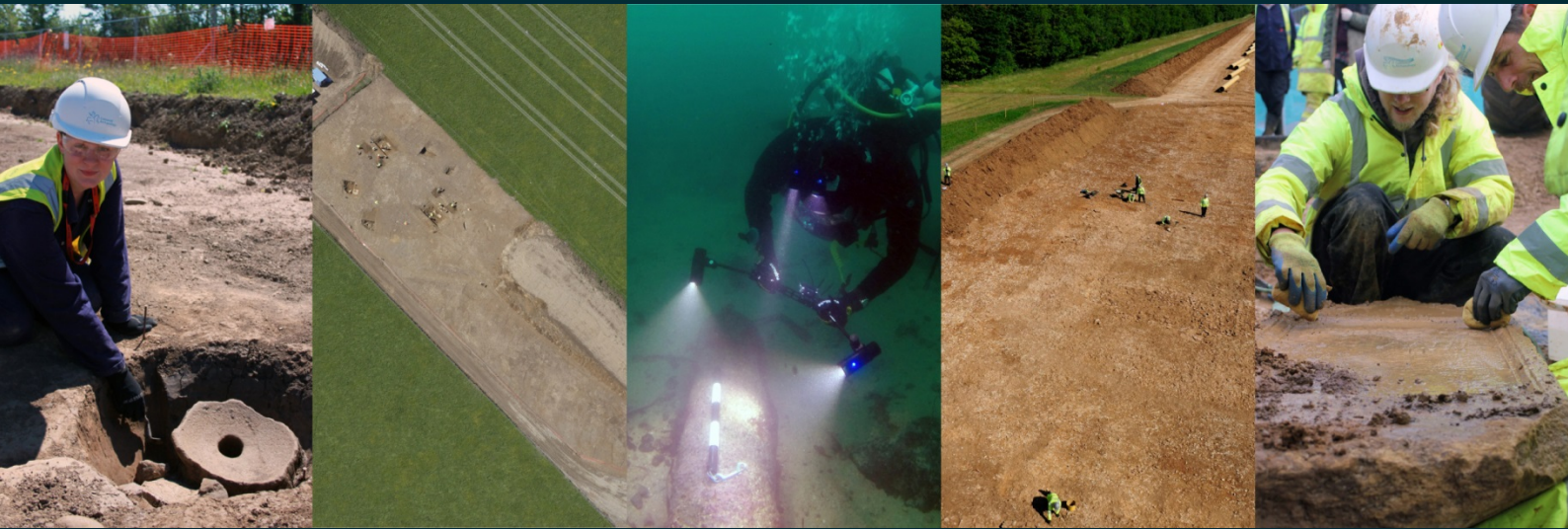


Round Field Park and Ride Exeter Devon

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Devon County Council

CA Project: 880031
CA Report: 15577

January 2016



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Archaeological Watching Brief

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C	18 January 2016	Jon Pick	Laurent Coleman	Client review	Client comments	Laurent Coleman

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Round Field Park and Ride
Location: Exeter, Devon
NGR: SX 9085 9027
Type: Archaeological Watching Brief
Date: 14-15 July 2015
Location of Archive: To be deposited with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter
Accession Number: RAMM: 15/30
Site Code: APR 15

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during geotechnical investigations at the proposed Round Field Park and Ride, Exeter, Devon.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In July 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Devon County Council at Round Field Park and Ride, Exeter, Devon (centred on NGR: SX 9085 9027; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015) and approved by Stephen Reed, Archaeologist, Historic Environment Team, Devon County Council (DCCHE). The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006). It was monitored by Stephen Reed, including a site visit on 15 July 2015.

The site

- 1.3 The site is located approximately 2km to the south of Exeter City Centre and comprises a single field bound to the north-east by the A377/A30 interchange and to the south-west by Ide Lane and Crabb Lane. The site lies at approximately 31m AOD, at its highest point and the ground drops downward to the north-west.
- 1.4 The proposed development area is approximately 2ha and is currently under pasture.
- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Alphington Breccia Formation of the Permian Period (BGS 2015). The natural geological substrate encountered consisted of sand clay, and gravel clay.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A desk-based assessment (DBA) for the site is currently being compiled. A DBA for an adjacent site has been compiled (WA 2008) and the salient points are outlined below.
- 2.2 A total of 16 pieces of worked flint of Neolithic date were recovered in advance of road construction c. 100m to the north-west of the site (WA 2008, 7).

2.3 No clear focus for prehistoric and/or Roman activity was identified within the site, although sites dating to these periods have been identified within the surrounding landscape. However, the location, on fertile land and in close proximity to a watercourse, may have been suitable for activity dating to these periods. It was also considered possible that the postulated course of the Roman Road between Exeter and Plymouth may be located in the vicinity of the site.

2.4 During the Saxon and later periods the site would have been located within the agrarian hinterland of Alphington (WA 2008, 8-9).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to monitor the excavation of the trial pits, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the investigation works and;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project 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 WSI (CA 2015). An archaeologist was present during intrusive investigation works comprising the excavation of 11 trial pits (Fig. 2).

4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.3 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter under accession number RAMM: 15/30. A summary of information from this project, set out



within Appendix B will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the watching brief results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A. A total of eleven geotechnical trial pits was excavated and a similar stratigraphic sequence was identified in each one. In Trial Pits 1 to 7 and 9 to 10 the natural geological substrate, comprising sandy clay, was revealed at depths between 0.65m and 3.06m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by made ground consisting of redeposited sandy clay containing varying amounts of modern debris between 0.5 and 2.96m in thickness, which was in turn sealed by an average of 0.12m of topsoil.
- 5.2 The natural substrate was not identified in Trial Pit 8 (excavation to a depth of c. 1.5m revealed only made ground deposits). Trial Pit 11 was excavated on lower ground at the roadside and as a result encountered significantly shallower deposits; the natural geological substrate comprising gravel clay, was revealed at 0.20m bpgl. This was overlain by made ground (0.08m thick) which was in turn sealed by topsoil (0.12m thick).
- 5.3 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the investigation works and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material was recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 In all of the trial pits the natural substrate was found to be directly overlain by made ground deposits and it is therefore clear that the natural substrate (and any archaeological features contained there) has been severely truncated, probably during the construction of the A30/A377 interchange which is immediately adjacent to the site.



7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jon Pick. The report was written by Jon Pick. The illustrations were prepared by CA Lucy Martin. The archive has been compiled by, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman.

8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 20 July 2015

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 *Alphington Park and Ride (Site 3), Exeter, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

WA (Wessex Archaeology) 2008 *Ide Park and Ride, Alphington, Devon: Desk-based Assessment*

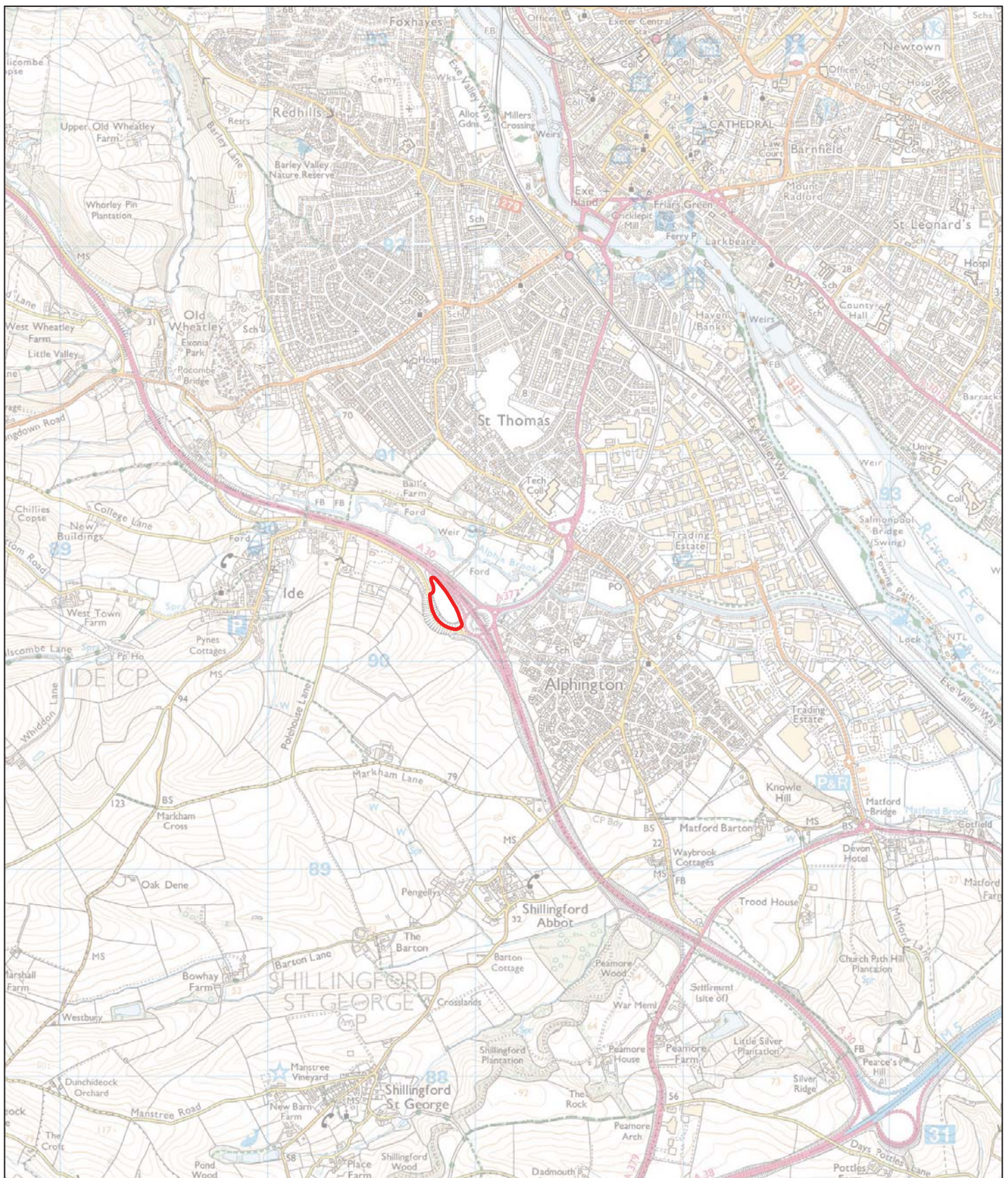


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trial Pit No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	Depth/ thickness (m)
1	100	Layer	topsoil	mid red-brown silt clay, friable with occasional stones	0.10
1	101	Layer	made ground	mid red-brown sand clay, firm with common modern debris	2.96
1	102	Layer	natural	dark red-brown gravel clay, firm with moderate stones	
2	200	Layer	topsoil	mid red-brown silt clay, friable with occasional stones	0.11
2	201	Layer	made ground	mid red-brown sand clay, firm with very occasional modern debris	0.59
2	202	Layer	natural	dark red-brown sand clay, firm with moderate stones	
3	300	Layer	topsoil	mid red-brown silt clay, friable with occasional stones	0.12
3	301	Layer	made ground	mid red-brown sand clay, firm with very occasional modern debris	1.45
3	302	Layer	natural	dark red-brown sand clay, firm with moderate stones	
4	400	Layer	topsoil	mid red-brown silt clay, friable with occasional stones	0.10
4	401	Layer	made ground	mid red-brown sand clay, firm with very occasional modern debris	0.60
4	402	Layer	natural	dark red-brown sand clay, firm with moderate stones	
5	500	Layer	topsoil	mid red-brown silt clay, friable with occasional stones	0.15
5	501	Layer	made ground	mid red-brown sand clay, firm with moderate modern debris	0.50
5	502	Layer	natural	dark red-brown sand clay, firm with common stones	
6	600	Layer	topsoil	mid red-brown silt clay, friable with occasional stones	0.10
6	601	Layer	made ground	mid red-brown sand clay, firm with moderate modern debris	0.85
6	602	Layer	natural	dark red-brown gravel clay, firm with moderate stones	
7	700	Layer	topsoil	mid red-brown silt clay, friable with occasional stones	0.12
7	701	Layer	made ground	mid red-brown sand clay, firm with common modern debris	1.48
7	702	Layer	natural	dark red-brown gravel clay, firm with moderate stones	
8	800	Layer	topsoil	mid red-brown silt clay, friable with occasional stones	0.20
8	801	Layer	made ground	mid red-brown sand clay, firm with common modern debris	< 1.30
9	900	Layer	topsoil	mid red-brown silt clay, friable with occasional stones	0.11
9	901	Layer	made ground	mid red-brown sand clay, firm with moderate modern debris	1.09
9	902	Layer	natural	dark red-brown sand clay, firm with common stones	
10	1000	Layer	topsoil	mid red-brown silt clay, friable with occasional stones	0.10
10	1001	Layer	made ground	mid red-brown sand clay, firm with common modern debris	1.80
10	1002	Layer	natural	dark red-brown gravel clay, firm with moderate stones	
11	1100	Layer	topsoil	mid red-brown sand clay, loose with occasional stones	0.12
11	1101	Layer	made ground	mid red-brown sand clay, friable with common modern debris	0.08
11	1102	Layer	Natural	dark red-brown gravel clay, firm with moderate stones	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Round Field Park and Ride, Exeter, Devon	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during geotechnical investigations at the proposed Round Field Park and Ride, Ide, Exeter, Devon. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.	
Project dates	14-15 July 2015	
Project type	Archaeological Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Round Field, Crabb Lane, Alphington, Exeter, Devon	
Study area (M ² /ha)		
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SX 9085 9027	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Devon County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	CA	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisor	Jon Pick	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	n/a	n/a
Paper		Trench sheets, photo register
Digital		digital photos etc
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 <i>Round Field Park and Ride, Exeter, Devon: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 15577		



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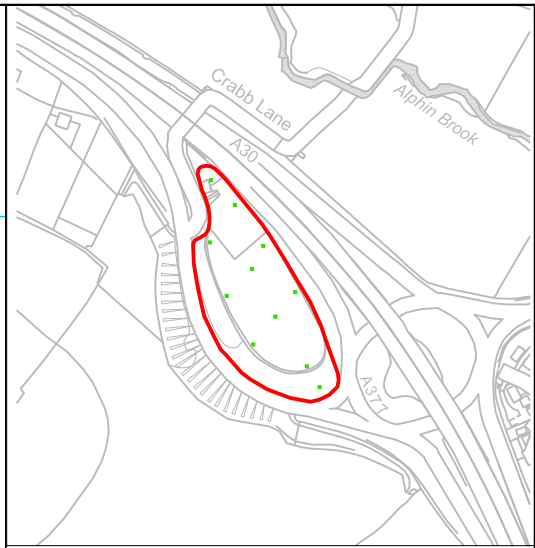
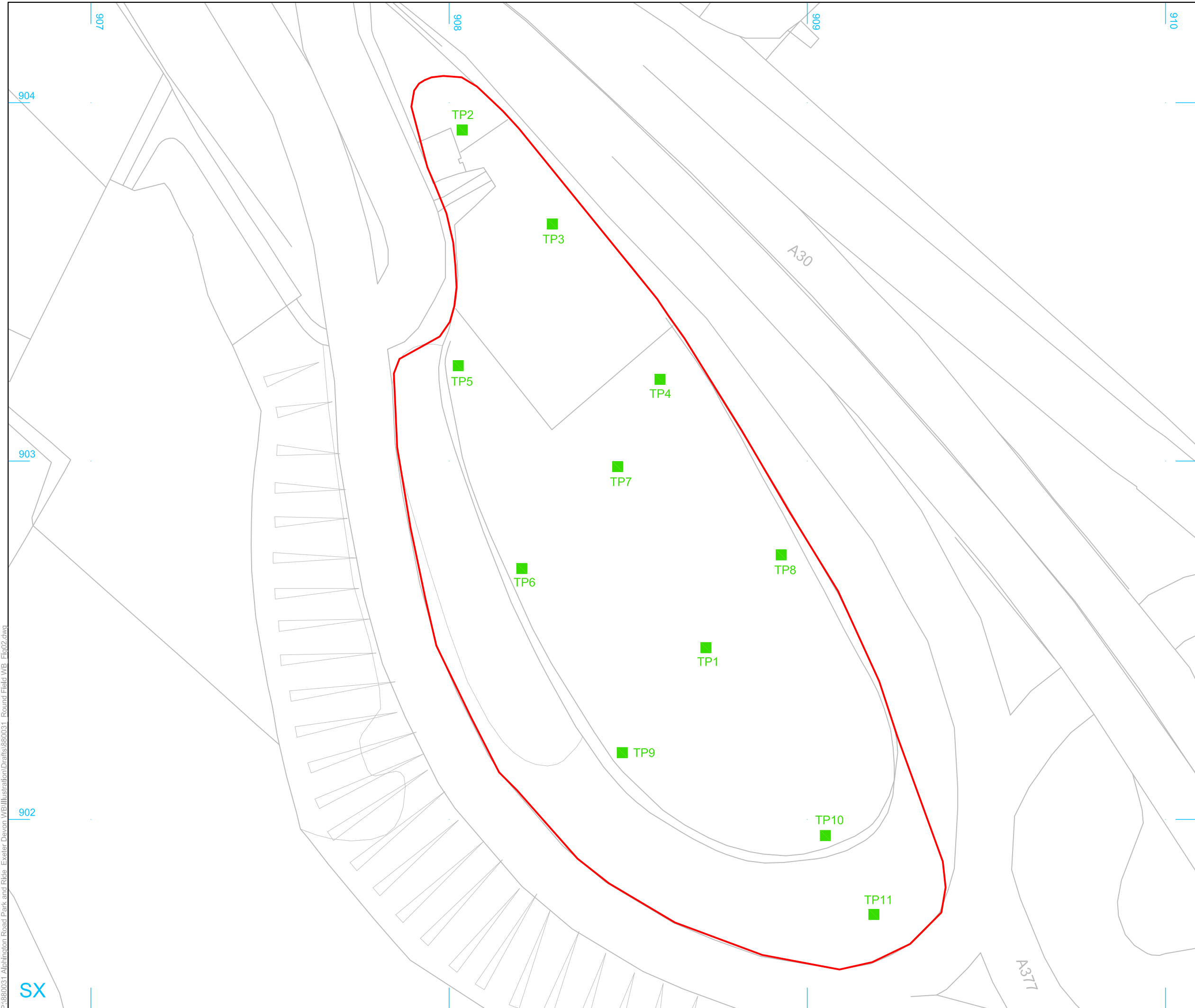
PROJECT TITLE
 Round Field Park and Ride, Exeter
 Devon

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	18/01/2016	
APPROVED BY	LECC	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	1



- site boundary
- trial pit (observed investigations)



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PROJECT TITLE
 Round Field Park and Ride, Exeter
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FIGURE TITLE
 Trial pit location plan

DRAWN BY LJH	PROJECT NO. 880031	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 18/01/2016	2
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