

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND
RECORDING AT PIG'S PARADISE
AND BEACON HILL,
LUNDY**

by
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Exeter Archaeology

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared for the National Trust and the Landmark Trust and presents the results of a watching brief undertaken by Exeter Archaeology (EA) between April and May 2009. The work was required by both Trusts, prior to the installation of an electricity cable across Beacon Hill.

1.1 The site (SS 1355 4427, Fig. 1)

The site is located within a series of enclosed fields upon Beacon Hill located immediately to the west of the Scheduled Monument of Bull's Paradise (Monument No. 27645) and Stoneycroft, west of St Helen's Chapel. Excavations in Bull's Paradise have revealed the site of a defended medieval (mid-12th to mid-13th century) settlement and possible chapel, with a cemetery containing burials from the 13th to 17th centuries. Two cist burials of unconfirmed date, known as the 'Giants Graves' were discovered in the mid-19th century on the site of the present farm buildings to the north, together with a number of other burials. Fragmentary remains of a probable medieval farmstead were found in Pig's Paradise in 1973 and later during a watching brief of service trenches in 2000, when large quantities of medieval pottery were recovered. Excavations in 2008 revealed further sherds of medieval pottery and also stakeholes and possible postholes, perhaps associated with agricultural or domestic activity. A significant quantity of Mesolithic flint tools, were also retrieved during excavations but no prehistoric features have yet been identified.

2. AIM

The principal aim of the watching brief was to establish the presence or absence, depth, extent, character and date of archaeological deposits within the site. The results will inform the planning process and may be used to formulate a subsequent programme of archaeological mitigation, should such additional work be required.

3. METHODOLOGY

The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with vice provided by Shirley Blaylock, Regional Archaeologist for Devon and Cornwall, for the National Trust.

A service trench approximately 265m long, c.0.40m wide and 0.45-0.60m deep was excavated by machine. The excavation began from the western terminus of the service trench observed and excavated during April 2009. Stratigraphic information was recorded on *pro-forma* EA context record sheets. A drawn record was compiled in plan and section and a photographic record completed in colour digital format.

4. RESULTS

The trench revealed various degrees of natural granite degradation; two layers - turf and topsoil (300) and underlying subsoil (301) - were present throughout. Two further underlying soil layers (302 and 303) immediately overlay a weathered granite deposit (304). Where visible this deposit forms the base of the trench. No significant archaeological features or deposits were observed. A small quantity of unstratified pottery sherds were recovered from the spoil.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Allan, J. & Blaylock, S. 'Medieval pottery and finds from Pig's Paradise, Lundy', *Proc. Devon Achaeol. Soc.* **63** (2005), 65-91.

Archaeological recording at Pig's Paradise, Lundy, in 2009
Exeter Archaeology Report **09.06** (unpublished source)

ARCHIVE

The site records have been compiled into a fully integrated site archive which is currently held at Exeter Archaeology's offices under project number 6695, pending deposition at the Barnstaple and North Devon District Museum (NDDMS 2010.32). Details of the watching brief, including a pdf copy of this report have been submitted to the on-line archaeological database OASIS (exeterar1-77661).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The watching brief was commissioned and funded by the Landmark Trust and managed by J. Allan (EA). The fieldwork was undertaken by P. Jones (EA). The project was monitored on behalf of the National Trust by S. Blaylock.

APPENDIX 1:
CONTEXT DESCRIPTION

Context No.	Depth (below ground level)	Description	Interpretation
200	0-0.10m	Very dark grey, friable silty loam <1% small subangular quartz and slate fragments	Turf and topsoil
201	0.10-0.30m	Very dark grey, friable silty loam <1% small subangular quartz	Subsoil/earlier topsoil
202	0.30-0.50m	Black, friable silty loam with 30% quartz grit	Initial subsoil
203	0.60m+	Granite in degraded form-bedrock, quartz grit, fragmented granite and firm yellow silty clay	Natural granite/parent material

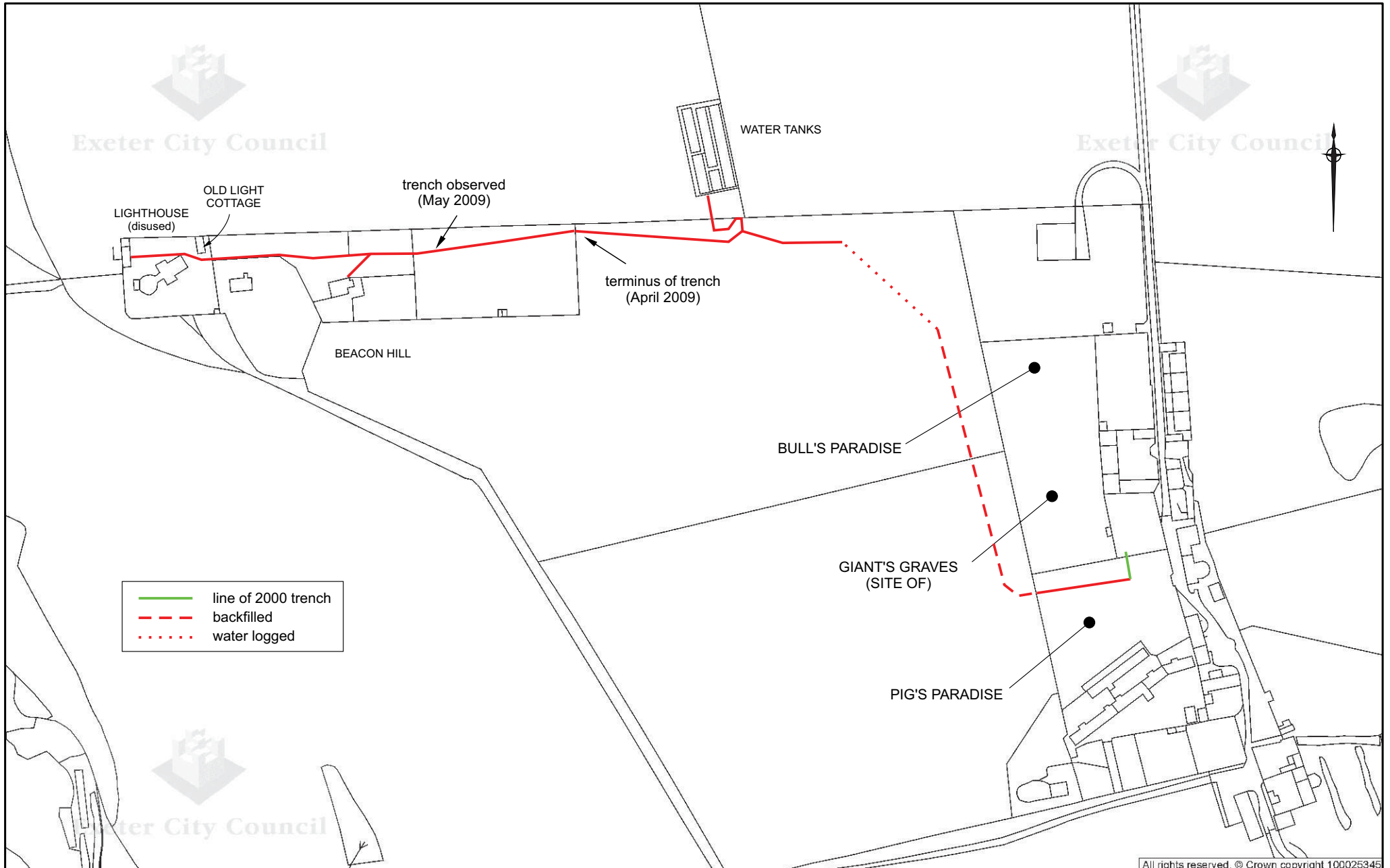


Fig. 1 Location of pipe trench (red). Scale 1:2000.