

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Cullompton, Mid Devon	National Grid Reference 302018,107125	Number:
Subject: Formation of a carpark following the demolition of the former Magistrates Court, Exeter Hill		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 11/01113/FULL	Recipient museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter	
OASIS ID: southwes1-124361	Museum Accession no: RAMM: 12/27 in lieu of an accession number	
Contractor's reference number/code: CMC12	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 19 th , 20 th and 26 th April 2012	
<p>Description of works:</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Limited (SWARCH) at the request of Mr Reginald Payne (the Client) during the demolition and grubbing up of the foundations of the former Magistrates Court, Cullompton, Devon (Figure 1). The work was carried out by S. Walls in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) approved by S. Reed of Devon County Historic Environment Service (DCHES).</p> <p>The site lies in an area of archaeological potential with regard to the medieval and Roman settlement in and around the modern town of Cullompton. Previous archaeological work on the new library site adjacent and to the south demonstrated that the area had suffered from truncation and disturbance during the construction of the school on this site in 1872, and no archaeological features earlier than those associated with the school were exposed (Arrowhead Archaeology 2010).</p> <p>The concrete footprint of the Magistrates' Court building was broken and lifted by a tracked mechanical excavator using a 1m wide toothed bucket under archaeological supervision (see Figure 1).</p> <p>The concrete and brick footings to the Magistrates' Court covered an area of approximately 20mx30m and extended to a depth of 0.6-0.8m. These substantial footings had seemingly truncated any earlier activity on the site, including any evidence of the Victorian School. The footing cut into clean compact natural sands, which varied in colour from gingery-buff to creamy-white with depth. The sections exposed during the grubbing up of the foundations on each side of the former court building revealed that below the predominantly tarmac or concrete surfaces was a 0.07m thick deposit of reddish-brown clay-silt loam with common sub-angular concrete, stone and brick fragments (>120mm). This thin deposit of rubble and soil is likely to have formed during the construction of the court buildings and no archaeological deposits or features were identified below this layer (Figure 2). It would appear therefore that the site was heavily truncated/levelled prior to the construction of the Magistrates Court.</p> <p>No finds were recovered from the monitoring works at this site.</p> <p>Bibliography Arrowhead Archaeology 2010: <i>Archaeological monitoring and recording during construction of a new library building at Exeter Hill, Cullompton, Devon</i>. Oasis ID: arrowhea1-84066</p>		
<p>A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.</p>		
Recorder: S. Walls		Date sent to HER: 08.05.2012

Please email completed form to: archaeol@devon.gov.uk or post to County Archaeology Service, Environment Directorate, Matford Lane Offices, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QW. Information recorded on this form will be added to the Historic Environment Record, and made available to all researchers.

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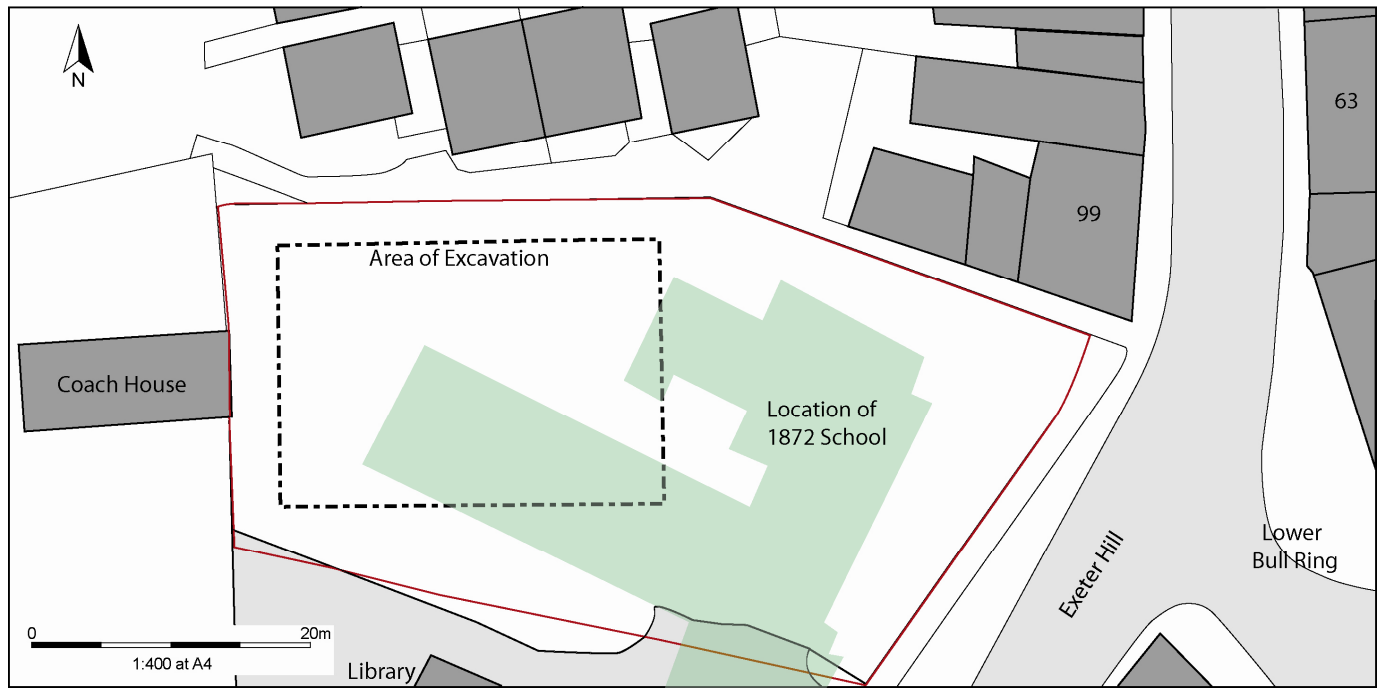


Figure 1: Site plan.



Figure 2: Western end of the south facing section after the grubbing-up of the concrete footings (1m scale).