

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Okehampton, West Devon	National Grid Reference SX 6020 9617	Number:
Subject: An archaeological watching brief at Crediton Road, Okehampton, Devon		Photo attached? N
Planning Application no: 12853/2009/OKE	Recipient museum: Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery	
OASIS ID: exeterar1-81011	Museum Accession no: AR.2010.3	
Contractor's reference number/code: EA7165	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 25/04/10 – 18/06/10	
<p>Background: An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Exeter Archaeology (EA) along the B3215 Crediton Road during service trenching (fig. 1). The work was required under a condition attached to planning consent for the construction of a new housing development fronting the south side of Crediton Road. The pipeline route was considered to lie close to the line of the Roman road from Exeter to Launceston and it was primarily for this reason that monitoring was undertaken.</p> <p>Trenching extended between the development site and a bridge to the east that crosses a small tributary of the River Okement. The trench was entirely contained within the width of the road and measured 800mm wide.</p> <p>A total of five visits were made to monitor works, at regular intervals along the course of the trench.</p> <p>Results: The typical sequence of deposits was as follows:</p> <p>0 - 500m. Modern tarmac surface and associated underlying sub-base. 500mm - 900mm. Earlier tarmac surface and associated underlying sub-base. 900mm+. Natural subsoil: stiff yellow clay with frequent outcrops of mudstone.</p> <p>The level of natural subsoil varied along the course of the trench from between 650mm below ground level to 1100mm below ground level. Wherever seen, it was directly overlain by modern deposits. The upper surface of the subsoil was uniformly stiff clay which did not exhibit any evidence of weathering. This, together with the frequent outcropping of mudstone indicates that the subsoil had been subject to a significant degree of truncation during the formation of the earlier modern surface. Such truncation would have removed any surface or shallow archaeological features or deposits.</p> <p>Conclusion: No evidence for the Roman road was found, with the entire area observed proving to be archaeologically sterile. No pre-modern pottery or other dating evidence was found during examination of the excavated material.</p> <p>In view of the absence of archaeological material and the demonstrated truncation of natural subsoil, the recording project was terminated, with the consent of the Devon County Historic Environment Service.</p>		
Recorders: G. Young (Exeter Archaeology)		Date sent to HER:

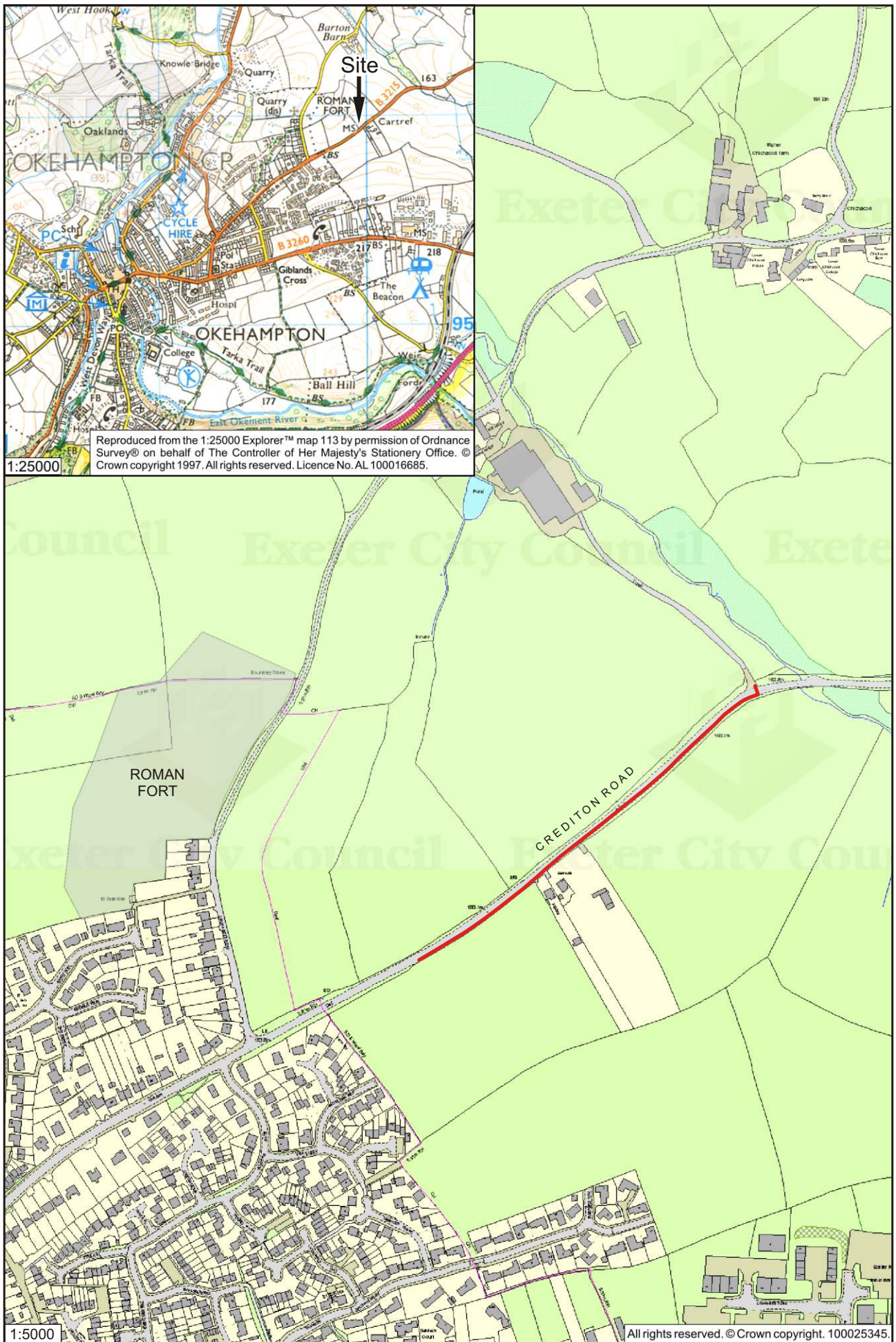


Fig. 1 Location of service trench (red).