

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Cullompton/Mid Devon District Council	National Grid Reference: ST 02278 07703	Number:
Subject: Court House Residential Home, Station Road, Cullompton, Devon, EX15 1BE: Results of an Archaeological Evaluation		Photo attached: Figures 1 – 4
Planning Application No: 25/00391/FULL	Recipient Museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter	
OASIS ID: iscaarch2-533762	Museum Accession No: RAMM: 25/18	
Contractor's reference number/code: P01-0135	Date fieldwork undertaken: 08-09 September 2025	

Description of Works:

Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ISCA Archaeology at the site of a proposed new stand-alone dementia care unit, located in the grounds of Court House Residential Home, Station Road, Cullompton, Devon (hereafter known as “the Site”) from 08-09 September 2025 (Fig. 1). The evaluation was requested by Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCC HET) and commissioned by a Private Client.

Archaeological Background

Within the Site itself, the only entry on the Devon and Dartmoor Historic Environment Records is for Court House (the current residential home), which has existed as a two-storey house since at least the 18th century (MDV88811).

Evidence for Romano-British activity in the vicinity of the Site is moderate. The most noteworthy examples are the Roman forts and camps on St Andrews Hill (NLE: 1019543), lying c.400m to the west of the Site, which were first identified through aerial photography in 1984. A Roman Road running through what is now Cullompton, is thought to have existed c. 450m to the south west of the Site (MDV133812). This road appears to have terminated at St Andrews Hill, and may have connected the forts there to Exeter and the Fosse Way. Further evidence of Romano-British occupation is demonstrated by the discovery of a settlement off Shortlands Lane, c. 600m southwest of the Site (MDV114915).

Results and Comments (Figures 1-4)

The archaeological evaluation comprised the excavation of three 1.8m x 10m trenches, located to target the footprint of the proposed building.

The garden soil (between 0.3m and 0.4m thickness throughout) and overlying deposits were removed by a mechanical excavator using a toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision during the excavation of the trial trenches. The underlying natural substrate consisted of mid-red sandy clay, with variations of pale-yellow silty sand and gravel inclusions (106, 203, 303). The uppermost layer, the garden soil (100, 200, 300), sealed a series of make-up deposits. Immediately beneath the garden soil was a possible subsoil layer (201, 304), present in the south and east site of the Site. This deposit consisted of a mid-greyish brown to mid-reddish brown sandy silt.

In Trench 1, (100) sealed a make-up deposit of mid-reddish brown sandy silt (101). This in turn, overlay a layer of mixed redeposited natural material, which consisted of mid-yellowish red sandy clay (102).

In Trench 2, the garden soil (200) sealed the aforementioned subsoil (201). This latter deposit overlay a make-up deposit (202), consistent with deposit (101).

On the west side of Trench 3, the garden soil (300) sealed a probable levelling deposit of stone (301), which in turn overlayed a layer of redeposited natural material (302), consisting of light pinkish brown sandy silt. On the east side of the trench, the garden soil sealed the suspected subsoil (304). This overlayed a thick deposit of mid-brownish red sandy silt (305), which sealed the dump of stone (301).

No features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological interest were observed. The only feature noted consisted of a modern dog burial in Trench 2, which cut the subsoil layer but was not of sufficient depth to have cut the natural substrate.

The natural substrate was observed to be on a similar level to the ground floor level of the existing Court House structure. Given the probable make-up deposits identified, it is likely that terracing had occurred overtime which could have destroyed any trace of below ground archaeology. Moreover, no artefactual evidence was recovered to suggest activity predating the modern era.

Recorder:

Thomas Etheridge, ISCA Archaeology

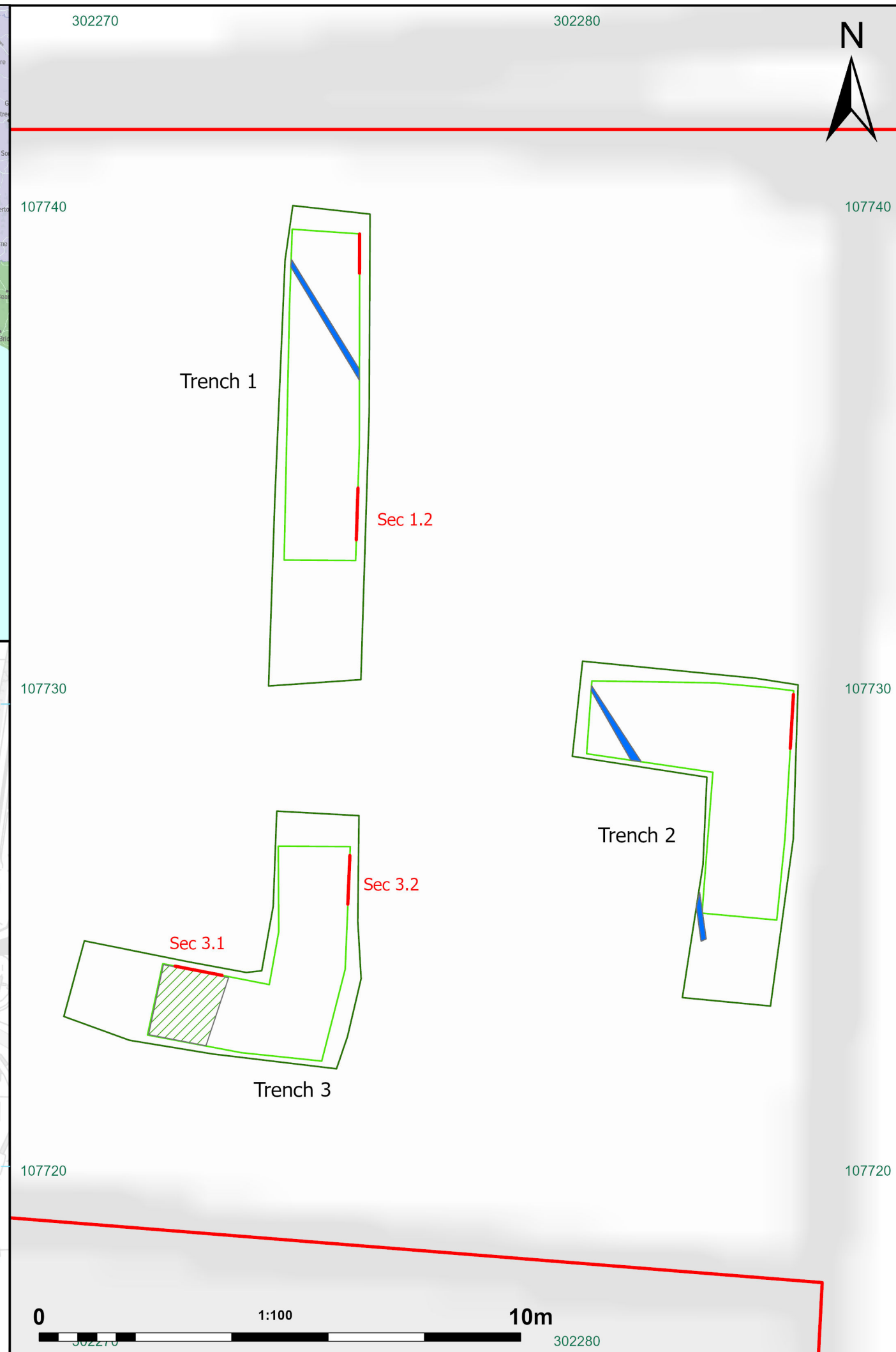
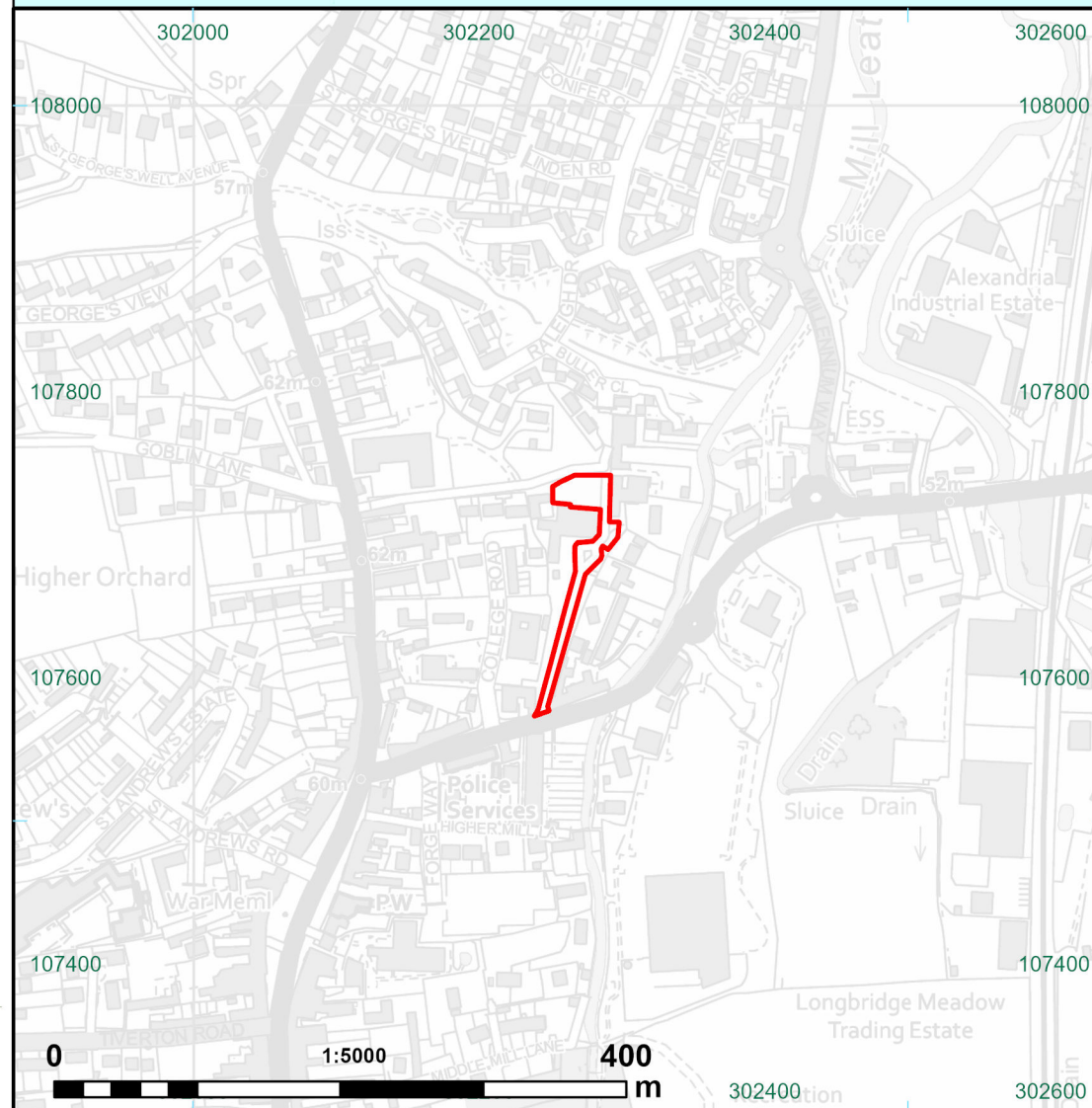
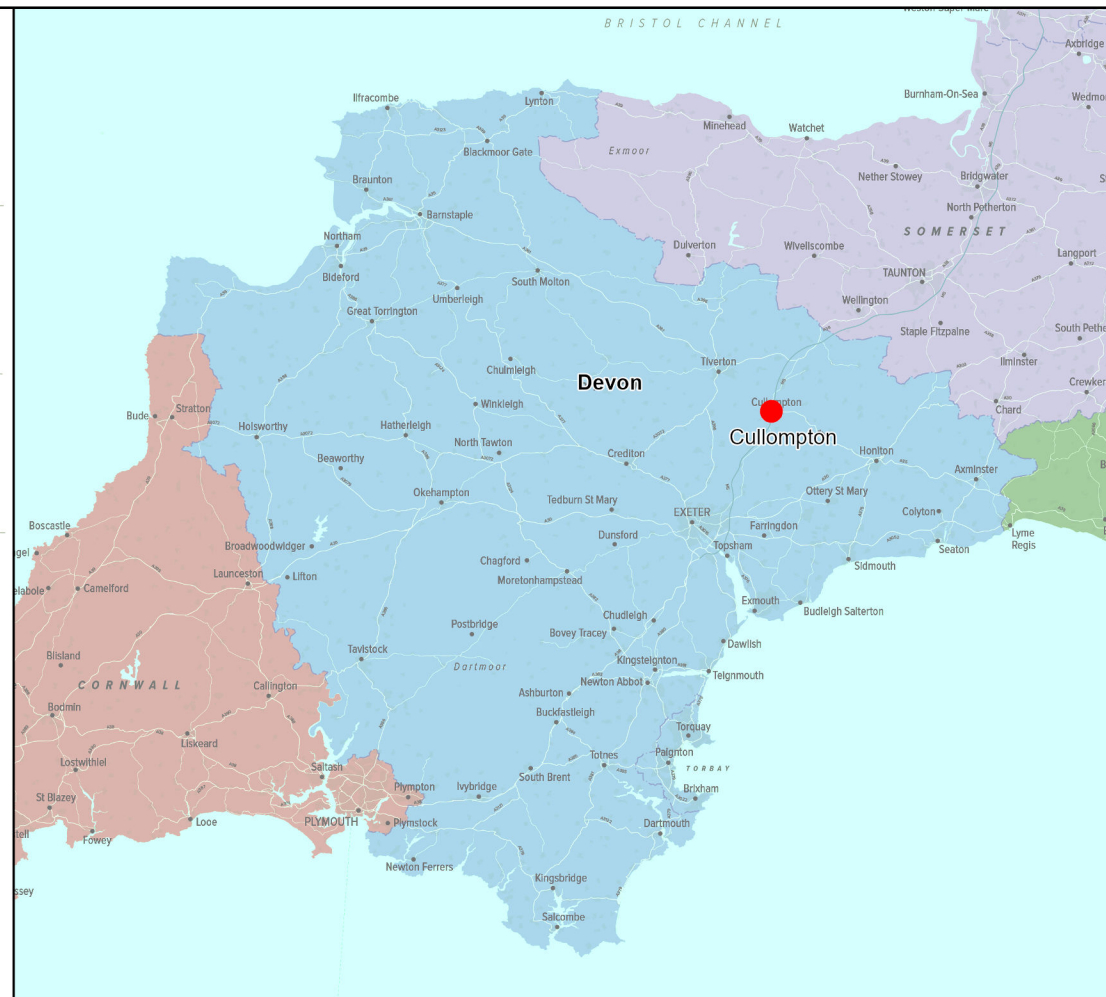
Date sent to HER:

PROJECT TITLE
**Court House Residential Home,
Station Road, Cullompton, Devon**

FIGURE TITLE
**Location and
Site Plan**

FIGURE NO.
1

-  Limit of Excavation (Top)
-  Limit of Excavation (Bottom)
-  Modern water pipe
-  Sondage
-  Section Line





Scale at 1m. View to the east

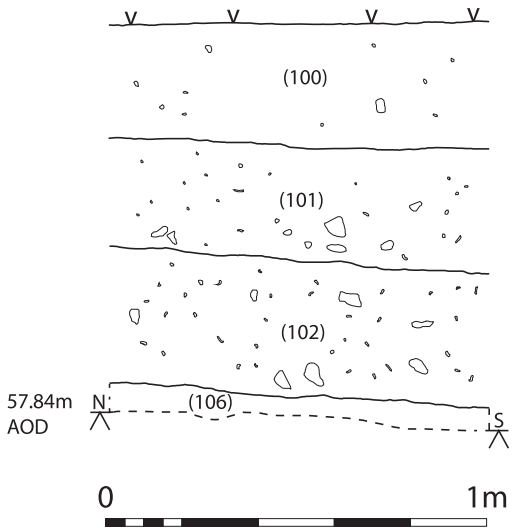


Figure No. 2	Figure Title Representative section of Trench 1. Section 1.2	
-----------------	---	---



Scale at 1m. View to the north

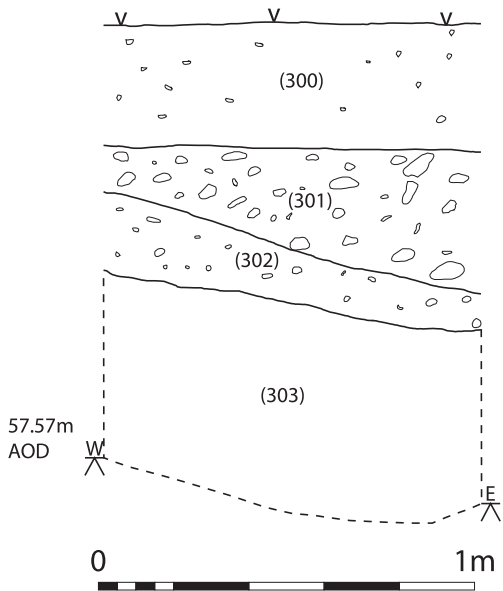


Figure No. 3	Figure Title Representative section of Trench 3, west end. Section 3.1	
-----------------	---	---



Scale at 1m. View to the east

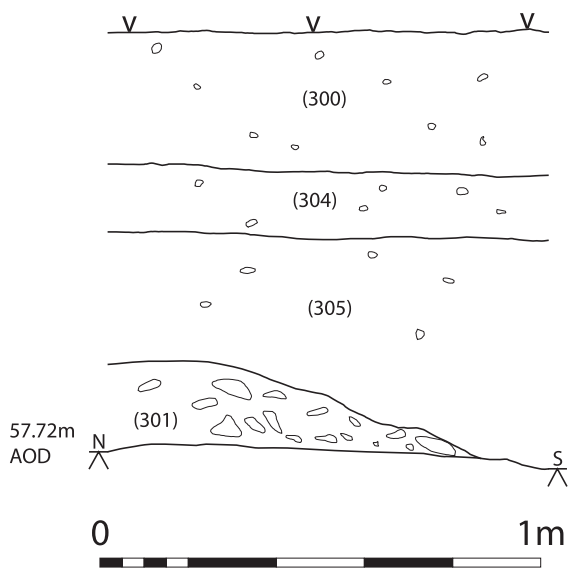


Figure No. 4	Figure Title Representative section of Trench 3, north end. Section 3.2	
-----------------	--	---