

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Exeter	National Grid Reference 295580 090280	Number: (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
Subject: Archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at Old Rydon Lane and Newcourt Drive, Exeter.		Photo attached? N
Planning Permission no: ECC 12/2530/03	Recipient museum: RAMM	
OASIS ID: wessexar1-158996	Museum Reference no: RAMM: 13/47	
Contractor's reference number/code: 85731	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 07/2013	
<p>Description of works. An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Wessex Archaeology (WA) on land at Old Rydon Land & Newcourt House, Exeter (295580 090280). This formed one element of the archaeological mitigation work required as a condition of the planning permission issued to the Client by Exeter City Council (Planning Reference 12/2530/03) for a residential development comprising the construction of 46 new dwellings and highway access. Newcourt House, a Grade II Listed Building (list entry 1223319) is recorded immediately to the south of the Site. The other mitigation, on the site of new housing fronting Newcourt Drive in the east of the site (see attached plan for location), will be the subject of a separate report.</p> <p>Method. Four trenches 1.8m wide and between 10m and 30m in length (total length 85m) were excavated in the locations shown on the attached plan, using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. The trenches were targeted on geophysical anomalies and blank areas to test the results of a non-intrusive survey carried out on the Site in May 2012, and were agreed with ECC. Standard WA recording procedures were followed and a digital photographic archive produced.</p> <p>Results. The stratigraphy across the Site, as recorded in the machined trenches, was relatively consistent. A mid brown sandy loam topsoil with an average thickness of 0.25m, overlay a mid reddish brown sandy clay subsoil 0.15-0.30m deep. The natural geology recorded in all trenches was a mid red decayed breccia and sandy clay.</p> <p>Trenches 1, 2 and 3 contained no archaeological features. An east-west aligned linear ditch was recorded in Trench 4. The ditch had an irregular profile, measured 1.14m wide and 0.20m deep, and was filled with a mid reddish brown sandy clay. The feature was recorded as sharing a similar alignment to possible archaeological features highlighted during the earlier geophysical survey. The ditch cut the subsoil and ran parallel with the current field boundary to the south, and as such was interpreted as being of probable post medieval date. No finds were recovered during the course of the fieldwork.</p> <p>Discussion. The aims and objectives of the evaluation were achieved. The archaeological remains identified within the trial trenches were recorded appropriately and assessed. This confirmed the results and accuracy of the geophysical survey which predicted few potential archaeological features within the proposed development area. As a result the ECC Archaeology Officer confirmed that no further archaeological work was required in this western part of the site.</p>		
<p>A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.</p>		

Recorder:

S Reynolds

Date sent to HER:

12-09-2013

Please email completed form to: archaeol@devon.gov.uk or post to County Archaeology Service, Environment Directorate, Matford Lane Offices, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QW. Information recorded on this form will be added to the Historic Environment Record, and made available to all researchers.

Any plans or photographs embedded within or attached to this form remain the copyright © of the recorder, and must not be reproduced in any publication without the explicit consent of the copyright holder.



▭ Site
▭ Trench

Digital survey data supplied by the Client.
 Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2013.
 This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology.
 No unauthorised reproduction.

Date:	11/09/13
Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:1250 at A3
Illustrator:	KL
Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\85731\DO\Report figs
\HER\2013_09\85731_HER.dwg	

Trench layout overlying the housing layout

Figure 1



- Possible archaeology
- Increased magnetic response
- Ferrous
- Modern service
- Trend
- Ploughing

- Site
- Trench

Date:	11/09/13	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:1250 at A3	Illustrator:	KL
Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\85731\Drawing Office\Report figs\HER\2013_09\85731_HER.dwg		

This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology.
No unauthorised reproduction.



Trench layout overlying the interpretative geophysics

Figure 2