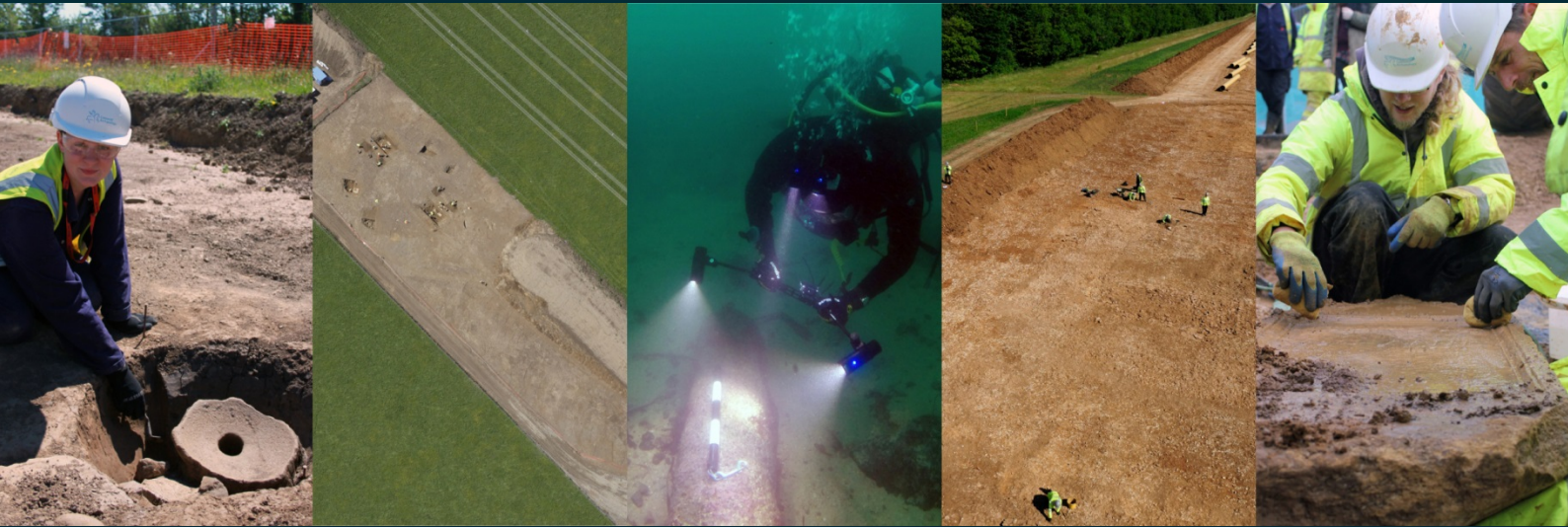


74 Queen Street Exeter

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Pegasus Group

on behalf of
Five Guys JV Ltd

CA Project: 880159
CA Report: 16691

December 2016



74 Queen Street
Exeter

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 880159
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SUMMARY

Project Name: 74 Queen Street
Location: Exeter
NGR: SX 9191 9287
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 31 October–10 November 2016
Planning Reference: 16/1027/07 and 16/1026/03

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during development groundworks at 74 Queen Street, Exeter.

The watching brief identified no pre-modern archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks, although a modern brick wall was recorded. The presence of modern made ground/bedding deposits immediately overlying the natural substrate indicates that the ground level at the site was extensively truncated during the construction of the standing building in the mid-19th century.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In October and November 2016, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Pegasus Group on behalf of Five Guys JV Ltd at 74 Queen Street, Exeter (centred on NGR: SX 9191 9287; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 Exeter City Council has granted planning permission (ref: 16/1026/03) and listed building consent (ref: 16/1027/07) for internal restaurant fit out works and the installation of an extraction/ventilation fan. Conditions attached to the planning permission and listed building consent (conditions 4 and 3, respectively) require the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. The scope of this watching brief was defined subsequently by Andrew Pye, the Exeter City Council Principal Project Manager (Heritage).
- 1.3 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Archaeological Work (WSAW) produced by CA (2016) and approved by Andrew Pye. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (Historic England 2015).

The site

- 1.4 74 Queen Street is located in Exeter city centre, adjacent to the junction of Queen Street and Northernhay Gate. 74 Queen Street is a Grade II Listed Building, and is located within the St. David's Conservation Area just outside the line of the city wall and within the statutory Exeter Area of Archaeological Importance. The building forms the end of a series of buildings built in Classical style in the mid-19th century as part of the redevelopment of Queen Street and Northernhay area. The building is currently in use as a restaurant and takeaway.
- 1.5 The solid geology of the site is mapped as Knowle Sandstone Formation basalt, of the Permian Period. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2016).



2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The full archaeological background of the site is set out in a heritage and planning statement (Pegasus Group 2016). This was summarised in the WSI (CA 2016); this summary is reproduced below.
- 2.2 The Romans established a 42-acre 'playing-card' shaped legionary fortress or castrum named *Isca* around AD 55. The fortress was at the south-western terminus of the Fosse Way and served as the base of the Second Augustan Legion. After the departure of the legion and demolition of the fortress a regional capital (*Isca Dumnoniorum*) was built on the site, which in around AD 200 was surrounded by a city wall. This continued in use through to the Civil War of the 1640s, and was fronted by a series of deep defensive ditches dating from the Roman period through to the 1640s.
- 2.3 Although the basement of the present building will have caused some truncation, there is the potential for remains of the defensive ditches to be exposed by the deeper drainage works within the basement, particularly within the two new manholes and stretch of drainage trench closest to Queen Street (A. Pye, pers. comm.).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 As defined in the WSAW (CA 2016), the objectives of the archaeological watching brief were to:
- monitor specified elements of the groundworks (the deeper drainage works), and to identify, investigate and record any significant buried archaeological deposits thus revealed; and
 - produce an integrated project archive and a report setting out the project results and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.



4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSAW (CA 2016). An archaeologist was present during the machine excavation of two manholes and associated drainage channels within the basement of the building (Fig. 2).
- 4.2 Written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.
- 4.4 As the watching brief results were minor and are recorded sufficiently in this summary report and the OASIS entry, and as no significant artefacts were found, the project archive will in effect comprise the OASIS entry (including an uploaded copy of this report). No further archive will be prepared or deposited.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the watching brief results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts can be found in Appendix A. Figure 2 shows the monitored groundworks and the recorded archaeological features; Figures 2–9 present photographs of the monitored groundworks.
- 5.2 The natural geological substrate comprised purple sedimentary bedrock with occasional pockets of purple and pinkish grey clay, and was revealed at a depth of 0.22m–0.29m below the present ground level (bpgl). The following features were cut into the natural substrate:
 - 5.3 The south-western end of T5 exposed construction cut 504 for the adjacent standing wall.
 - 5.4 T3 and T4 exposed brick wall 305/405, which was capped with slate 304/405. This wall was 0.4m in width and a maximum of 0.3m in height; its upper surface lay 0.2m bpgl. It ran on the same north-east/south-west alignment as the standing walls and was separated from the adjacent standing wall by 0.3m.

- 5.5 T1 exposed modern ceramic drain 103.
- 5.6 The natural substrate and the features discussed above were sealed directly by modern made ground/bedding deposits, overlain by modern brick/concrete surfaces.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see Section 2, above), the watching brief identified no pre-modern archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks.
- 6.2 The presence of modern made ground/bedding deposits immediately overlying the natural substrate indicates that the ground level at the site was extensively truncated during the construction of the standing building in the mid-19th century, a process which would likely have removed any shallower archaeological remains in this area.
- 6.3 There was no evidence for the deep Roman and later defensive ditches (see Section 2, above), which would suggest either that the site did not overlay these ditches, or that all trace of them was removed by the later truncation.
- 6.4 The function of brick wall 305/405 (T3/T4) is uncertain. It was separated from the adjacent wall by 0.3m, which would perhaps be too narrow for a former internal division. The fact that the wall was capped with slate might suggest that it survives to its full height. It is possible that it acted to support a former surface or other structure.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by George Gandham and Jerry Austin. This report was written by George Gandham. The report illustrations were prepared by Sam O'Leary. The project was managed for CA by Derek Evans.



8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>
Accessed 25 October 2016

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 *74 Queen Street, Exeter – Written Scheme of Archaeological Work: Archaeological Watching Brief*

Pegasus Group 2016 *74 Queen Street, Exeter: Heritage and Planning Statement*



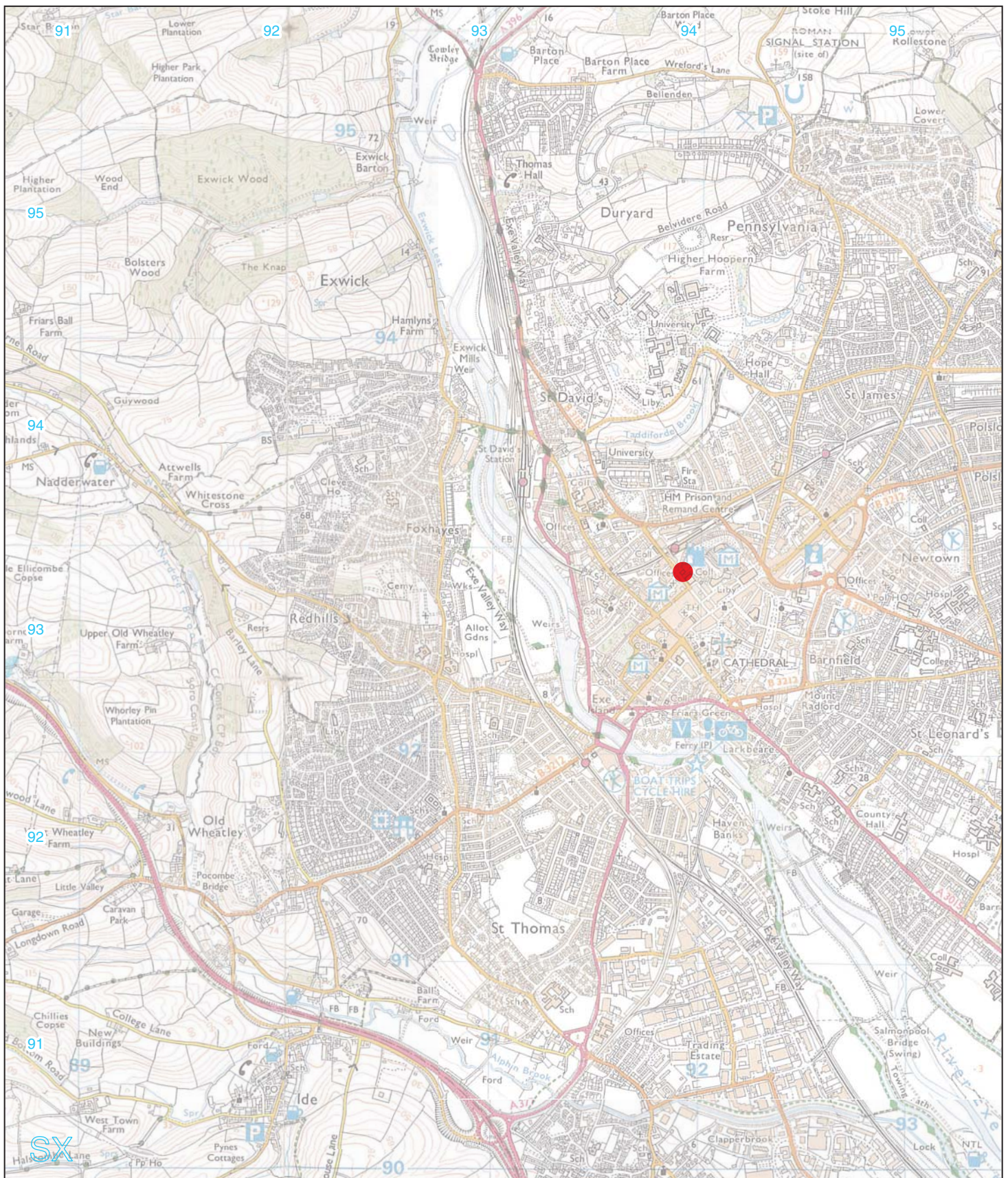
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
1	100	Layer		Concrete surface	Grey concrete slab			0.06
1	101	Layer		Make up layer	Light grey silty clay/ cement/ mortar			0.09
1	102	Layer		Make up layer	Red brown sand and clay/ broken brick			0.14
1	103	Drain		Drain	Modern ceramic drain, in mixed red-brown silt clay fill with frequent stone and brick inclusions			0.34
2	200	Layer		Concrete surface	Grey concrete floor surface			0.06
2	201	Layer		Tiles	Modern red yellow floor tiles			0.04
2	202	Layer		Concrete	Grey concrete layer			0.06
2	203	Layer		Make up layer	Concrete/crushed brick and hardcore			0.09
2	204	Drain		Same as 103	Same as 103			0.14
2	205	Layer		Natural substrate	Purple sedimentary layered bedrock with occasional pockets of pinkish/grey clay			
3	300	Layer		Concrete surface	Grey concrete floor surface			0.04
3	301	Layer		Brick surface	Red brick floor surface			0.07
3	302	Layer		Make up layer	Light brown sandy floor make up layer			0.04
3	303	Layer		Make up layer	Light grey concrete			0.08
3	304	Masonry		Slate	Slate cap on wall 305			0.03
3	305	Masonry	307	Brick wall	Brown red brick wall running NE SW		0.4	0.03
3	306	Layer		Natural substrate	Purple sedimentary layered bedrock with occasional pockets of pinkish/grey clay			
3	307	Cut		Construction cut	Construction cut for wall 305			
4	400	Layer		Concrete surface	Grey concrete floor surface			0.04
4	401	Layer		Brick surface	Red brick floor surface			0.07
4	402	Layer		Make up layer	Mid light brown sandy layer			0.04
4	403	Layer		Make up layer	Light grey concrete			0.08
4	404	Masonry		Slate	Slate cap on wall 405			0.3
4	405	Masonry	406	Brick wall	Brown red brick wall running NE SW		0.4	0.3
4	406	Cut		Construction cut	Construction cut for wall 405			
4	VOID							
4	408	Layer		Natural substrate	Purple sedimentary layered bedrock with occasional pockets of pinkish/grey clay			
5	500	Layer		Concrete surface	Grey concrete floor surface			0.04
5	501	Layer		Brick surface	Red brick floor surface			0.07
5	502	Layer		Make up layer	Light grey concrete/hardcore layer			0.1
5	503	Fill	504	Backfill of construction cut 504	Mixed red brown clay, broken brick/ glass		0.5	0.15
5	504	Cut		Construction cut	Construction cut for NW-facing wall of Room 3		0.5	0.15
5	505	Layer		Natural substrate	Purple sedimentary layered bedrock with occasional pockets of pinkish/grey clay			
6	600	Layer		Concrete surface	Grey concrete floor surface			0.04
6	601	Layer		Brick surface	Red brick floor surface			0.07

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
6	602	Layer		Make up layer	Light grey concrete/hardcore layer			0.1
6	603	Layer		Natural substrate	Purple sedimentary layered bedrock with occasional pockets of pinkish/grey clay			
7	700	Layer		Concrete surface	Grey concrete floor surface			0.04
7	701	Layer		Brick surface	Red brick floor surface			0.07
7	702	Layer		Make up layer	Light grey concrete/hardcore layer			0.1
7	703	Layer		Natural substrate	Purple sedimentary layered bedrock with occasional pockets of pinkish/grey clay			
8	800	Layer		Concrete surface	Grey concrete floor surface			0.04
8	801	Layer		Brick surface	Red brick floor surface			0.07
8	802	Layer		Make up layer	Light grey concrete/hardcore layer			0.1
8	803	Layer		Natural substrate	Purple sedimentary layered bedrock with occasional pockets of pinkish/grey clay			
9	900	Layer		Concrete surface	Grey concrete floor surface			0.04
9	901	Layer		Brick surface	Red brick floor surface			0.07
9	902	Layer		Make up layer	Light grey concrete/hardcore layer			0.1
9	903	Layer		Natural substrate	Purple sedimentary layered bedrock with occasional pockets of pinkish/grey clay			

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	74 Queen Street, Exeter: archaeological watching brief	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during development groundworks at 74 Queen Street Exeter.</p> <p>The watching brief identified no pre-modern archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks, although a modern brick wall was recorded. The presence of modern made ground/bedding deposits immediately overlying the natural substrate indicates that the ground level at the site was extensively truncated during the construction of the standing building in the mid-19th century.</p>	
Project dates	31 October 10 November 2016	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	Heritage statement (Pegasus Group 2016)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	74 Queen Street, Exeter, Devon	
Site co-ordinates	NGR: SX 9191 9287	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Derek Evans	
Project Supervisor	Jerry Austin, George Gandham	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	Grade II Listed Building	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	N/A	N/A
Digital	N/A	N/A
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2016 <i>74 Queen Street Exeter Devon: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> CA typescript report 16691		



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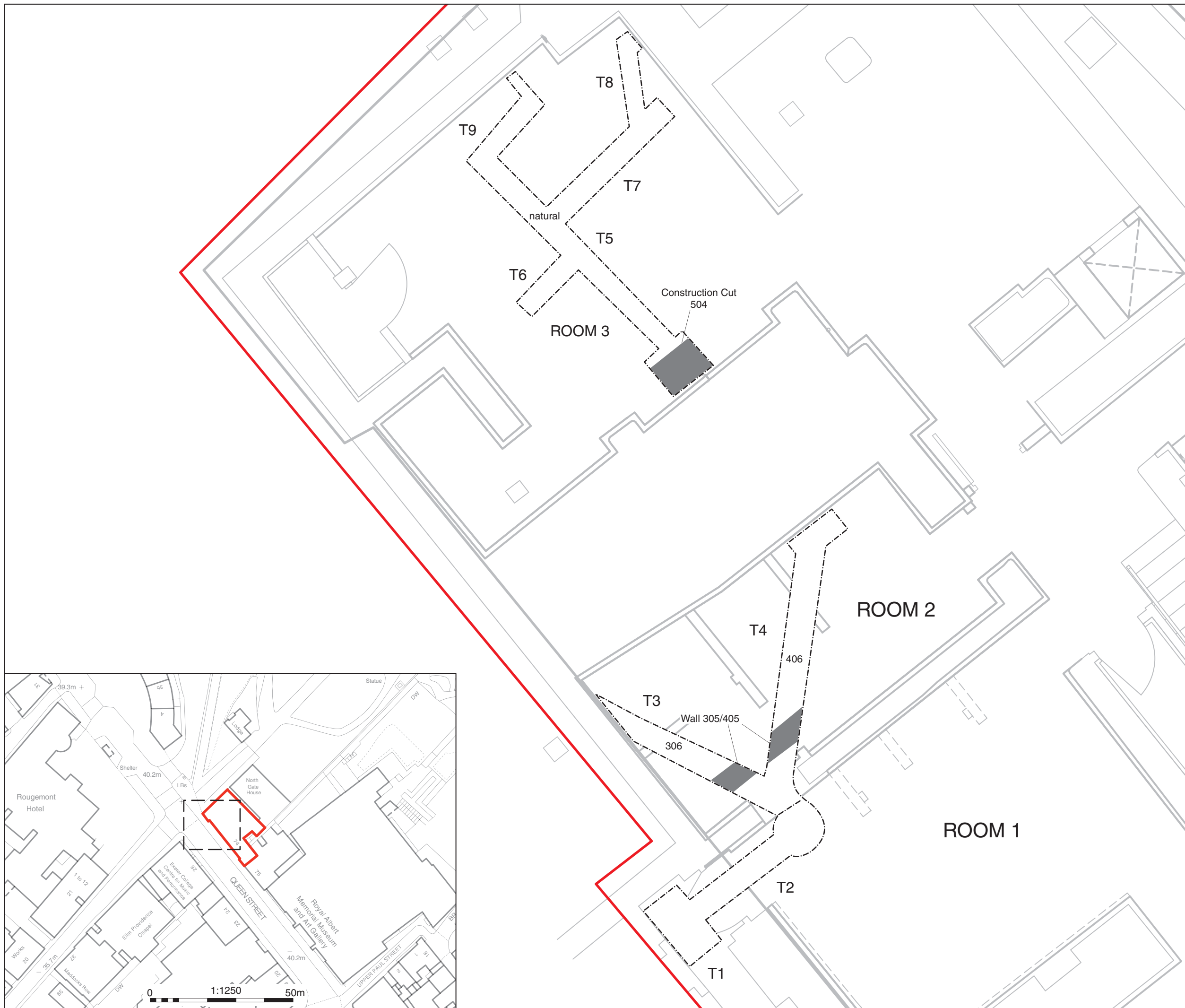
PROJECT TITLE
 74 Queen Street, Exeter, Devon




FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

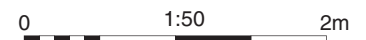
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DRAWN BY	SO	PROJECT NO.	880159	FIGURE NO.
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APPROVED BY	DE	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	1



-  site boundary
-  monitored groundworks
-  archaeological feature



Plans provided by Pegasus Planning and Blacksheep

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PROJECT TITLE
74 Queen Street, Exeter, Devon

FIGURE TITLE
The site, showing monitored groundworks

DRAWN BY	SO	PROJECT NO.	880159	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	23/11/2016	
APPROVED BY	DE	SCALE@A3	1:50 & 1:1250 (inset)	2



3

Trench 4, looking north-west showing slate capping 404 on Wall 405.



4

Trench 4 section, showing Wall 405, looking south-east (scale 1m)



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74 Queen Street, Exeter, Devon

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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APPROVED BY	DE	SCALE @ A4	NA	

5



Trench 2, looking north-west

6



Trench 4, looking north-east (scale 1m)



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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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7

Trench 1, looking north-east (scale 1m)



8

South-western end of Trench 5, looking north-east (scale 1m)



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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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Trench 6, looking south-west



PROJECT TITLE

74 Queen Street, Exeter, Devon

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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APPROVED BY	DE	SCALE @ A4	NA	

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