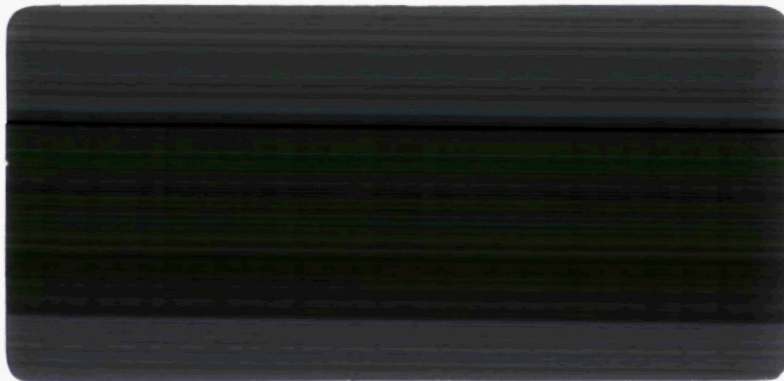


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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AT DINHAM ROAD, ST DAVID'S,
EXETER

Planning ref. 05/1133/03

1918 High

by

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Exeter Archaeology

Report No. 05.53

December 2005

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Summary

A two-stage archaeological evaluation at Dinham Road, St David's, Exeter (centred on NGR SX 9154 9276), was undertaken by Exeter Archaeology during October 2005. The site is located in an area where historical sources indicate the possible presence of Romano-British settlement evidence. It also lies within the mid 19th century educational and charitable 'village' at Mount Dinham.

The evaluation comprised a geophysical survey in a playing field area, followed by the machine and hand-excavation of fifteen trenches across the whole of the site. The geophysical survey identified a number of anomalies that were subsequently targeted by trenches and were shown to be either variations in the natural subsoil or modern features.

Elsewhere on the site, trenching identified the presence of Romano-British activity, but this was dispersed at fairly wide intervals across the site. Some of the feature types present (pits, postholes, gullies) indicate settlement and perhaps agricultural activity, with the finds recovered indicating a probable mid to late 2nd century AD date. In one trench a large probable ditched enclosure was present, which again is likely to be of Romano British date. Elsewhere across the site some trenches contained a buried soil of medieval date, while in others either largely negative results were recorded or only modern features or disturbance were present.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of a two-stage archaeological evaluation carried out by Exeter Archaeology (EA) and Substrata Limited during October 2005 at Dinham Road, St David's, Exeter (centred on SX 9154 9276). The evaluation was commissioned by King Sturge International Property Consultants acting as agents to Sanremo Limited. It was required by Exeter City Council as advised by their Archaeology Officer, and was undertaken in order to provide supporting information for a planning application for residential development on the site (ref. 05/1133/03).
- 1.2 The site is located on St David's Hill alongside Dinham Road (Fig. 1). It is situated in an elevated position on the northwest edge of the Longbrook Valley, with the ground within the site sloping gently down to the southeast. It lies between c. 29m and 34mAOD and the underlying natural subsoil generally comprises a red or yellowish-brown clay.
- 1.3 Within the site there are four distinct areas (Fig. 2) which can be described as follows:
 - Area 1 consists of Exeter St David's First School, including playgrounds, garden and parking areas.
 - Area 2 comprises a grass-covered playing field immediately to the northwest of the school.
 - Area 3 is a cluster of light industrial buildings in the northeast portion of the site.
 - Area 4 consists of the former Episcopal Building (now part of Exeter College) and the surrounding asphalt-covered yards.
- 1.4 The evaluation comprised geophysical survey of Area 2 by both gradiometry and resistivity, followed by the excavation of trial trenches in all areas. Localised site constraints meant trenches were positioned in available areas, and locations were selected so as to cause minimum disruption to the school and college.
- 1.5 The aim of the work was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological features or deposits within the area to be affected by the proposed redevelopment, and if present, to establish their date, character, function and extent.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A preliminary archaeological and historical assessment for the proposed development has been prepared previously (Southwest Archaeology 2005).
- 2.2 The site is located outside the boundaries of both the Roman and Medieval town. It lies in an elevated position on the northwest edge of the Longbrook valley, close to the recorded position of the Roman road extending in a northwest direction from the north gate of the town.
- 2.3 Previous archaeological investigations in the Exe Street/North Street area have identified evidence for early Romano-British activity, in the form of a small timber building, an inhumation burial, quarrying and the dumping of rubbish (Exeter UAD No. 10148.00 and 10201.00). In addition, evidence for Romano-British activity in the St David's Hill area is suggested by antiquarian sources. Jenkins, writing in 1805,

includes the following footnote when describing the cliff forming the southwest edge of St David's Hill:

'Several remains of antiquities have been discovered in digging on part of this cliff, such as bones of oxen and other beasts, broken potsherds, and a brazen lamp, with a crescent described on it; from which some have conjectured that here stood a temple of the goddess Diana' (Jenkins 1805, 350).

- 2.4 In Polwhele's, *History of Devonshire* (1797, 190) a brass lamp is described as being 'dug up on St David's Hill, in the suburbs of Exeter, in September 1757'. It is almost certainly the same lamp as that described by Jenkins, since Polwhele also mentions the presence of an attached crescent and appropriates it to Diana. Fox (1952, 103) refers to a large urn containing ashes being found in 1841 north of St David's church, together with a large bowl in an imported Samian ware fabric, a Samian cup and numerous coins including Republican and AD 1st century issues.
- 2.5 In the medieval period the outskirts of Exeter were largely undeveloped. St David's Down was seemingly open country owned by St Nicholas' Priory, although Hooker's map of 1587 shows some settlement between the city limit and the church of St David. In 1625 (Southwest Archaeology 2005, Map 2) buildings are shown in the vicinity of the site, but these may have been demolished during the civil war period when defences were constructed on St David's Down and above Head Weir Cliffs (UAD No. 10346.00).
- 2.6 Maps dating to the later 17th century and into the early 18th century show cloth drying racks on or adjacent to the land which would later become Mount Dinham (Southwest Archaeology 2005, Maps 3,4, 7 & 9).
- 2.7 During the 1860s the site and surrounding land was developed as an educational and charitable 'village' by John Dinham. The Episcopal Charity School (now part of Exeter College) and St David's National Boy's School (now Exeter St David's First School) formed part of this development.

3. METHODOLOGY: GEOPHYSICS

- 3.1 The gradiometer survey was undertaken using a Bartington Grad601-2 (dual sensor) fluxgate gradiometer, with sampling intervals of 0.25m on traverses 1m apart.
- 3.2 The resistance survey was carried out using a Geoscan Research RM 15 multi-probe resistance meter. Readings were taken at intervals of 1m by 1m.

4. METHODOLOGY: TRENCH EXCAVATION

- 4.1 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a method statement prepared by Exeter Archaeology (2005) and submitted to and approved by the Exeter City Council Archaeology Officer prior to commencement on site.
- 4.2 It was intended that 17 trenches would be excavated across the four areas, but the density of buried services in Area 3 meant that only two out of the four trenches

intended for this part of the site were excavated. Hence the number of evaluation trenches excavated in total was 15. Trenches were generally positioned in available areas, while those in Area 2 were located to target anomalies identified during the geophysical survey.

- 4.3 Trenches 3 and 6 were hand-dug, while the remainder were excavated by a small mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All machining was carried out under the supervision and to the satisfaction of an experienced archaeologist.
- 4.4 All features and deposits revealed were recorded using the standard EA recording system. Single context recording sheets were used as well as individual trench recording sheets. Sections and plans for each trench were drawn at either 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate. A detailed black and white and colour transparency photographic record was made. Registers were maintained for photographs, drawings and context sheets on *pro forma* record sheets. Finds were labelled and bagged on site and taken to the EA finds processing suite for analysis.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

A total of 15 trenches was excavated in four areas (Fig. 2). Relevant detailed plans and sections are included as Figs. 3, 6 7 & 8, context descriptions for each trench are set out in Appendix 1 and a finds catalogue presented in Appendix 2.

5.2 Area 1

Trench 1

(Detailed plan Fig. 3.1, sections 3.2 – 3.5)

This trench was located in St David's First School front playground. It measured 7m by 0.9m in plan and was orientated approximately NW-SE. Several archaeological features were present cutting natural subsoil at a depth of 1.15m below current ground level. These were sealed by a buried soil layer similar to that present in a number of other trench in the SE portion of the site. Detailed context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 1, Appendix 1 and archaeological features are described below.

Feature [101] was a narrow linear feature aligned approximately NE-SW. This probable ditch or gully appeared to be slightly curving in plan and measured between 0.5m and 0.6m in width and was 0.3m deep. The sides were moderate to steep sloping and the base was narrow (c.0.1m) and fairly flat (Fig. 3.5). A coin showing the head of the empress Faustina II (or possibly Lucilla) found within the fill (100) indicates that the feature went out of use during the mid to late 2nd century. Other finds recovered comprise small quantities of native and imported pottery of Romano-British date.

Feature [103] was a roughly circular probable posthole located close to the SE edge of [101]. It was 0.16m wide and 0.11m deep, with moderately sloping edges onto a flat base. No finds were recovered from its fill (102).

Feature [105] was only partly exposed and was located at the NW end of the trench. The feature was a possible pit, sub-rectangular in plan, with moderate to steep sloping edges onto a slightly rounded base at a depth of 0.20m. Pottery retrieved from its fill (104) indicates a Romano-British date. A second possible pit was located immediately to the NE [113] and was not excavated. The relationship between features [105] and [113] is uncertain. An unexcavated probable circular posthole [112], 0.15m in diameter is possibly associated with these features as it was located only 0.15m from the edge of [105].

Trench 2

(Detailed plan Fig. 3.6 & section 3.7)

Trench 2 was located in the front playground of the school. It measured 4.2m by 0.9m in plan, was orientated approximately NW-SE and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.18m. Three cut archaeological features ([206], [210] & [214]) were identified. The first two are likely to be 20th century features associated with the modernisation of the school, while the latter [214] was heavily truncated and may represent remnants of a pit of uncertain date. The overlying layer sequence comprised a series of post-medieval and modern deposits, above a probable buried soil (215) similar to that present in Trench 1 (111) and then natural subsoil. Layer and context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 2, Appendix 1.

Trench 3

This trench was located in the back garden of Exeter St David's First School. It measured 3m by 1.3m in plan, was orientated approximately NW-SE and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.88m onto natural subsoil. No archaeological features were present, but immediately above the natural subsoil was a buried soil layer (304) that contained a small quantity of medieval pottery. Layer and context descriptions are set out in Table 3, Appendix 1.

Trench 4

(Detailed plan Fig. 3.8 & section 3.9)

This trench was located in a car park adjacent to the school. It measured 2.9m by 1.3m in plan, was orientated approximately NW-SE and was machine-excavated to a depth of 1.18m onto a large probable ditch [406] and natural subsoil. Detailed context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 4, Appendix 1 and archaeological features are described below.

Feature [406] was aligned initially NW-SE, then turned at right angles to the SW. It was at least 1.3m wide and 2m in length. Due to the depth of the evaluation trench, only part of the fill was removed and the base of the feature was not reached, although a small quantity of pottery within the fill (405) suggests a Romano-British date. It is possible that the feature represents part of one corner of a large ditched enclosure. Sealing the fill (405) of this feature was a buried soil layer (404) which contained small quantities of Iron Age, Romano-British and medieval pottery.

Trench 5

This trench was located in the rear play area of the school. It measured 4m by 1.2m in plan, was orientated approximately NW-SE and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.8m onto natural subsoil. Two modern service pipes were present. A probable buried cultivation soil (500) that contained a single sherd of Romano-British pottery was recorded immediately above natural subsoil. Layer and context descriptions are set out in Table 5, Appendix 1.

Trench 6

This trench was located in the rear garden of the school. It measured 2m by 0.7m in plan and was orientated approximately NE-SW. No archaeological features were present and the recorded layer sequence is set out in Table 6, Appendix 1.

5.3 Area 2

Geophysics

(Plans showing summary results Figs. 4 & 5)

The two methods of geophysical survey used on the playing field area both recorded sub-surface anomalies. The resistance survey (Fig. 4) identified possible structural evidence or rubble in the SW portion of the site, as well as other anomalies that may have represented linear features. Perhaps the most significant feature identified by the gradiometer survey was two sections of a possible ditch enclosure located in the western portion of the area (Fig. 5). This technique also recorded possible modern services, as well as an earthen bank. Some of the recorded anomalies were subsequently targeted by machine-excavated trenches.

Trench 7

(Detailed plan Fig. 6.1 & section 6.2)

This trench was located in the northern half of the school playing field. It measured 5.8m by 1.2m in plan and was orientated approximately north-south. It was positioned in order to target part of a possible ditch enclosure identified by the gradiometer survey (Fig. 5), as well as a linear depression recorded by resistivity (Fig. 4) that is also visible as a surface feature. No pre-modern archaeological features were present and the anomaly identified by gradiometry probably relates to a ceramic pipe crossing the trench on an east-west alignment. The linear depression does not appear to have any associated buried features or deposits. Layer and context descriptions are set out in Table 7, Appendix 1.

Trench 8

This trench was located in the northern corner of the school playing field. It measured 6.5m by 1.2m in plan, was orientated approximately east-west and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.65m onto natural subsoil. The trench was positioned in order to target a possible ditch enclosure identified by the gradiometer survey (Fig. 4). No pre-modern archaeological features were present and the geophysical anomaly might relate to a field drain crossing the trench on an approximate NE-SW alignment. Layer and context descriptions are set out in Table 8, Appendix 1.

Trench 9

This trench was located close to the NW boundary of the school playing field. It measured 7m by 1.2m in plan, was orientated approximately NE-SW and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.85m onto natural subsoil. It was positioned in order to target an area where the resistivity survey identified a possible wall footing or rubble-filled ditch (Fig. 4). No archaeological features or structures were present within the trench. The resistivity results could be explained by the natural subsoil in this area containing a noticeably higher stone content. Layer and context descriptions are set out in Table 9, Appendix 1.

5.4 Area 3

Trench 11

(Detailed plan Fig. 6.3 & section 6.4)

This trench measured 3.5m by 0.9m in plan, was orientated approximately NE-SW and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.85m. A modern service pipe was present along the NW edge of the trench and a single width brick wall footing crossed the trench at right angles. No pre-modern archaeological features were present in the trench, although a small quantity of post-medieval pottery was recovered from subsoil layer (1102). Layer and context descriptions are set out in Table 10, Appendix 1.

Trench 12

(Detailed plan Fig. 6.5 & section Fig. 6.6)

This trench measured 3.2m by 1m in plan, was orientated approximately NW-SE and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m onto natural subsoil. No archaeological features were present and the recorded layer sequence is described in Table 11, Appendix 1.

5.5 Area 4

Trench 14

(Detailed plan Fig. 7.1 & sections 7.2, 7.3)

This trench was located in the NW portion of the college grounds. It measured 5m by 1m in plan, was orientated approximately NE-SW and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.65m onto natural subsoil. An isolated posthole [1402] with near vertical sides and a flat base was present, with its fill (1403) containing a single sherd of probable 18th century pottery. Layer and context descriptions are set out in Table 12, Appendix 1.

Trench 15

(Detailed plan Fig. 7.4 & sections 7.5, 7.6)

This trench was located in the NW portion of the college grounds. It measured 5m by 0.9m in plan, was orientated approximately NW-SE and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.60m onto a narrow linear feature [1505] and natural subsoil. Layer and context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 13, Appendix 1 and archaeological features are described below.

Feature [1505] may represent a small boundary or drainage ditch. It measured 0.6m in width and 0.16m in depth and was aligned approximately east to west. The sides were moderately sloping onto a slightly rounded base. Its fill (1506) contained small quantities of Romano-British pottery.

Trench 16

(Detailed plan Fig. 7.7 & section 7.8)

This trench was located in the SE portion of the college grounds. It measured 5m by 1m in plan, was orientated approximately NW-SE and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.70m onto natural subsoil. Part of a large clay-lined possible pit [1604] was present directly below the modern surface foundation. The feature had been deliberately backfilled with clay and demolition debris of 20th century date. Layer and context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 14, Appendix 1.

Trench 17

(Detailed section Fig. 8)

This trench was located in the SE portion of the college grounds. It measured 7m by 1m in plan, was orientated approximately NE-SW and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.1m onto natural subsoil. No archaeological features were present, although a buried soil layer (1703) immediately above natural subsoil contained a small quantity of medieval pottery. Layer and context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 15, Appendix 1.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The evaluation has established the presence of Romano-British activity within the proposed development area. Trenches containing deposits of this date were dispersed at fairly wide intervals across the site, and were present in Trenches 1 and 4 (Area 1) and Trench 15 (Area 4). In addition, pottery of Romano-British date was found within later contexts in Trench 5 (Area 1) and Trench 7 (Area 2). In some trenches a medieval buried soil was present (Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 16 and 17), whereas elsewhere either largely negative results were recorded or only modern features or disturbance was present.
- 6.2 The distribution of Romano-British features and areas where the medieval buried soil was found are shown on Fig. 9. The feature types present in Trenches 1 and 15 (pits, postholes, gullies) indicate settlement and perhaps agricultural activity of probable mid to late 2nd century AD date on the site. The large feature observed in Trench 4 may represent the southeast corner of a large ditched enclosure of similar date, although its function and purpose remain unclear.
- 6.3 The possible medieval buried soil was present in trenches in the lower-lying, southeast portion of the site. It is not known whether this layer was formerly present in the northwest half of the site and has been cut away by later disturbance, or that it never existed in this area. In two trenches (Trenches 1 and 17) the layer directly overlay Romano-British deposits, which may indicate that settlement had ceased following the Romano-British period and that most of the land occupied by the site was then used for agricultural purposes.
- 6.4 No archaeological features of pre-modern date were identified in Areas 2 and 3. The anomalies identified during the geophysical survey in Area 2 appear to be either natural geological variations or modern features, but the presence of a small quantity of residual Romano-British pottery indicates the presence of background activity of this date. The presence of a large number of modern services in Area 3 prevented extensive investigation, although no deposits, features or Romano-British or medieval artefacts were recorded.
- 6.5 While many trenches contained largely negative results, the extent of trenching able to be undertaken was limited by site constraints, and therefore other features of Romano-British date might be present in areas not examined as part of this exercise. Similarly, many of the features that were recorded clearly continue beyond the evaluation trenches.

7. ARCHIVE

- 7.1 A fully integrated site archive has been prepared using the project code 5537 and this is currently held by Exeter Archaeology at their office in Bradninch Place, Gandy Street, Exeter EX4 3LS.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 The evaluation was commissioned by King Sturge International Property Consultants acting as agents to Sanremo Limited. The project was managed by John Valentin and the site work directed by Marie Leverett, assisted by Jo Best, Jerry Bell, Paul Jones, Andrew Passmore and Tim Whitaway. Drawings for this report were prepared by Tony Ives. The work was monitored on behalf of Exeter City Council by their Archaeology Officer, Andrew Pye.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS BY TRENCH

Table 1: Trench 1

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
100	1.22 – 1.46m	Reddish-brown silty clay containing large stones, occasional charcoal flecks and fragments and lumps of redeposited natural clay. Romano-British finds were recovered	Fill of linear feature [101]
101	1.22 - 1.46m	Cut for a narrow linear feature	Probable ditch or gully of Romano-British date
102	1.21 - 1.29m	Reddish-brown silty clay with moderate amounts of charcoal flecks and stone fragments	Fill of posthole [103]
103	1.21 - 1.32m	Circular cut 0.16m in diameter and 0.11m in depth with moderately sloping edges and a flat base	Posthole probably associated with [101]
104	1.16 - 1.36m	Reddish-brown silty clay containing moderate amounts of small stones/pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks. Romano-British pottery and tile present	Fill of possible pit [105]
105	1.16 - 1.36m	Corner of a rectangular-shaped possible pit 0.18m in depth and >1.06m by >0.62m in plan. The sides were moderate to steep sloping onto a rounded base	Possible pit
106	1.20 - >1.20m	Reddish-brown silty clay containing charcoal flecks and fragments, pebbles and small lumps of redeposited natural clay	Fill of unexcavated probable posthole [112]
107	1.16m - >1.16m	Reddish-brown silty clay containing occasional charcoal flecks and small stones/pebbles	Fill of unexcavated probable pit [113]
108	0 – 0.35m	Tarmac	Current playground surface
109	0.35 - 0.64m	Heavily crushed yellow limestone	Foundation layer for 108
110	0.36 - 0.95m	Dark reddish-brown silty clay, friable and moderately compacted containing frequent very small stones and charcoal flecks and occasional lime mortar fragments. Medieval and post-medieval finds present	Probable garden/cultivation soil
111	0.81 - 1.22m	Reddish-brown silty clay containing moderate amounts of stone and occasional slate and charcoal fragments	Possible buried soil that may also have been present in Trenches 2, 3, 4, 5, 16 and 17
112	1.20 - >1.20m	Unexcavated probable circular feature 0.2m in diameter	Possible posthole
113	1.16 - >1.16m	One edge of an unexcavated probable feature >0.3m in length	Probable pit
114	1.16 +	Light red moderate to firm clay with banded mudstone	Natural subsoil

Table 2: Trench 2

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
201	0m - 0.06m	Tarmac	Modern playground surface
202	0.06 - 0.32m	Bitumen coated aggregate	Makeup/levelling for 201
203	0.32m - 0.54m	Compacted light brown coarse sands with occasional brick and tile fragments and mortar lenses	Upper fill of pit [206]
204	0.32 - 0.88m	Tightly compacted pinkish-red clays containing frequent fragmentary mudstone/shale	Secondary fill of [206]
205	0.78 - 0.98m	Tightly compacted mid brown sandy clays with moderate slate fragments and occasional mortar flecks	Lower fill of [206]
206	0.3 - >0.95m	A large cut at the NW end of the trench, gently sloping at the top and becoming more steep-sided lower down	20 th century cut for construction rubble refuse pit
207	0.3 - 0.58m	Tightly compacted pinkish-brown sandy clays containing moderate fragmentary slate and mortar flecks and lenses	Conglomerate of redeposited natural soils and building fragments
208	0.53 - 0.97m	Tightly compacted, light brown coarse sands containing frequent slate fragments and mortar lenses	Upper fill of pit [210]
209	0.82 - >1.18m	Tightly compacted light to mid brown sandy clays containing moderate fragmentary slate and brick fragments	Secondary fill of [210]
210	0.57 - >1.18m	A large steep-sided pit cut through layer 211	20 th century pit possibly associated with modernising phase of school
211	0.57 - 0.72m	Mid brown coarse sands, with very frequent rounded stones and occasional clinker and limestone flecking	Probable 19 th century buried soil of unknown function
212	0.68 - 0.83m	Dark brown coarse sands with moderate charcoal flecking. Post-medieval pottery present	Post-medieval garden soil
213	0.84 - 0.97m	Heavily truncated shallow possible pit with gently sloping edges cut through layer 215	Possible pit
214	0.85 - 0.97m	Light brown silty sand containing very occasional charcoal flecking	Fill of feature [215]
215	0.85 - >0.96m	Tightly compacted reddish-brown sandy clays	Possible buried soil that may also have been present in Trenches 1, 3, 4, 5, 16 and 17
216	1.10 - >1.18m	Pinkish-red clays with banded mudstone	Natural subsoil

Table 3: Trench 3

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s)	Description	Interpretation
300	0 – 0.2m	Reddish-brown silty clay	Topsoil and turf
301	0.1 – 0.38m	Dark reddish-brown silty clay with coal, clinker and glass. Contained 19 th century pottery	c.19th century soil layer
302	0.25 – 0.4m	Lens of redeposited natural clay	Dumped deposit
303	0.24 – 0.62m	Dark reddish-grey silty clay with mortar, coal and charcoal. Contained 19 th century pottery and clay pipe	c.19th century soil layer
304	0.6 – 0.88m	Yellowish-red firm silty clay with charcoal. Contained medieval pottery	Buried soil that may also have been present in Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5, 16 and 17
305	0.88 +	Pinkish-red clays with banded mudstone	Natural subsoil

Table 4: Trench 4

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s)	Description	Interpretation
400	0 – 0.1m	Tarmac	Current school car park surface
401	0.05 – 0.19m	Gravel >5cm in a matrix of very gritty sand	Make-up/levelling for 400
402	0.23 – 0.56m	Dark reddish-grey silty clay with occasional large stones and medium amounts of smaller pebbles with frequent lumps of basalt and occasional slate fragments	Demolition/levelling layer
403	0.42 – 0.84m	Dark reddish-grey silty clay with occasional large stones and medium amounts of smaller pebbles, occasional slate fragments and frequent basalt lumps	Possible make-up deposit of 19 th /20 th century date
404	0.65 – 1.18m	Medium reddish-brown silty clay with occasional stones, slate and charcoal. Contained Iron Age, Roman and Medieval pottery	Buried soil that may also have been present in Trenches 1, 2, 3, 5, 16 and 17
405	1.16 – >1.36m	Medium reddish-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal and red tile/brick flecks. Looks very similar to 404. Romano-British pottery present	Fill of 406. Very similar in nature to 404 above so there could be some slumping or mixing of deposits
406	1.18 – >1.36m	A large cut feature curving from NW – SW. At least 1.8m by 1.3m in dimensions. Only one edge of the feature observed	Possibly the corner of a ditched enclosure
407	1.15 – 1.36m	Firm yellowish-brown clay	Natural subsoil

Table 5: Trench 5

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s)	Description	Interpretation
500	0.45-0.8m	Dark reddish-brown silty clay containing very occasional slate, charcoal and shell fragments. A single sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered	Possible cultivation soil
501	0-0.45m	Modern tarmac and associated make-up deposits	Current ground surface and make-up
502	0 - >0.4m	Ceramic pipe running NE-SW and associated cut and fill	Service trench
503	c.0.8m +	Modern service pipe and associated cut and fill	Service trench
504	0.8m +	Firm yellowish-brown clay	Natural subsoil

Table 6: Trench 6

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s)	Description	Interpretation
600	0 – 0.28m	Brown silty clay and overlying turf	Current garden soil
601	0.28 – 0.64m	Dark brown silty clay with pieces of coal, clinker and glass	c. 19th/20 th century garden soil
602	0.65 – 0.95m	Firm greyish-brown silty clay with inclusions of coal/clinker. Contained 18th/19 th century pottery	Subsoil. Possibly disturbed by 603
603	0.95m +	Trench 0.2m wide and aligned north-south, the upper levels covered with large lumps of iron slag	Unexcavated but identified as electricity cable trench by cable avoidance tool
604	0.65m +	Ceramic service pipe aligned east-west	Modern drain
605	0.85 +	Firm yellowish-brown clay	Natural subsoil

Table 7: Trench 7

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s)	Description	Interpretation
700	0 – 0.7m	Dark reddish-brown clay silt with occasional small sub-rounded stones. Contained Roman, Medieval and post-medieval finds	Topsoil and turf of current playing field
701	0.45 – 0.7m	Dark reddish-brown silty clay with very occasional sub-rounded stones	Subsoil
702	0.7m +	Red clay, fairly clean but contains bands of naturally occurring mudstone	Natural subsoil
703	0.55 – 0.7m	Circular ceramic service pipe in a matrix of black gravel/clinker	Service pipe and associated trench and fill

Table 8: Trench 8

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s)	Description	Interpretation
800	0 – 0.35m	Dark reddish-grey clay silt	Topsoil and turf of current playing field
801	0.35 – 0.65m	Mid reddish-brown clay silt	Subsoil
802	0.65 +	Firm yellowish-brown clay	Natural subsoil

Table 9: Trench 9

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s)	Description	Interpretation
900	0 – 0.45m	Dark greyish-brown clay silt	Topsoil and turf of current playing field
901	0.45 – 0.80m	Mid reddish-brown clay silt with occasional stones	Subsoil
902	0.80 – 0.85m	Mid red clay with basalt fragments and roots	Natural subsoil

Table 10: Trench 11

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s)	Description	Interpretation
1100	0.18 – 0.47m	Mixed deposit of reddish-brown silty clay with slate and occasional tarmac and sand inclusions	Made ground under 1104
1101	0.47 – 0.52	Red and yellow sandy silty clay	Made ground under 1100
1102	0.52 – 1.02m	Reddish-brown silty clay with very occasional pebbles and charcoal. Contained post-medieval pottery	Subsoil layer
1103	0 – 0.08m	Tarmac surface	Current ground level
1104	0.08 – 0.18m	Loose tarmac chippings	Make-up for 1103
1105	0.20 – 0.60m	Mixture of tarmac, bricks, and reddish-brown clay	Made ground associated with insertion of 1106
1106	0.20 – 0.60m	Several courses of mortared bricks running NW – SE across the trench.	Insubstantial structure. Possibly for services/sewer
1107	0.60 – 0.65m	Narrow plastic pipe running along the NW edge of the trench	Modern service (?gas) pipe
1108	1.02 – >1.02m	Red clay	Natural subsoil

Table 11: Trench 12

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s)	Description	Interpretation
1201	0 – 0.08m	Tarmac	Current ground surface
1202	0.08 – 0.14m	Bitumen aggregate	Foundation layer for 1201
1203	0.12 – 0.6m	Tightly compacted dark brown sandy clays with very frequent charcoal flecks and modern mortar lenses and brick/tile fragments	Demolition makeup
1204	0.45 – 0.72m	Moderately compacted pinkish-brown clays containing occasional charcoal and coke flecks and slate fragments	c.19th/20 th century dumped deposit
1205	0.7 – 1.2m	Tightly compacted dark brown clays containing occasional charcoal flecks and mortar fragments	Buried former garden soil
1206	1.2m +	Pinkish-brown clays	Natural subsoil

Table 12: Trench14

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s)	Description	Interpretation
1400	0.2 – 0.35m	Thin layer of firm, reddish-brown silty clay	19 th century levelling deposit
1401	0.4 – 0.6m	Very compact red clay. Contained post-medieval finds	Levelling/make-up deposit
1402	0.65 – 0.72m	Oval cut 0.35m by 0.25m in plan and 0.06m deep. Near vertical sides and a flat base	Modern posthole
1403	0.65 – 0.72m	Firm reddish-brown clay with some slate and charcoal fragments. Contained post-medieval finds	Fill of [1402]
1404	0.65m +	Red clay	Natural subsoil
1405	0 – 0.2m	Tarmac and gravel makeup	Current ground surface

Table 13: Trench 15

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s)	Description	Interpretation
1501	0 – 0.08m	Tarmac	Current ground level
1502	0.08 – 0.16m	Make-up material	Make-up for 1501
1503	0.16 – 0.58	Dark brown clays with occasional rounded stones	Subsoil
1504	0.42 – 0.6m	Reddish-yellow clays with occasional mudstone fragments	Natural subsoil
1505	0.6 – 0.76m	Linear cut feature 0.6m wide and 0.16m in depth, aligned east-west	Probable ditch or gully of Romano-British date
1506	0.6 – 0.76	Light reddish-brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks. Romano-British finds present	Fill of [1505]

Table 14: Trench 16

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s)	Description	Interpretation
1600	0 – 0.17m	Tarmac	Modern ground surface
1601	0.17 – 0.28m	Mixed layer of clay, slate and mortar	Make-up layer for 1600
1602	0.15 – 0.47m	Brown silty clay containing slate, mortar and charcoal. Post-medieval finds present	Post-medieval buried soil
1603	0.32 – 0.68m	Firm reddish-brown silty clay containing shell and charcoal fragments	Possible buried soil that may also have been present in Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 17
1604	0.15m-0.65m	Part of a sub-circular cut with a clay lining 1606 and fill 1605	Unexcavated but possibly backfilled/demolished pond/well
1605	0.15 – 0.47m	Mixture of yellow, red and brown clay and demolition debris (wood, slate, mortar, sand). Modern finds present	The deliberate backfilling of feature 1604 perhaps during a re-modernising phase of the college
1606	0.2 – 0.64m	A band of clay lining cut 1604. It tapers from 0.01m thick at the top to 0.1m thick at the bottom	Band of clay lining feature 1604
1607	0.68m +	Red clay	Natural subsoil

Table 15: Trench 17

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s)	Description	Interpretation
1700	0.1 – 0.45m	Reddish-grey silty clay with abundant brick, slate, charcoal, mortar and gravel	Levelling/make-up layer
1701	0.45 – 0.8m	Reddish-brown firm clay with lenses of reddish grey clay and charcoal flecks, brick, mortar and slate fragments. Modern finds present	Levelling/make-up layer
1702	0.8 – 0.95m	Dark reddish-grey silty clay with occasional charcoal and mortar flecks, slate fragments and rounder pebbles. Post-medieval pottery present	Buried soil of post-medieval date
1703	0.95 – 1.1m	Dark reddish-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal and slate fragments. Medieval pottery present	Possible buried soil that may also have been present in Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 16
1704	0 – 0.4m	Layer of tarmac and associated clay make-up	Current ground surface and foundation layer
1705	1.1m +	Red clay	Natural subsoil

Dinham Road, Exeter 2005

What follows is an alphabetical finds listing for the evaluation at St Davids School, Dinham Road, Exeter. All weights given are in grams (to the nearest 2 grams). Qty denotes quantity. The following site code was used to mark artefacts and ecofacts: EDR 05.

Context Dating

<i>context</i>	<i>date/period</i>
Trench 4	Roman
unstrat	
100	Roman, L2-4C
104	Roman
110	18-19C (with resid Med)
212	18C
301	18-19C (?resid Pre)
303	?18-19C (?resid Pre)
304	14-15C
404	Med (with resid ?Rom and ?Iron Age)
405	Roman
500	?Roman
602	M18-19C
700	Roman, 16-19C
1102	19C (with resid 17-18C)
1401	17-18C
1403	18C
1506	Roman
1602	18-19C
1605	19-20C
1701	L18-19C
1702	18C
1703	Medieval ?14-15C

Bone-faunal

<i>context</i>	<i>qty</i>
700	1 long bone, ?butchery mark

Clay Pipe

<i>context</i>	<i>bowls</i>	<i>stems</i>	<i>dates/comments</i>
110	-	2	discarded
303	-	1	discarded
700	2	-	1 decorated bowl (E19C), 1 plain (undatable)
1602	-	2	discarded
1605	1	-	decorated bowl (1800-30)

Coins/Tokens

<i>context</i>	<i>qty</i>	<i>comments</i>
100	1	Cu A, sestertius, ?Faustina II or Lucilla. Square flan. (M- L2C)

Copper Alloy

<i>context</i>	<i>qty</i>	<i>comments</i>
100	1	Coin, sestertius, square flan (M-L2C)
700	1	Thimble (PM)

Ironwork

<i>context</i>	<i>SF</i>	<i>qty</i>	<i>comments</i>
602	-	1	nail (19-20C, discarded)
1605	-	1	Strip 135x35mm, incomplete (19-20C, discarded)

Lithics

<i>context</i>	<i>qty</i>	<i>comments</i>
301	1	Chert: natural (discarded)
303	1	Chert: ?struck flake (?Pre) Also 1 natural (discarded)

Pottery & Dating Evidence*Abbreviations Listing*

BB1	Black Burnished ware 1
Bris	Bristol
C	Century
Colr	Colour
Cop	Copper
Crm	Creamware
Csw	Coarseware
Ctd	Coated
Cw	Coarseware
E	Early
Ew	Earthenware
Exe	Exeter
Fab	Fabric
Gg	Green glaze
Gn	Green
Gtw	Gravel tempered ware
Gy	Grey
IA	Iron Age
Jg	Jug
L	Late
M	Mid
Med	Medieval
ND	North Devon
Pln	Plain
PM	Post-medieval
Pot	Pottery
Pre	Prehistoric
Rd	Red
Resid	Residual
Rom	Roman
Sam	Samian
Slp	Slip
SS	South Somerset
Staffs	Staffordshire
Stmp	Stamp
Tot	Totnes-type
Unc	Unclassified
W	Ware
Wht	White
Wlt	Wheel-thrown
WP	Willow pattern

Appendix 2: Finds catalogue

<i>context</i>	<i>contents/dating evidence</i>	<i>sherds</i>	<i>vessels</i>				
Unstrat	Pln sam (Rom, ?1-3C)	1	1	602	Wht ew (M18-19C)	2	1
	Total sherds: 1				Total sherds: 2		
	Total vessels: 1				Total vessels: 1		
100	BB1 (Rom)	4	3	700	BB1 (?jar, Rom)	1	1
	Pln sam (Rom)	3	1		SS (?17C)	1	1
	Total sherds: 7				ND gtw (16-19C)	1	1
	Total vessels: 4				SS (L17-18C)	2	1
					Total sherds: 5		
					Total vessels: 4		
104	BB1 (Rom)	6	1				
	Wlt gy w (Rom)	1	1	1102	WP (19C)	1	1
	Total sherds: 7				SS (17-18C)	3	3
	Total vessels: 2				Total sherds: 4		
					Total vessels: 4		
110	Crm (L18-19C)	1	1				
	?SS (med)	1	1	1401	Csw (16-E17C)	1	1
	SS gg (18C)	1	1		ND gtw (16-19C)	1	1
	SS (L18-19C)	4	1		SS (L17-18C)	2	1
	?Tot (?18-19C)	1	1		Total sherds: 4		
	Total sherds: 8				Total vessels: 3		
	Total vessels: 5						
				1403	SS (18C)	1	1
212	SS slp & cop gn (cup, 18C)	1	1		Total sherds: 1		
	Total sherds: 1				Total vessels: 1		
	Total vessels: 1			1506	BB1 (Rom)	1	1
					Pln sam (Rom, ?1-3C)	1	1
301	Cw (18-19C)	4	3		Sam ?stmp illegible (Rom, ?1-3C)	1	1
	ND gtw (16-19C)	1	1		Pot (?Rom)	1	1
	Rd ew (18-19C)	3	3		Total sherds: 4		
	Wht ew (L18-E20C)	3	3		Total vessels: 4		
	Total sherds: 11						
	Total vessels: 10						
				1602	SS (18-E19C)	4	3
303	Rd ew (18-19C)	2	2		Total sherds: 4		
	Total sherds: 2				Total vessels: 3		
	Total vessels: 2						
				1605	Pot (20C, discarded)	10	?10
304	Exe fab 40 (1250-1450)	1	1		Total sherds: 10		
	SS gg (14-15C)	1	1		Total vessels: ?10		
	Total sherds: 2						
	Total vessels: 2			1701	Bris-Staffs yg (L18C)	1	1
					ND (19C)	1	1
404	Pot (?Pre, M-L IA)	1	1		?SS (?18C)	2	2
	Pot (?Rom ?Med)	1	1		Total sherds: 4		
	SS jg (14-15C)	1	1		Total vessels: 4		
	Total sherds: 3						
	Total vessels: 3			1702	Cw (18C)	1	1
					Pot (?Med, ?PM)	1	1
405	BB1 (Rom)	2	2		SS (?18C)	1	1
	Colr-ctd slp w (?Trier black-slipped ware, ?2-3C)	2	1		Total sherds: 3		
	Pln sam (Rom)	1	1		Total vessels: 3		
	Unc (?oxidised BB1; ?Fortress ware, Rom)	1	1	1703	Exe fab 20 (L9-14C)	2	1
	Total sherds: 6				Exe fab 40 (1250-1450)	4	2
	Total vessels: 5				SS (14-15C)	1	1
					Total sherds: 7		
					Total vessels: 4		
500	?BB1 (Rom)	1	1				
	Total sherds: 1						
	Total vessels: 1						

Statistics

total number of sherds: 97

minimum number of vessels: 79

Tile

<i>context</i>	<i>qty</i>	<i>comments</i>
104	2	Baked clay or tile (Rom)
110	1	Pan tile (L18-19C)
100	1	Box tile (Rom)
301	1	Baked clay or tile (PM, ?19-20C)

Roman tile data

<i>context</i>	<i>fabric</i>	<i>type</i>	<i>qty</i>
100	1	Box	1



Fig. 1 Location of site. Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. Exeter City Council 100025458.

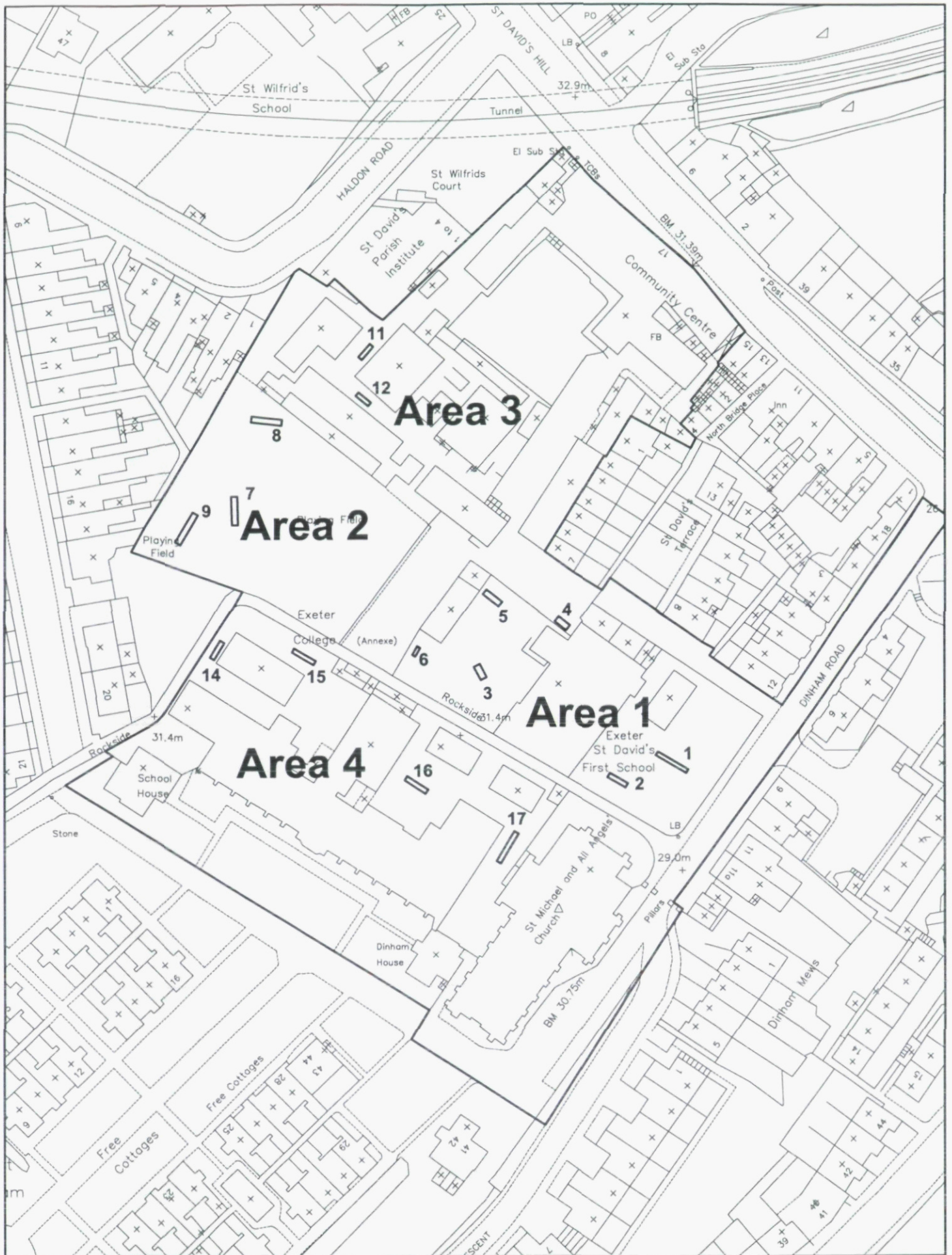
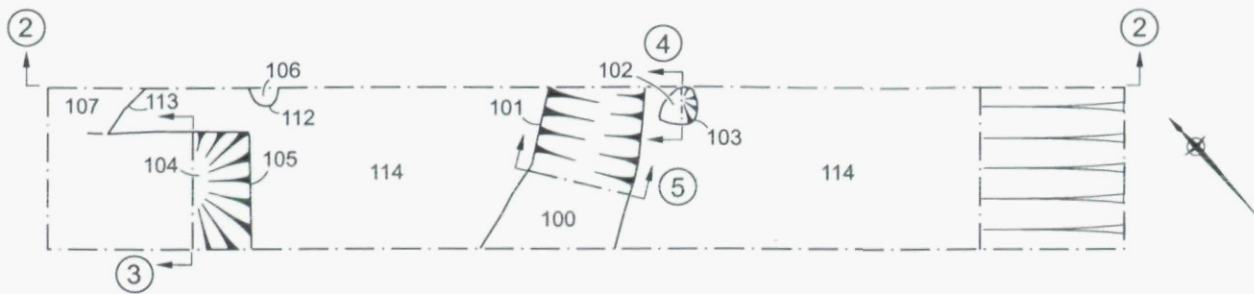
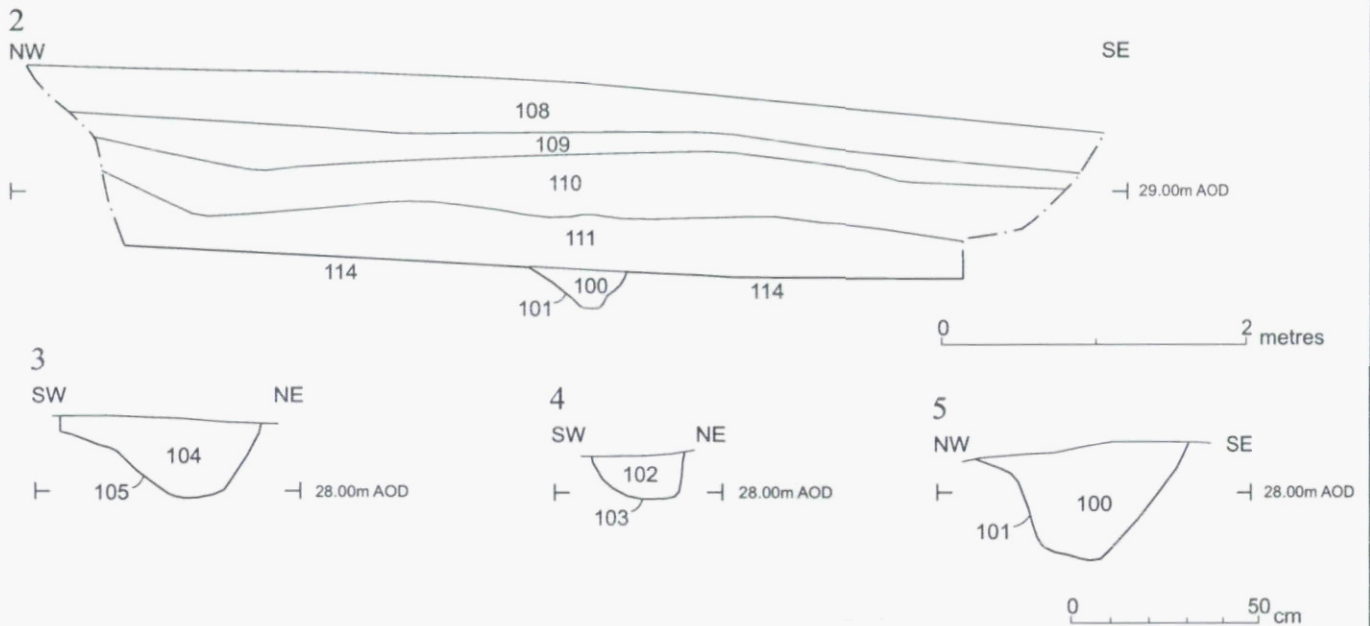


Fig. 2 Trench location plan. Reproduced (1:1000) from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. Exeter City Council 100025458.

Trench 1 Plan 1



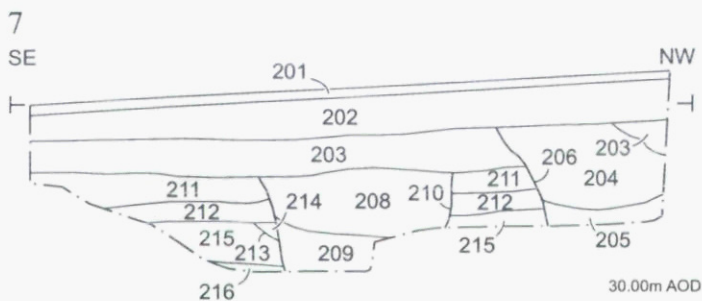
Sections



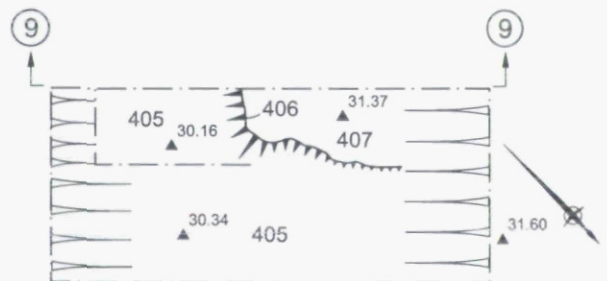
Trench 2 Plan 6



Section



Trench 4 Plan 8



Section

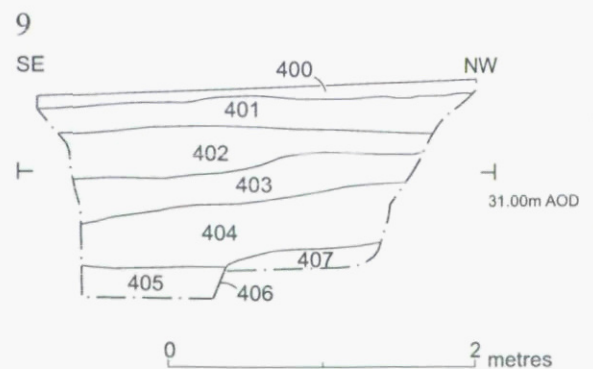


Fig. 3 Plans and sections Area 1.

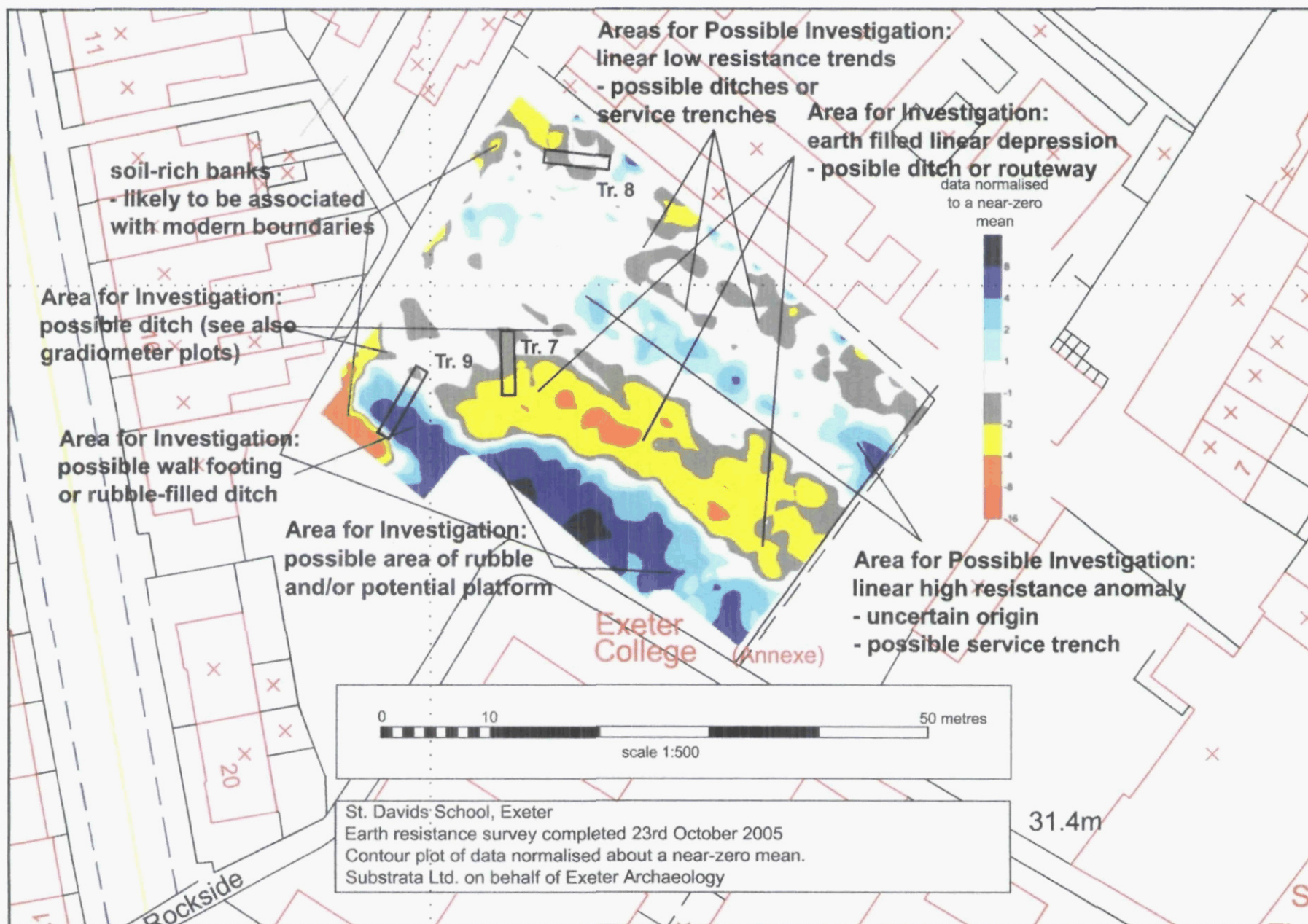


Fig. 4 Resistivity survey results with trench overlay. Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. Exeter City Council 100025458.

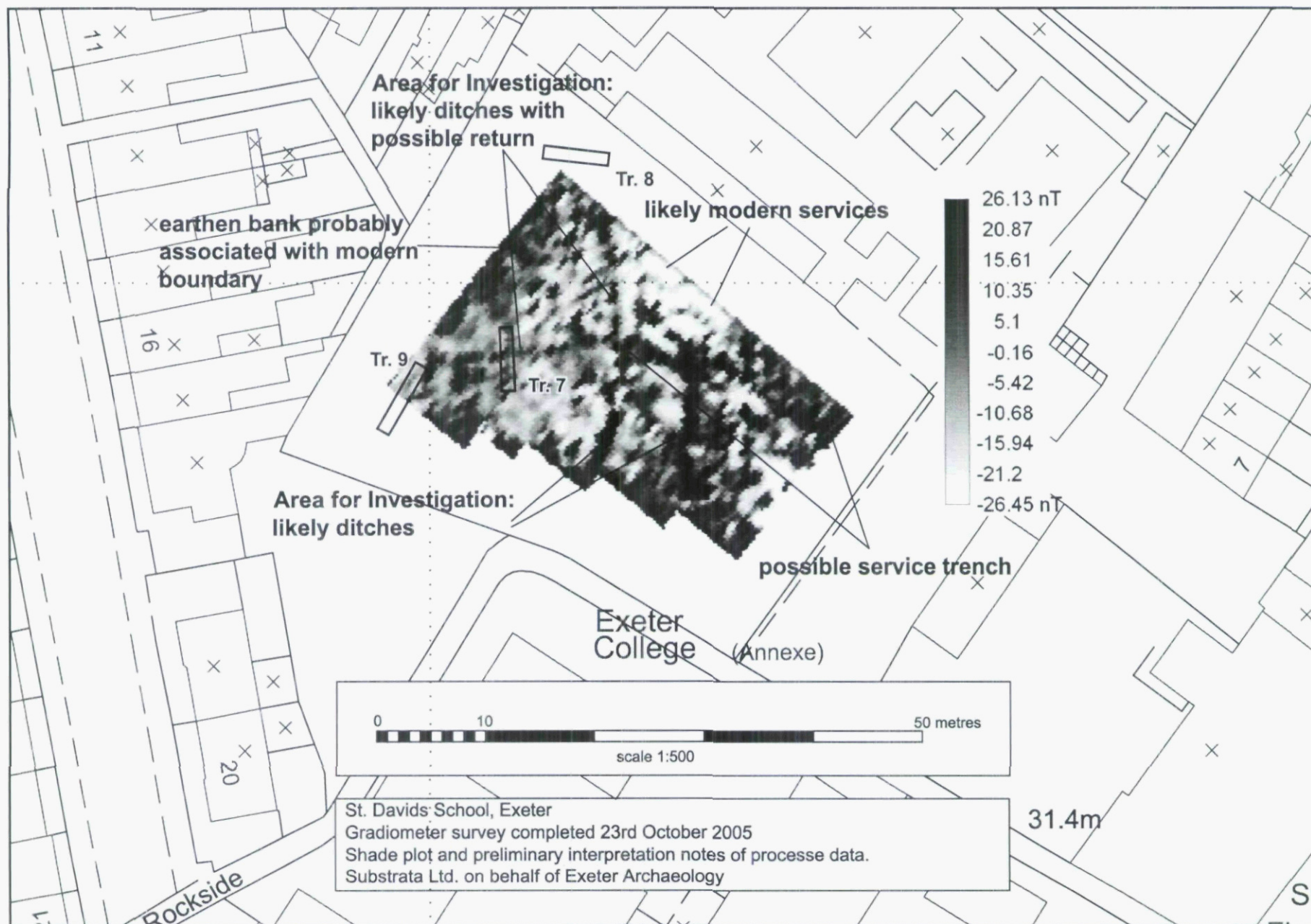
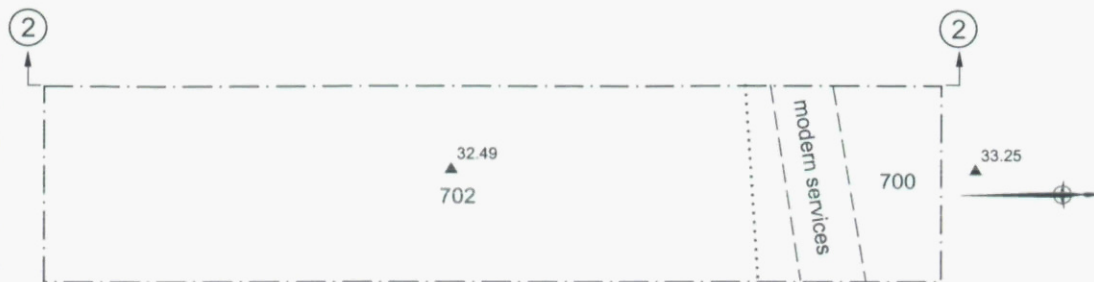


Fig. 5 Gradiometry survey results with trench overlay. Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. Exeter City Council 100025458.

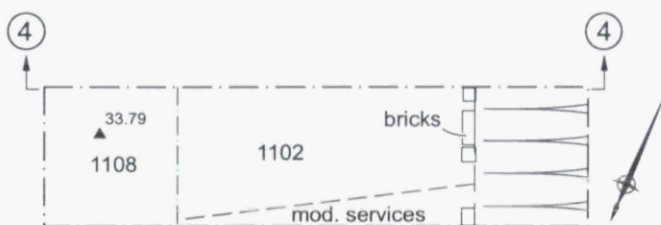
Trench 7 Plan 1



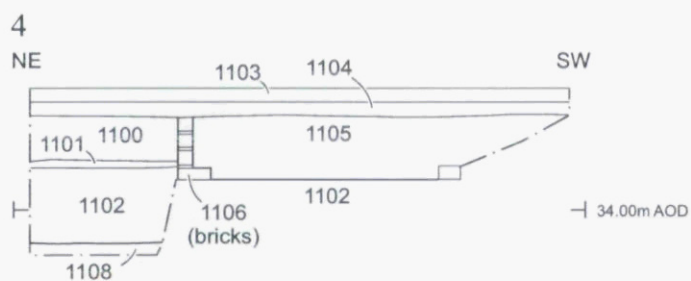
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Trench 11 Plan 3



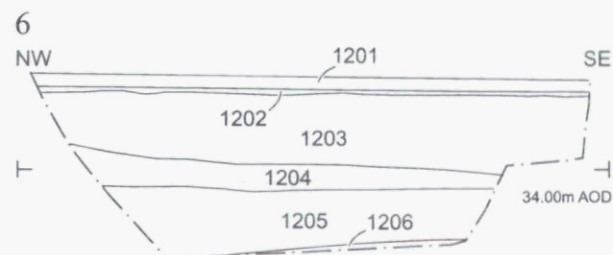
Section



Trench 12 Plan 5



Section



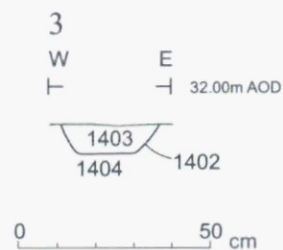
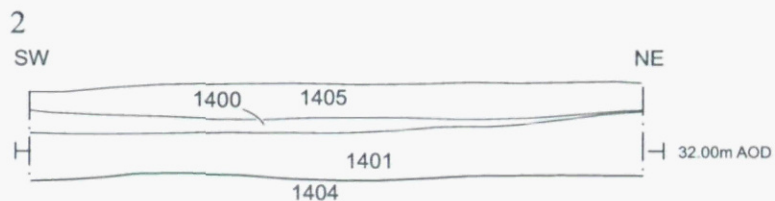
0 2 metres

Fig. 6 Plans and sections Area 2 and 3.

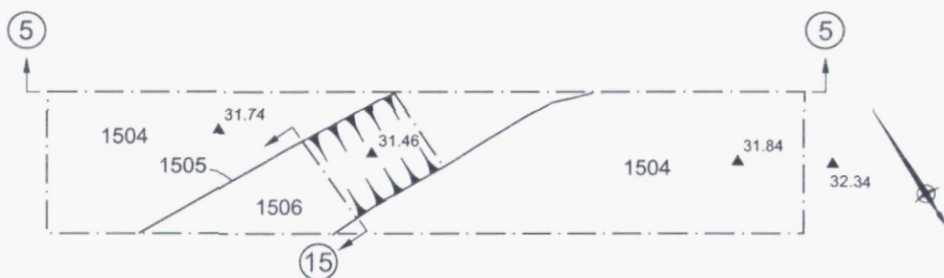
Trench 14 Plan 1



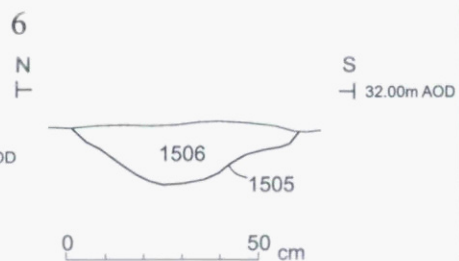
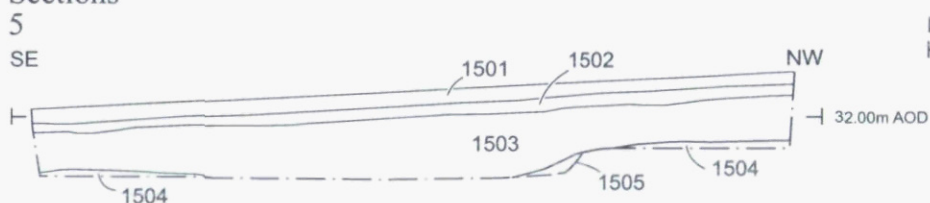
Sections



Trench 15 Plan



Sections



Trench 16 Plan 7



Section

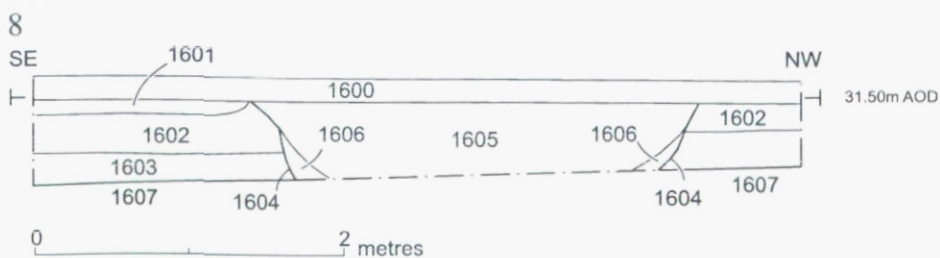


Fig. 7 Plans and sections Area 4.

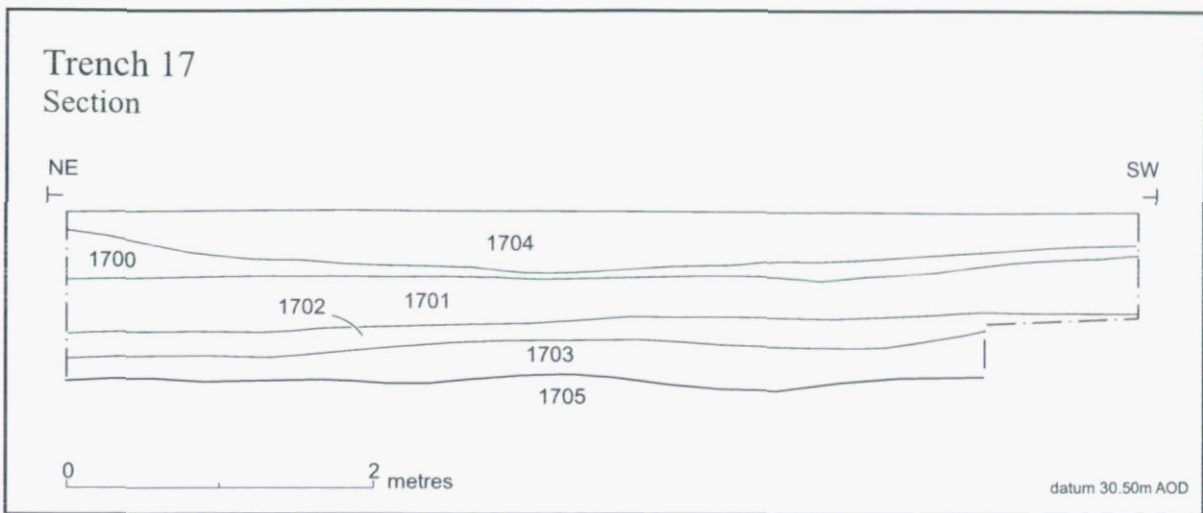


Fig. 8 Section of Trench 17 Area 4.

