

## Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b>  Kingsteignton, South Devon	<b>National Grid Reference:</b> Between SX 86407405 (NE), and SX 86057356 (SW)	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring of trial pits along Old Exeter Road, Kingsteignton		<b>Photo attached:</b> Y
<b>Planning Application no:</b> Statutory works (geo-technical pits)	<b>Recipient museum:</b> RAMM Exeter	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> Exeterar1-81519	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> 164/2010	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> EA7298	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 27/7/10-28/7/10	
<p><b>Background</b>                  Kingsteignton is an early Saxon foundation but the proposed works are some distance from the historic core in an area primarily used for the extraction of clay. Old Exeter Road has been identified by Margary (1973) as following the course of the Roman road crossing the River Teign.</p> <p><b>Description of works:</b>                  An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Exeter Archaeology on geotechnical trial pits excavated in advance of the widening of Old Exeter Road for the provision of a new cycle lane on the south east side of the road between New Cross to the north and Gallows Cross to the south. A total of eight geotechnical pits were dug with a swing shovel with a 0.6m-wide toothed bucket. For location of trial pits see Fig.1.</p> <p><b>Results:</b></p> <p><b>Trial Pit 1</b>                  This pit was dug on the south-east side of the Old Exeter Road, approximately 8m north-east of a crossing point and a gate through the roadside hedge. The trial pit was within 2m of the edge of the road and was cut into the raised verge directly adjacent the road surface. The road surface was approximately 0.15m below the surface of the verge                  Deposit sequence:                  0.0-4m dark silty topsoil with a mix of stones and occasional concrete lumps                  0.4m-1m mid brown clay with a mix of stones and occasional concrete lumps                  1m+ firm, undisturbed ochre-brown natural clay</p> <p><b>Trial Pit 2</b>                  This pit was located on the south-east side of the Old Exeter Road cutting through the banked verge on the same side (SE) of the road as TP1. It was immediately adjacent to the road and again within 2m of the edge of the road. The road surface was approximately 0.15m below the surface of the verge                  Deposit sequence:                  0.0-0.4m grass root and topsoil                  0.4m+ undisturbed grey natural clay</p> <p><b>Trial Pit 3</b>                  This pit was located approximately midway between New Cross roundabout to the north and Gallows Cross to the south on the south-east side of the Old Exeter Road and adjacent to it (for location see Fig 1). The TP was located within 2m of the road edge.                  Deposit sequence:                  0.0-0.35m mixed topsoil with frequent stones</p>		

0.35m-0.6m grey silty loam  
0.6m+ undisturbed ochre natural sand and gravel

#### Trial Pit 4

TP 4 was located on the south-east side of the road approximately 100m north-east of Gallows Cross where Old Exeter road meets Broadway Road. A grass verge embanked c.0.25m above road level was largely covered in thick vegetation. A small clearing between trees was chosen for the excavation at a distance of no more than 2m from the road edge.

#### Deposit sequence:

0.0-0.35m brown silty topsoil  
0.35m-0.8m+ undisturbed natural grey clay

#### Trial Pit 5

This pit was located on the south-east side of the road just to the north of a triangular copse formed by the junction of Old Exeter Road and Broadway Road (see Fig. 1) at a distance of no more than 2m from the road edge. Immediately below the surface was 0.10m of grey clay topsoil. Below this was granite rubble backfilling of a drainage trench containing a cast iron pipe c.300mm in diameter. The pipe was leading from the area to the east to a roadside ditch at the edge of the road leading up to Broadway Road. The pipe was 0.45m below the existing ground surface. No further excavation took place.

#### Trial Pit 6 Plate 1

TP 6 was located on the south-east side of the road in the pasture field approximately 40m to the south of New Cross Roundabout along the Old Exeter Road and approximately 4m from the road edge

#### Deposit sequence:

0.0-0.2m dark brown loamy topsoil  
0.2m-0.6m+ undisturbed natural ochre-brown clay with frequent sub-angular and sub-rounded stones

#### Trial Pit 7

This pit was located on the south-east side of the road at the junction of Old Exeter Road and Chudleigh Road in the north-west corner of the pasture field approximately 2.5m in from the field boundary fence and approximately 4m from the road.

#### Deposit sequence:

0.0-0.45m mid-brown loamy topsoil  
0.45m-1.4m+ black ash waste (observed and recorded as modern)

#### Trial Pit 8 Plate 2

This pit, also within the pasture field south of New Cross Roundabout, was sited approximately 22m along Chudleigh Road and c.4.m in from the road.

#### Deposit sequence:

0.0-0.35m mid-brown loamy topsoil  
0.35m-0.9m+ undisturbed stony ochre-brown natural clay

#### Conclusion:

A 19th century drain was uncovered in Trial Pit 5 and what was recorded as a modern ash waste deposit was recorded in Trial Pit 7. No features, deposits or dating evidence were found to indicate significant archaeological activity or remains within the area of proposed road widening. No road metalling or roadside ditches which might be indicative of a Roman road were observed.

#### Reference

Margary, I.D. 1973 Roman Roads in Britain (3<sup>rd</sup> edition), p.118-20.

**Recorder:**  
G Young (Exeter Archaeology)

**Date sent to HER:**  
14/12/2010

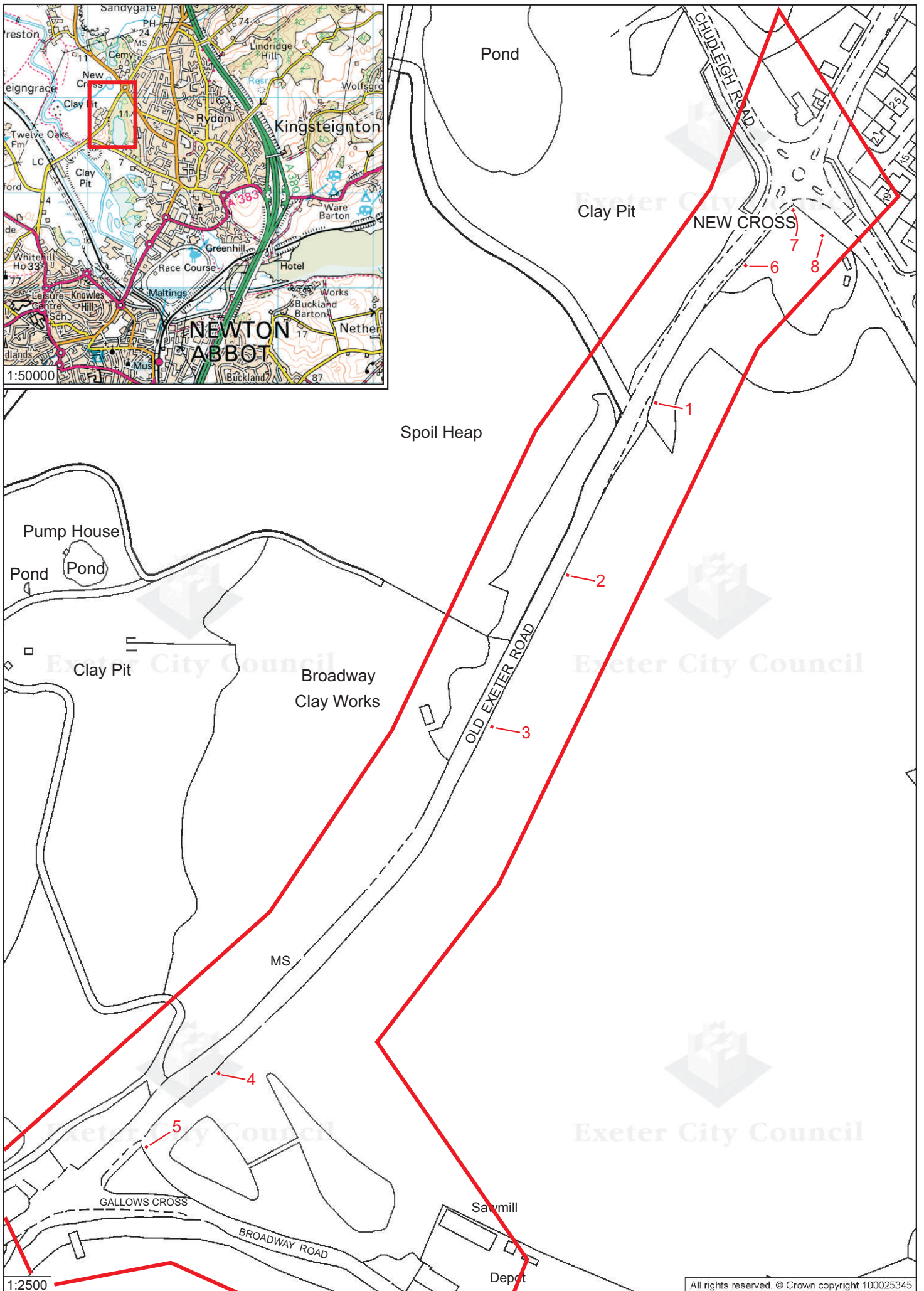


Fig. 1 Location of trial pits, Old Exeter Road, Kingsteignton.





Plate 1 Trial pit 6, looking north. 1m scale.



Plate 2 Trial pit 8, looking northeast. 1m scale.