

**THE FORMER RD&E HOSPITAL SITE  
HEAVITREE ROAD, EXETER  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT, TRENCH EVALUATION  
AND EXCAVATION**

**Prepared for Waitrose and Midas Property**

**By A.G. Collings, P. Pearce and J.P. Salvatore**

**Exeter Archaeology**

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## PART ONE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

### 1. INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared by Exeter Archaeology at the request of CB Richard Ellis Ltd for Waitrose and Midas Property. Its aim is to assess the potential impact on heritage and archaeology of a proposed new store and warehouse with car parking off Heavitree Road (centre SX 9317 9271). The proposed development area is the former site of the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital (Heavitree) but was previously the site of the 18th century workhouse. The results of the subsequent evaluation and excavation are found in Part Two below.

The site occupies gently sloping ground on the north side of Heavitree Road immediately to the east of Gladstone Road, which forms the north-western boundary. It is bounded to the north-east by Polsloe Road and to the south-west by the rear of properties alongside Grendon Road (Fig. 1). The site lies at an average height of 53m AOD and measures 1.62ha in total (including the site of the Occupational Health Building, which is to be retained).

The underlying geology consists of Permian Alphington breccia, overlain by quaternary deposits of the fifth river terrace (northern part of the site), and blanket head and regolith (southern part of the site).<sup>1</sup>

### 2. LEGISLATION AND POLICY

This report has been undertaken with regard to relevant national and local legislation and policy, and professional good practice guidance. Further guidance has been provided by the ECCAO.

There are no scheduled monuments within the proposed development area and consequently the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 is not applicable to the scheme.

The main part of the site, including all that proposed for new development, does not lie within a conservation area. However, the south-eastern corner containing the site of the Occupational Health Building, the former Children's Home, has recently been incorporated into Mont Le Grand Conservation Area on the north side of Heavitree Road (Fig. 1). St Leonard's Conservation Area is situated immediately to the south of Heavitree Road. Conservation areas are designated under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.

There is one listed building within the proposed development (site 1 on Fig. 1), which is statutorily protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. Listed buildings (Grade II and above) are considered to be of national importance. There are other listed buildings in the surrounding area (notably site 6 adjacent to the south-east site boundary; other listed buildings nearby are marked with blue dots on Fig. 1).

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<sup>1</sup> Bristow *et al.*, Figs 2 and 3.

Advice for the treatment of conservation areas and listed buildings within the planning process is provided within *Planning Policy Guidance 15: Planning and the Historic Environment* (PPG 15, 1994).

General policy and advice for best practice in the management of archaeological remains within the planning process has been set out in *Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16 1990). Due to their irreplaceable nature, PPG 16 presumes in favour of the preservation *in situ* of nationally important archaeological remains or, where this is not justified or feasible, for preservation by record by way of adequate provision for excavation and/or recording.

PPGs 16 and 15 (above) will eventually be superseded by a new Planning Policy Statement (PPS) on the historic environment as part of an ongoing Heritage Protection Review.

At a local level, heritage conservation is addressed in chapter 10 of the *Exeter Local Plan First Review 1995–2011*,<sup>2</sup> which sets out general policies for preserving and enhancing Exeter's historic environment and safeguarding its archaeological heritage. Local Policies C1–3 relate to the treatment of conservation areas and historic buildings within the planning process. Policy C5 deals with archaeology; this policy is supported by supplementary planning guidance,<sup>3</sup> which is a material consideration in determining planning applications.

In addition, the Devon County Council *Devon Structure Plan*, adopted in 2004, will be superseded by a Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West (RSS), the final publication of which is currently awaiting the outcome of further sustainability appraisal work. In the meantime, saved *Structure Plan* policies CO7–8 relate to the treatment of the historic environment and archaeology within the development and planning system.

### 3. METHOD

The following sources have been consulted in order to appraise the significance and likely impact of the proposals:

- Historic environment records held by Devon County Historic Environment Service (prefixed HER PRN) and ECC (Exeter HER);
- 20th-century plans held by ECC Building Control;
- Aerial photographs and other archives held by Exeter Archaeology;
- Historical maps and documentary records held by the Devon Record Office (DRO);
- Published and unpublished sources at the Westcountry Studies Library (WSL);
- W.A. Fairhurst & Partners Report D/I/D/80459/01;
- ECC publications.

A site visit was also undertaken on 11 January 2010 to ascertain the site topography and assess the survival of historic features and the potential survival of archaeological remains.

No historic or recent geotechnical information in the form of borehole or test pit logs was available for examination.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> ECC 2005.

<sup>3</sup> ECC November 2004.

<sup>4</sup> T. Murch (Midas) pers. comm.

## 4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 4.1 Prehistoric

There is no clear evidence of prehistoric occupation in the immediate vicinity but this may be a reflection of a general lack of structured archaeological investigations. Two unstratified prehistoric struck flakes were recovered during a watching brief at St Luke's Campus in 2001 (Fig. 1, site **8**).

### 4.2 Roman

Heavitree Road (site **4**) has long been considered to reflect the line of one of the main Roman roads leading to the East Gate of Exeter. However, the precise course of this road has never been determined archaeologically in the Heavitree area. (Magdalen Road is thought to be the route into the later Roman and medieval town via South Gate.) Trial excavations at Heavitree Road adjacent to the Police Station (site **10**) revealed no evidence of Roman deposits.<sup>5</sup>

Indeed, no Roman settlement sites have so far been located in the eastern suburbs of Exeter. Because development occurred at a time before archaeological monitoring was considered as part of the process, it is likely that such sites would have been destroyed where they lay under 19th- or 20th-century housing.<sup>6</sup> However, recent investigations off Topsham Road to the south (St Loye's College; SX 9363 9073) have revealed the previously unknown remains of a Roman fort of 1st century AD date.<sup>7</sup> Although survival here is variable, some of the features lie at a relatively shallow depth beneath the ground surface, below and between the existing college buildings, as well as beneath the road itself. These remains, on the general line of the Roman road linking the fortress and later city at Exeter with the port, underline the potential for survival at other roadside sites. Furthermore, it is known that modern roads do not always exactly mirror their ancient counterparts.

Two Roman coins have been found near the RD&E Hospital site. One of Licinius (308–324AD) is said to have been found 'near new houses' in Heavitree Road in 1844 (NGR given as SX 929 927) (site **9**).<sup>8</sup> The location of the other coin retrieved during sewer construction in 1839 (Gallienus 253AD) is less precise (SX 93 92; not plotted), although it was said to have been found at a depth of 7 feet (*c.* 2.1m).<sup>9</sup> A Roman tile fragment and a sherd of Roman pottery (both unstratified) were found during monitoring of works at St Luke's Campus (site **8**).

### 4.3 Medieval

The site would have been undeveloped in the medieval period, this area being at that time located within open countryside. Heavitree Road (site **4**) continued as the main artery of communication from Exeter and the west towards London. Gallows (site **16**) are believed to have been sited at the crossroads where Magdalen Road and Polsloe Road meet Livery Dole with Heavitree Road. The name 'Heavitree' itself may be derived from this site, as a possible explanation for the name is 'tree on which the heads of criminals were placed'.<sup>10</sup> In addition

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<sup>5</sup> Reed & Manning 1994.

<sup>6</sup> e.g. Bell *et al.* 2007.

<sup>7</sup> Steinmetzer & Valentin 2008.

<sup>8</sup> HER PRN 17008.

<sup>9</sup> HER PRN 61416.

<sup>10</sup> Gover *et al.* 1932, 439–40.

to the gallows, a chapel was sited at Livery Dole, although it has been suggested that this (together with the almshouses) was not founded until the 1590s.<sup>11</sup>

As noted above, the landscape would have been chiefly an agricultural one with the nearest dwelling at Bampfylde House *c.* 200m to the west (site **11**). The name Livery Dole implies the former existence of an open field system (from the OE *dal*),<sup>12</sup> although there is no direct cartographic or documentary evidence to suggest that the immediate site area was communally farmed. Finds of medieval pottery at St Luke's Campus (site **8**) may be indicative of the manuring of land for cultivation in this period.

The site lay within the parish of St Sidwell. Although the parish church of St Sidwell was in existence by the 11th century, by the end of the 13th century it was dependent upon the parish church of Heavitree, St Michael's.<sup>13</sup> The boundaries of the mid 19th-century parish were probably not formalised until the late medieval period. The boundary between St Sidwell and Heavitree is marked in part by Heavitree Road in front of the Occupational Health Building (Fig. 0).

#### 4.4 Post-medieval

Other gallows were later situated to the south in the 17th century (site **20**).

Most development in the immediate area took place from the early to mid 19th Century and reflects the architectural styles of that period including Regency and Greek Revival. Subsequent infill and redevelopment has taken place throughout the 20th century. Many buildings were constructed of red brick from the local brickworks (see site **14**).

In 1994 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken at SX 9294 9275 near the existing Magistrates' Court on the west side of Gladstone Road where the ground slopes gradually down towards Heavitree Road (site **10**). This was part of the former site of a row of 19th-century houses called 'Higher Summerlands', which were destroyed at the same time as the nearby Bampfylde House (site **11**). These houses adjoined the garden wall of the workhouse. The excavations extended to a depth of 1.3m below the ground surface. No remains of the former buildings were found, nor any archaeological deposits earlier than the demolition of the 19th-century buildings (nor any suggested by the few residual finds). However, this was thought to be mainly due to terracing and levelling associated with the construction of the Police Station and Court buildings.

#### 4.5 Historical background of the site

(See Appendix 2 for a more detailed documentary history)

In 1699 Exeter Corporation of the Poor acquired five fields of 18 acres in St Sidwell Parish to erect a hospital and workhouse (site **1**). The workhouse (poorhouse) was described as 'near finished' in September 1701, though it may have not have been completed until 1707. No plans have been found for the original building, which was designed by Ralph Michell (Mitchell). The Corporation minutes describe cellars as being necessary under the 'Midle Pyle', while the wings extended about 93 feet 'from Out to Out' and were around 22.5 feet in breadth. A detailed description of the buildings in 1806 includes a reference to a surrounding

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<sup>11</sup> Orme 1991, 127–8.

<sup>12</sup> Gover *et al.* 1932, 440.

<sup>13</sup> Orme 1991, 123.

‘lofty brick wall’. Male paupers apparently worked in the adjoining Corporation brickworks (site **14**).

John Rocque’s 1744 map of Exeter shows the site and includes a vignette of the workhouse (Figs 2–3). This depicts a wide drive, with inturned entrance, passing between pasture on the east and an orchard on the west, leading to the gates with their substantial piers. All the buildings, including a three-storey main block, lay within an inner enclosure. The site also appears on a map of 1810 (Fig. 5), which shows a garden and vegetable plots extending down to the road to the west of the driveway. An infirmary was added in 1821, although its location is not certain. In 1828 the large adjoining garden was leased to a nurseryman, Mr C. Sclater. He was engaged to erect two lodges fronting Heavitree Road, although it appears only one was ever built (Fig. 9). The Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 had little effect on the workhouse buildings, but may have been responsible for the decision to discontinue brickmaking. The 1842 tithe map (Fig. 6) shows some realignment of field boundaries with the northern part of the site, said to be occupied by a 5-acre brick yard, by then under pasture, and the pasture to the east of the drive replaced with a garden. In 1858 another infirmary was added to the north.

The 1876 OS 1:500 map shows the ground-floor interiors of the more substantial buildings (Fig. 7) and identifies their uses. The northern extremity of the site area appears to overlie a small part of the chapel. To the west of the drive was a skittle ground, while a subdivided structure in the south-east corner of the rectangle was probably a casual ward for vagrants. Another ward may have been added in 1898.

Gladstone Road was constructed between 1888 and 1904 to form the western boundary of the site. In 1905 a more substantial infirmary was added at the north end, commemorated by the publication of a booklet containing a photograph of the main building (Fig. 4). Five years later it was recommended that children be moved out of the workhouse, resulting in the building of a Children’s Home within two acres in the south-east corner of the site (site **3**). This building was designed by R.M. Challice and built by Messrs Soper and Ayres; the foundation stone was laid on 15 January 1913. There were playgrounds at the rear divided by light iron railings. During WWI the building was temporarily converted to No. 3 Voluntary Aid Organisation Hospital.

In 1929 the functions of the Corporation of the Poor were transferred to Exeter City Council. The name was changed from ‘Poor Law Institution’ to ‘City Hospital’ between 1930 and 1931, although the OS continued with ‘Public Assistance Institution’ (Fig. 9). In 1932 an L-shaped hut intended for smallpox sufferers was relocated from Ide to a site just to the east of the original ward. The site was designated an emergency hospital in 1939 at the outbreak of WWII. On 3rd/4th May 1942 the original block was hit by incendiary bombs causing 18 fatalities, and all the hospital records were destroyed. This led to a clearance of the original block and only parts of the outline of the central block and the eastern wing were depicted on the 1949 OS map (Fig. 10), the latter designated ‘Ruins’.

Following the National Health Act in 1948 the whole site was transferred to the Exeter and Mid-Devon Group of Hospitals and in 1959 a new Maternity Unit was built on the western half of the area. By that date the eight-foot high surrounding brick wall had been removed and replaced by a low brick version, with the original entrance completely removed. The original wall had been listed Grade III around 1947; despite being substantially rebuilt after WWII it was eventually reclassified as Grade II (site **2**). The Maternity Unit was



subsequently extended to the north-east and south-west, and in 1970 the name changed to the 'Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital (Heavitree)' at a time when major expansion, notably the four-storey block, was taking place to the north. Other blocks were built to the south-east around 1972, and the Children's Home converted to administrative offices with other buildings constructed over the playgrounds. This building was subsequently used by the Occupational Health Service.

## 5. SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INTEREST

The following sites are numbered on Fig. 1. All listed structures close to the site are marked with a blue dot on Fig. 1, but have not been specifically mentioned below unless they have a separate HER number, or are of particular significance.

### 1. **Site of former Workhouse** (SX 932 926; HER PRN 18321)

See section 4.5 and Appendix 2.

### 2. **Wall of RD&E Hospital** (SX 93102 92646; Listed Grade II; HER PRN 65625).

Part of the wall alongside Heavitree Road is Listed Grade II. It was formerly (in 1947) listed Grade III. It represents a substantial post-WWII rebuild on the line of the original 18th-century wall, which was much higher. (See Appendix 1).

### 3. **Former Children's Home** (Occupational Health Centre) (SX 9320 9262)

This building was designed by R.M. Challice and built by Messrs Soper and Ayres; the foundation stone was laid on 15 January 1913. This building is not listed but its site is a recent inclusion into the Mont Le Grand Conservation Area.

### 4. **Road**

Heavitree Road is thought to follow the approximate alignment of a Roman road. The line of this road in front of site **2** also marked the boundary between St Sidwell and Heavitree.

### 5. **Boundary stone** (SX 9311 9262; Exeter HER 15093; HER PRN 65628)

This is located on the south side of Heavitree Road and thought to have been erected some time between 1895 and 1913 by the short-lived Heavitree Urban District Council (see also site **21**).

### 6. **Almshouses and wall** (all Listed Grade II)

All the listed buildings in Grendon Road form a group.

#### ***Grendon's Almshouses*** (SX 93272 92655; HER PRN 29912)

The present two-storey, tudor style buildings of local stone were built in Grendon Road by Robert Best in 1880 (HER PRN 29912 quotes Hoskins giving a date of 1878). The original medieval Grendon's Almshouses were in Preston Street.

#### ***Attwill-Kingdon Almshouses*** (SX 9330 9267; HER PRN 29911)

Founded by Laurence Attwill in 1588, these were rebuilt on the present site by Kingdons in 1892. They are identical in design to Grendon's Almshouses and built in Heavitree stone.

#### ***Street Wall fronting Grendon's and Attwill-Kingdon Almshouses*** (SX 93303 92645)

The stone wall is contemporary with the almshouses.

**7. Houses** (SX 9331 9257; HER PRN 44151)

'Uplands' is a pair of late 1830's houses which were the only two built of a proposed large-scale residential development.

**8. St Luke's Campus, watching brief 2001** (SX 9310 9245; HER PRN 64436–64440)

Monitoring in 2001 during groundworks on St Luke's Campus revealed an 18th-century culvert. Two prehistoric struck flakes, a fragment of Roman tile, a sherd of Roman SE Dorset BB1, six sherds of medieval pottery dating from 10th–15th century, and two pieces of iron slag were recovered from the topsoil. St Luke's College main building and stable block are designated Buildings of Local Importance.<sup>14</sup>

**9. Coin** (SX 929 927; HER PRN 17008)

A coin of Licinius is reported to have been found in 1844.

**10. Evaluation, former site of Higher Summerlands** (SX 9292 9274; HER PRN 53958)

In 1994 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken at SX 9294 9275 in the area between the existing Magistrates' Court and the Police Houses where the ground slopes gradually down towards Heavitree Road.<sup>15</sup> This was part of the former site of a row of 19th-century houses called 'Higher Summerlands', which were destroyed at the same time as Bampfylde House (below).

**11. Site of Bampfylde House** (SX 9292 9277; HER PRN 58531)

This was a 15th-century house destroyed by enemy action in 1942.

**12. St Matthew's Parish Church**

The church was built in 1881. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were exposed during an archaeological watching brief undertaken on the adjacent site (below) in 2007.

**13. Schools**

Newton Girls and Infants Schools were built as adjoining schools in 1874 and extended in 1889 (SX 9288 9289; HER PRN 71026). The Infants School was destroyed in the Blitz and not rebuilt. Newtown Boys' School was built to the south-east in 1890 (SX 9292 9286; HER PRN 71030). No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were exposed during a watching brief undertaken in 2007 by Context One Archaeological Services in the playground to the south-east.

**14. Brickworks** (SX 93211 93036)

The Corporation Brick Works, also known as the Workhouse Works, is documented from 1825. It was initially run by the Corporation of the Poor, and from 1860 as a private business. It closed in 1939, and the clay pits were later infilled and the site landscaped. It is now occupied by a golf driving range and a dry ski slope. Nineteenth-century maps depict clay pits, ponds, and buildings including a cone-shaped kiln. A single building survives (the former office) on Clifton Hill.<sup>16</sup> Another later 19th-century brick and tile works (Sampson's) was located to the east of Polsloe Road at SX 9342 9310 in the late 19th century.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>14</sup> ECC 2007 *Quick List*.

<sup>15</sup> Reed & Manning 1994.

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.exetermemories.co.uk/EM/brickworks.php>; OS 1876 1:500 map sheets 80.6.9, 6.10, 6.14–15.

<sup>17</sup> HER PRN 70525.

**15. Livery Dole Almshouses** (SX 9350 92451; Listed Grade II; HER PRN 15880)

The almshouses, 1865 (SX 93506 92467), a small late 16th-century chapel (SX 93560 92448), an archway with commemorative tablet between the two blocks (SX 93520 92463), and limestone rubble wall (SX 93447 92465) are all Listed Grade II. The chapel, archway and wall form a group. There is no documentary evidence for these structures prior to 1590.<sup>18</sup>

**16. Gallows** (SX 935 924; HER PRN 41893)

There is reference to a gallows and burial enclosure at Livery Dole in 1557.

**17. Terrace** (SX 9337 9246; Listed Grade II\*; HER PRN 58543)

Nos 151–155 Magdalen Road, c. 1810, are Listed Grade II\*.

**18. Token** (SX 933 925; HER PRN 61413)

A Nuremburg token (date unspecified) was found in c. 1937.

**19. Baring Crescent** (SX 932 925; Listed Grade II; HER PRN 65626)

Nos 1, 4, 6–12, including the wall of No. 12, are all Listed Grade II. They date from c. 1825.

**20. Boundary stone** (SX 9296 9238; Exeter HER 15093; HER PRN 65628)

This is thought to have been erected some time between 1895 and 1913 by Heavitree Urban District Council (see also site 5).

**21. Magdalen Gallows** (SX 9296 9240; HER PRN 17276)

These are documented in the 17th century; they were removed in the 18th century.

**6. SITE VISIT (11 January 2010)**

**6.1 Topography and levels**

The site is situated on land that slopes gently downhill from north-east to south-west (as can be detected along Gladstone Road) and from south-east to north-west along Heavitree Road (observed in the eastern part of the site). The natural slope is reflected to a certain extent across the site, but the 1876 maps, the 1744 depiction, and 1945 RAF aerial photographs all indicate that the ground level within the southern part of the site has been raised during the second half of the 20th century.

In terms of absolute levels,<sup>19</sup> the ground level around (and at the approximate floor level of) the Maternity Unit is 53.7m AOD. To the north the car park rises to 55m AOD adjoining Gladstone Road, although the level drops along the western boundary following the gradient of the road. The landscaping to the south, and immediately south-east, of the Maternity Unit drops downhill towards Heavitree Road. Along the Heavitree Road boundary the site level drops from 53m AOD (north-east end) to 50.05m AOD (south-west end), which is now approximately 1m higher than Heavitree Road. To the east of the Maternity Unit the ground level varies within the landscaped ‘garden’, but generally rises up to between 54m and 54.3m AOD. The road to the south-west of this area is slightly lower, but the grassed area to the east rises up again, with the ground level varying from 56.5m AOD at the north-east corner of the site to 55.3m AOD east of Alphington House.

<sup>18</sup> Orme 1991.

<sup>19</sup> Information taken from site drawings by Mewès & Davis Architects Ltd (e.g. see base for Fig. 13).

The proposed finished floor levels of the building and car parks will be around 53–54m AOD and will involve some ‘cut and fill’. The finished levels of the store and service area are very similar to the present ground level around the centre of the Maternity Unit. However, formation level will be lower requiring some excavation. The finished levels of the northern part of the store, service area and eastern car park will be between 0.5m and 0.75m below the present ground level, greatest at the eastern part of the site. The southern car park will be raised above the present ground level, at the most along the southern side by up to 2.5m.

## 6.2 The Children’s Home

The only historic building on the site is the former Children’s Home; the remainder were constructed after WWII. This is a two-storey brick building with a main range fronting Heavitree Road and a smaller range orientated at a right angle to the rear. To the south is a grassed area. The boundary between this and No. 81 Heavitree Road (‘Uplands’, site 7) is constructed of stone and a rendered material, possibly cob. The Heavitree Road boundary in front of the Children’s Home retains two stretches of older wall; these are of uncertain date but may be contemporary with the building (i.e. the early 20th century) or possibly earlier. This wall is constructed of brick, and incorporates string courses of bricks with plain chamfers and ovolo moulding (Pl. 1). The remainder (centre part) of this wall, and all the other brick boundary walls on the site, including the stretch which is Listed Grade II (site 2), are of later 20th-century date. The former eastern boundary of the Children’s Home is marked by a modern brick revetment wall that replaces an earlier historic wall. The drop between the level of grassed area to the east and the present entrance is around 0.5m.

## 6.3 The Maternity Unit

This building was originally constructed in the 1950s and later extended. The ground-floor level respects the existing ground level close to the northern corner of the site, with the south-east wing constructed on taller foundations to maintain the floor level. The south-east end of this wing incorporates a basement containing services (see Fig. 15 for locations of basements and terraces).

Three extensions have been added to the building:

- The south-west wing is an addition and maintains the original floor level, although on its south-east side there is a basement of uncertain extent.
- The north-east wing has been extended, and the north part of this building has been slightly terraced into the hillside. The northern part of this extension may house incoming services. A first-floor corridor links the extension to the later hospital building to the north-east (outside the development site).
- A single-storey range has been added to the north-east side of the south-east wing, which has been terraced into the hillside.

## 6.4 Other buildings and grounds

To the south-east of the Maternity Unit are two, two-storey buildings. These have been constructed at ground level, although there appears to be terracing along the northern side of the northern building.

To the rear of the Children’s Home are two detached buildings. The southern building is partially located on the site of an earlier one, and its north side has been terraced into the hillside. To the south of this building (on the site of a demolished structure) are vents from a basement of unknown extent. The north-east building comprises two wings. Its northern wing

is constructed at ground level, whereas the northern part of the southern wing is terraced into the hillside.

All the landscaping along Heavitree Road in front of the Children's Home, and in front of the Maternity Unit is of later 20th-century date. The car park to the north of the Maternity Unit is at the same level as Gladstone Road, and there appears to have been relatively little truncation. The area on the west side is at the ground-floor level of the Unit, whereas the outer side is defined by a scarp. The ground is generally flat, but with raised mounds. The area to the east of the Unit is landscaped with grass and bushes (Pl. 2). To the east of this is a small road providing access to the rear of the present hospital buildings. This rises from Heavitree Road, before levelling out behind the Children's Home. It appears to have been cut through the grassed lawns to the east, to a maximum extent of 1.5m at its north-east end, although the 1945 aerial photograph and 1959 OS map suggest that the road and lawn form part of the same late 20th-century landscape.

The hospital building to the north (outside the development site) is constructed at the same level as the Maternity Unit and is at least partly terraced into the hillside. Observations (from within the development site) of an excavation at the south corner of this building revealed natural red clays at *c.* 0.3–0.4m below the surface, under modern surfaces and make-up deposits.

### **Potential for geophysical survey**

This is often a cost-effective way to identify and target surviving archaeology. However, the potential for geophysical survey on this site is low due to the amount of electronic and metallic disturbance expected from existing structures, services and car parks, as well as the extent of the tarmac surfaces and depth of landscaping.

## **7. DISCUSSION**

No scheduled monuments would be affected by the proposed development.

Given that the Listed Grade II wall at the south side of the site (site **2**) is essentially of 20th-century construction, there should be no issues arising from the proposed development (e.g. the effect on its setting), although Listed Building Consent will probably be required.

There may be a slight impact on the settings of the adjacent almshouses (site **6**), and the conservation area (which includes the site of the former Children's Home, site **3**), but not sufficient to warrant refusal of permission for the scheme.

Prior to the early 18th century the site was used for agricultural purposes. It is not known whether any medieval or earlier (i.e. Roman or prehistoric) deposits survive, but the potential for such cannot be discounted.

The present layout is associated with the later 20th-century development of the site. The natural topography slopes downhill from north-east to south-west, and from south-east to north-west; this appears to have been slightly altered during the post-medieval period. Some levelling for the early 18th-century workhouse must have taken place for the building itself. A print of 1905 (Fig. 4) also shows that the gardens within the core of the workhouse property were flat, being raised above the level of the central driveway.

### 7.1 Proposed retaining walls

One of the key aspects of the new proposed development is a 2–3m crib wall (retaining wall) extending along the south and south-west sides of the site (see Figs 11–13). This will result in the raising of the ground by up to 2.5m at the south side of the site for the car parking areas (up to 1.5m at the south-east and west sides). The type and method of construction of the wall, and the depths and nature of its foundations, are not yet known. Although the raising of the ground to the north and east of the wall will result in the burial of archaeological deposits, the excavation of the wall foundations themselves will have a direct impact on any surviving deposits. Towards the eastern side the sites of former structures will be affected. On the south side there may be deposits or features pre-dating the 18th century.

Retaining walls are also proposed for the north-east and east sides of the site, next to the proposed new warehouse and to the rear of the Grendon Road properties. In these areas the ground level will be reduced by between 0.5m (north-east) and up to 1.25m (east). This will have an impact on any surviving archaeological deposits.

### 7.2 Mitigation

The potential impacts of the development can be mitigated by way of a suitable planning condition for archaeological investigation. The extent and nature of any mitigation would be determined by the ECCAO). This could take the form of trench evaluation, excavation (if the potential is found to exist), and/or archaeological monitoring (a watching brief). Any archaeological investigations would be carried out in accordance with an agreed Written Scheme of Investigation.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## APPENDIX 1: LISTED BUILDINGS ON OR ADJACENT TO THE SITE

Information from <http://lbonline.english-heritage.org.uk>.

Building Name: WALL OF THE ROYAL DEVON AND EXETER HOSPITAL

LBS Number: 89204

Grade: II

Date Listed: 18/06/1974

NGR: SX 93102 92646

HEAVITREE ROAD

1.

1092

(North Side)

Wall of the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital

SX 9392 13/189

Very rebuilt and with old openings blocked and new ones made. C18 red brick wall, brick piers with moulded caps.

[Note: The 1947 DoE listing description states: 'Walls and gatepiers to City Hospital. Originally the Workhouse, built early C18. Older part completely destroyed by H.E. and fire, 4th May 1942. The r.b. walls and piers with moulded brick caps facing Heavitree Rd. are probably early C18.'

It is clear that the current stretch of listed wall is of 20th-century date.]

Building Name: GRENDON'S ALMHOUSES 1-12

LBS Number: 89198

Grade: II

Date Listed: 18/06/1974

NGR: SX 93272 92655

GRENDON ROAD

1.

1092

Grendon's Almshouses (Nos 1 to 12 (consec.))

SX 9392 13/181

Founded by Simon Grendon 1406. Originally in Preston Street. Re-built 1880 Robert W Best, Architect. Gabled Tudor style in local stone. Two storeys. Three projecting gabled bays with entrances. Mullion and transom casement windows. Tiled roof with clustered chimneys. All the listed buildings in Grendon Road form a group.

Building Name: ATTWILL-KINGDON ALMHOUSES 13-24

LBS Number: 89199

Grade: II

Date Listed: 18/06/1974

NGR: SX 93302 92684

GRENDON ROAD

1.

1092

Attwill-Kingdon Almshouses (Nos 13 to 24 (consec.))

SX 9392 13/182

Founded by Laurence Attwill 1588; rebuilt on present site by Kingdons, 1892. Identical



design to Grendon's Almshouses but built in Heavitree stone.  
All the listed buildings in Grendon Road form a group.

Building Name: STREET WALL FRONTING GRENDON'S AND ATTWILL KINGDON  
ALMSHOUSES

LBS Number: 89200

Grade: II

Date Listed: 18/06/1974

NGR: SX9330392645

GRENDON ROAD

1.

1092

Street Wall fronting Grendon's and Attwill-Kingdon Almshouses  
SX 9392 13/181A

Contemporary with and in the same stone as the respective blocks.  
All the listed buildings in Grendon Road form a group.

## APPENDIX 2: DOCUMENTARY HISTORY OF THE SITE

The documentary history of the site effectively begins at the end of the 17th century with the passing in 1697 of an Act of Parliament setting up what became the Exeter Corporation of the Poor, authorised to erect a hospital and workhouse, this being a period when it was perceived that ‘Idleness and Debauchery amongst the meaner sort doth greatly increase for want of Workhouses to set them to work’; the Corporation was to comprise the Mayor and Aldermen and 40 of the ‘honestest and discreetest Inhabitants’ to be elected by the principal ratepayers.<sup>20</sup> This was to be the first occasion when dissenters were allowed to play any role in the City’s affairs. The Corporation was set up in June 1698 and the following year completed acquisition from Philip Andrew, a Plymouth merchant, of a block of five fields in St Sidwell’s parish, comprising nearly 18 acres and extending from what is now Heavitree Road up to what is now Polsloe Road.<sup>21</sup>

Of the three plans considered for the building that of Ralph Michell [or Mitchell] was chosen; he was variously described as a surveyor, an architect and mathematician of Epsom, Surrey and was later described as a mason when involved in the re-building of St Paul’s Cathedral.<sup>22</sup> Difficulty has been encountered in locating any plans of the building. The minutes describe cellars as being necessary under the ‘Midle Pyle’ while the wings extended about 93 feet ‘from Out to Out’ and were about 22.5 feet in breadth.<sup>23</sup> It was described as ‘near finished’ in September 1701, but according to another account furnishing of the buildings was not completed until 1707.<sup>24</sup> A detailed description of the buildings was made some hundred years later:<sup>25</sup>

The building forms a large quadrangle open towards the south; the centre contains a handsome chapel (terminated by a cupola, in which is a clock and dial), convenient apartments for the governor, different offices for the use of the house, and spacious rooms for the meeting of committees; the wings, which extend to a great length, are divided into wards or ranges, which are kept clean and wholesome, and are spacious enough to contain several hundred paupers; behind which are buildings designed for the better accommodation of those who, having lived in credit, are reduced through misfortune to apply to their parishes for relief. There are likewise workshops and other conveniences with a spacious green in front, planted with rows of trees, where the poor inhabitants may both take the air and recreate themselves.... The whole building, green, and gardens, are surrounded by a lofty brick wall; and at the time of its erection was esteemed the first building of its kind in England.

It appears that male paupers worked in the adjoining brick works while females were employed in cloth production.

The earliest depiction of the site to have been located derives from John Rocque’s map of Exeter surveyed at a scale of six chains to the inch in 1744 which included a vignette of the workhouse in the top right hand corner (Figs 2–3). This shows the wide drive, with its

<sup>20</sup> Corporation of the Poor 1905, 7–8.

<sup>21</sup> Corporation of the Poor Court Book No. 1, minutes of 5.9.1699.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*, minutes of 25.2.1698–9; transcript in Westcountry Studies Library’s ‘Poor & Poor Law’ cuttings file from *The Flying Post or The Post-Master* [presumably a London paper], 13–16.9.1701; The National Archives Access to Archives website.

<sup>23</sup> Corporation minutes of 11.6.1700 & 13.7.1700.

<sup>24</sup> *The Flying Post or The Post-Master*, 13–16.9.1701; Newton 1984, 31.

<sup>25</sup> Jenkins 1806, 196.

inturned entrance, passing between pasture on the east and seemingly an orchard on the west, leading to the gates with their substantial piers, all the buildings at that date lying within an inner, rectangular, enclosure. The main block was of three storeys.

The next located depiction dates from 1810 when the Corporation produced a map book of its properties, with Map 1 showing the site (Fig. 5). To the west of the drive lay the Garden, with what appear to be vegetable plots extending down to the road. Building work continued with an infirmary was added in 1821,<sup>26</sup> although its location is not obvious from a comparison of the 1810 map with that produced in 1842 for the parish's tithe survey (Fig. 6). A newspaper report of 1828 records the leasing of the large garden adjoining the workhouse to the nurseryman and florist Mr C. Sclater 'who has engaged to erect two handsome lodges fronting the Heavitree-road', while a hot house and conservatory were also planned.<sup>27</sup> It is not obvious from maps that more than one lodge was ever present. While the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 changed the situation of most of the destitute for the worse, its effect on the Exeter workhouse buildings appears to have been slight. However, it may have been responsible for the decision taken two years later to discontinue brick-making on the site, when 300,000 bricks were offered for sale.<sup>28</sup>

The 1842 survey shows some realignment of field boundaries with the northern part of the site said to be occupied by a 5-acre brick yard, by then under pasture, while the pasture to the east of the drive had been replaced with a garden.. Another infirmary was added in 1858,<sup>29</sup> to the north of the area under discussion.

In 1876 Exeter was surveyed at 1:500-scale, the resulting maps being the only ones to show ground-floor interiors of the more substantial buildings (Figs 7–8). The west wing was identified as comprising 'Day Room (Male)' and 'Lunatic Ward (Male)' while only the 'Lunatic Ward (Female)' was identified in the east wing. The northern extremity of the area under discussion appears to overlie a small part of the chapel, which presumably had offices above. A skittle ground was present to the west of the drive while the function of the structure in the south-east corner of the rectangle, divided up into small rooms or cells, can be identified with some confidence as the casual ward where vagrants were housed overnight, before being required to break up half a ton of stone.<sup>30</sup> Another ward may have been added in 1898.<sup>31</sup>

Map evidence shows that Gladstone Road was constructed between 1888 and 1904 to form the western boundary of the site. In 1905 a more substantial infirmary was added at the north end of the hospital site, this being commemorated by the publication of a booklet, which contains a photograph of the main building with its clock and cupola, showing it to be of a high architectural standard (Fig. 4). Five years later a government circular recommended that children be moved out of the workhouse environment and this led to the allocation of two acres in the south-east corner of the site for the building of a Children's Home, the land having been leased to the Sclater family as a nursery. The foundation stone was laid on 15 January 1913, the building being designed to accommodate 30 girls and 44 boys, the architect

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<sup>26</sup> Russell 1976, 79.

<sup>27</sup> *Devon and Exeter Gazette* 20.2.1828 citing *Woolmer's Exeter & Plymouth Gazette* 19–25.2.1828 in Westcountry Studies Library's 'Poor & Poor Law' cuttings file.

<sup>28</sup> *Trewman's Exeter Flying Post* 6.10.1836 1a.

<sup>29</sup> Russell 1976, 79.

<sup>30</sup> Russell 1976, 81.

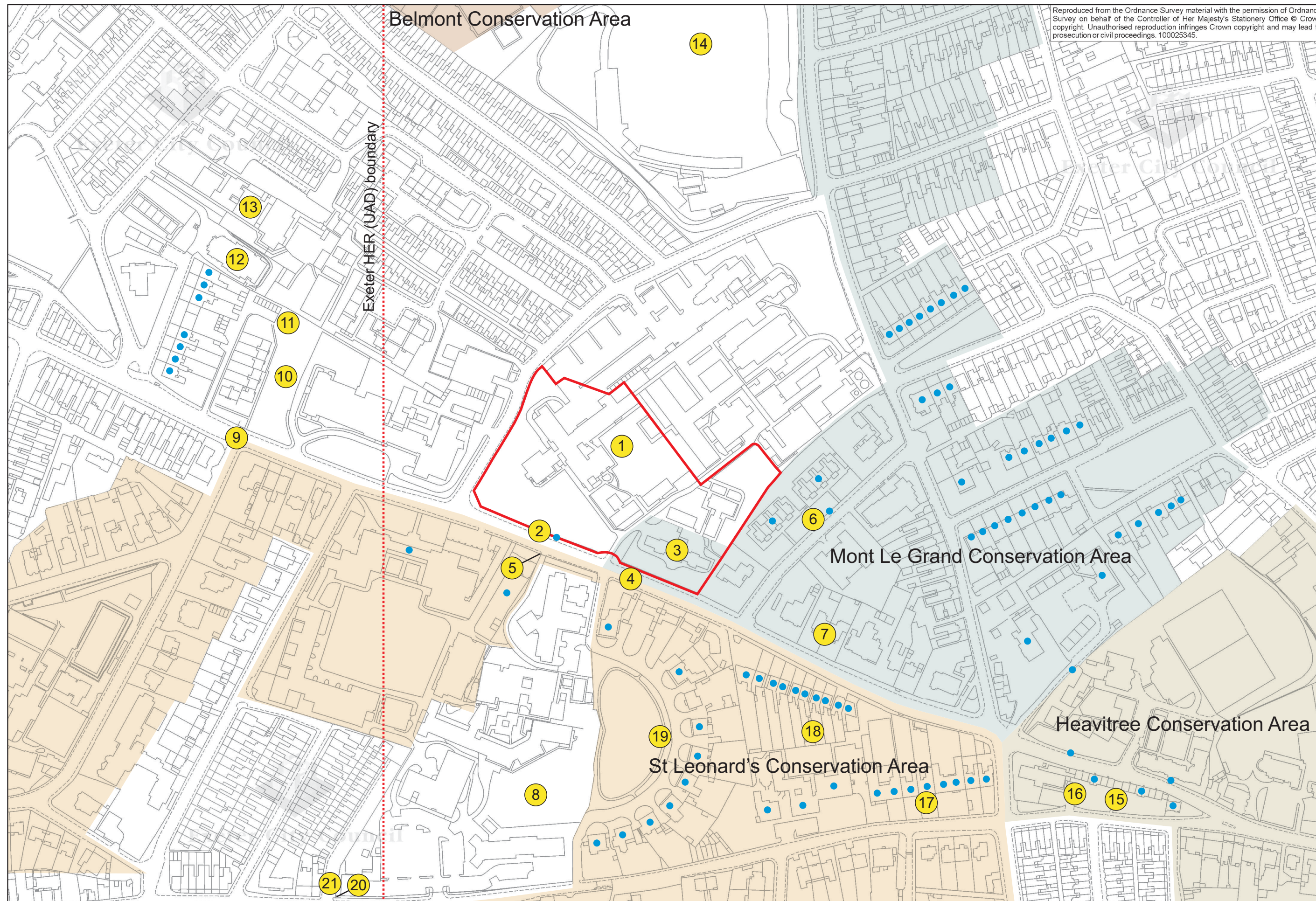
<sup>31</sup> Cutting from *Express & Echo* 14.9.1932 in Westcountry Studies Library's 'Poor & Poor Law' cuttings file.

being Mr R.M. Challice and the builders Messrs Soper and Ayres; there were playgrounds at the rear, divided by light iron railings. With hostilities commencing in August of the following year the building was temporarily converted to No. 3 Voluntary Aid Organisation Hospital, one of what were to become eight military hospitals in the city, and staffed largely by volunteer nurses.

The Local Government Act of 1929 brought about the end of the Corporation of the Poor, its functions being transferred to Exeter City Council which set up a public assistance committee. Directories record the change of name from Poor Law Institution to City Hospital between 1930 and 1931, although the word 'master' continued to be used to describe the head but the Ordnance Survey continued with 'Public Assistance Institution (Fig. 9). The inter-war depression and closure of the St Thomas workhouse casual ward led to increasing pressure on the Heavitree Road site and an L-shaped hut that had been intended for smallpox sufferers was relocated from Ide to a site just to the east of the original ward in 1932. Later that decade as the country again faced a World War the hospital was designated an emergency hospital in 1939 and it was to face a very real emergency on the night of 3rd/4th May 1942 when the original block was hit by incendiary bombs, which led to 18 fatalities among the bed-ridden patients. Without the individual acts of selfless heroism by the staff the total would have been much higher and medals or commendations were awarded to 10 of the staff. All the hospital records were destroyed in the raid. The destruction led to a clearance of the original block so complete that only parts of the outline of the central block and the eastern wing were depicted, the latter designated 'Ruins' on the Ordnance Survey's 1949 map (Fig. 10). The first listing of Exeter's buildings had taken place around 1947 and it led to the eight-foot high brick wall surrounding the site being accorded Grade III status.

The passing of the National Health Act in 1948 led to the transfer of the whole site to the Exeter and Mid-Devon Group of Hospitals. Little structural change was experienced during the first ten years but in 1959 a new Maternity Unit was constructed on the western half of the area under discussion, with what was then the most modern premature baby unit in the country. By that date the wall had been removed and replaced by a low brick version, with the original entrance being completely removed (although the wall has not been delisted and with the abolition of Grade III became Grade II).

The Maternity Unit was subsequently extended to both the north-east and south-west. The change of name to the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital (Heavitree) was announced by the management committee in 1970, when major expansion, notably the four-storey block, was taking place to the north of the area under discussion. Nurses' blocks were built to the south-east around 1972, while the Children's Home was converted to administrative offices with other buildings being constructed over what had been the playgrounds. The former Children's Home was subsequently used by the occupational health service.



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Fig. 1 Location of proposed development area, conservation areas, sites of archaeological and historical interest, and nearby listed/locally listed buildings (blue dots). Scale 1:2500.

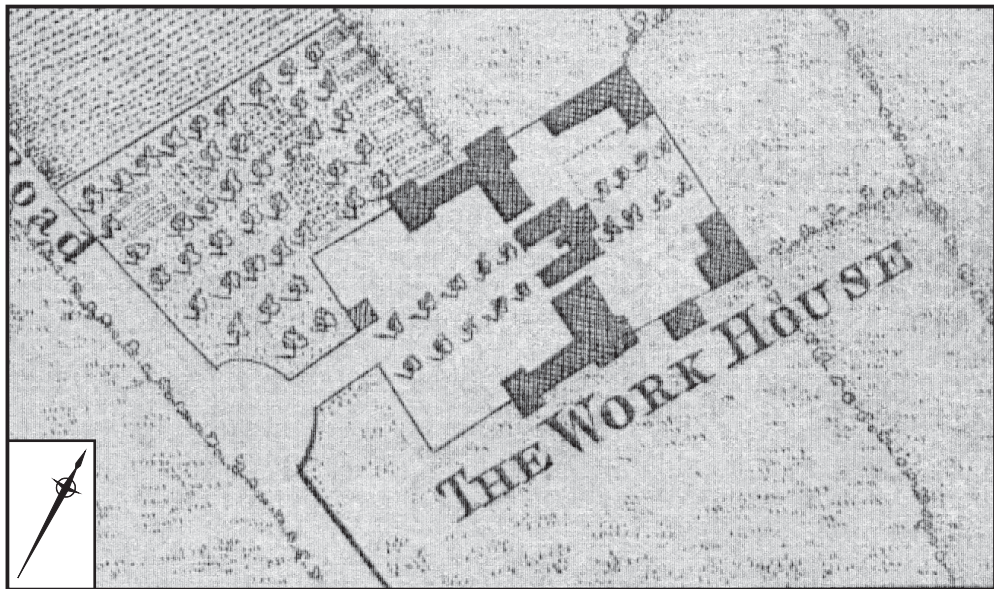


Fig. 2 Extract from the 1764 edition of John Rocque's 1744 map of Exeter. Enlarged from 6 chains to 1 inch to 1:2500. Reproduced by courtesy of the Westcountry Studies Library.

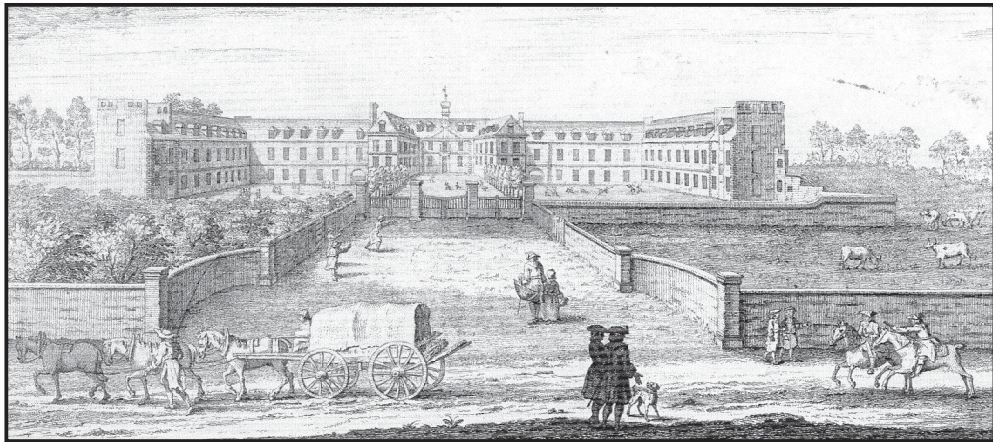


Fig. 3 Depiction of the workhouse from John Rocque's 1744 map of Exeter. Reproduced by courtesy of the Westcountry Studies Library.



Fig. 4 Photograph of the workhouse published in 1905. Reproduced by courtesy of the Westcountry Studies Library.

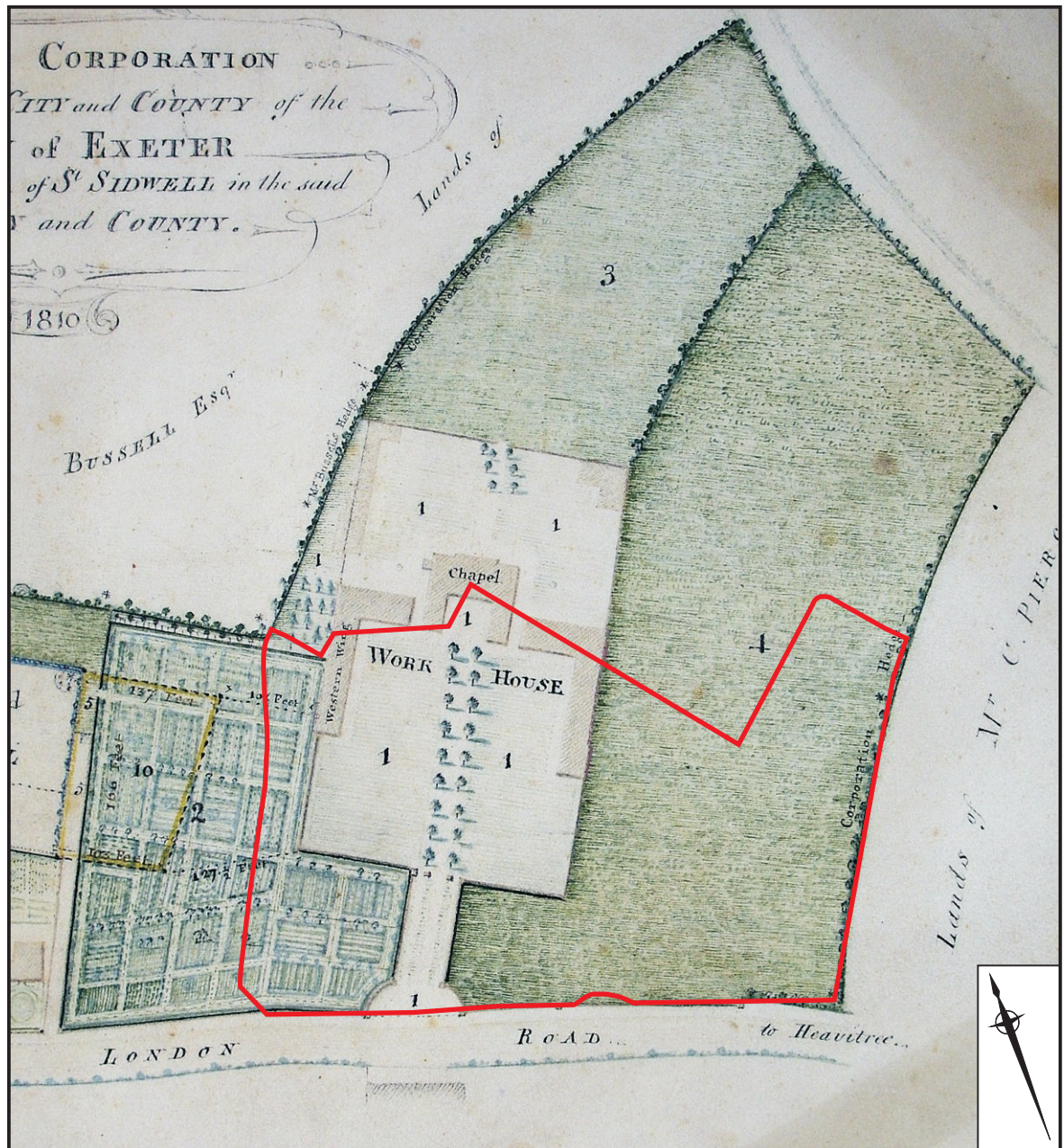


Fig. 5 Extract from the 1810 Exeter Corporation of the Poor Map Book (Map 1, reduced to 1:2000) showing the approximate position of the site. Reproduced by courtesy of Devon Record Office (Exeter City Archives Book 58A).



Fig. 6 Extract from the 1842 St Sidwell Tithe Map (enlarged to 1:2000) showing the approximate position of the site.



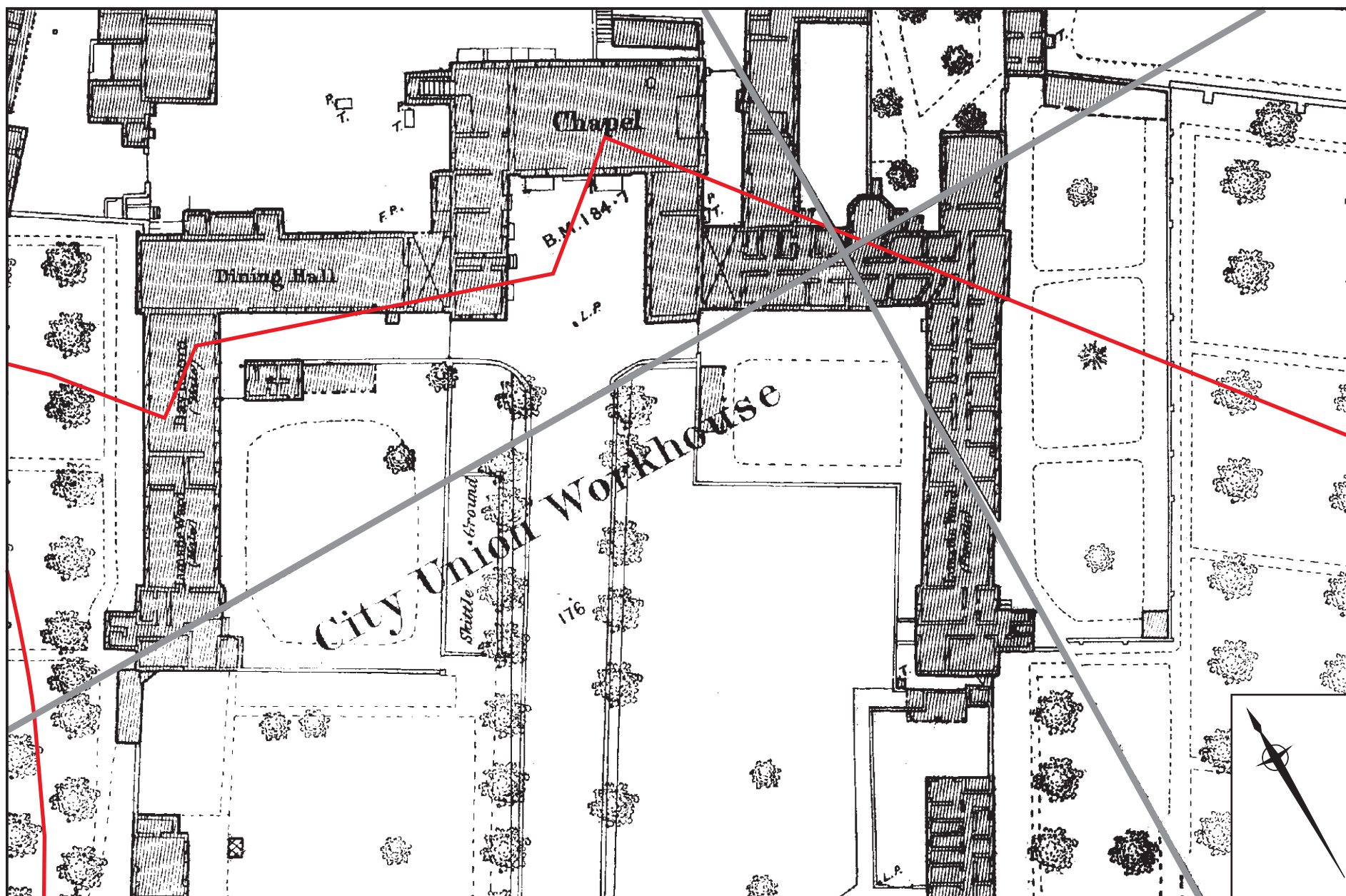


Fig. 7 The northern extremity of the site in 1876 showing the 18th-century buildings (OS 1:500 Sheets Devonshire 80.6.14–15 & 80.6.19–20).

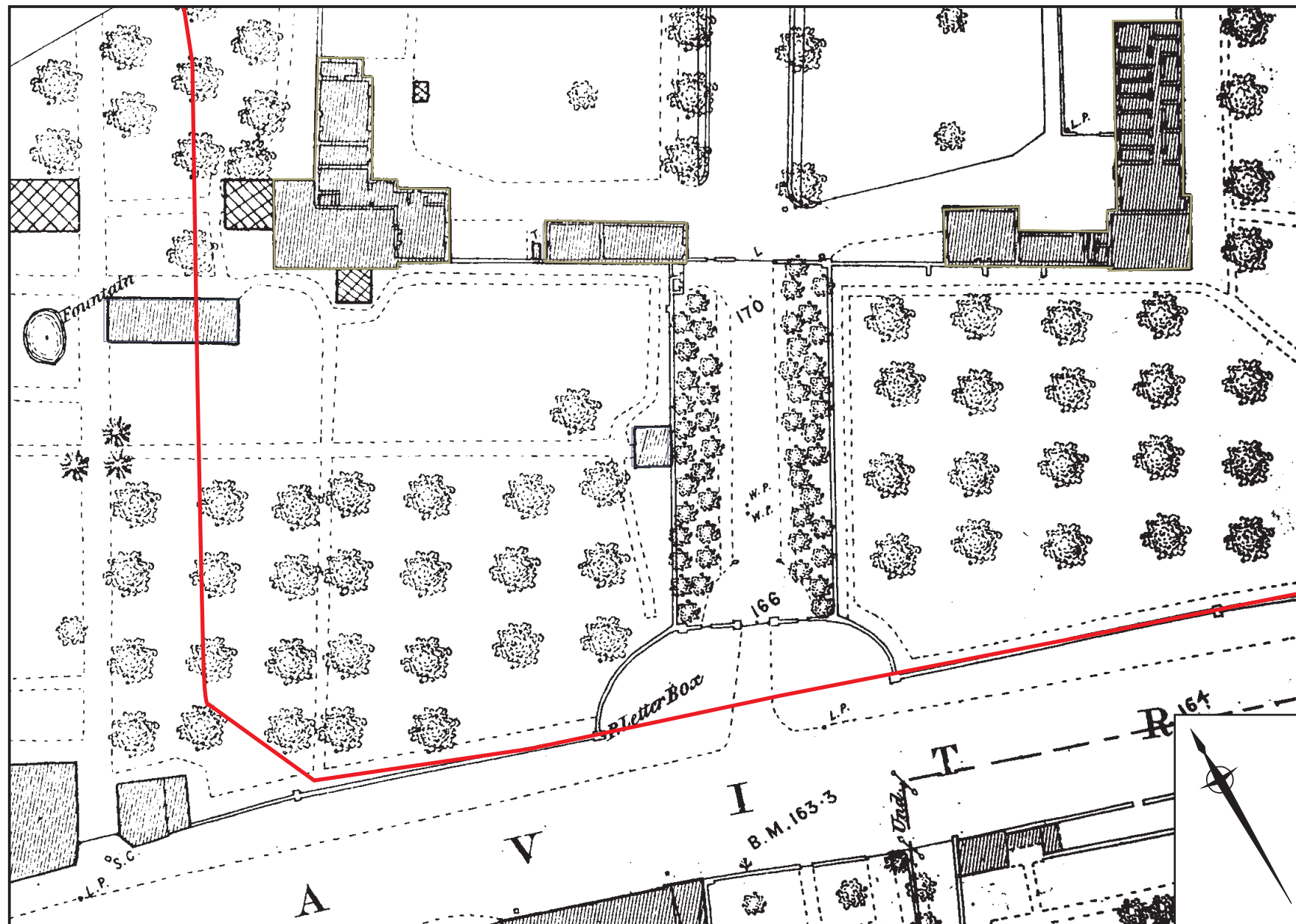


Fig. 8 The south-west corner of the site in 1876 (OS 1:500 Sheet Devonshire 80.6.19).

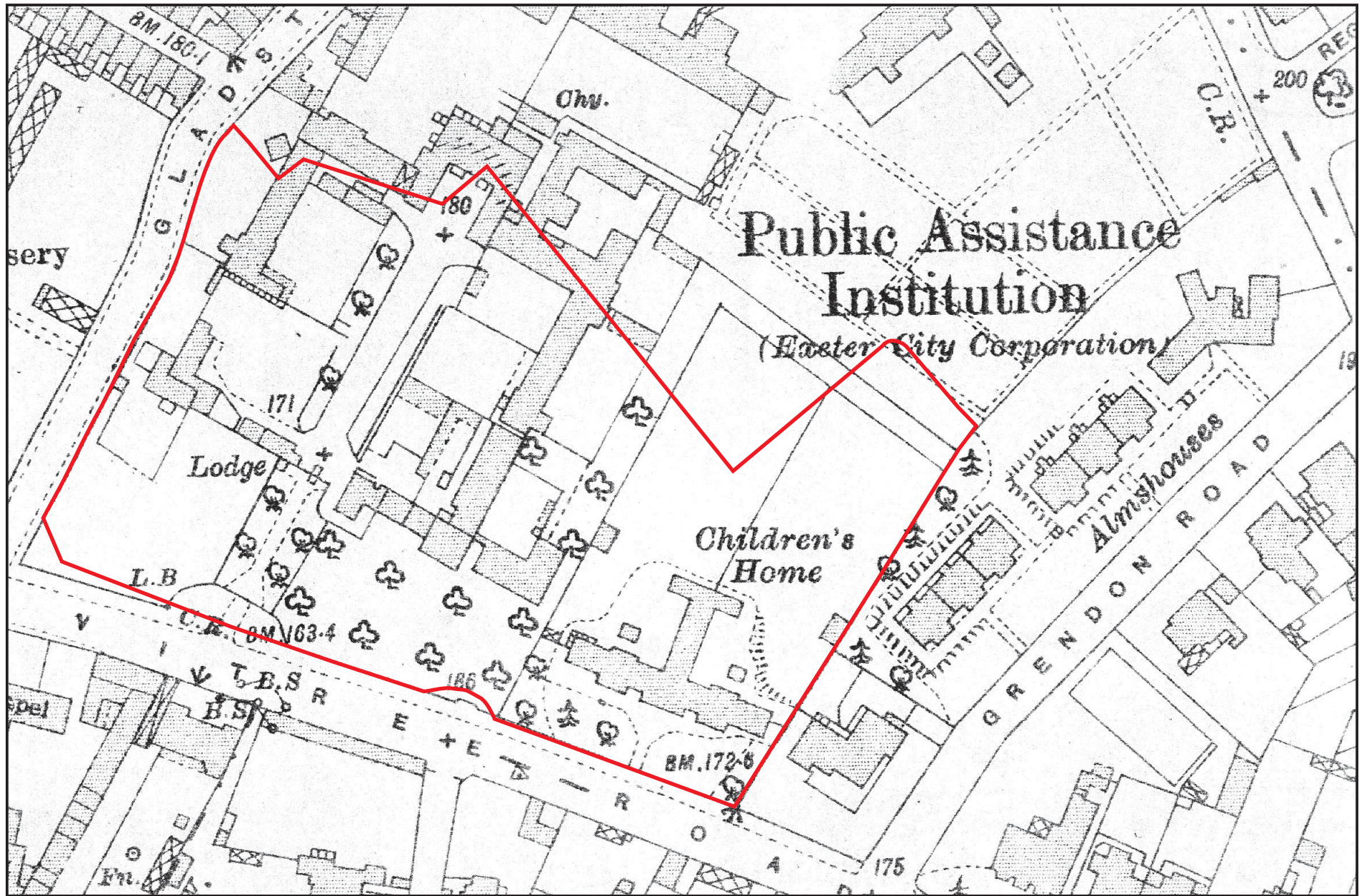


Fig. 9 The site area in 1932 prior to the Blitz (OS 1:2500 Revision Sheet 80.6, enlarged to 1:1250).

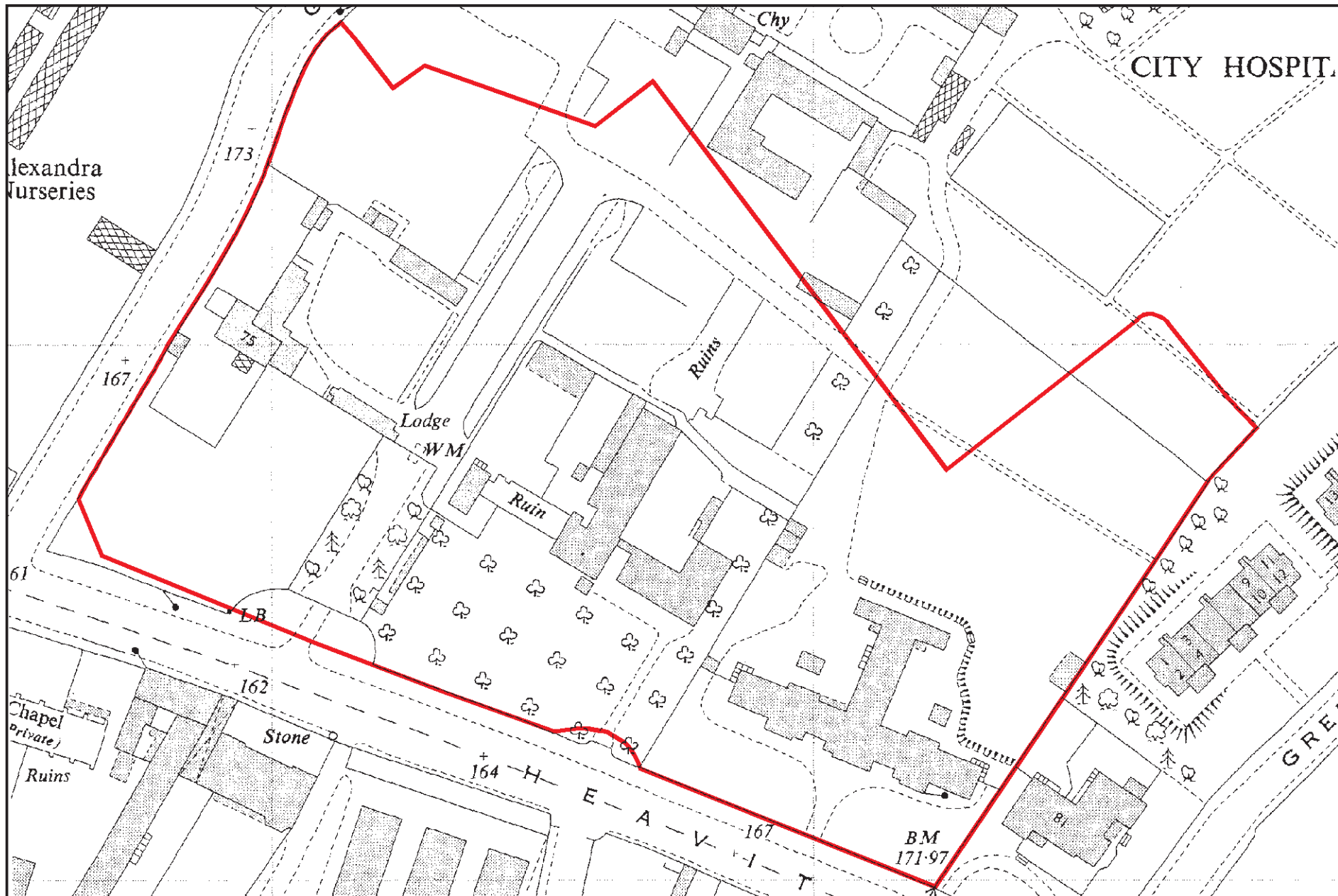


Fig. 10 The site area in 1949 (OS 1:1250 Sheet 20/9392NW).

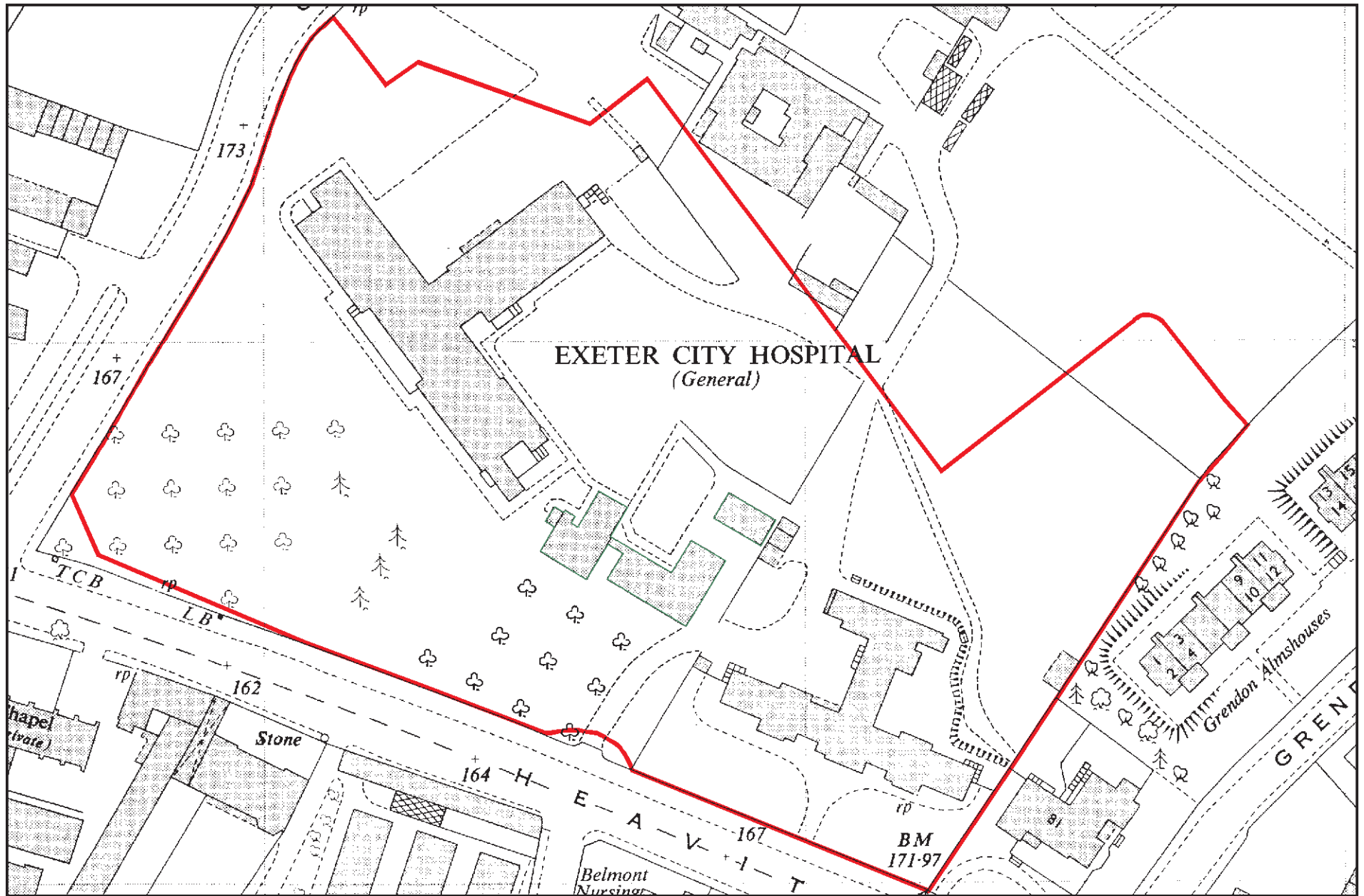


Fig. 11 The site area in 1959 showing the recently completed Maternity Unit (OS 1:1250 Sheet SX 9392 NW; enlarged to 1:1000).

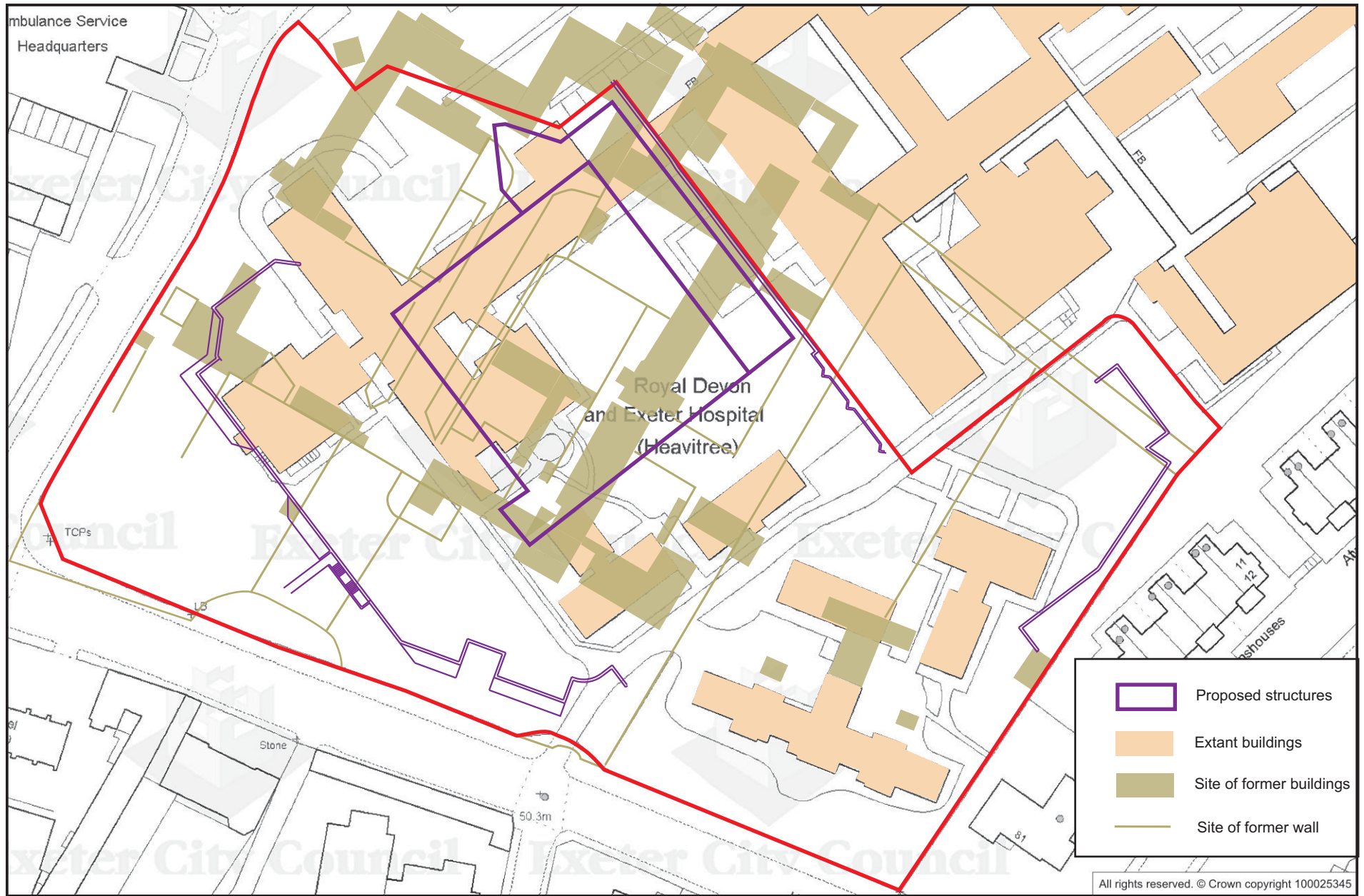


Fig. 12 Location of former buildings and walls, extant and proposed buildings. Scale 1:1000.

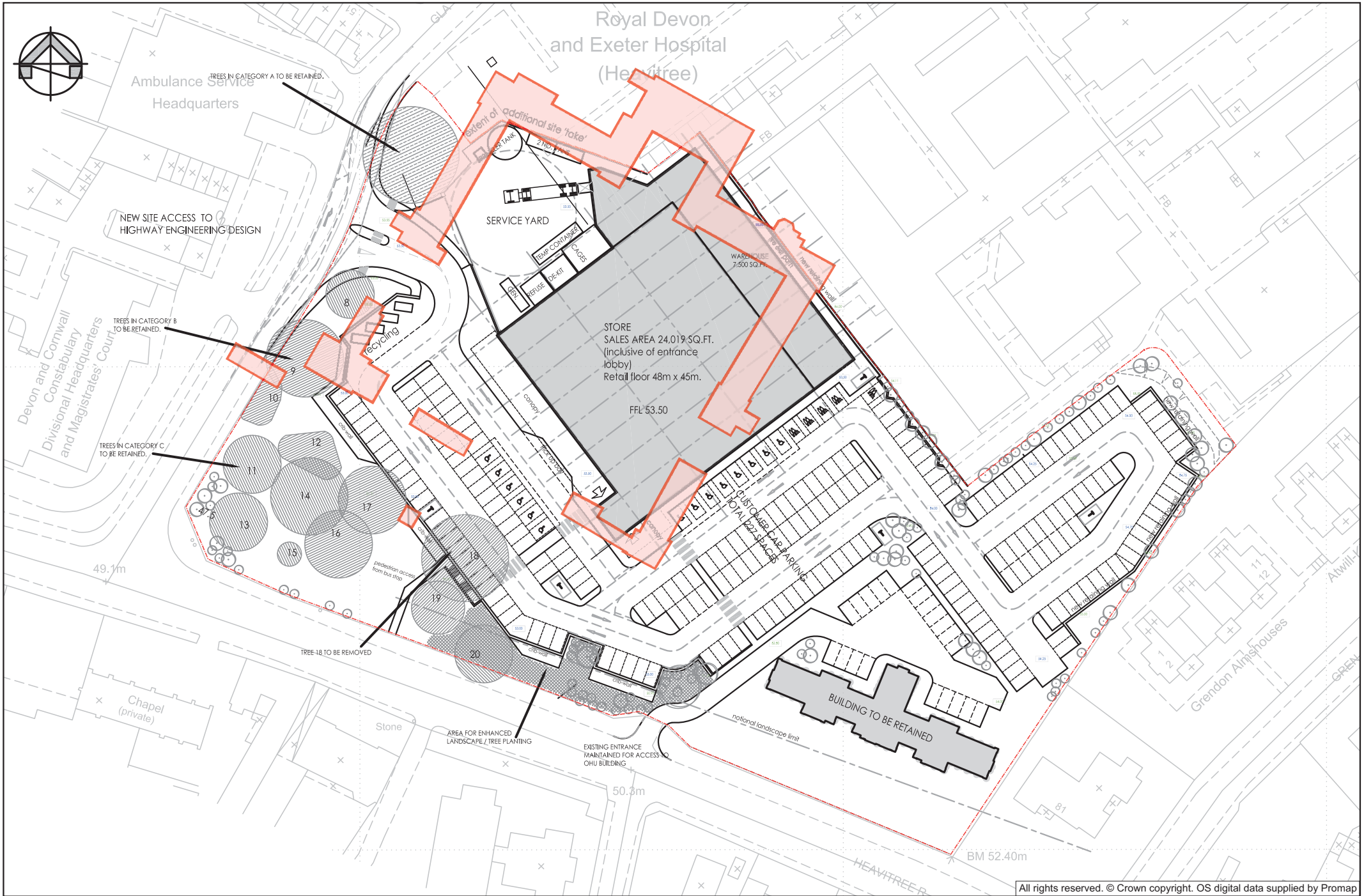


Fig. 13 The workhouse buildings present within the site in 1876 in relation to the proposed development. Scale 1:1000.

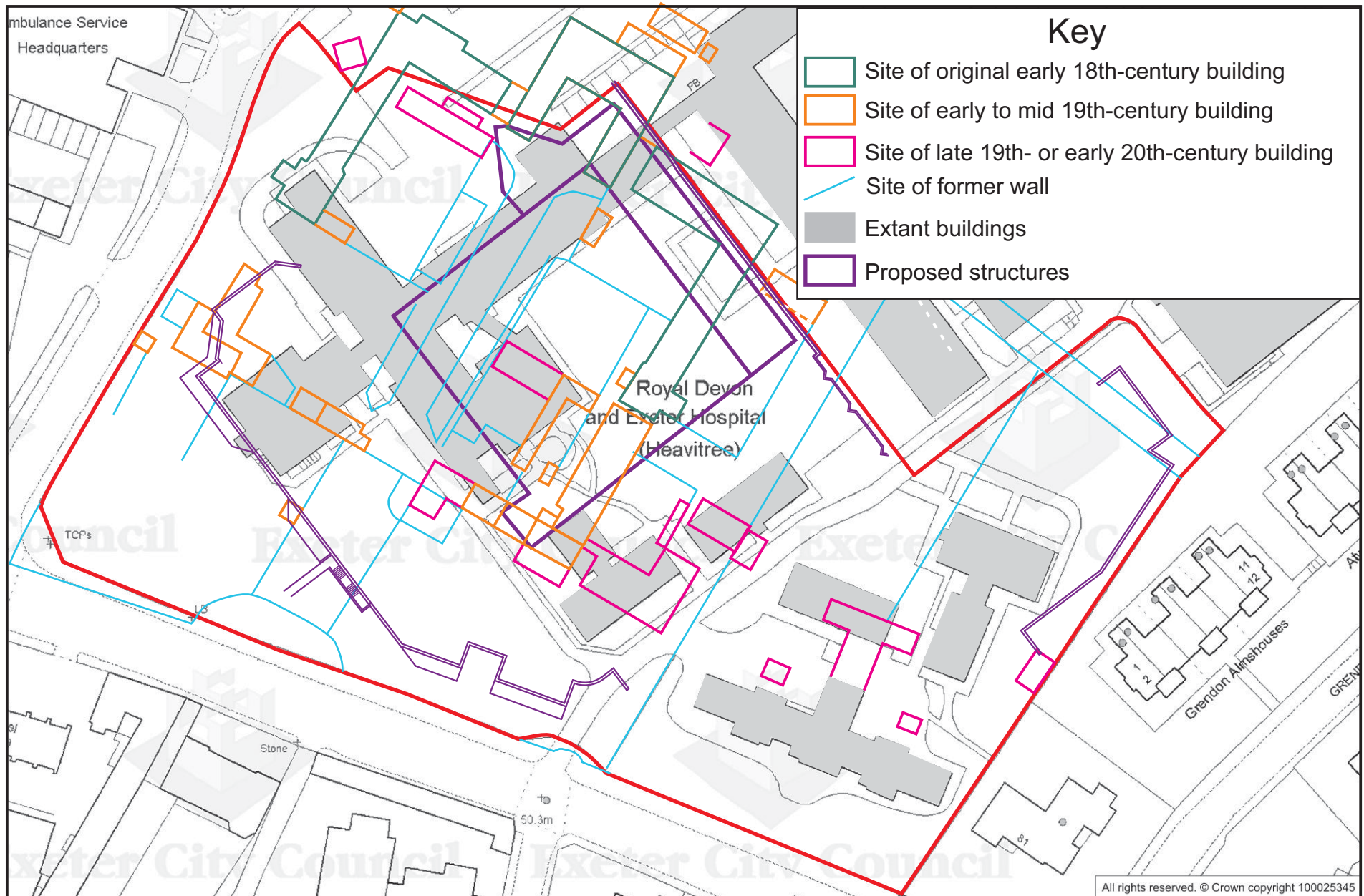


Fig. 14 Location of former (phased) buildings, former walls, and extant and proposed buildings. Scale 1:1000.



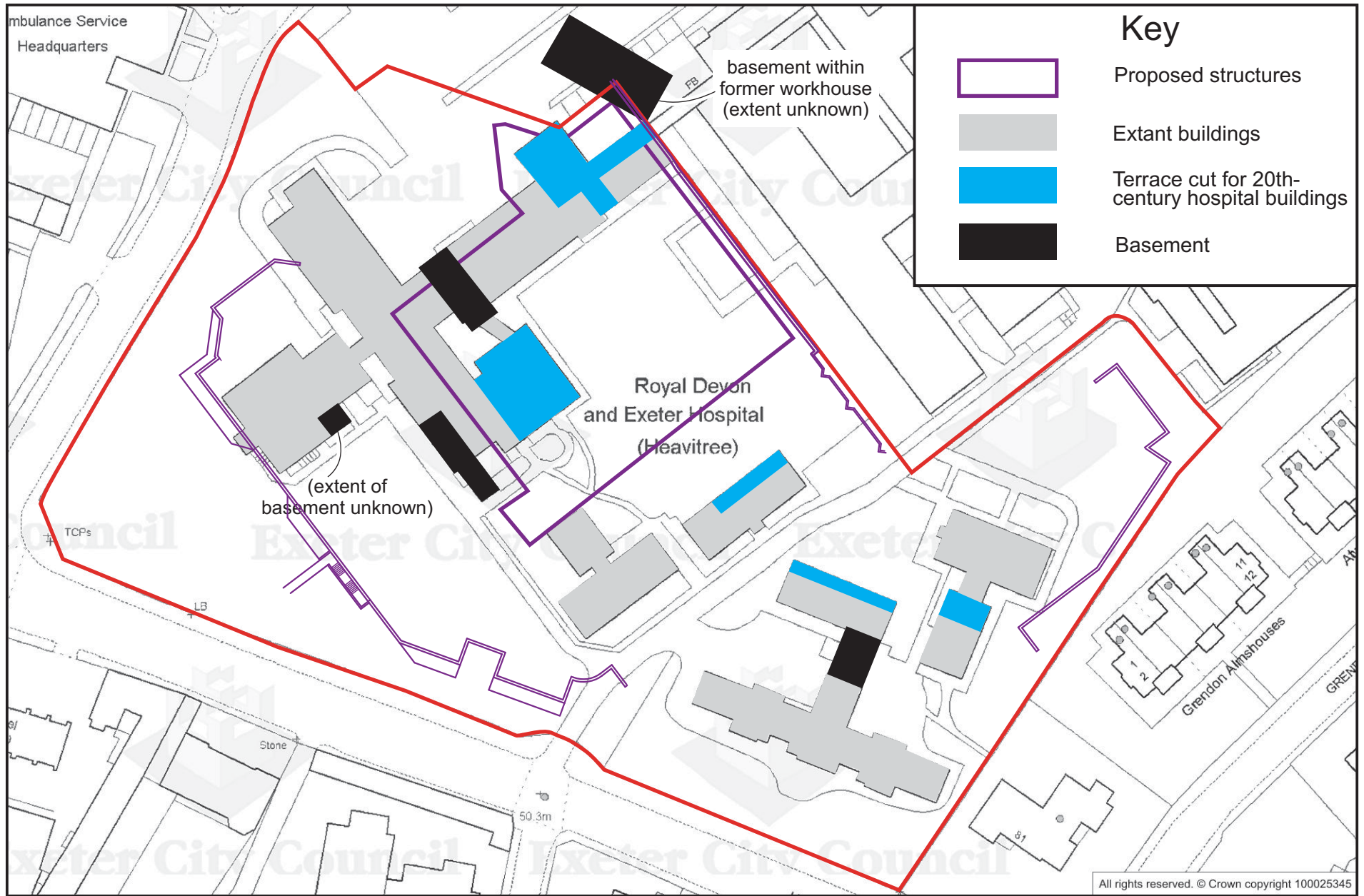


Fig. 15 Location of known basements and terracing. Scale 1:1000.



Plate 1 The former Children's Home, showing two phases of low brick wall alongside Heavitree Road. Looking north-east.



Plate 2 The garden area east of the Maternity Unit, looking east towards the almshouses in Grendon Road.

## **PART TWO: TRENCH EVALUATION AND EXCAVATION**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

An archaeological trench evaluation and subsequent excavation of the site was carried out between the 28th of January and the 16th February 2011. The work was required under condition 7 of the grant of planning permission for the redevelopment of the site to provide a foodstore, access, parking, landscaping and associated works (planning ref: 10/1594/03, Exeter City Council).

The development was considered to have a potentially serious impact upon any surviving buried workhouse remains or earlier archaeological deposits due to the extent of groundworks which entailed substantial terracing in to the slope to accommodate the new store and car parking to the north and east, the re-routing of major services including excavation for two large attenuation tanks, and the construction of a retaining wall to the south and east of the store. However, the landscaped belt between the retaining wall and Heavitree Road was to remain undisturbed, with most of the trees within it retained and therefore no trenching was required in this area.

### **2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

A full archaeological and historical background for the site is found in Part One above; the proposed development area is on the former site of the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital (Heavitree) which itself overlay an early 18th century workhouse. The development footprint, where close to Heavitree Road, was thought to lie on or near to the course of a Roman road (see Section 5, site 4 above).

### **3. AIMS**

The principal aims were to establish, through trench evaluation, the presence or absence, character, depth, extent and date of all archaeological deposits within the site and to ensure that within areas of demonstrated archaeological survival, deposits were fully investigated and recorded prior to the start of groundworks.

### **4. PROJECT BRIEF**

No specific brief was supplied for the project but the scope of the archaeological works was set out in an e-mail from the city council's Archaeology Officer (ECCAO), to Exeter Archaeology, dated 22nd December 2010. This set out a staged approach, the principal requirements of which were:

#### **Stage 1**

- Trial trenching to determine the location of the work house remains and the quality of their survival and to determine whether there are any other remains surviving within the development area.

#### **Stage 2**

- Depending on the results of the Stage 1 works, either targeted open area excavation in areas of archaeological survival, and/or a watching brief during groundworks.

## 5. METHOD

All works were carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by EA and approved by the planning authority.<sup>32</sup>

17 trenches measuring 1.6m wide and totalling 197m in length were excavated using a wheeled excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. The trenches were sited primarily to locate surviving remains of the workhouse building, but also to provide a representative spatial sample of the site. Positioning of the trenches was constrained by existing buildings, live services, trees and the need to retain access.

Topsoil and any underlying modern deposits were removed using a toothless grading bucket, with machining continuing to the top of archaeologically significant deposits, or natural ground (whichever was higher). Where archaeology was exposed, machining ceased and areas of survival were cleaned by hand. Standard EA recording procedures were employed. Stratigraphic information was recorded on pro-forma trench record sheets and single context record sheets, with a drawn record compiled in plan and section at scales of 1:20 and 1:50. A photographic record was prepared in black and white film and digital (colour) format. Finds were recovered from stratified contexts; post-1750 finds from the topsoil were not retained. The positions of the trenches were recorded using an EDM.

On completion of the evaluation, the results were reviewed with the ECCAO and it was agreed that a limited and localised area excavation (Stage 2 works) should be carried out to further investigate and record a number of archaeological features and deposits exposed towards the Heavitree Road site frontage.

## 6. RESULTS

### 6.1 Trench evaluation

For location of all evaluation trenches see Fig. 16.

#### Trench 1 (8m x 1.6m)

The trench was positioned primarily to locate the east wall of the NW range of the workhouse. The turf and topsoil (100) were removed to reveal deep and extensive deposits of modern overburden comprising mixed soil and post-war demolition material (101-102). This overlay the natural substrate, stiff reddish-brown clay, which was exposed at a depth of 1.1m below ground level. An area of deeper modern disturbance was present at the extreme western end of the trench. This was not investigated further. No archaeological features or deposits were present.

#### Trench 2 (9m x 1.6m)

This trench was positioned across the SW range of the workhouse. Removal of turf, topsoil and modern overburden (200-202) exposed a remnant of post-medieval cultivation soil (203). This overlay natural clay, which was exposed at 620mm below ground level. Preserved within a deposit of post-war demolition rubble at the extreme western end of the trench was a small remnant of disturbed brickwork, two courses high, aligned NNE-SSW. This represents the only surviving evidence within the trench of the former range of early- to mid-19th century buildings.

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<sup>32</sup> Stead, 2011

### Trench 3 (8m x 1.6)

Trench 3 was positioned across the SW range of the workhouse, adjacent to Trench 2. Removal of turf, topsoil and modern overburden (300-301) exposed a very small remnant of post-medieval cultivation soil (302). This overlay natural clay which was exposed at a depth of 620mm below ground level. A former wall line of the western range of buildings was indicated by a shallow linear depression filled with demolition debris *c.*2m from the northern end of the trench. None of the original wall fabric had survived.

### Trench 4 (13.5m x 1.6m)

Trench 4 was located to the immediate south of the site of the workhouse, within the footprint of a proposed attenuation tank and parking area. Up to 500mm of turf, topsoil and modern overburden (400-401) were removed to reveal a former cultivation soil of post-medieval date between 200mm and 300mm thick (402). At the southern end of the trench the cultivation soil had been cut through for the construction of a somewhat insubstantial wall (406) of hand-made brick, bonded with white lime mortar. This appears to represent the western wall of the drive which served the workhouse and later pre-war hospital.

Removal of the cultivation soil exposed an E-W aligned ditch (403), up to 800mm wide and 300mm deep, filled with yellowish-red silty clay (404). This produced a quantity of fired clay mould, possibly foundry waste of probable Roman date. The trench was expanded during stage 2 mitigation works (see below).

### Trench 5 (6m x 1.6m)

This trench was located to the immediate south of the site of the workhouse, within the footprint of a proposed attenuation tank and parking area. Up to 620mm of turf, topsoil and modern overburden (500-501) were removed, exposing a post-medieval cultivation soil (502) between 420mm and 480mm thick overlying the natural clay. A modern water pipe trench was present 2.5m from the northern end of the trench, in the base of which was the truncated red brick foundation of an E-W aligned wall (503) associated with the late 19th- or early 20th-century hospital buildings.

### Trench 6 (29.5m x 1.6m)

This trench was positioned on the southern limit of the development along the line of a new retaining wall for a parking area, close to Heavitree Road. Turf and topsoil (600-601), which thickened progressively from 160mm at the western end of the trench to 400mm at the east end, was removed to expose a post-medieval cultivation soil (603). This was up to 380mm thick at the west end of the trench but thinned to the east as a result of modern landscaping of the hospital grounds.

A number of features were present, perhaps the earliest of which comprised a very shallow and vaguely defined hollow, the western edge of which curved around towards the NE; the feature may have derived from horse-drawn traffic turning to the north from the line of Heavitree Road at this point. The fill comprised clay loam (611) indistinguishable from that of the post-medieval cultivation soil which was present throughout the trench. It seems likely however that the use of the route ceased when the property was enclosed for building purposes.

The remaining features comprised a NE-SW aligned brick vaulted sewer (610) which was present at the extreme south-western end of the trench, and a shallow and somewhat

unevenly-based N-S aligned linear feature (606) which appeared perhaps to be a planting feature, and of post-medieval origin.

A large, modern sub-circular tree pit (604), cut from the base of the existing topsoil, was present 7m from the NE end of the trench.

#### Trench 7 (13m by 1.6m)

The trench was sited across the footprint of the east range of the workhouse. On the upper (NW) side up to 1650mm of turf, topsoil, and overburden (700-701) was removed in order to reach archaeological levels and the top of the natural clays. The area had clearly been subject to extensive landscaping during the post-war redevelopment of the site and the wall-lines of the probable early to mid-19th century parts of the hospital range were represented by NNE-SSW and WNW-ESE aligned foundation trenches (704, 706) devoid of original fabric but containing much demolition debris. Associated with the walls was evidence for internal and external drainage. The drains (702 and 709) comprised walls and capping of handmade brick.

#### Trench 8 (12m by 1.6m)

This trench was sited across the footprint of the west wall of the east range of the workhouse. Up to 1.28m of modern overburden (800-801) was removed, revealing (probably truncated) natural clays. A small, flat-based cut (802) aligned NNE-SSW was present c.6m from the eastern end of the trench. It was filled with post-medieval demolition or robbing debris (803), and perhaps represents a robber trench for a later alteration or addition to the early 18th century workhouse range, of which no evidence was present. It occupied a position which would place it parallel with the suspected alignment of the workhouse walls.

Immediately to the east of the robber trench were the bases of two small postholes (804 and 806), the fills of which (805 and 807 respectively) produced fragments of red brick and slate, and which were considered therefore to be of late post-medieval or modern date.

#### Trench 9 (11m by 1.6m)

The trench was sited in a landscaped area within the interior grounds of the workhouse. Up to 1.55m of modern overburden and a pre-1950's buried topsoil (900-901) were removed to reveal the top of the natural clay.

In the extreme southern end of the trench was a stone-filled land drain aligned approximately NE to SW which, although unexcavated due to the depth of the trench at this point, is considered to be of probable post-medieval date.

Against the western side of the trench, and filled with material indistinguishable to that of the buried topsoil, were three small and somewhat irregular features (904, 906, 908) which appear to be modern planting pits.

#### Trench 10 (10.8m by 1.6m)

The trench was sited across the footprint of the NE range of the workhouse. It was located in an area of modern concrete paving, bedded on a thick layer of aggregate, which had been laid directly onto truncated natural clay, which was exposed 650mm below ground level. A small feature of clearly modern origin was present 6m from the south-western end of the trench.

#### Trench 11 (14m x 1.6m)

This trench was sited across the east range of the workhouse between trenches 8 and 10. Modern overburden (1000-1001) was removed to reveal truncated natural clay at a depth of 350mm depth below ground level.

At the extreme eastern end was a large cut (1102), containing a brick vaulted sewer (1106), exposed at a depth of 1.2m. It was aligned NNE-SSW, parallel with and to the east (outside) of the early 18th-century building range.

The east wall of the range had apparently been removed by landscaping works, although a single course of poor quality brickwork marked the position of an internal wall. Some 5m to the east of this, the remains a small internal drain (1109) was exposed, consisting of hand-made brickwork walls set 100mm apart.

#### Trench 12 (14.5m by 1.6m)

This trench was sited to the east of the workhouse, within a proposed parking area. Up to 700mm of turf, topsoil and modern overburden (1200-1204) was removed to expose the top of natural clay. A large modern disturbance and concrete structure (1203-4) was present 4m from the east end of the trench.

The remains of a NNE-SSW aligned brick wall (1206) of probable 19th-century date were present some 5.5m from the western end of the trench.

#### Trench 13 (10.5m by 1.6m)

The trench was sited to the east of the workhouse within an area of proposed parking. Up to 1.2m of modern overburden (1300-1302) was removed to reveal a post-medieval cultivation soil (1303) up to 200mm thick, which overlay natural clay.

Natural clay was cut through by a small number of post-medieval features, in addition to which was an undated linear feature (1305) aligned WNW-ESE. Although no finds were recovered, the fill of this feature was indistinguishable from the cultivation soil which sealed it. The orientation of the feature corresponded to that of the former hospital ranges.

#### Trench 14 (12m by 1.6m)

The trench was opened within a proposed parking area to the NE of Trench 13.

Turf, topsoil and overburden (1400-1401) were removed to reveal the natural clay at a depth of 420mm below ground level. A modern wall line (1402) crossed the trench 3.5m from the northern end and is a continuation of that recorded in Trench 15.

#### Trench 15 (11.5m by 1.6m. Plate.3)

The trench was sited within an area of proposed parking close to the hospital's eastern boundary of the hospital. Turf, topsoil and modern overburden (1500) were removed to expose natural clay at a depth of 400mm. A modern brick wall (1502) was exposed approx. 3m from the southern end of the trench, and appears to be a continuation of that recorded in Trench 14; it corresponds to a scar present on the existing eastern boundary wall.

#### Trench 16 (7.8m by 1.6m)

The trench was sited to the SE of Trench 4, beyond a concentration of live services in order to clarify the eastward continuation, or otherwise, of ditch 403 (trench 4). Turf and topsoil (1600) were removed to expose a post-medieval cultivation soil (1601) which overlay natural clay at 900mm below ground level. No evidence of the ditch was observed, despite its

subsequent exposure within Area II (see below). This implies that the trench was sited over a break in the line of the ditch, as the ditch was exposed to either side, within Trenches 4 and 17.

#### Trench 17 (4m by 1.6m)

Trench 17 was excavated immediately to the NW of Trench 4, and was subsequently expanded to form Area I, described below. Ditch 403 was exposed (recorded here as 1701), and excavation of its fill (1702), produced 20 small sherds of fired clay, 3 sherds of undiagnostic Roman pottery and 3 small residual sherds of prehistoric pottery of probable Iron Age in date.<sup>33</sup>

## 6.2 Excavation

(Figs. 16-19)

### Area I (Figs. 16, 17. Plates 4, 5)

A triangular area approximately 15m long and up to 7.5m wide was opened around evaluation trenches 4 and 17 in order to further investigate ditch 403/1701, to recover further dating evidence from it and to establish whether further features or other evidence of occupation was in evidence in close proximity to the ditch; the recovery of the fired clay, in particular, suggesting activity in the immediate vicinity. However, no ceramic material or other finds were recovered and no other archaeologically significant features or deposits were observed.

### Area II (Figs. 16, 18. Plate 6)

An irregular area measuring 11m long and 10m wide was opened immediately to the south of Trench 5 in order to establish whether ditch 403/1701 continued, and whether any evidence for settlement activity was present. Excavation was constrained by the presence of a number of live services to both the NW and SE of the area, by the presence of a large tree, and by the proximity of the new retaining wall - representing the southern limit of any possible excavation, due to the retention of the landscaped belt and the trees within it.

Removal of modern overburden and the underlying post-medieval cultivation soil revealed a number of modern features and two linear ditches. One of these, ditch 2006, was aligned WNW-ESE, and was almost certainly a continuation of ditch 403/1701 seen in Area I. The ditch was recorded over a distance of 11m and displayed a shallow and bow-shaped profile with a maximum depth of 180mm. It contained a single fill (2007) comprising a pale reddish-grey to reddish-yellow clay from which a moderately large piece of slag was recovered. Ditch 2006 could be clearly seen to cut the fill of an earlier N-S aligned ditch (2004) which contained a fill of contrasting dark reddish brown silty clay. Ditch 2004 was "V"-shaped in profile and measured up to 840mm wide and 500mm deep. A short length of the ditch was excavated but no dateable material was recovered. The northern and southern extents of the ditch remain uncertain.

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<sup>33</sup> John Allan (pers. comm.)



## 7. THE FINDS by Charlotte Coles

The majority of the finds recovered from this site consist of post-medieval and modern pottery. Other finds included Prehistoric, Roman and Medieval pottery, lithics and clay mould.

Type	Number	Context/notes
Prehistoric pottery	3	residual in 1702 (Trench 17)
Lithics	2	residual in later contexts
Roman pottery	3	1702 (Trench 17)
Medieval pottery	2	residual in 1312 (Trench 13)
Post-Medieval pottery	12	various
Modern pottery	27	Various (18 sherds from 1605, Trench 16)
Clay mould foundry waste (probably Roman)	20	1702 (Trench 17)
Slag (probably Roman)	1	2007 (Area II)

### Prehistoric Finds

Three small sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered from the fill (1702) of a Roman ditch 1701 and are therefore considered to be residual. The sherds are likely to be Iron Age although they are too small to be certain of this. Two lithics were also recovered, these are both struck black flint, probably Neolithic.

### Roman Finds

Three sherds of undiagnostic Roman pottery were recovered from the fill (1702) of a ditch (1701) believed to be Roman. This ditch also produced 20 pieces of fired clay mould material, possibly from foundry waste, and a piece of slag.

### Post-Medieval Pottery

Twelve sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered; all of which were from 17th- or 18th- century coarsewares.

### Other Finds

One piece of glazed header brick was recovered. However, it is not possible to discover which building this came from. One piece of 17th-18th century tile was also retrieved which may date from prior to the construction of the workhouse.

## 8. DISCUSSION

The evaluation has demonstrated that very few remains of the early 18th-century workhouse have survived the post demolition clearance of the site and the construction of the maternity hospital, and that those that do are very poorly preserved, consisting only of remnants of wall footings and drains surviving below the original floor levels. Consequently, the investigations have not been able to add any useful or significant information regarding the internal organisation or development of the workhouse beyond that which is already known from historical sources, discussed at length in Part One of this report.

However, a feature of note observed in Trenches 4 and 17 warranted further investigation. The opening up of two areas (one focused upon Trenches 4 and 17 and one on an adjacent area to its east) revealed an E-W aligned ditch (403/1701) which is likely to be of Roman date. The ditch was observed to be approximately parallel to Heavitree Road, which is also considered to be Roman in origin, leading from the East Gate of the Roman and medieval town. Examination of the immediate area of the ditch did not identify any evidence for contemporary settlement or land use within the development site. The fired clay and single fragment of slag suggests small scale iron working may have taken place somewhere in the vicinity.

## 9. ARCHIVE

A fully indexed archive has been prepared and is currently stored at Exeter Archaeology's premises. The archive will be deposited under the accession number (pending) with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter within three months of its re-opening to receive such archive material. The dual report of the archaeological assessment and evaluation (including a pdf version of this document) has been submitted to the on-line database OASIS (On-line AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS), under OASIS ID: exeterar1-95364.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The evaluation was commissioned on behalf of Waitrose and Midas Property and administered by T. Murch (Midas) and P. Stead (EA). The site investigations were managed by P. Pearce (EA). The report was written by P. Pearce and J. P. Salvatore (EA). Illustrations were prepared by S. Blackmore (EA).

## SOURCES CONSULTED

Stead, P. 2011 Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological trench evaluation at the former Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital Site, Heavitree Road, Exeter.

## APPENDIX 1: Context descriptions by trench

Trench 1			
Context	Depth mm	Description	Interpretation
100	0-300	Dark greyish brown silty clay loam	Existing turf and topsoil
101	300-600	Reddish brown silty clay	Made ground
102	600-1100	Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with post-war demolition debris	Made ground
103	1100+	Reddish brown clay	Natural
Trench 2			
Context	Depth mm	Description	Interpretation
200	0-160	Dark greyish brown silty clay loam	Existing turf and topsoil
201	160-350	Dark yellowish brown silty clay loam	Garden soil
202	350-480	Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with post-war demolition debris	Made ground
203	480-620	Reddish brown silty clay loam	Remnant post-medieval cultivation soil
204	620+	Reddish brown clay	Natural
Trench 3			
Context	Depth mm	Description	Interpretation
300	0-100	Dark greyish brown silty clay loam	Existing turf and topsoil
301	100-620	Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with post-war demolition debris	Made ground
302	470-620	Reddish brown silty clay loam	Remnant post-medieval cultivation soil – occurs at S end of trench only
303	620+	Reddish brown clay	Natural
Trench 4			
Context	Depth mm	Description	Interpretation
400	0-200	Dark reddish grey silty clay loam	Existing turf and topsoil
401	200-520	Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with post-war demolition debris	Made ground
402	520-750	Reddish brown silty clay loam	Remnant post-medieval cultivation soil
403	280 deep	Linear ditch, aligned approx. east - west	Roman
404		Yellowish red silty clay	Sole fill of 403
405	380-700	Construction cut for wall 406	Post medieval
406	380-700	Wall – hand made brick in white lime mortar	Post medieval
407	750+	Reddish brown clay	Natural
408	380+	Dark greyish brown silty clay loam	?Remnant post-med. garden soil to west of wall 406. unexcavated.
Trench 5			
Context	Depth mm	Description	Interpretation
500	0-180	Dark reddish grey silty clay loam	Existing turf and topsoil
501	180-620	Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with post-war demolition debris	Modern made ground
502	460-900	Reddish brown silty clay loam	Remnant post-medieval cultivation soil
503	680+	Wall – red brick on concrete footing	Modern

504	420-660	Service trench aligned east-west, parallel with front of building. About 2m south of border, pipe at c. 51.00m OD (560 below current surface)	4" Iron pipe. Not marked on supplied service plan
505	420-660	Fill of service trench	Fill of service trench 504
506	660+	Reddish brown clay	Natural
Trench 6			
Context	Depth mm	Description	Interpretation
600	0-100	Dark greyish brown silty clay loam	Existing turf and topsoil
601	100-520	Dark greyish brown silty clay loam	Garden soil
602	520+	Reddish brown clay	Natural
603	260-610	Reddish brown silty clay loam	Remnant post-medieval cultivation soil
604	100-750+	Large subcircular cut c. 2.5m dia.	Tree planting pit?
605	100-750	Dark greyish brown silty clay loam and re-deposited reddish brown clay	Fill of 604
606	580-710	N-S aligned shallow flat-based linear cut	Planting feature
607	580-710	Reddish brown silty clay loam	Fill of 606
608	280-680+	N-S aligned vertical sided trench	Construction cut for brick drain
609	280-680+	Re-deposited reddish brown clay	Fill of 608
610	680+	Brick-vaulted drain, H/made brick, lime mortar bonding	Post-medieval sewer
611	520+	Reddish brown silty clay loam	Infills hollows associated with former roadway
Trench 7			
Context	Depth mm	Description	Interpretation
700	0-150	Dark brown silty clay loam	Existing turf and topsoil
701	150-1650	Mixed soil, clay and post-war demolition material	Modern made ground
702	600+	NW-SE aligned linear trench, vertical sides, flat base, contained drain capped with H/made bricks	Post-medieval drain
703	600+	Yellowish red compact clayey silt overlying brick drain	Fill of 702
704	300+	N-S aligned linear trench, vertical sides, flat base	Robbed post medieval foundation trench
705	300+	Mixed demolition debris, brick, mortar, plaster	Fill of 704
706	1200+	E-W aligned linear trench, vertical sides, flat base	Robbed post medieval foundation trench
707	1200+	Mixed demolition debris, brick, mortar, plaster	Fill of 706
708	600+	Yellowish red clay	Natural
709	1200+	E-W aligned linear trench, vertical sides, flat base, contained drain capped with H/made bricks	Post-medieval drain
710	1200+	Yellowish red compact clayey silt with demolition debris	Fill of 709
Trench 8			
Context	Depth mm	Description	Interpretation
800	0-200	Dark brown silty clay loam	Existing turf and topsoil
801	100-1280	Dark reddish brown silty clay loam with post-war demolition debris	Modern made ground
802	1100-1300	N-S aligned linear trench, vertical sides, flat	Robbed post-medieval

		base	foundation trench
803	1100-1300	Dark reddish grey clayey silt with demolition debris	Fill of 802
804	1100-1200	Small, steep sided circular cut 380mm dia.	Posthole, post-medieval
805	1100-1200	Dark reddish grey clayey silt with demolition debris	Fill of 804
806	1130-1140	Small, steep sided circular cut 360mm dia.	Posthole, post-medieval
807	1130-1140	Dark reddish grey clayey silt with demolition debris	Fill of 806
808	800+	Red clay	Natural
Trench 9			
Context	Depth mm	Description	Interpretation
900	0-100	Dark greyish brown silty clay loam	Existing turf and topsoil
901	100-1150	Dark greyish brown sandy clay loam	Modern made ground
902	1150-1550	Dark brown silty clay loam	Remnant post-medieval cultivation soil
903	100-380	Stiff red clay, occurs in discrete patches above 901	Modern infill
904	970-1040	Shallow rectangular cut	Post-medieval planting pit?
905	970-1040	Dark brown silty clay loam	Fill of 904
906	1020-1060	Shallow rectangular cut	Post-medieval planting pit?
907	1020-1060	Dark brown silty clay loam	Fill of 906
908	1020-1080	Shallow irregular cut	Post-medieval planting pit?
909	1020-1080	Dark brown silty clay loam	Fill of 908
910	1050+	Yellowish red clay	Natural
Trench 10			
Context	Depth mm	Description	Interpretation
1000	0-150	Concrete paving	Modern surface
1001	150-500	Modern aggregate	Make-up for 1000
1002	350-500	?terminal of E-W aligned shallow linear feature	Post-medieval
1003	350-500	Dark brown clayey silt	Sole fill of 1002
1004	500+	Stiff red clay	Natural
Trench 11			
Context	Depth mm	Description	Interpretation
1100	0-200	Dark brown silty clay loam	Existing turf and topsoil
1101	100-500	Mixed soil, clay and post-war demolition material	Modern made ground
1102	600+	N-S aligned vertical sided cut containing post-medieval brick vaulted drain	Cut for post-med. sewer
1103	500-750	Dark brown to red sandy silts with demolition debris	Fill of 1102
1104	600-1350+	Re-deposited clay and demolition material	Fill of 1102
1105	500-1350+	Re-deposited clay and demolition material	Fill of 1102
1106	1200+	Brick vaulted drain	Post-medieval sewer
1107	350+	Yellowish red silty clay	Base of former cultivation soil?
1108	500-600	Strong brown silty clay	Fill of drain 1109
1109	500-600	N-S aligned drain, constructed of hand made bricks. Only one course survives	Post-medieval drain
1110	350+	N-S aligned wall, hand made brick in lime mortar	Post-medieval
1111	350+	Yellowish red clay	Natural

Trench 12			
Context	Depth mm	Description	Interpretation
1200	0-100	Dark grey silty clay loam	Existing turf and root mat
1201	100-180	Dark reddish grey silty clay loam	Modern garden soil
1202	100-820	Mixed soil, clay and post-war demolition material	Modern made ground
1203	400-800+	N-S aligned wall of red brick	Modern
1204	300+	N-S aligned linear band of concrete	Modern
1205	700+	Yellowish red clay	Natural
1206	600-820+	Remnant of shallow N-S aligned wall of handmade brick in lime mortar	Post-medieval wall – insubstantial.

Trench 13			
Context	Depth mm	Description	Interpretation
1300	0-120	Dark grey silty clay loam	Existing turf and root mat
1301	80-440	Dark grey silty clay loam	Modern garden soil
1302	140-1200	Mixed soil, clay and post-war demolition material	Modern made ground
1303	1200-1400	Yellowish red silty clay	Remnant post-medieval cultivation soil?
1304	980-1400	Yellowish-red clay	Natural
1305	1370-1530	E-W aligned linear ditch, 580 wide and 180 deep	Undated
1306	1370-1530	Strong brown clay	Sole fill of 1305
1307	1500-1590	Sub-circular cut, 480 dia. 90 deep	Base of posthole?
1308	1500-1590	Reddish brown silty clay	Sole fill of 1307
1309	1500-1580	Insubstantial and irregular cut into natural	Post-medieval
1310	1500-1580	Strong brown silty clay	Sole fill of 1309
1311	1000-1100	Apparent terminal of E-W aligned linear feature	Post-medieval
1312	1000-1100	Dark reddish grey clay	Sole fill of 1311
1313	1000-1050	Irregular shallow cut into natural	?Modern
1314	1000-1050	Dark yellowish brown silty clay	Sole fill of 1313

Trench 14			
Context	Depth mm	Description	Interpretation
1400	0-200	Very dark greyish brown silty clay loam	Existing turf and root mat
1401	120-680	Very dark olive brown silty clay loam	Modern topsoil
1402	290-630	E-W aligned wall, red brick	Modern wall
1403	630+	Mortar footing	For wall 1402
1404	420-740+	Yellowish red clay	Natural

Trench 15			
Context	Depth mm	Description	Interpretation
1500	0-160	Dark greyish brown silty clay loam	Existing turf and topsoil
1501	Not used	Not used	Not used
1502	140-420	E-W aligned wall, red brick	Modern wall
1503	140-420	Vertical sided linear cut parallel with 1502	Modern
1504	160-400	Strong brown silty clay	Sole fill of 1503
1505	160-400	Dark Olive brown silty clay	Remnant cultivation soil or make-up?
1506	400-600	Dark Brown clayey silt	Remnant cultivation soil
1507	600+	Yellowish red clay	Natural

Trench 16			
Context	Depth mm	Description	Interpretation

1600	0-300	Dark greyish brown silty clay loam	Existing turf and topsoil
1601	300-900	Reddish brown silty clay loam	Remnant post-medieval cultivation soil
1602	900+	Reddish brown clay	Natural
Trench 17			
Context	Depth mm	Description	Interpretation
1700	0-640	Mixed garden soil and demolition rubble	Modern turf and overburden
1701	640-970	E-W aligned linear ditch, mod. Sloping sides and concave base, 1000 wide, 330 deep	Ditch – Roman
1702	640-970	Yellowish red silty clay with pottery and ?burnt daub	Sole fill of 1701
1703	640+	Reddish brown clay	Natural

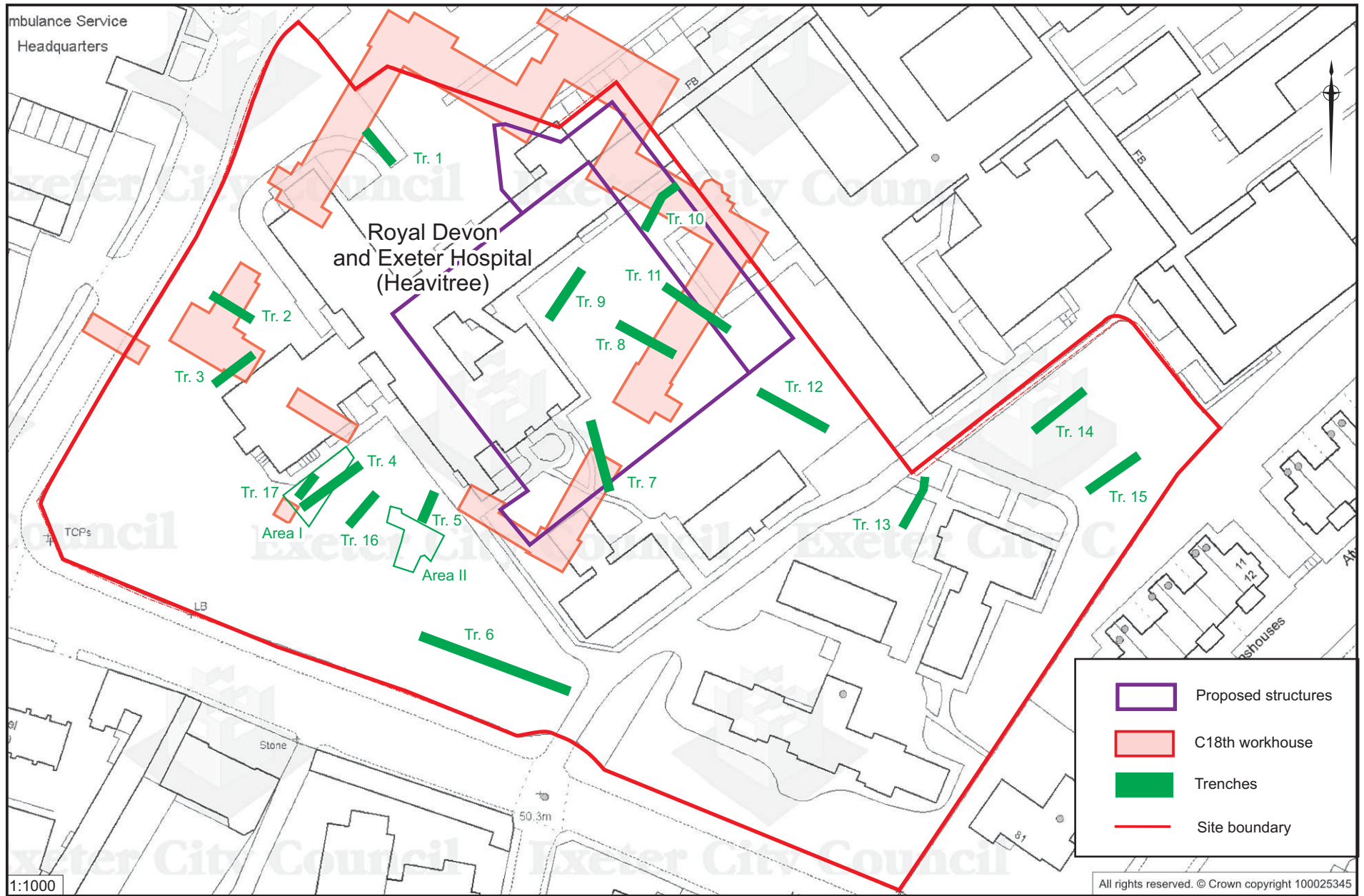


Fig. 16 Location of Stage 1 evaluation trenches and Stage 2 open areas (I and II).



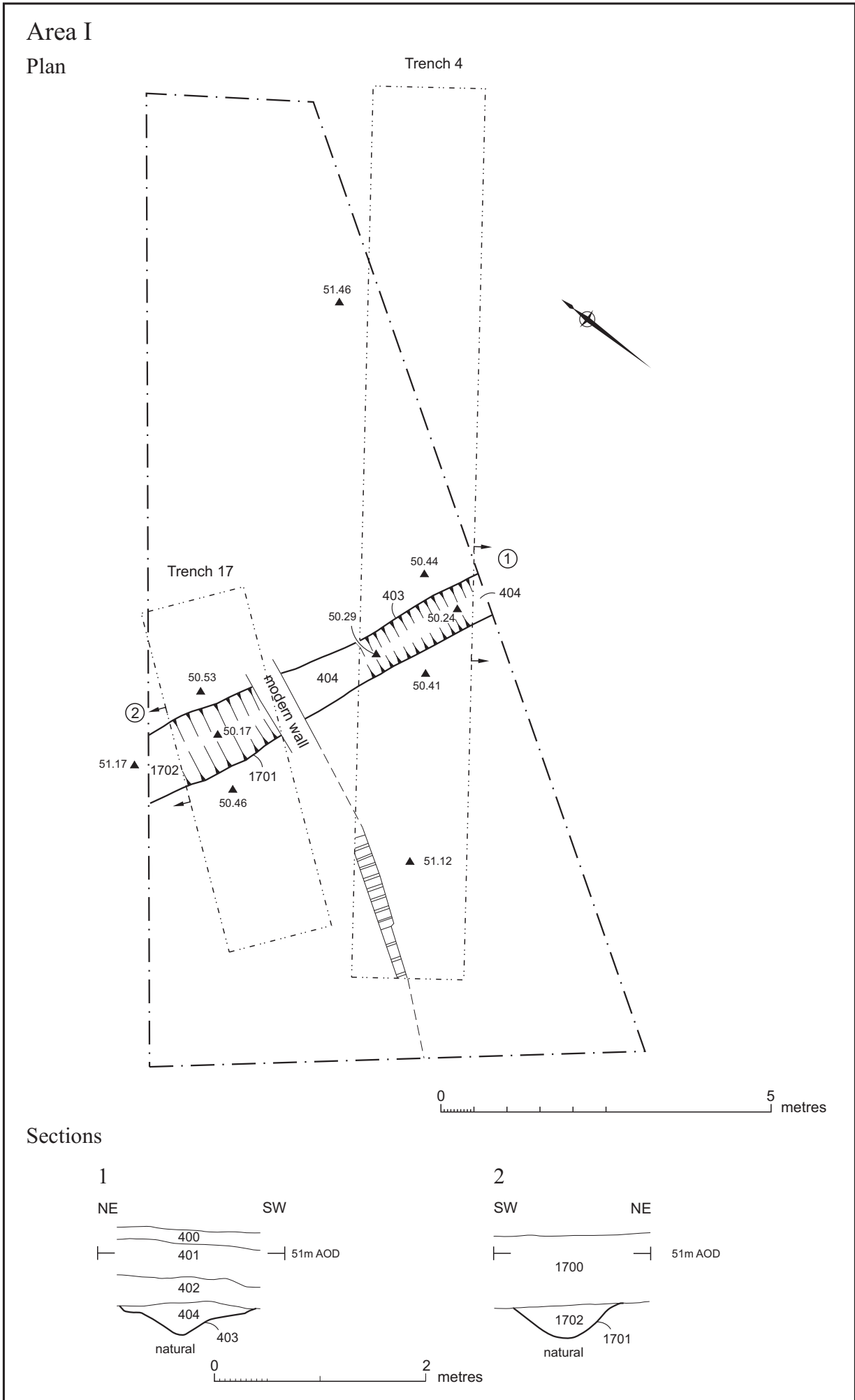
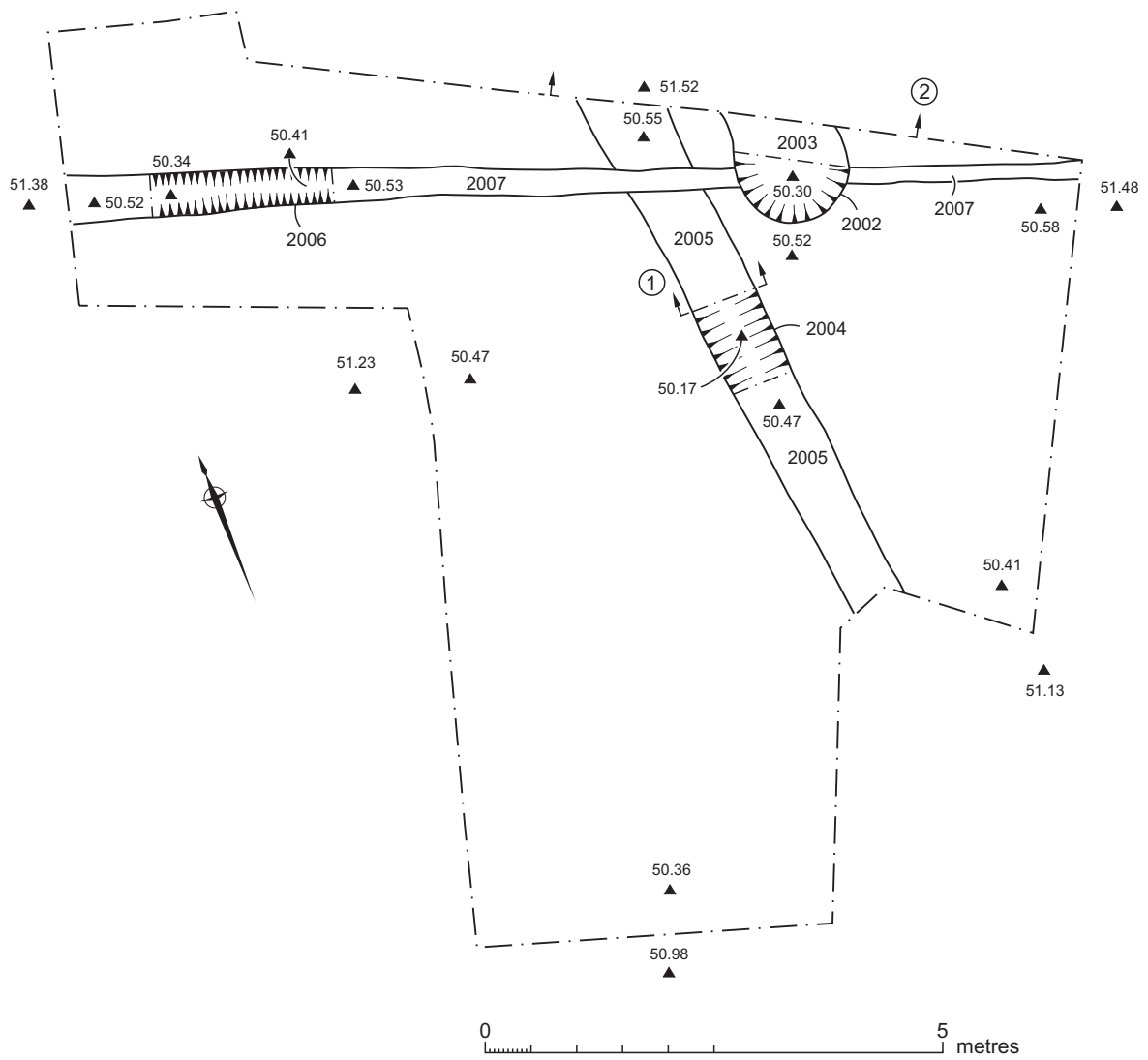


Fig. 17 Area I plan and sections.

Area II  
Plan



Sections

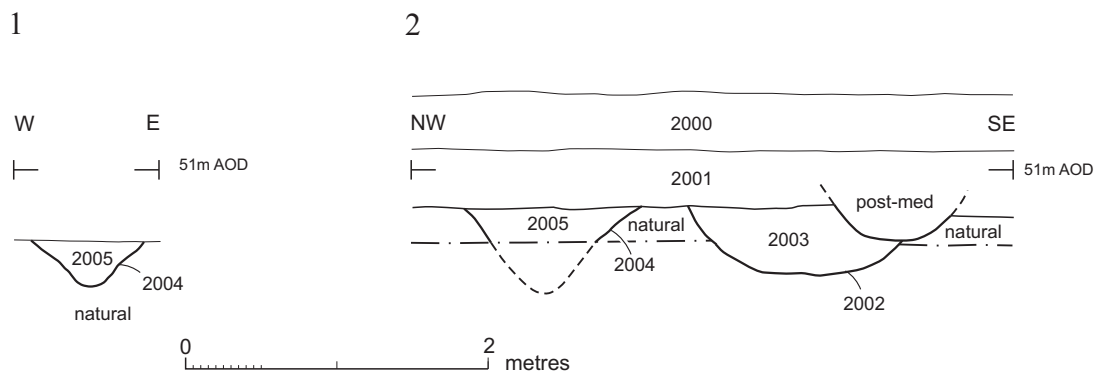


Fig. 18 Area II plan and sections.

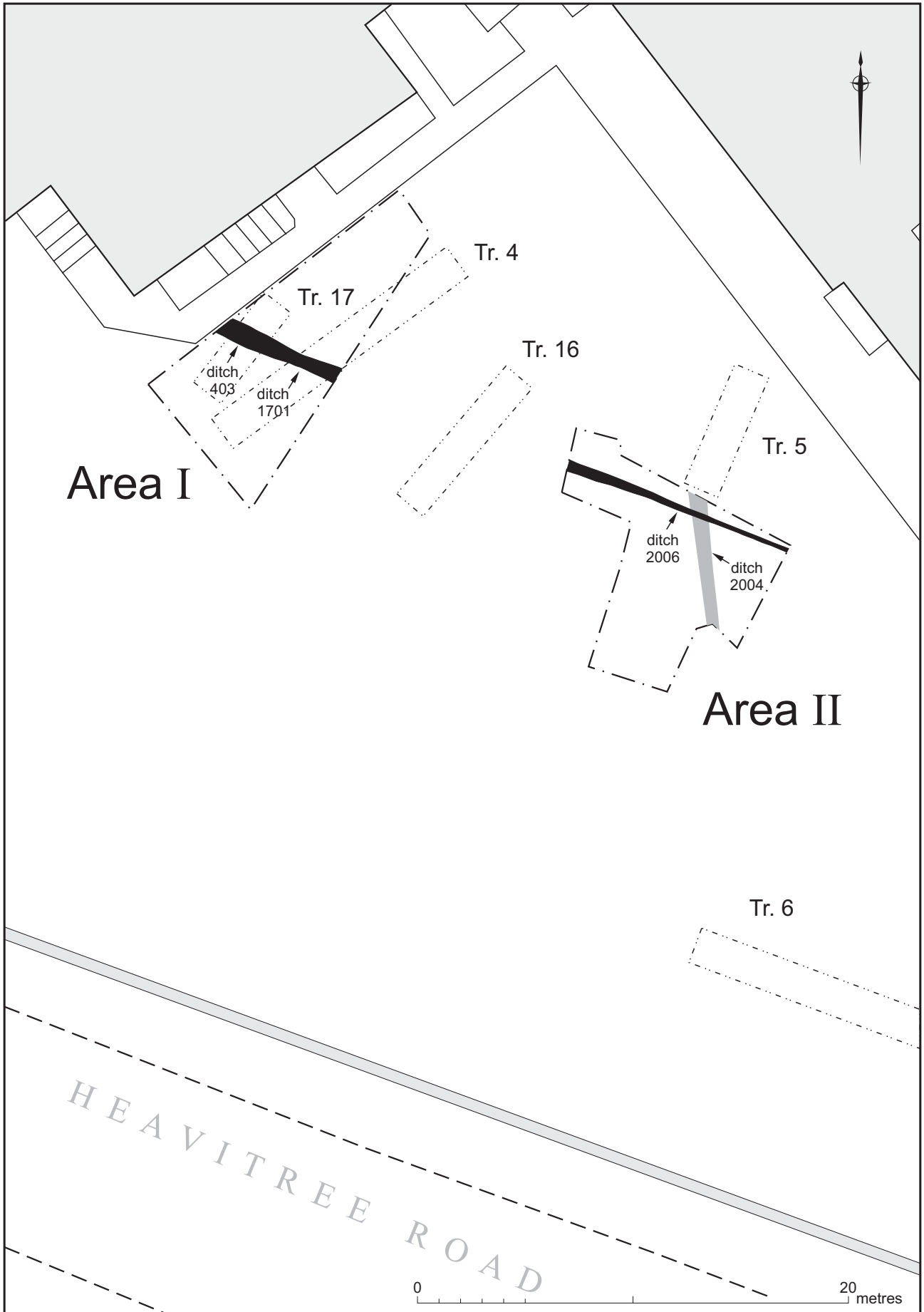


Fig. 19 Roman ditch (black) cutting earlier ditch (grey).



Plate 3 General view of trench 15. Looking north.



Plate 4 Area I, showing Roman ditch 403. Looking west, scales 1m.



Plate 5 Area I, showing Roman ditch 403 (between scales) parallel to Heavitree Road (top of view). Looking south, scales 1m.



Plate 6 Area II, showing earlier, possibly prehistoric ditch 2004 (under scale). Looking north, scale 1m