

**Religious Meeting Hall  
Ernesettle Lane  
Plymouth**

Archaeological Watching Brief



*for*  
**Plymouth St Budeaux Kingdom Hall Project**


CA Project: 3537  
CA Report: 11251

October 2011

Religious Meeting Hall  
Ernesettle Lane, Plymouth

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 3537  
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date	14 October 2011
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date	18 October 2011
approved by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
signed	
date	18 October 2011
issue	01

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## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

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## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Religious Meeting Hall  
**Location:** Ernesettle Lane, Plymouth,  
**NGR:** SX 4518 5926  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 6 – 12 September 2011  
**Planning Reference:** 09/00669/OUT  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Plymouth Museum and Art Gallery  
**Site Code:** KPH 11

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the erection of buildings to provide a Religious Meeting Hall and associated car parking and landscaping at Ernesettle Lane, Plymouth.

An undated, east/west orientated ditch was observed within the development area.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September 2011 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for the Plymouth St Budeaux Kingdom Hall Project at the Religious Meeting Hall, Ernesettle Lane, Plymouth, Devon (centred on NGR: SX 4518 5926; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition (no. 11) attached to planning consent granted by Plymouth City Council (PCC) for the erection of a Religious Meeting Hall building and associated car parking and landscaping (Planning ref: 09/00669/OUT). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2011) and approved by Mr Mike Daniells, Historic Environment Officer, Plymouth City Council (PCC). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The development enclosed an area of approximately 1.3ha, and comprised a former playing field, now overgrown. It is bounded to the north by a hedge beyond which the land slopes down sharply towards the Rivers Tamar and Tavy. To the south it is bounded by former allotment gardens, now overgrown, and to the east by a further field. The western boundary of the site comprises Ernesettle Lane which runs in a north-westerly direction to Lower Ernesettle. The south-eastern corner of the site is bounded by a fence which separates it from an embankment.
- 1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Basaltic Lava of Saltash formation (BGS 2011).

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.5 The embankment located immediately to the south-east of the development area is associated with a former 19th-century military road linking Ernesettle Battery (to the

west) to Agaton Fort (to the east). This forms Scheduled Ancient Monument PY840B (CA 2006).

### **Methodology**

- 1.6 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2011). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks including the stripping of topsoil and subsoil across the southern part of the site prior to construction (Fig. 2).
- 1.7 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.8 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner will be deposited with Plymouth Museum and art Gallery, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## **2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)**

- 2.1 The natural geological substrate, 102, comprising mid yellow brown mudstone bedrock was observed across the southern third of the development area at an average depth of 0.64m below present ground level (bpgl). A narrow, east/west orientated ditch, 103/105/107/109, was cut into the natural substrate. It was filled by reddish brown clay silt 104/106/108/110. A single sherd of highly abraded pottery dating to the medieval period was recovered from deposit 106. The ditch was sealed by subsoil 101, which was in turn covered by a layer of topsoil, 100.

### **The Finds**

- 2.2 Artefactual material is limited to a single small and abraded sherd of pottery (weighing 1g), recovered from ditch fill 106 (fill of feature 105). The sherd, which is unfeatured, occurs in an grey/brown firing unglazed coarseware fabric with common quartz, igneous-rock and black mica inclusions. A broad medieval date (probably 11th to 14th centuries) is suggested.



### **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 A ditch running across the southern part of the site was identified but could not be securely dated. It is likely the medieval pottery recovered from it is residual, as suggested by the significant abrasion it has undergone. It should be noted that this ditch is orientated parallel to a field boundary that was first depicted on the 1840 St Budeaux Tithe Map (CA 2006, Fig. 5).

### **4. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Kelly Saunders and Sian Reynish. The report was written by Charlotte Haines. The finds report as compiled by Ed McSloy. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Charlotte Haines, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman.



## 5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2011 Geology of Britain Viewer

*[http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html)* Accessed  
September 2011

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2006 *Land at Ernesettle, Plymouth, Devon; Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*. CA typescript report **06017**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 Religious Meeting Hall, Ernesettle Lane, Plymouth, Devon:  
*Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*





**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

## Area 1

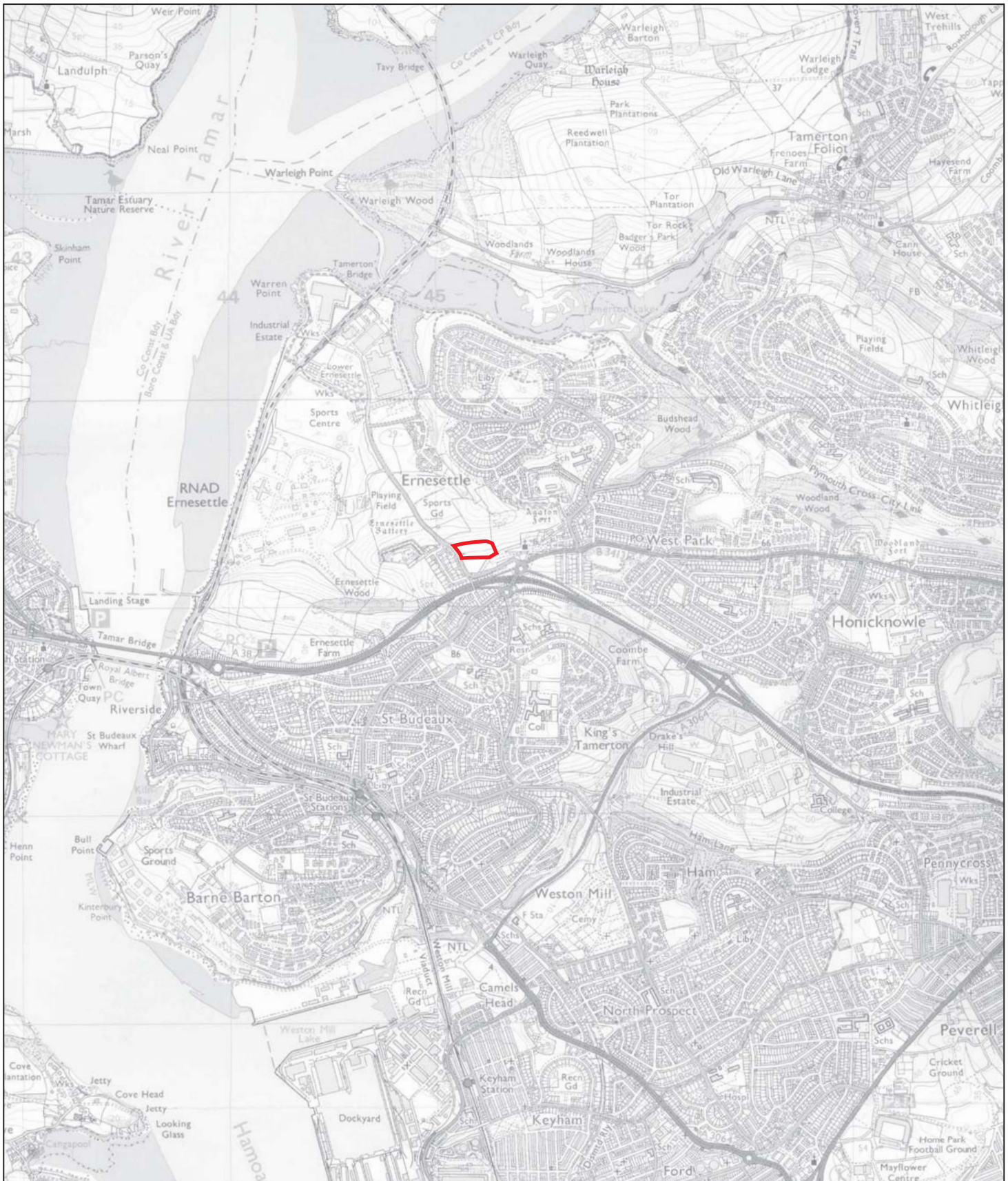
No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Topsoil, dark, grey brown, silty clay.			0.40	Modern
101	Layer	Subsoil, fine, mid greyish brown, silty clay.			0.24	Modern
102	Layer	Natural substrate, mid yellow brown mudstone bedrock				
103	Cut	East / west aligned ditch with asymmetric sides		0.62	0.26	
104	Fill	Fill of 103, mid to dark reddish brown clayey silt		0.62	0.26	
105	Cut	East / west aligned ditch		0.39	0.27	
106	Fill	Fill of 105, mid to dark reddish brown clayey silt		0.39	0.27	
107	Cut	East / west aligned ditch		0.50	0.36	
108	Fill	Fill of 107, mid to dark reddish brown clayey silt		0.50	0.36	
109	Cut	East / west aligned ditch		0.41	0.14	
110	Fill	Fill of 109, mid to dark reddish brown clayey silt		0.41	0.14	

**APPENDIX B: THE FINDS**

Context	Description	Count	Weight(g)	Date
106	Medieval pottery: unglazed coarseware with common black mica	1	1	medieval

**APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Religious Meeting Hall, Ernesettle Lane, Plymouth	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the erection of buildings to provide a Religious Meeting Hall and associated car parking and landscaping at Ernesettle Lane, Plymouth.  An undated, east/west orientated ditch was observed within the development area.	
Project dates	6t– 12 September 2011	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	N/a	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Religious Meeting Hall, Ernesettle Lane, Plymouth	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	1.3ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SX 4518 5926	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/a	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisor	Sian Reynish and Kelly Saunders	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Location	Content
Physical	Plymouth Museum and Art Gallery	Ceramics,
Paper	Plymouth Museum and Art Gallery	Context sheets, Field drawings, Trench sheets
Digital	Plymouth Museum and Art Gallery	Digital photos, Survey data
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 Religious Meeting Hall, Ernesettle Lane, Plymouth: <i>Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report <b>11251</b>		



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
Religious Meeting Hall, Ernesettle Lane  
Plymouth

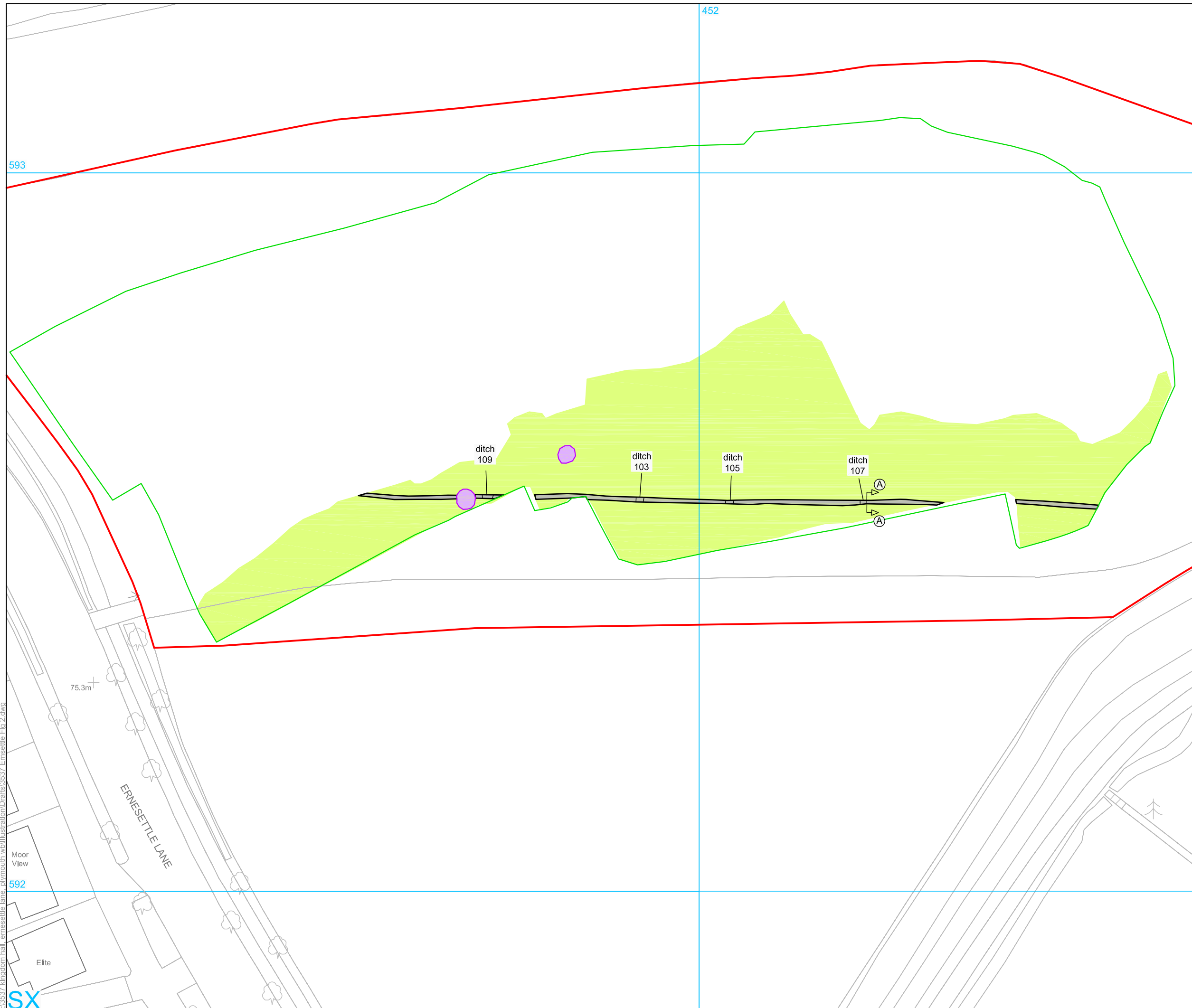
**FIGURE TITLE**  
Site location plan



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PROJECT NO. 3537 DATE 26-09-2011  
DRAWN BY JB REVISION 00  
APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.  
**1**



- site
- limit of excavation
- area stripped to natural substrate
- archaeological feature
- modern disturbance

0  20m

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PROJECT TITLE  
**Religious Meeting Hall, Ernesettle Lane  
 Plymouth**

FIGURE TITLE  
**The site, showing area of observed  
 groundworks and archaeological  
 features**

PROJECT NO.	3537	DATE	26-09-2011	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	JB	REVISION	00	<b>2</b>
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A3	1:500	

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SX