

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Silverton, Mid Devon	National Grid Reference SS 95635 02999	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring at 32 Fore Street, Silverton		Photo attached? No
Planning Application no: No.08/00130/FULL and 08/00133/CAC	Recipient museum: RAMM, Exeter	
OASIS ID: 50450	Museum Accession no: 423/2008	
Contractor's reference number/code: EA6681	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 20/10/08 and 22/10/08	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was maintained by Exeter Archaeology during the digging of foundations for two semi-detached cottages.</p> <p>The development site is situated off of Fore Street itself, on a side lane running to The Old Dairy, the village surgery and the community centre. A prefabricated bungalow dated to the 1920s was demolished in advance of the new dwellings. The site sits within a medieval burgage plot aligned on Fore Street in the core of the historic village.</p> <p>It was clear that the ground level, when compared to adjacent areas, had previously been reduced by around 0.25m for the construction of the prefabricated bungalow, which sat on a concrete raft. Prior to EA's arrival, the site had been cleared of hardstanding and overburden, exposing natural subsoil over significant areas of the site.</p> <p>The foundation trenches for the two new dwellings were excavated using a tracked mini-digger with a 0.6m toothed bucket to a depth of 0.9m below present ground surface (about 1.15m below the surface of the adjacent pathway). An extensive deposit of reddish brown sandy clay, containing occasional fragments of slate, stone and post-medieval pottery was exposed beneath the footprint of the bungalow. This material varied in depth between 0.1m and 0.3m and probably represents introduced material (predominantly redeposited natural subsoil) resulting from the levelling the site of the bungalow prior to formation of the concrete slab. This material directly overlay <i>in-situ</i> natural subsoil, also consisting of reddish-brown sandy clay. Away from the footprint of the bungalow natural subsoil was exposed at ground level as a result of the initial site clearance.</p> <p>The limited finds from the made ground include a single sherd of North Devon scraffito pottery (1660-1700), two sherds of South Somerset coarseware pottery (17th to 18th century), two of German Westerwald pottery (late 17th to early 18th century), several fragments of clay smoking-pipe (1800-1830), numerous transfer-printed 'blue and white' ceramic sherds (late 18th to 19th century onwards) and a fragment of post-medieval floor tile. The finds represent debris and refuse spread across the rear of the burgage plots throughout the post-medieval period.</p> <p>No features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance were observed.</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: C. Smart, Exeter Archaeology		Date sent to HER: 11th November 2008

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.

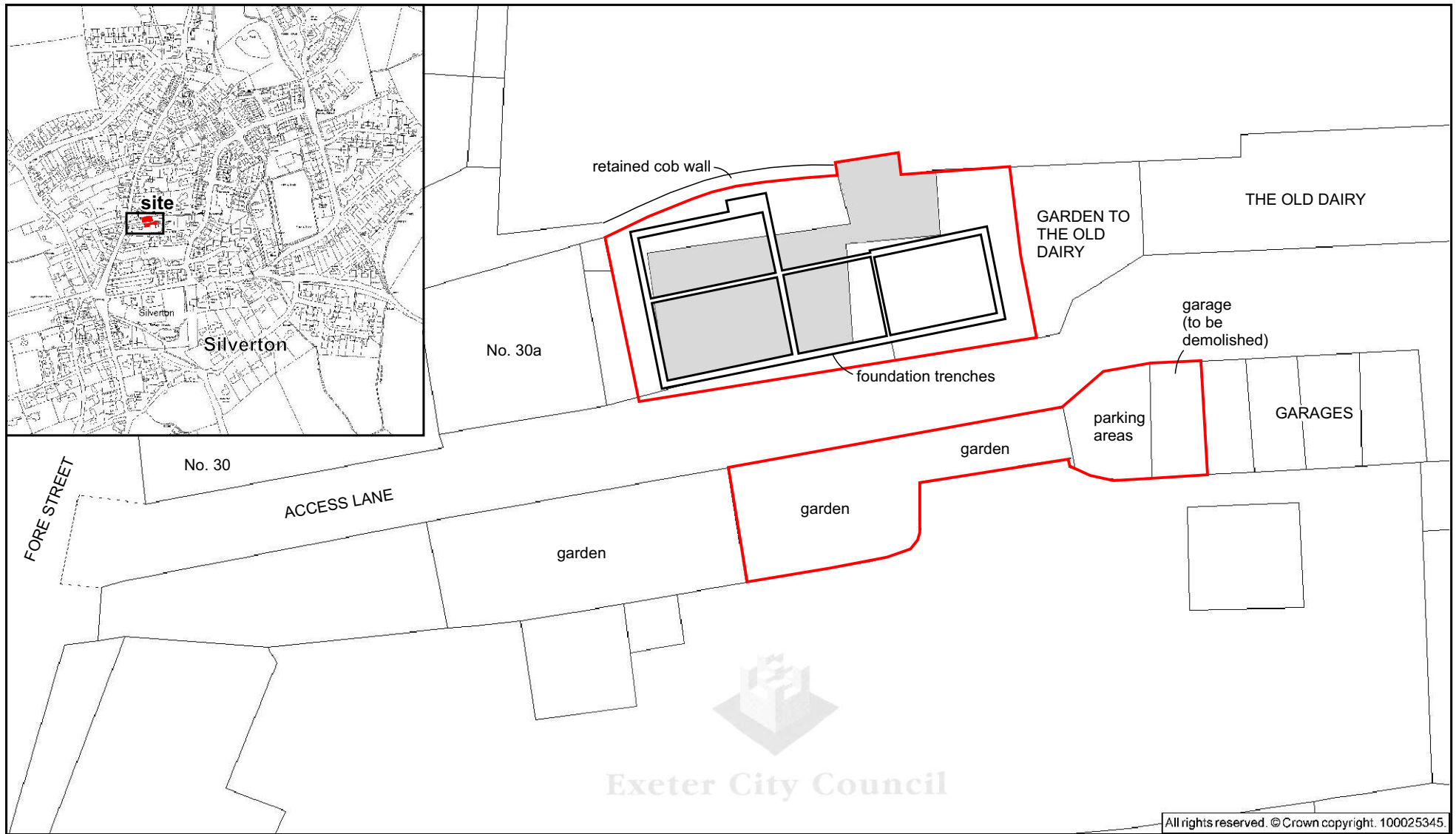


Fig. 1 Location of site indicating footprint of former bungalow (shaded) and new foundation trenches.