

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Honiton, East Devon	National Grid Reference See description below	Number:
Subject: Archaeological watching brief alongside A30 at Heath Park, Honiton, Devon		Photo attached? No
Planning Application no: N/A	Recipient museum: RAMM	
OASIS ID: exeterar1-83154	Museum Accession no: 206/1010	
Contractor's reference number/code: EA7313	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 22/07/10 – 23/07/10	
<p>Background: An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Exeter Archaeology (EA) during the excavation of four trial pits alongside the A30 to the west of Honiton. The work was carried out by Interserve on behalf of South West Water in preparation for the replacement of a water main. The four trial pits were distributed on the west side of the A30 between the sewage treatment works just south of the A373, and a cul de sac off Hayne Lane (Fig. 1). This particular location is both near the Roman road running through Honiton and also near a known site of Iron Age/Bronze Age settlement at Gittisham.</p> <p>Results: Trial Pit A (SY 14555 99944) This excavation was located at the verge of the lane leading to farm buildings that runs from Hayne Lane alongside the north edge of the A30. The pit as situated on previously-excavated ground with a drain situated 1.00m below the surface. The western section revealed the undisturbed soil profile. This consisted of 400mm of sandy topsoil over red-brown clay with abundant sub-angular stones. At c1.10m below the surface a finer-textured mid-brown stony clay was encountered. In addition to the above-mentioned drain, the sewer pipe was located at 2.15m below the surface at which point the excavation was abandoned pending decision on a new pit location.</p> <p>Trial Pit B (ST 14945 00334) This pit was situated c.22m from the gate at the end of the track adjacent to the picnic site near the A30 turn off for Honiton. The pit measured 0.70m x 2.20m and was excavated to a depth of 1.60m. Below 0.70m of tarmac and hardcore make-up was dark grey-brown clay with frequent, mostly sub-angular stones. At 1.00m below the surface red-brown clay extended down to 1.20m at which point the clay became sandier and more friable with more sub-rounded gravel.</p> <p>Trial Pit C (ST 15159 00600) This was dug 2.40m from the fence bordering the A30 at the pinch point with the River Otter. The pit measured 1.50m², and was excavated to a depth of 1.60m. Dark loamy topsoil, 150mm thick, overlaid made ground comprising mixed demolition and waste material including bottles, bricks and C19th/C20th pottery and metal. This generally continued below the base of the pit, with various bands of tipping evident. Natural pinkish sand was picked up in one section at 1.55m below the surface.</p> <p>Trial Pit D (ST 15336 00803) This pit was located at the Sewage Treatment Works between the A30 and the A373 in an area of rough grass approximately 3m from the dual carriageway. Grey-brown loamy topsoil, measuring 150mm thick, overlaid mid brown clay with frequent chert and sub-angular stones. This extended to the base of excavation, 1.00m below the surface.</p> <p>Conclusion: Apart from the C19th/C20th material uncovered in Pit C, no other archaeological finds or features were seen. Pit C appears to have been on the site of a dump, though the material is perhaps more likely to have been deposited from elsewhere during the construction of the A30.</p>		
Recorders: G. Young (Exeter Archaeology)		Date sent to HER: 22 October 2010

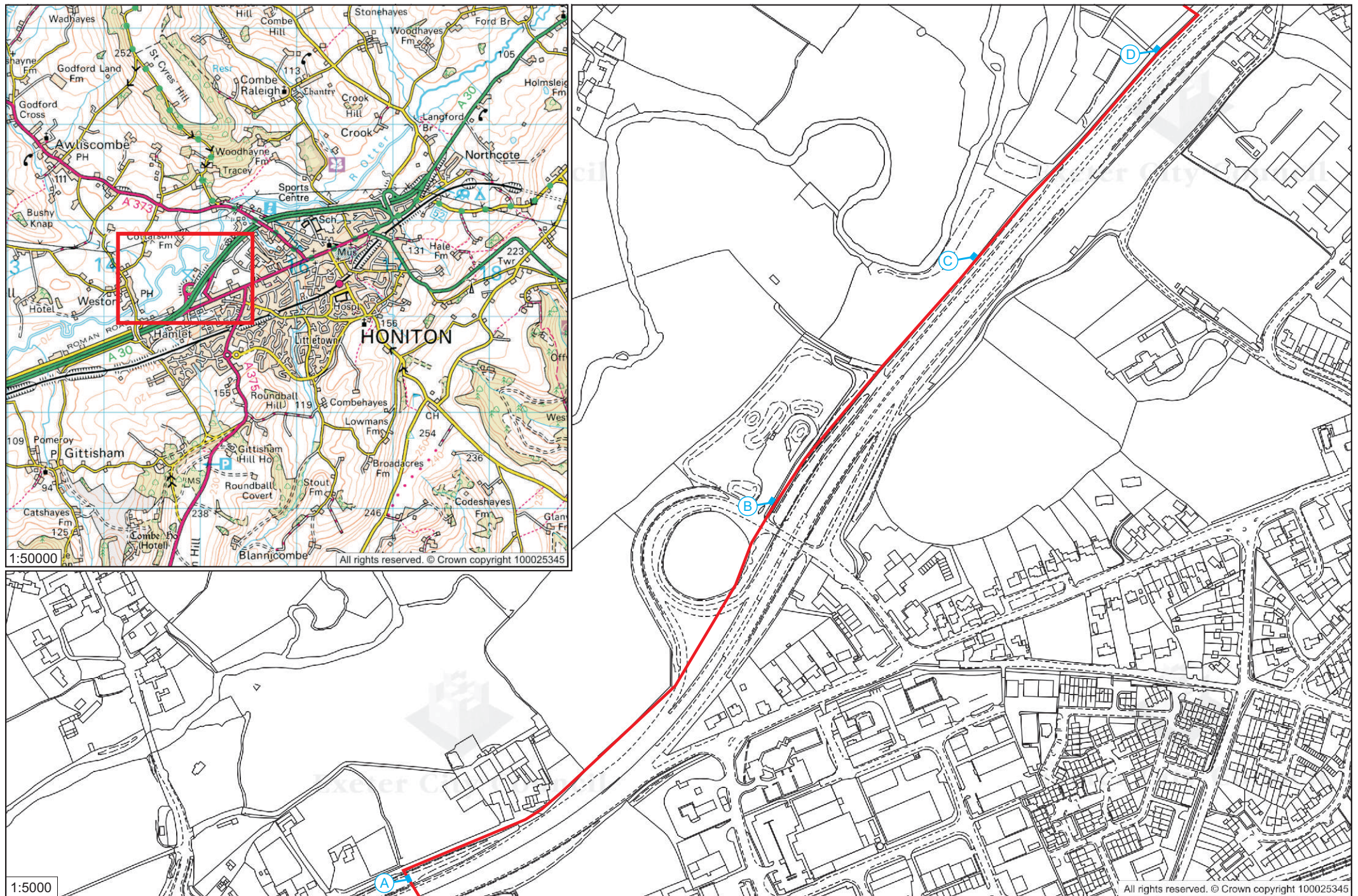


Fig. 1 Location of trial pits and water main.