

Plymouth City Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Plympton St Mary	National Grid Reference 25366 56247	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording at Market Road, Plympton		Photo attached? N
Planning Application no: 09/01432/ful	Recipient museum: Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery	
OASIS ID: exeterar1-89660	Museum Accession no: AR 2010.42	
Contractor's reference number/code: EA 7153	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 17.03.10 & 23.03.10	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>Background Monitoring and recording was carried out as a requirement of planning consent for the redevelopment of the former cattle market site. The principal objective of the investigations was to locate (if present) the former medieval quay wall, thought to lie close to or beneath Market Street. A prior trench evaluation of the site carried out by Wessex Archaeology had found little of archaeological significance within the wider site. By agreement with Plymouth City Council's Historic Environment Officer, monitoring was restricted to specific deep sewer service trenching adjacent to and within Market Street.</p> <p>Results Two visits were made to site to record two trenches, as per the attached plan.</p> <p>Trench 1 12m long x 1m+ wide This trench exposed the front face of the former quay wall, surviving to within 1.2m of ground level. The wall was constructed of large blocks of rough hewn limestone, predominantly between 100mm and 200mm wide, bonded with yellow silty clay. The wall was aligned approximately N-S, oblique to the trench and was exposed in plan over a distance of 4m. The service trench cut through alluvial silts along the front face of the wall and consequently exposure of wall fabric was greater in section than in plan. At 4m from the north end of the trench, the wall extended behind the east edge of the service trench but was observed again at a point 3.6m further to the south as a result of a section collapse.</p> <p>The sequence of deposits to the front of the wall typically comprised: 0- 840mm road sub-base and tarmac 840mm -1.08m silty clay (made ground) 1.08m - 1.35m + dark grey silty clay (tidal creek foreshore deposits)</p> <p>Trench 2 8m long x 1.5m wide Deposits were observed to a depth of 2.2m. The deposit sequence comprised throughout: 0-600mm silty clay (made ground) 600mm-2.2m+ bands of alluvial silt (tidal creek foreshore deposits)</p> <p>Conclusion The investigation has clearly demonstrated that the former quay wall lies preserved beneath Market Road, on a broadly similar alignment to it. The wall is in a good state of preservation with, rather unusually, minimal robbing of the facing blocks. The foreshore silts to the front of the wall were sealed by imported clay in order to reclaim the area from the creek. No dating evidence was recovered, either from within the silts or the overlying made ground.</p>		
Recorder: J Austin, Exeter Archaeology		Date sent to HER:

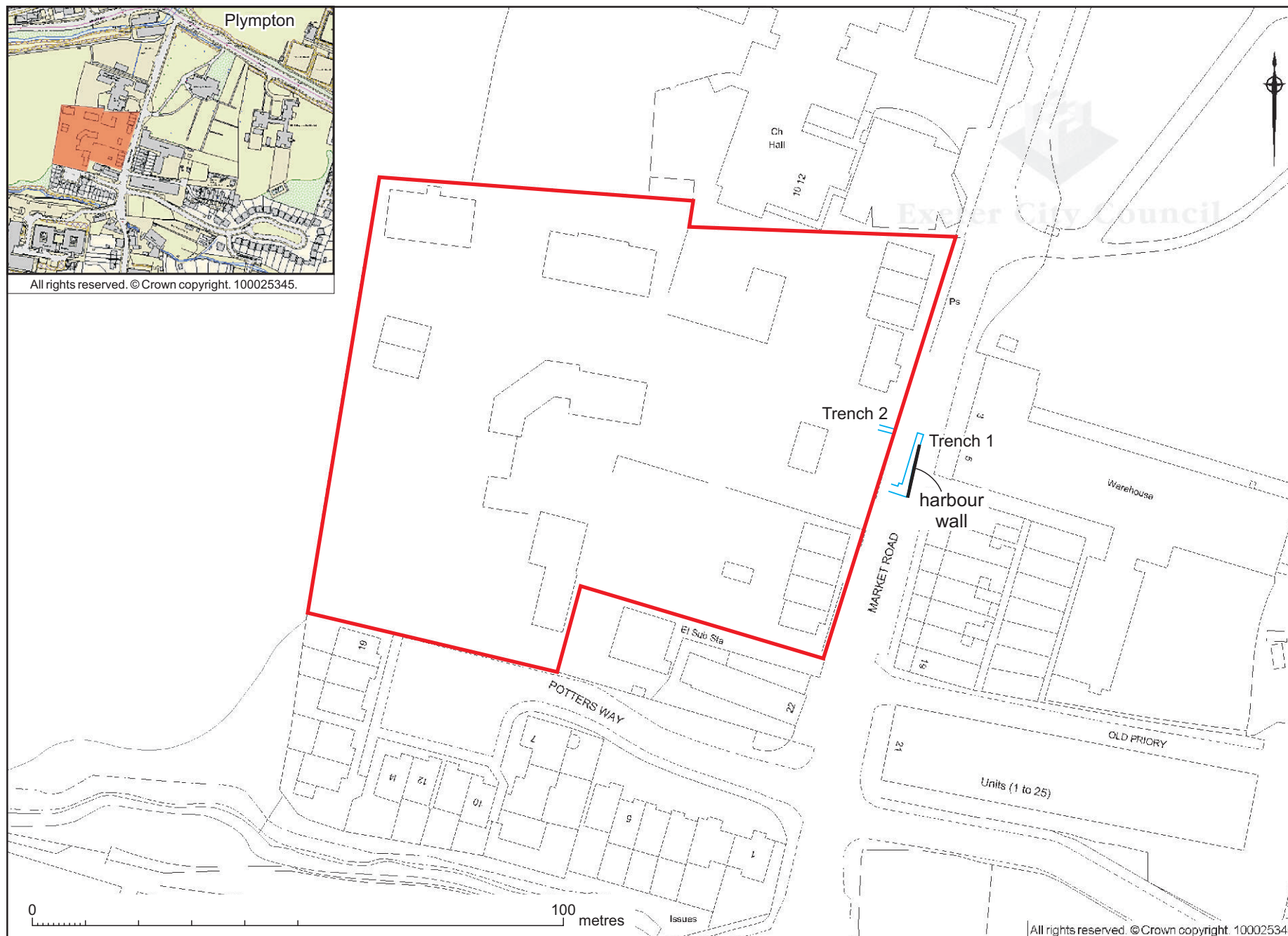
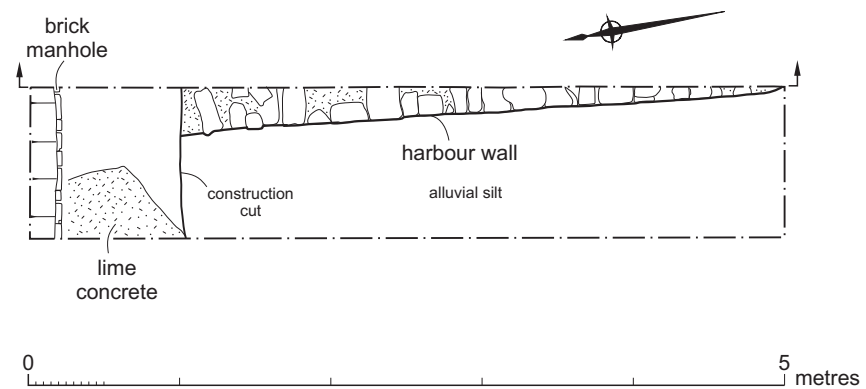
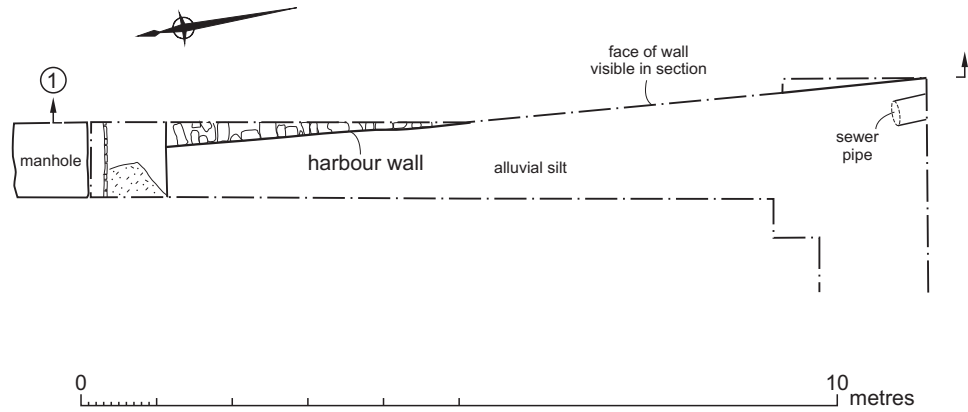


Fig. 1 Location plan.

Plan



Section 1

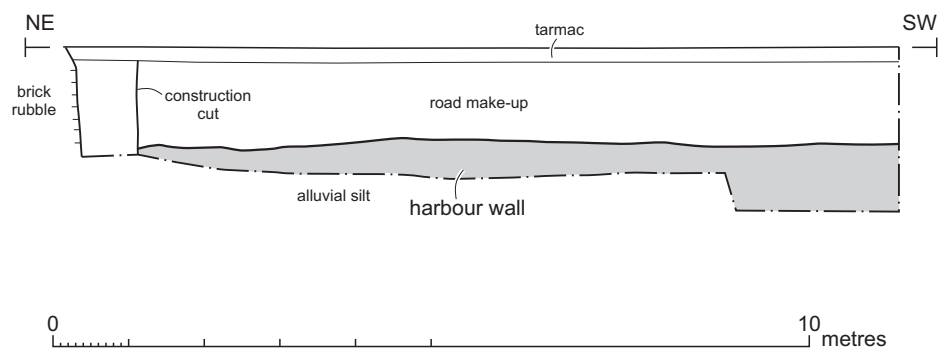


Fig. 2 Trench 1: Plans and section .