

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Bow	National Grid Reference: SS 7201 0180	Number:
Subject: Archaeological watching brief at Vine House, Bow		Photo attached: N
Planning Application no: 07/01719/OUT	Recipient museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum	
OASIS ID: 103746	Museum Reference no: RAMM: 180/2010	
Contractor's reference number/code: EA6941	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 09/10 – 06/11	
<p>Background: An archaeological watching brief was carried out at Vine House, Bow during groundworks associated with the erection of five dwellings. A total of seven areas were monitored consisting of two pits and five trenches (see Fig. 1). The trenches were all approximately 0.7m wide and totalled approximately 108m in length (Tr. 1-5). The two pits measured 5.5m x 5.5m (Tr. 6) and 5.5m x 9m (Tr.7).</p> <p>Description of works:</p> <p>Trench 1 was excavated to a depth of 1.7m. In general, the natural was overlain by made ground. At the north end of the trench, constructed into the natural, was the footings of a north-south aligned stone wall, measuring approximately 0.7m wide. The stone was bonded with reddish brown clay and the core was infilled with smaller stones in a matrix of greenish clay. The present of a large feature cutting from the surface (above the modern made ground) indicates that the wall had been recently robbed. At the south end of the trench the two small pits containing dark greyish-black silty clay had been cut into the natural.</p> <p>Trench 2 was excavated to a depth of 0.8m in depth. Again, the natural was overlain by made ground. No archaeological deposits or features were present.</p> <p>Trench 3 was excavated to a depth of between 0.45 and 0.95m below the surface. Natural bedrock was overlain by made ground, which was sealed by modern hardcore and tarmac. At the north-western end of the trench (close to the boundary wall) a 2m wide pit was partially exposed. This was cut into the natural to a depth of 0.45m and contained a fill of densely-packed stone and mortar. The pit was probably an internal feature to an outbuilding depicted on modern Ordnance Survey mapping.</p> <p>Trench 4 was excavated to a depth of 0.52m. The natural was overlain, in places, by a soil layer 0.2m thick, which was sealed by hardcore and a concrete surface.</p> <p>Trench 5 was excavated to a depth of up to 2m. Natural was observed throughout the trench. In the middle section the natural had been truncated by a service trench running almost parallel to the trench. The corner of a stone wall bonded with a greenish clay was observed in the north-east corner of the trench. This represents the same wall as that exposed in trench 1.</p> <p>Trenches 6 & 7: These areas were observed following the removal of underground petrol tanks. The natural was exposed at a depth of between 0.1m and 0.15m from the surface, and was directly overlain by modern tarmac. No archaeological deposits or features were observed.</p> <p>Discussion: Archaeological and natural deposits had truncated across much of the site, and the only pre-modern soil layer was exposed intermittently in the middle of the site. The stone walls exposed in trenches 1 and 5 are footings of a late 19th- or 20th-century outbuilding that had been recently demolished. The pit partially exposed in Trench 3 was also probably associated with a recently-demolished outbuilding. The two small pits observed in Trench 1 were the only other archaeological features observed. No dating material was recovered from these, or from the site as a whole.</p>		
Recorder: M. Leverett (Exeter Archaeology)		Date sent to HER: 22 June 2011

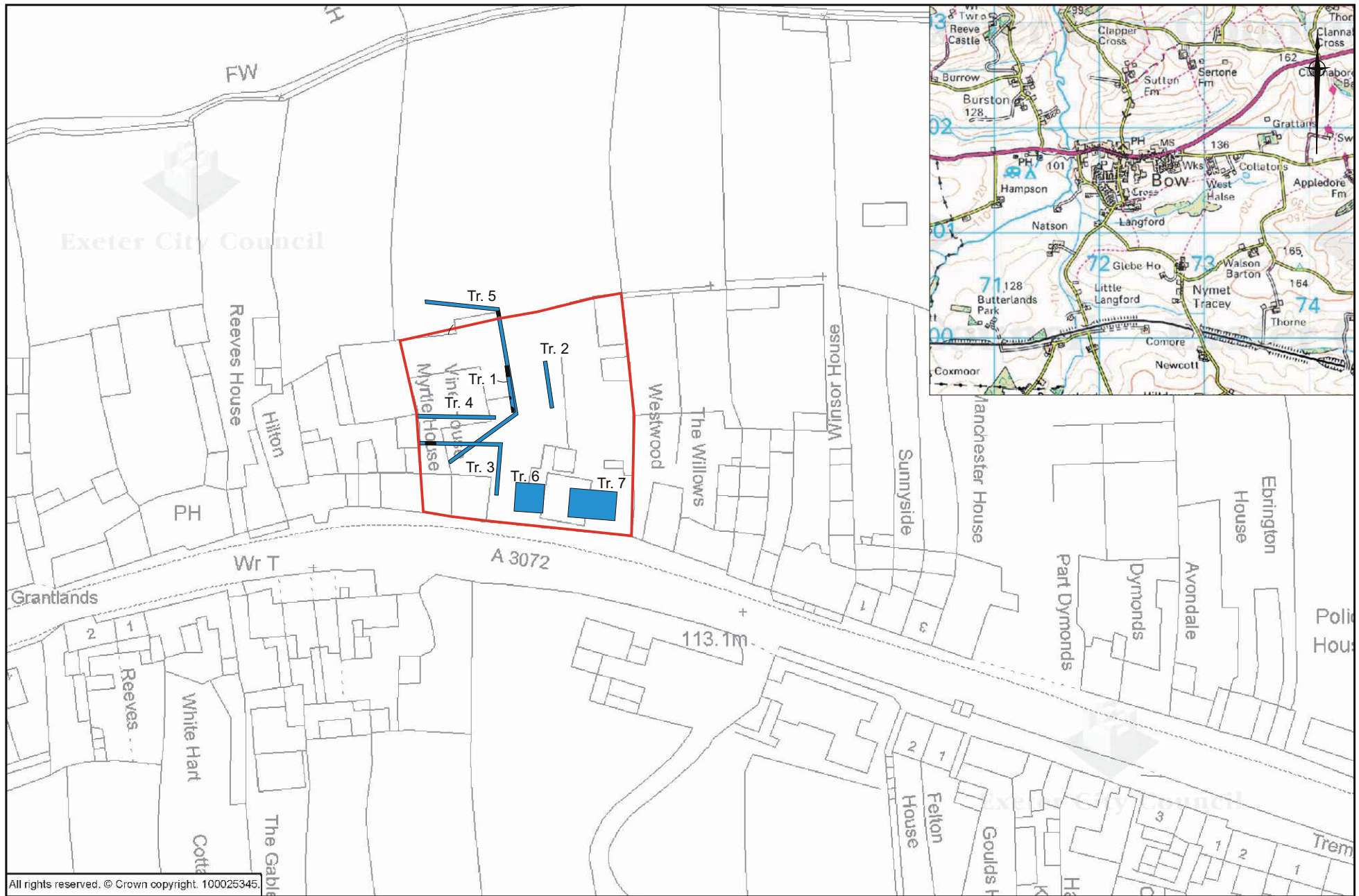


Fig. 1 Location plan showing excavated areas in blue and features in black. Scale 1:1000.