

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Honiton, East Devon	National Grid Reference: ST 1650 0083	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording at 41 The High Street, Honiton, Devon.		Photo attached: N
Planning Application no: n/a	Recipient museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum	
OASIS ID: exeterar1-71056	Museum Accession no: 24/2010	
Contractor's reference number/code: EA7154	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 20/01/10, 21/01/10, 25/01/10 & 04/02/10	
<p>Description of works:</p> <p>The site (Fig. 1) lies on the edge of the historic town of Honiton. Little is known of Honiton prior to the Saxon period when it probably formed part of a great estate centred on Axminster. It isn't until the early 13th century that a new borough was founded by William de Vernun, fifth Earl of Devon. This was probable laid out on a new site along the main Exeter to London Road (The High Street). The medieval burgage plots are still clearly visible running at right-angles to the High Street defining long narrow property strips of generally similar length. The ends of the plots are defined by two long straight boundaries on either side of the High Street, running exactly parallel with it. These boundaries were probably 'back lanes' in the medieval town; the lane still exists at King Street on the south-west and fragments of lanes or tracks are located on the northern side.</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Exeter Archaeology on the works associated with the provision of a new sewer main behind 41 The High Street, Honiton, Devon. The new sewer main (Fig. 2) extends for approximately 42m through an area of high archaeological potential.</p> <p>Results:</p> <p>Inspection of the trench showed no evidence of archaeological activity. It contained a 0.3m thick cultivated topsoil (100), overlying a 0.3m thick mid to dark grey loamy clay subsoil (101). Mid yellow clay natural subsoil (102) was exposed at a depth of 0.6m below current ground level.</p> <p>Conclusion:</p> <p>No features, deposits or dating evidence were found to indicate archaeological activity within the new sewer trench.</p>		
Recorder: MFR Steinmetzer (Exeter Archaeology)		Date sent to HER: 28/03/2010

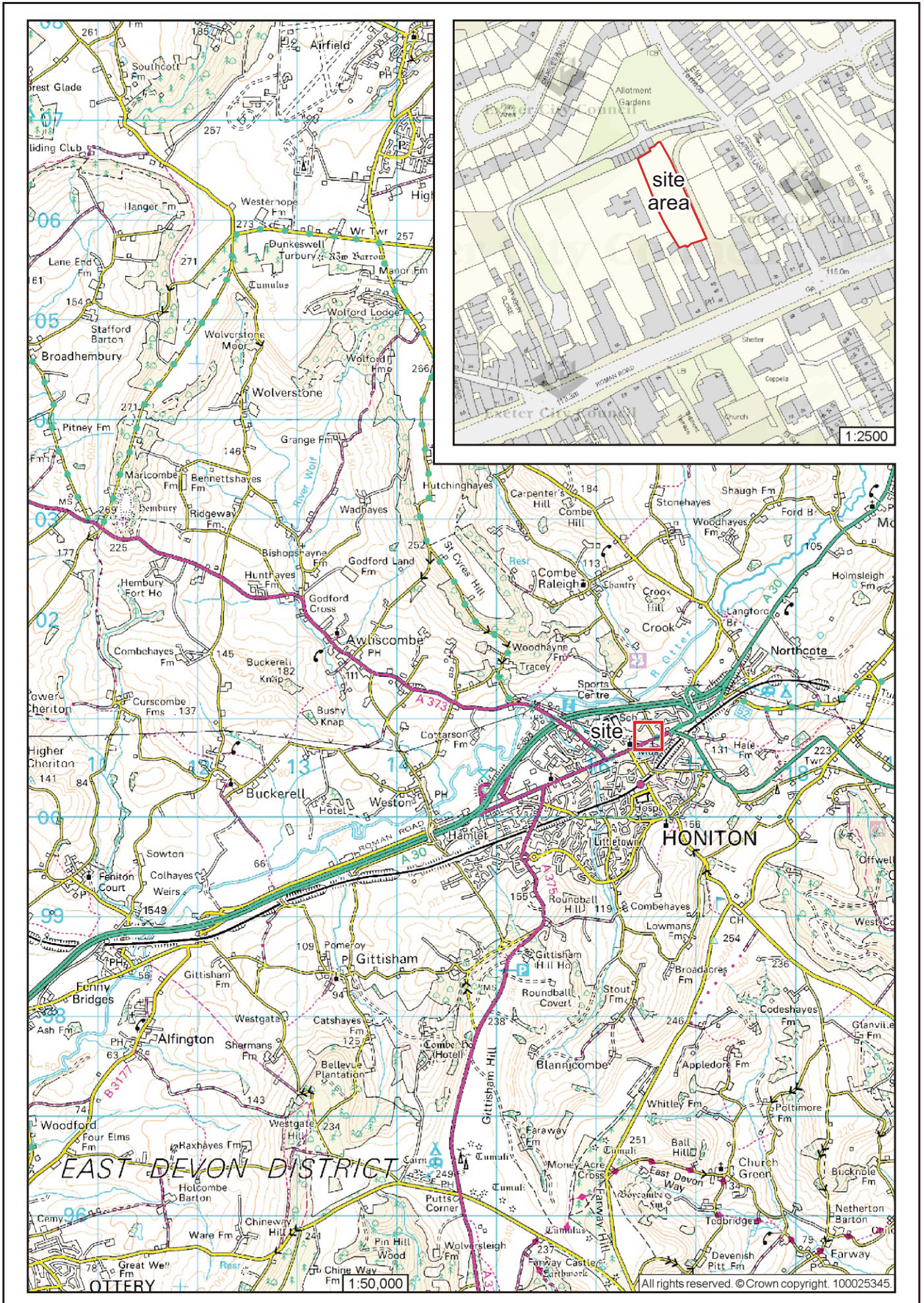


Fig. 1 Site location.

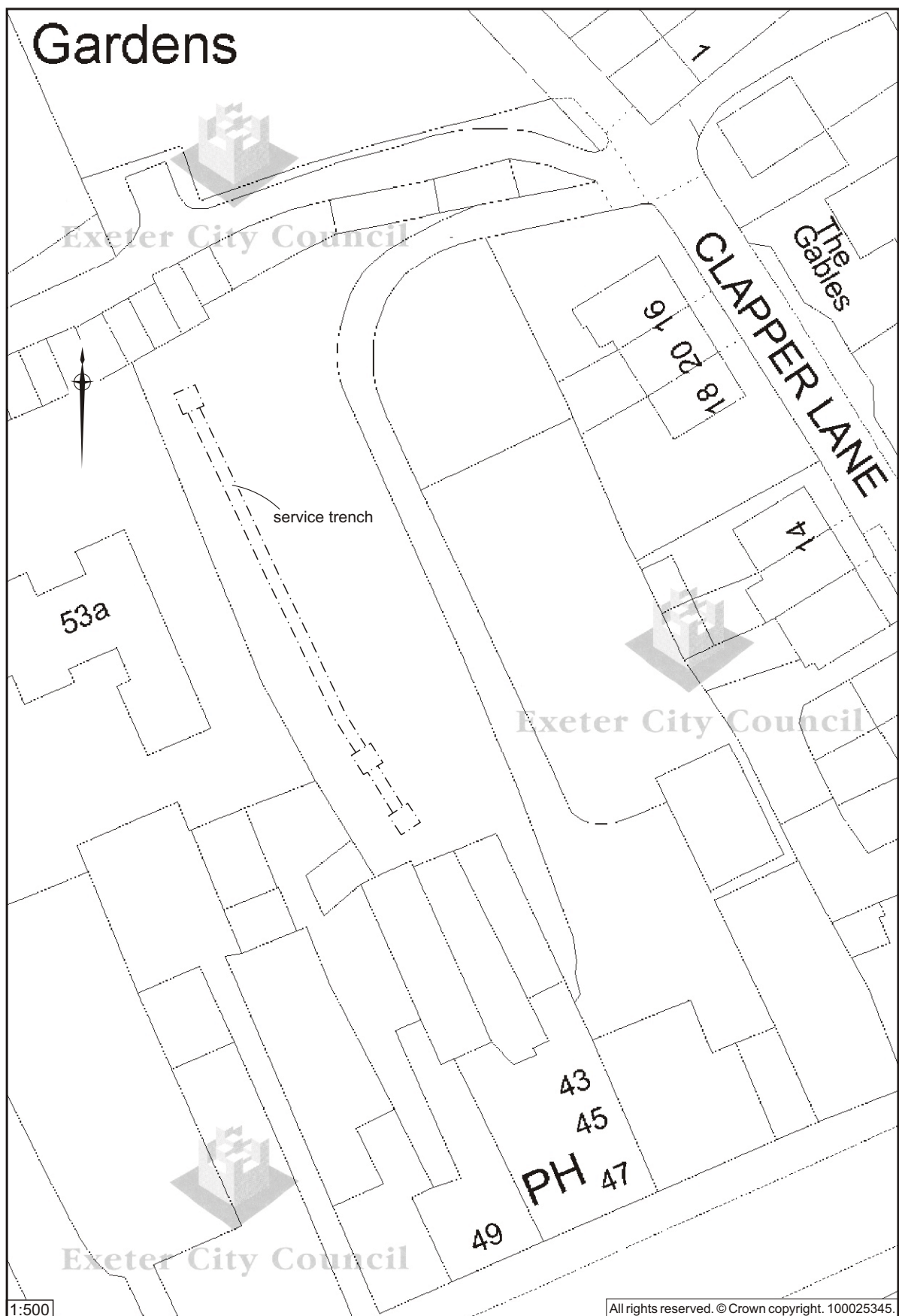


Fig. 2 Location of observation.