

## Devon County Historic Environment Record

<b>Parish:</b> Ottery St Mary		<b>NGR:</b> SY 11333 97679	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Alfington sewage treatment works			
<p><b>Description</b></p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Exeter Archaeology at Alfington sewage treatment works, during a topsoil strip carried out in advance of the construction of an access road associated with improvements to the existing facility (see attached figure for location). The work was required as a condition attached to the grant of planning permission (ref. 07/0724/FUL, East Devon District Council).</p> <p>The site is located in an area where evidence for prehistoric and Romano-British activity has been previously recorded. This evidence has comprised scatters of prehistoric flints and Romano-British pottery and building material found immediately north and west of the present site (eg. HER refs 38449 &amp; 63589). Medieval pottery and iron smelting slag have also been found nearby.</p> <p><b>Results</b></p> <p>A 90m long and approximately 4m wide strip of land along the western boundary of the field behind the Alfington Inn, was reduced using a toothless grading bucket. At the northern end of the strip, where a ramp was to be constructed down to the lane running along the northern boundary of the site, 0.7m of topsoil and subsoil were removed onto natural clay. Approximately 10m in from the northern end of the strip the formation level rose to between 0.3m and 0.4m below the surface, leaving the remaining topsoil and subsoil in situ.</p> <p><b>Stratigraphy</b></p> <p>Topsoil: 0m-0.45m, brown, friable sandy silt with rare small sub-angular stones. Subsoil: 0.45m-0.7m, olive brown, friable clay silt with occasional charcoal flecks and rare small sub-angular stones.</p> <p><b>Archaeological features</b></p> <p>One ditch [103] aligned NNW-SSE, curving very slightly to the north. Its dimensions were 0.85m in width and 0.3m deep. A length of 3.4m was exposed, continuing beyond the limit of excavation in both directions. The ditch cut natural clay from below the base of the subsoil. Its fill was olive brown, firm/friable silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and rare large sub-angular stones.</p> <p>Finds from ditch [103] consisted of a single greensand-derived prehistoric flint side scraper, retouched along its cutting edge.</p> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>The ditch identified was located in the only area where ground reduction was to a sufficient depth where archaeological features could be recognised. It is therefore possible that further deposits are present below the level of the subsoil elsewhere along the route of the access track. However, the majority of the groundworks observed did not impact to this level.</p> <p>The finds and archive have been collated and will be deposited in RAM Museum, Exeter, under the accession number 401/2007</p>		<p><b>Ref:</b> Exeter Archaeology Project no. <b>6256</b></p>	<p><b>Date:</b> 13/09/07</p>
<b>Client:</b> John Winson Associates		<b>Recorder:</b> A. Farnell	

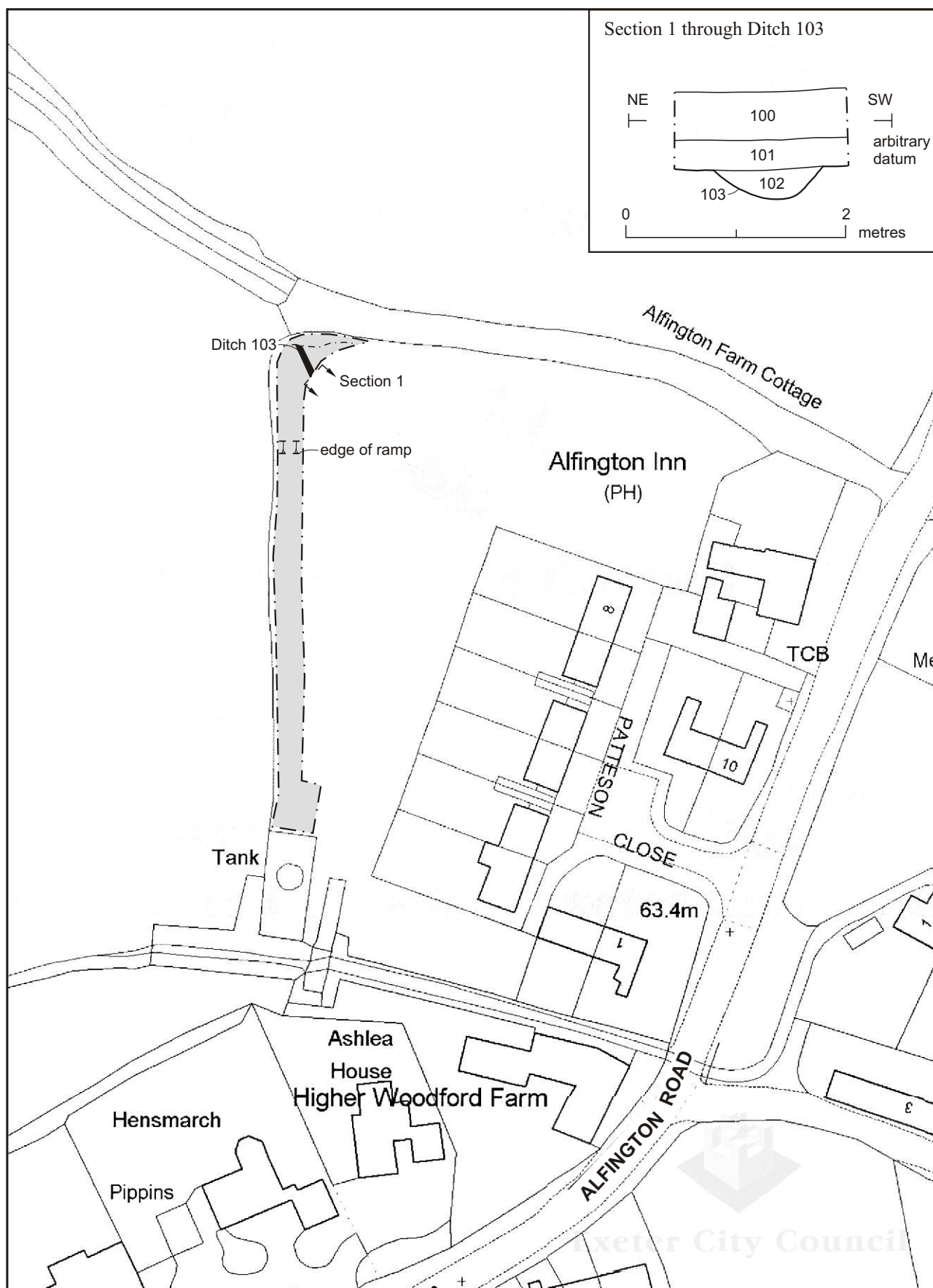


Fig. 1 Area of observations (shaded). Scale 1:1,000. Insert shows section through ditch. 1:50 scale. Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. Exeter City Council 100025345.