

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Cullompton, Mid Devon	National Grid Reference ST 0223 0784	Number:
Subject: Archaeological evaluation at Court Farm, Cullompton		Photo attached? N
Planning Application no: 06/01415/FUL	Recipient museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum	
OASIS ID: exeterar1-86737	Museum Accession no: 310/2007	
Contractor's reference number/code: EA 6173	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 01-07-2007/31-07-2007	
<p>Background</p> <p>In June 2007 Persimmon Homes commissioned Exeter Archaeology (EA) to undertake evaluation of land at Court Farm, Cullompton, in advance of a proposed housing development (Fig. 1). The work was required by Devon County Council as a condition of planning consent (application 06/01415/FULL) and was carried out according to a brief supplied by the Devon County Historic Environment Service.</p> <p>The site was in rough pasture at the time of evaluation and was sited on low-lying land to the north of Court Farm and adjacent to modern residential development to the west. A Romano/British field system is recorded to the west on higher ground. A former millrace (leat) known as the Cullompton or Town Leat runs along the eastern boundary of the site and is likely to have served the mills of Cullompton, these being Higher Mill, Middle Mill and Lower Mill (all of which are shown on the 2nd edition OS map of 1906). The leat starts at Head Weir, north of Cullompton, and takes its water from the Spratford Stream. The south end of the Leat and Lower Mill are shown on an early seventeenth-century map and in 1678 the '<i>Towne Leate and the Lower or Southern Mill there called ye Town Mills of Cullompton</i>' are referred to in a lease.</p> <p>Description of works.</p> <p>In total, 18 trenches (numbered 2-3; 6-20 and 30) were set out at regular intervals across the site and excavated in two phases during July 2007 (Fig. 2). Each trench was excavated by a machine with a 1.6m wide grading bucket and all trench excavation was monitored by a member of staff of Exeter Archaeology; the length of the trenches varied between a minimum of 10m and a maximum of 50m; some 432m of trenching was achieved in total. Following excavation the trenches were cleaned and recorded, using standard Exeter Archaeology methods.</p> <p>Results</p> <p>Topsoil was observed to vary in depth between 0.10m and 0.34m within the evaluated trenches; it comprised a mid reddish-brown friable clay-silt disturbed by root matter from the overlying pasture cover. Below the topsoil, subsoils of similar composition to the topsoil were observed; these subsoils were silty in character. A number of field drains and features, cutting from just below the topsoil were observed following the topsoil removal; these were considered to be associated with post-medieval drainage of probable 19th and 20th century date. No artefacts were recovered during the course of the works.</p> <p>No features, deposits or dating evidence pre-dating the post-medieval period were found which would indicate significant archaeological activity within the evaluated area.</p> <p>Archive</p> <p>The site records have been compiled into a fully integrated site archive which is currently held at the offices of Exeter Archaeology under project number 6173 pending deposition at the RAMM under accession number 310/2007 (within 3 months of the re-opening of the museum to receive such archives). A summary of the investigations, together with this report and the previous geophysical survey has been submitted to the on-line archaeological database OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological InterventionS) under the number 86737.</p> <p>The observations and recording were undertaken by Andrew West (EA)</p>		
Recorder: J.P. Salvatore (Exeter Archaeology)	Date sent to HER:	

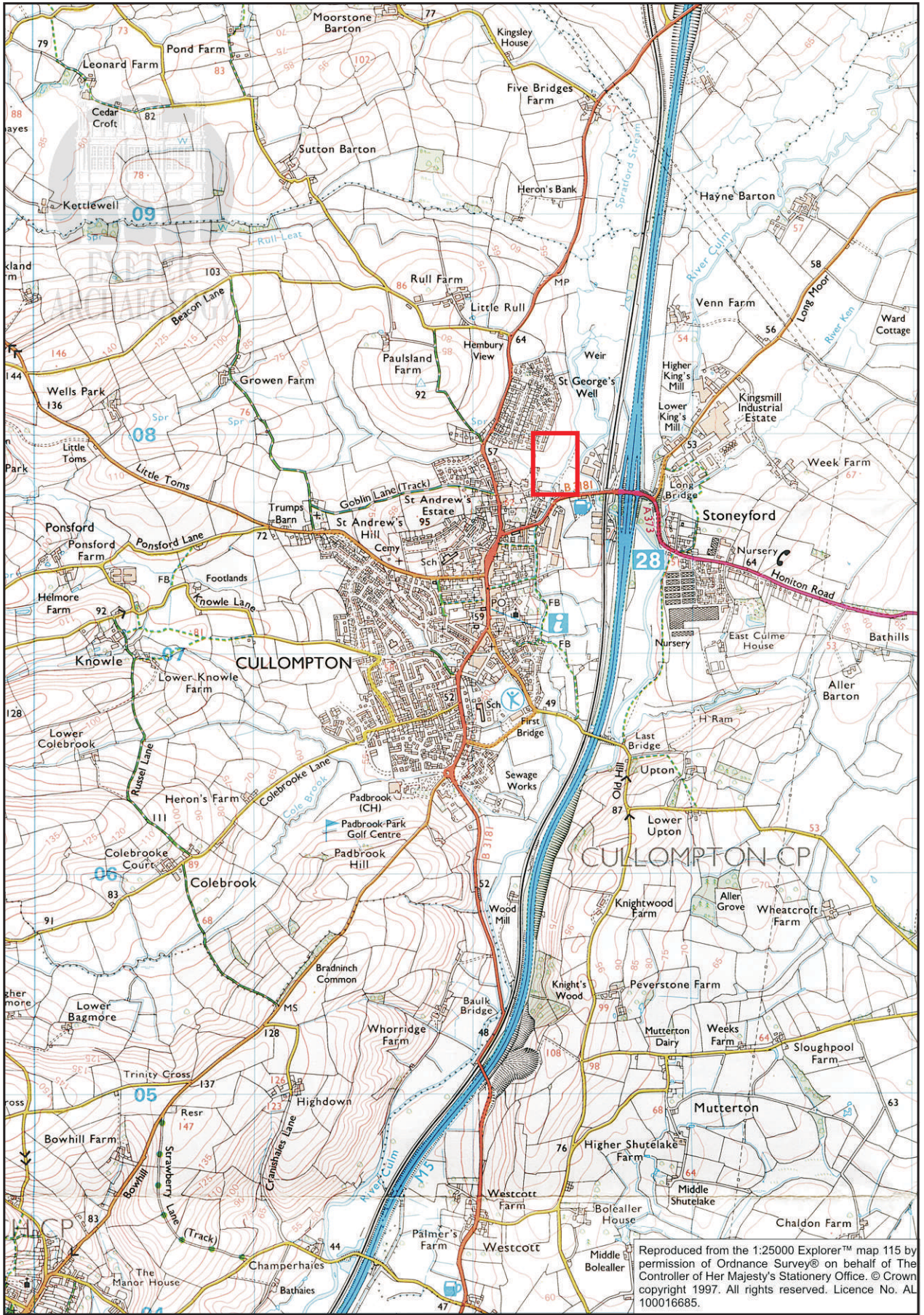


Fig. 1 Location of site.



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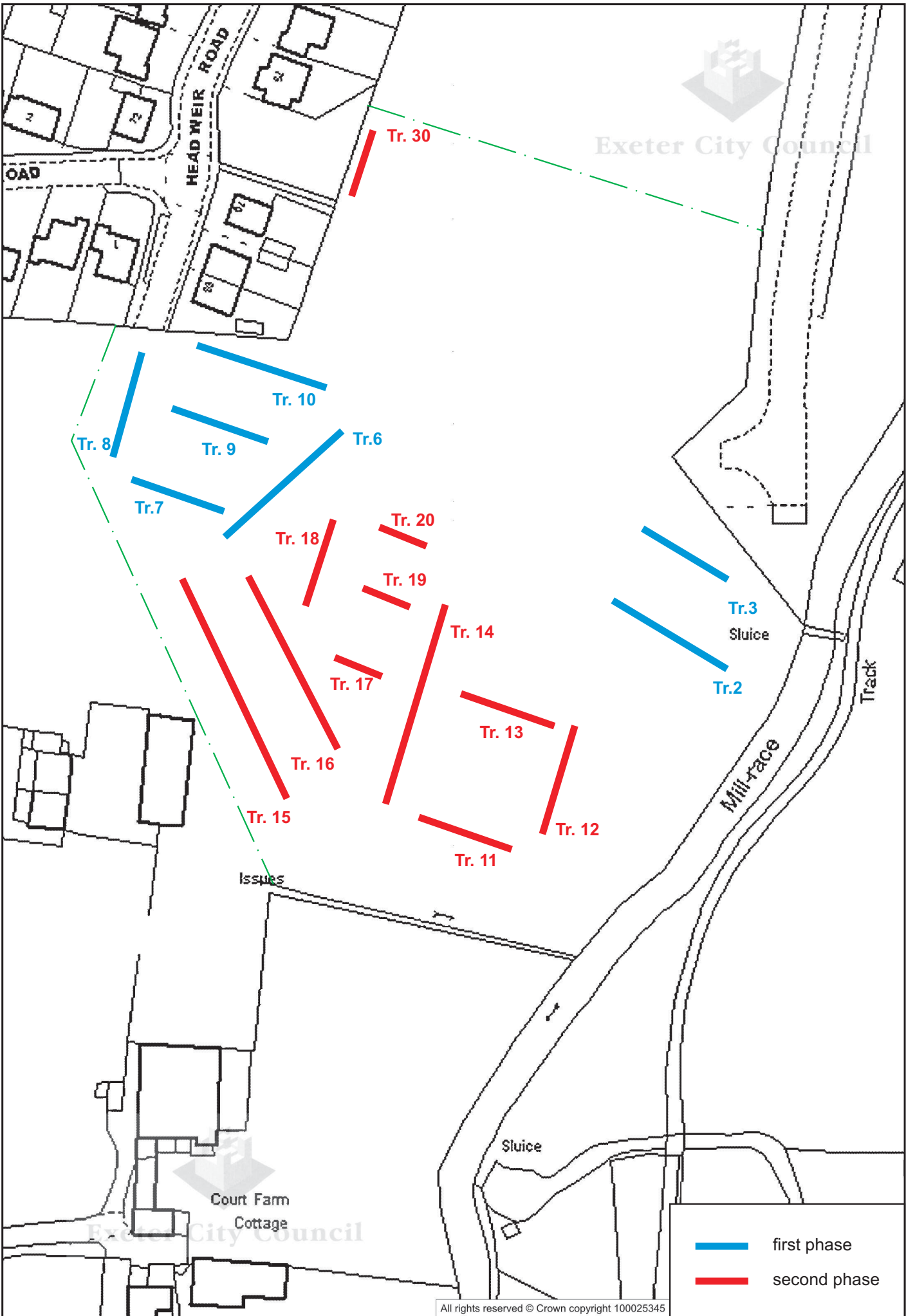


Fig2 Location of trenches. Scale 1:1000.