was overlain by a 0.05m thick mid reddish-brown silty clay subsoil (101) which was in turn sealed below a 0.3m thick mid to dark brown silty clay topsoil (102).</p> <p>A very small collection of archaeological material was recovered from the topsoil, consisting of a single sherd of South Somerset coarseware (18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century) and three sherds of 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries industrial whitewares.</p> <p><b>Conclusion:</b></p> <p>No deposits, features or dating evidence indicative of archaeological activity was found. The lack of pottery and other artefacts from the site, despite examination of spoil heaps, further indicates that the site is archaeologically sterile. This is the only report on these works.</p> <p><b>OASIS entry</b></p> <p>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).</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> M. Steinmetzer (Oakford Archaeology)		<b>Date sent to HER:</b>





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Fig. 1 Location of site.



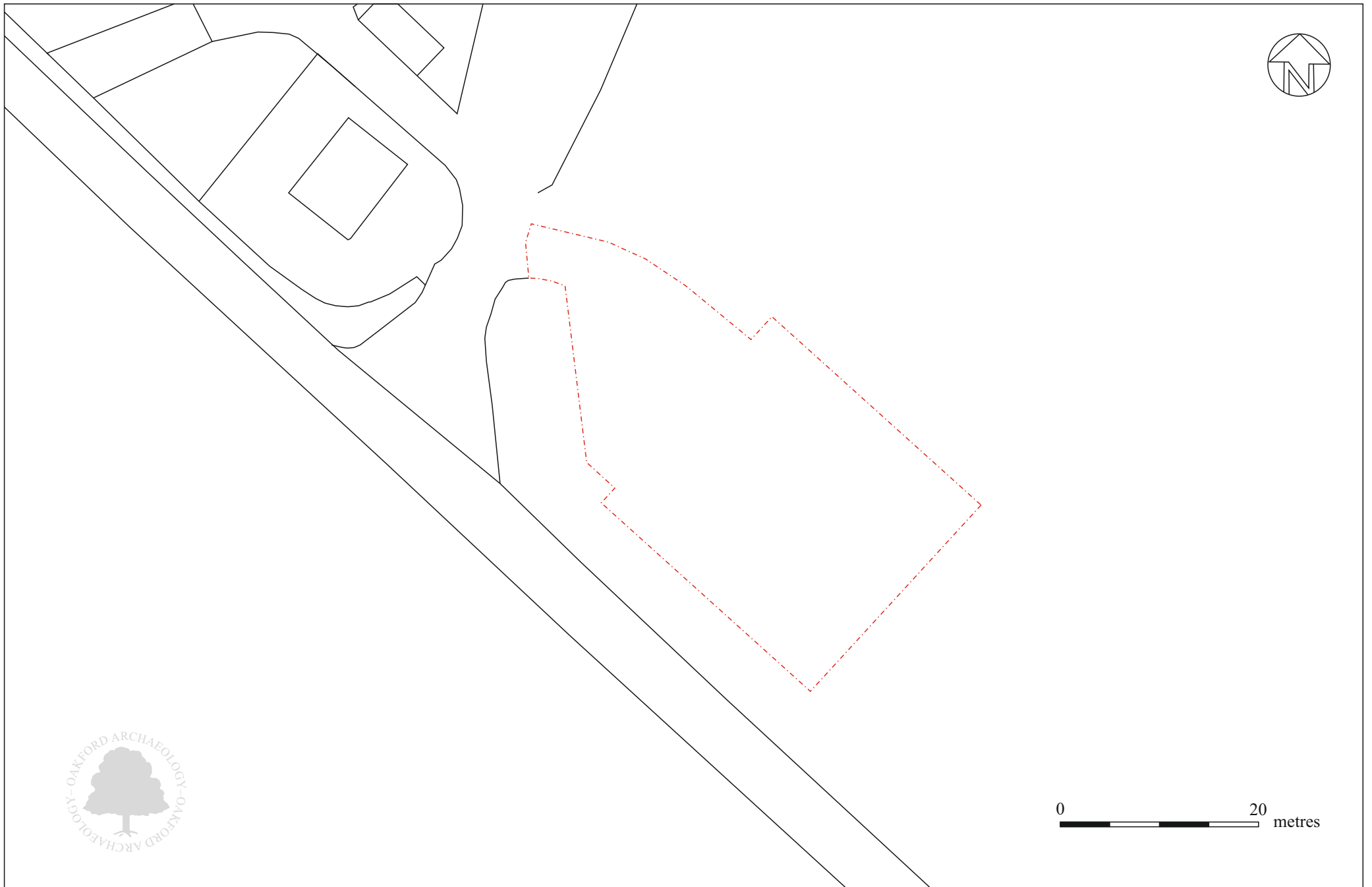


Fig. 2 Plan showing location of observations.



Pl. 1 General view of site showing deposit sequence.  
1m scales. Looking southwest.



Pl. 2 General view of site showing deposit sequence.  
1m scales. Looking northwest.