

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Tavistock	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SX 4812 7436	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording at Plymouth Road and Abbey Place, Tavistock, Devon.		<b>Photo attached?</b> N
<b>Planning Application no:</b> N/A	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> exeterar1-55803	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> AR.2009.2	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> EA 6622	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 25-28/11/08 and 18/02/09.	
<p><b>Description of works.</b></p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out during the installation of a new electrical supply to the hotel. The site of the groundworks lies within the curtilage of the former Benedictine Abbey, which is subject to statutory protection as a Scheduled Monument (Tavistock Abbey, National Monument No. 296790). Scheduled Monument Consent for the works was obtained from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport prior to works starting.</p> <p>Works entailed the excavation of two pits and a service trench, as shown on figure 2. Results were as follows:</p> <p><b>Cable trench</b></p> <p>This measured c. 25m long by 300mm wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 650mm. The following stratigraphic sequence was exposed:</p> <p>0 - 100mm. Modern tarmac road surface/pavement.</p> <p>100mm-650mm. Very compact mix of stones, gravel and sand, forming a modern levelling deposit. This contained occasional fragments of lime mortar and brick throughout.</p> <p>The trench cut through a garden area between the pavement on the south of Plymouth Road and the Bedford Hotel. Exposed deposits here consisted entirely of loam-based garden soil.</p> <p><b>Pit 1</b></p> <p>Excavated to connect the new cable into the existing service, it measured 2m N-S by 3m E-W and was excavated to a depth of 550mm. No <i>in-situ</i> deposits were exposed; the pit fill consisting entirely of mixed backfill of previously excavated service trenches.</p> <p><b>Pit 2</b></p> <p>Excavated to provide a service connection, this pit measured 3m N-S by 1.4m E-W and was excavated to a depth of 0.80m. As with pit 1, no <i>in-situ</i> deposits were exposed, the pit fill consisting entirely of mixed clay-based backfill from previously excavated service trenches. One sherd of residual transfer-printed pottery was recovered (post-1770) together with three fragments of clay pipe, also residual, dating to the 18th and 19th centuries.</p> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>All excavations were relatively shallow and have disturbed only modern or, in the case of the pits, previously disturbed modern deposits. The results are consistent with previous archaeological investigations within the town centre which have demonstrated that post-medieval development, particularly the construction of Plymouth Road in the 19th century has resulted in the significant raising of ground level, thereby effectively protecting medieval deposits.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> J. Bell (Exeter Archaeology)		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 13-11-09

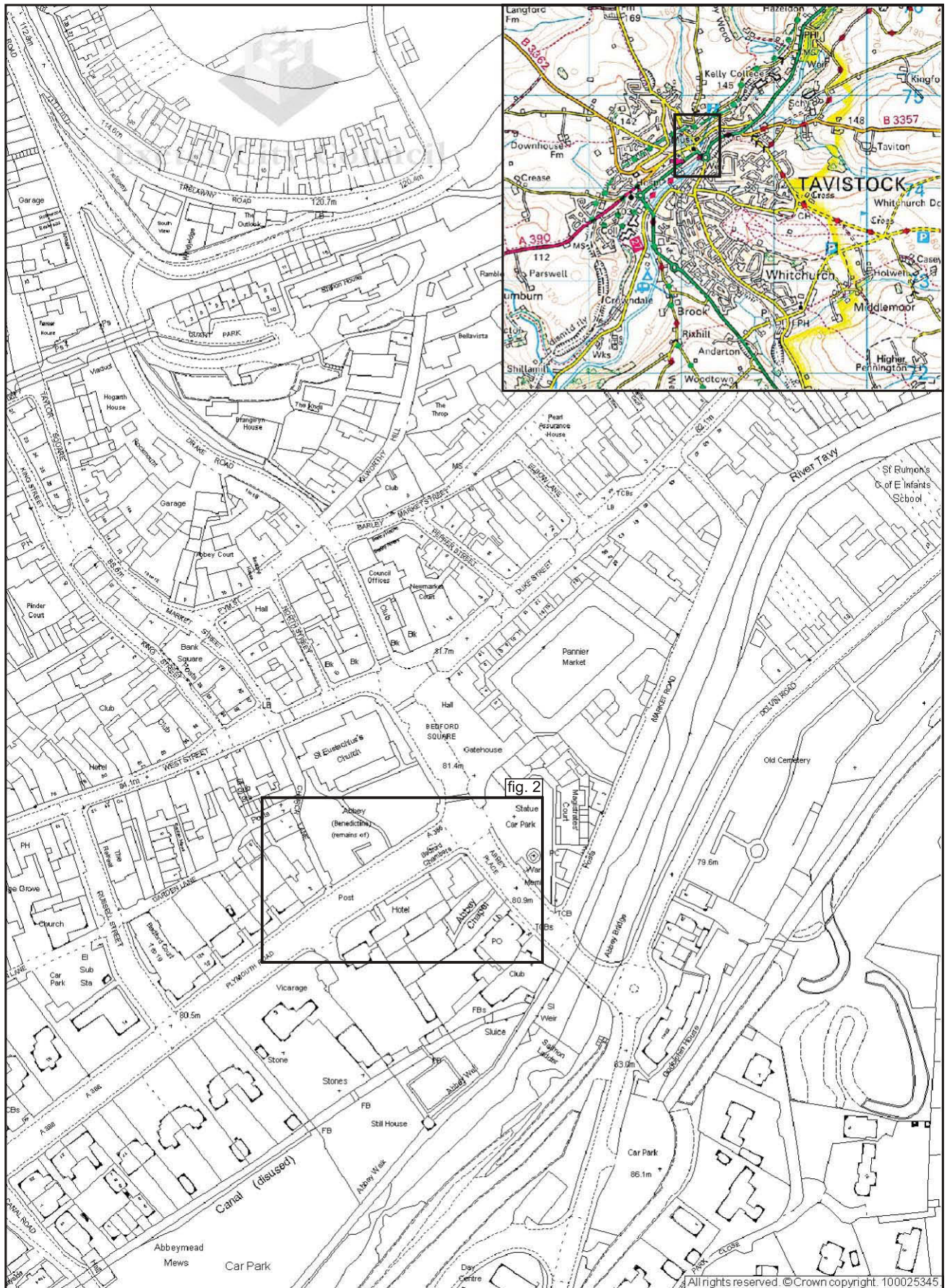


Fig. 1 Location of site.

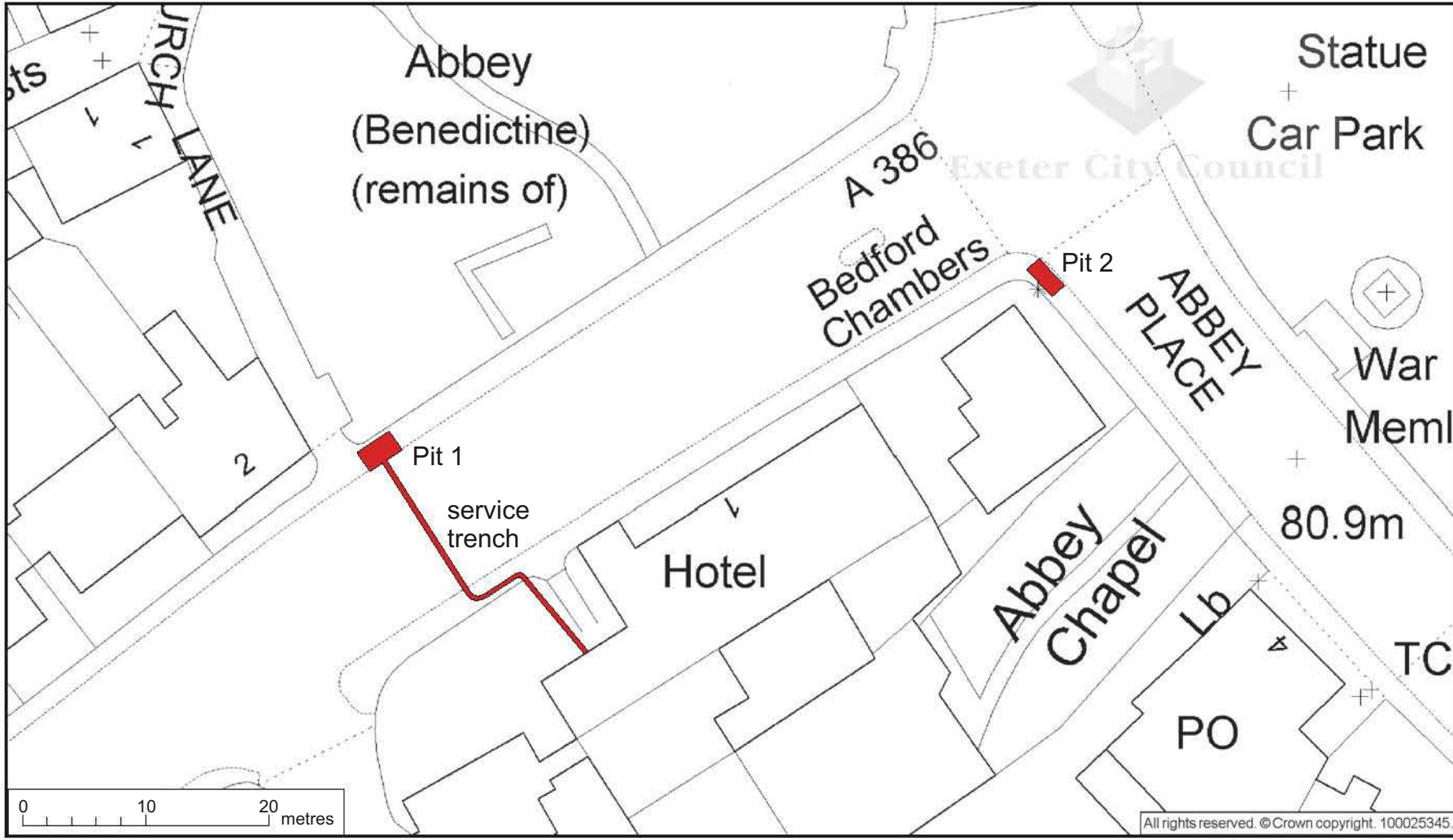


Fig. 2 Location of service trench and pits. Scale 1:500 @ A4.