

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Cullompton	National Grid Reference: ST299290 – ST301193	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring of the Hillersden reservoir to Cullompton Rugby Club water main		Photo attached: N
Planning Application no: n/a	Recipient museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum	
OASIS ID: exeterar1-65321	Museum Accession no: 377/2009	
Contractor's reference number/code: EA 6943	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 24/08-29/09/2009	
<p>Description of works:</p> <p>The pipeline is aligned roughly NW-SE and extends for approximately 2.2km immediately west of Cullompton (Figs 1-2), traversing a total of 8 fields. Most of the fields are currently under pasture, although two fields (here designated Field Nos 5 and 8) have been used as arable land. The underlying geology of the area is lower sandstone of the Permian or Triassic period. The soil is assigned to the Bromsgrove association, described as well-drained reddish coarse loamy soils.</p> <p>All fields were stripped of topsoil, which comprised mid brown loamy clay measuring between 0.3-0.4m thick. This exposed a uniform reddish brown loamy clay subsoil. Natural subsoil was exposed at a depth of between 0.5-0.6m below current ground level.</p> <p>Inspection of all fields showed very little evidence of archaeological activity. Field 2 contained the remains of a N-S aligned ditch, measuring 1m in width and 0.7m deep. It contained a single fill similar in character to the overlying subsoil. A further ditch was observed in Field 10. This was aligned N-S and was approximately 0.9m wide and 0.68m deep. Neither features produced datable evidence, although the uppermost deposits in both cases were almost identical to the topsoil, suggesting that they are relatively recent (i.e post-medieval). This is further suggested by the correlation of these ditches with boundaries shown on the 1891 OS map (Fig 3).</p> <p>The initial topsoil strip in field 3 revealed a modern dewpond at its northern end. Two palaeochannels, aligned in a NE-SW direction, were uncovered in the southern half of field 4. The southern channel was c. 15m wide and continued below the base of the trench. It contained a largely homogenous reddish brown silty clay upper fill, while a reddish-grey gleyed lower fill was visible at the base. The northern channel was much smaller, measuring approximately 7m in width and continuing below the base of the trench. This was filled with a homogenous reddish brown silty clay fill.</p> <p>A total of 4 hedgebanks were breached. These were all prominent earthen banks of simple construction. No buried soil was present and no datable evidence was found. The banks varied in size from between 2-3.93m wide and 0.8-1.7m high.</p> <p>The topsoil and subsoil layers produced 65 sherds of pottery, weighing 1235g and consisting of a variety of local slip and coarsewares dating from the 16th to 18th century. The presence of unstratified post-medieval pottery tells us little other than they were probably deposited through the process of manuring</p>		
Recorder: MFR Steinmetzer Exeter Archaeology		Date sent to HER: 23-09-2009

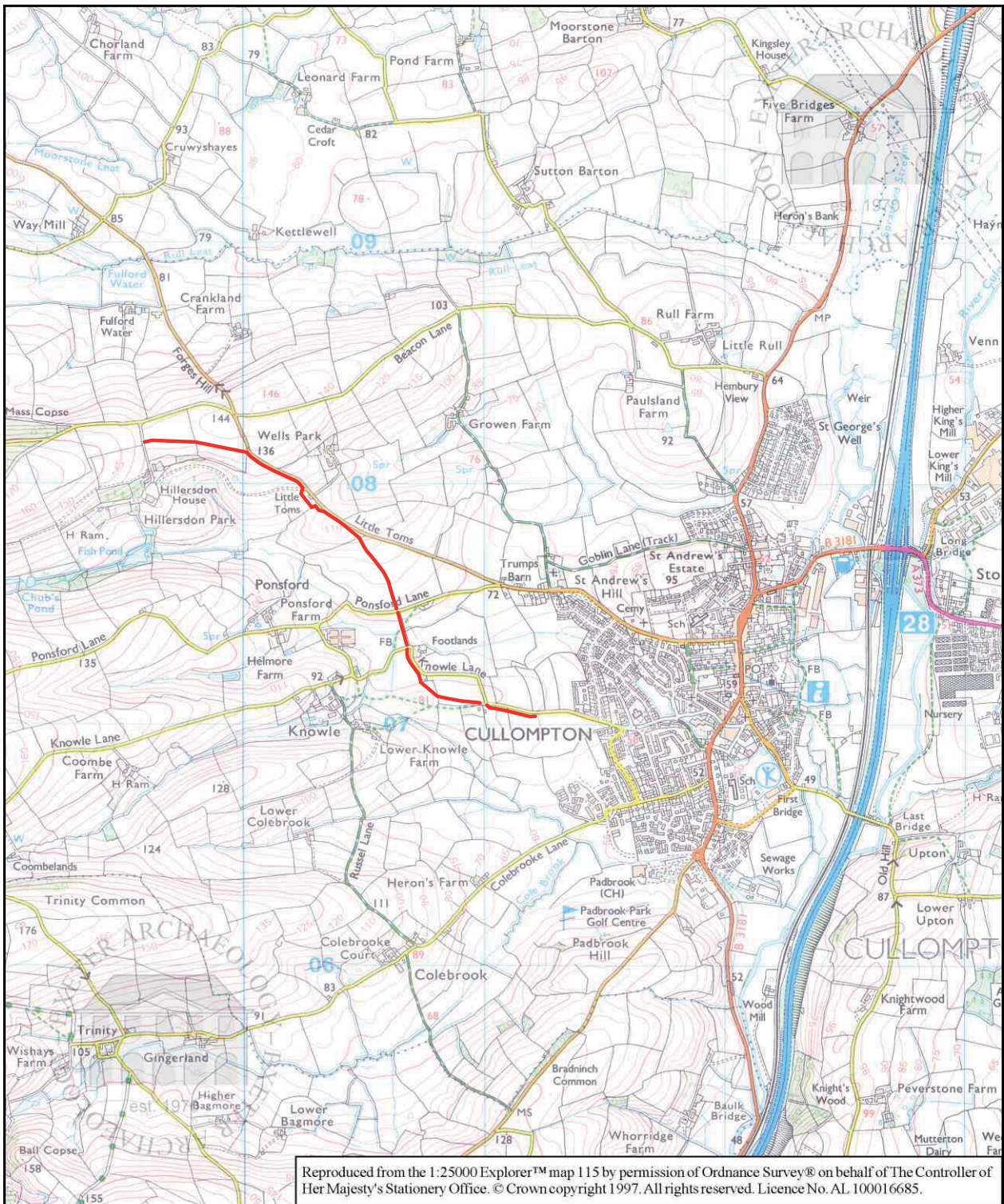


Fig. 1 Location of pipe route (red).

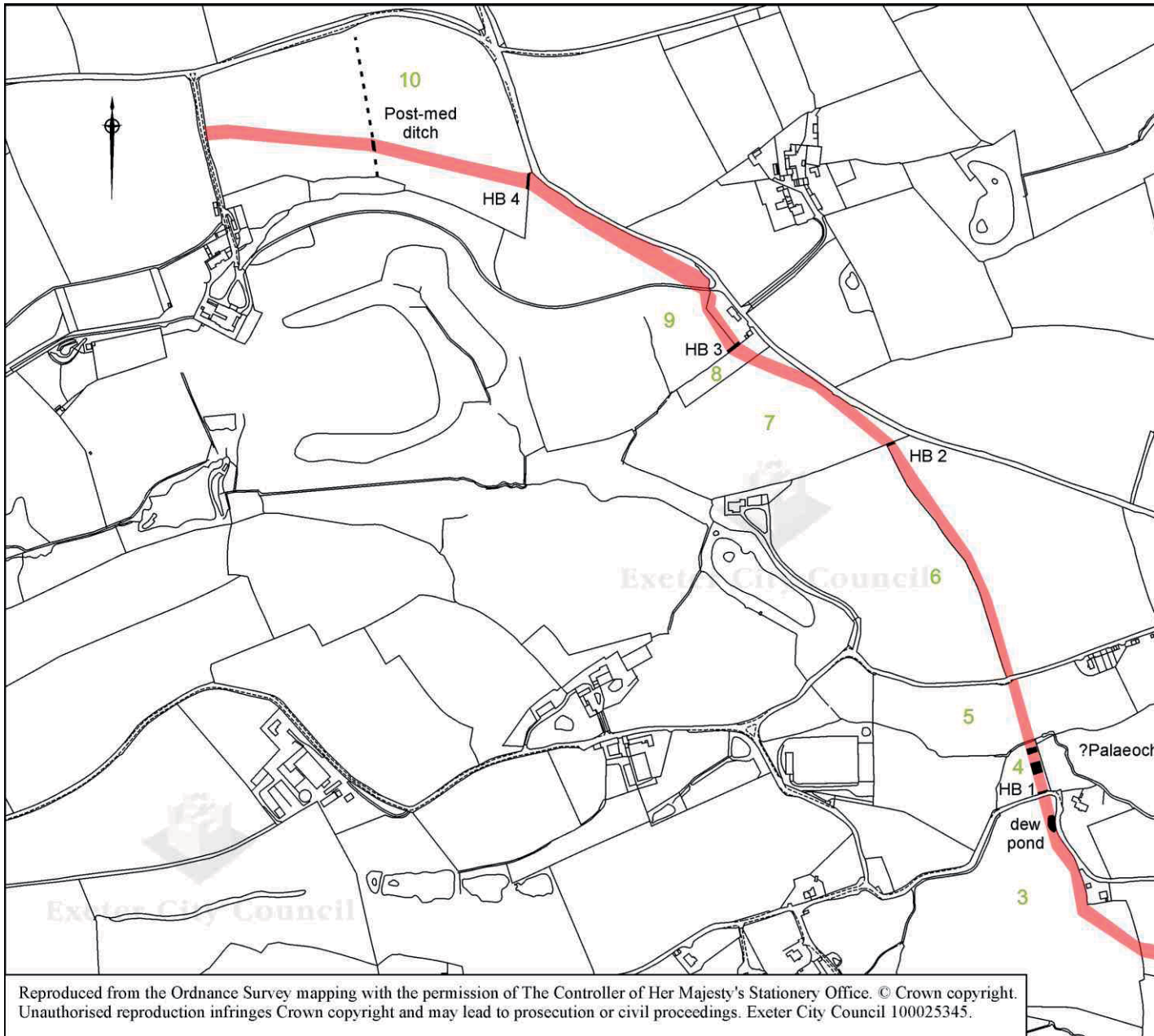


Fig. 2 Location of pipe route, showing archaeological features. Scale 1:8000.

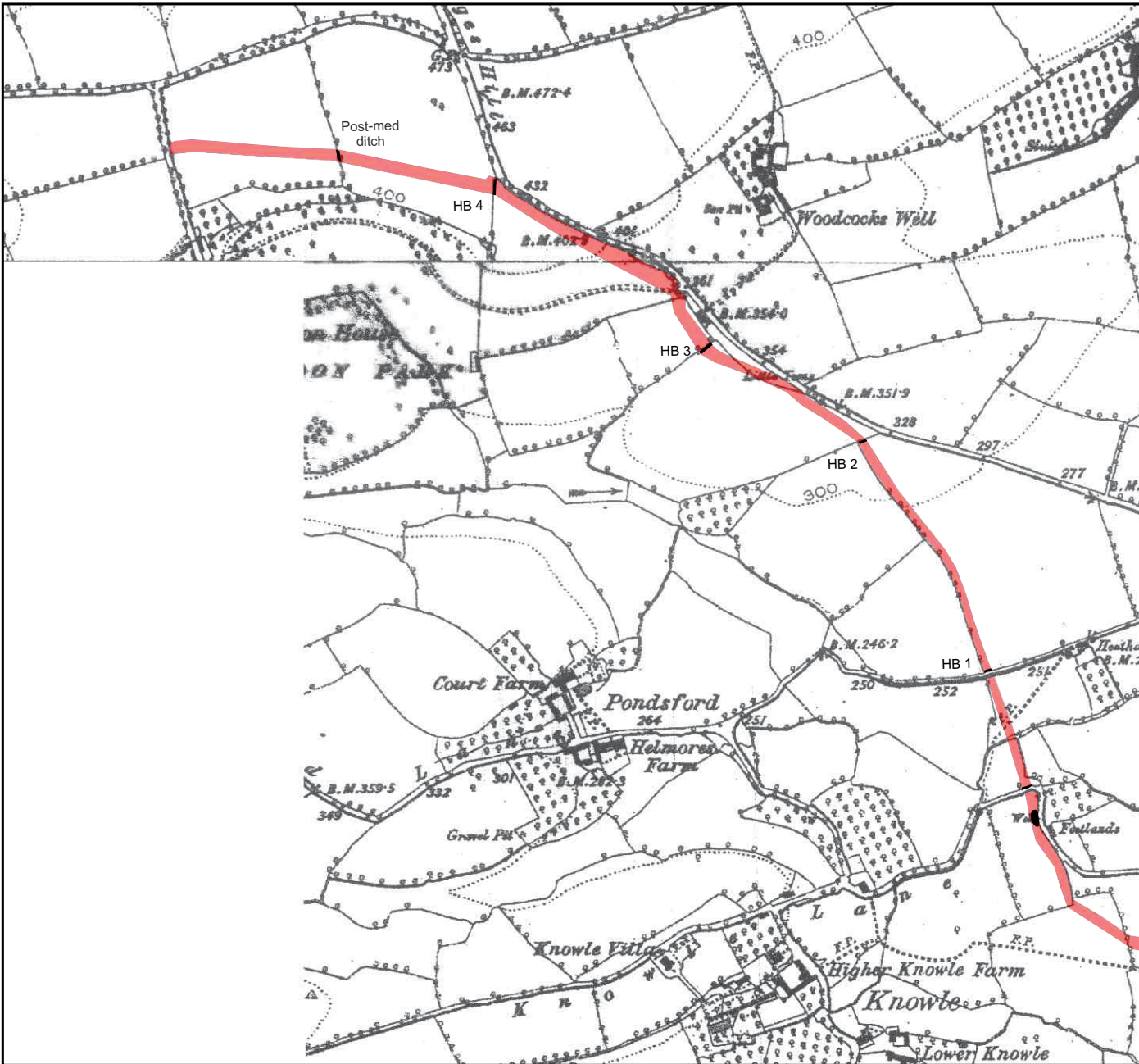


Fig. 3 Extract from the 1st edition OS 1:10,560 map sheets 46SW (published in 1890) and 57 NW (published in 1891) and