

# Project Sofia, Phase 2 Belgrave Road Exeter

*Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief*



for  
Mace

CA Project: 880315  
CA Report: 880315\_1

April 2019



Project Sofia, Phase 2  
Belgrave Road  
Exeter

Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief

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Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	11 April 2019	Paul Clarke	Derek Evans	Internal review	–	Derek Evans
B	10 May 2019	Paul Clarke	Derek Evans	Curator review	Minor edit to Archaeological background in line with Curator comment	Derek Evans

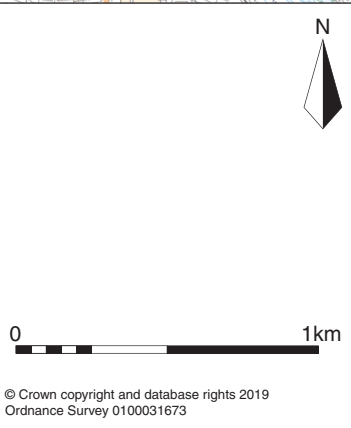
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## Exeter City Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b>	<b>National Grid Reference:</b> 292650 093032	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Project Sofia Phase 2, Belgrave Road, Exeter: archaeological evaluation and watching brief		<b>Photo attached:</b> N/A
<b>Planning permission no:</b> 18/1405/FUL	<b>Recipient museum:</b> N/A	
<b>OASIS ID:</b>	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> Site code: SOFA19; project number 880315	<b>Date fieldwork undertaken:</b> 5 March & 19 March 2019	
<p><b>Introduction</b> In March 2019, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation and watching brief at the Project Sofia Phase 2 site, Belgrave Road, Exeter (Fig. 1). These works were undertaken for Mace. They were in line with a Written Scheme of Archaeological Work produced by CA (2018).</p> <p><b>Archaeological background</b> The site is outside of the Exeter city walls, which were founded in the Roman period. It is considered likely that extra-mural settlement extended into the area of the site. Sidwell Street (which lies c. 70m north-west of the site) and Paris Street (which lies c. 110m south of the site) preserve the lines of Roman roads, and these thoroughfares are very likely to have been a focus for activity in the Roman period and later.</p> <p>The site appears to have been substantially undeveloped in the post-medieval period. Early 19th century cartographic sources indicate that the site remained open fields behind the rear gardens of properties fronting onto Sidwell Street.</p> <p>By 1840, most of the site was occupied by terraced properties. These were demolished during the 1930s and after bomb damage during World War II. Electrical engineering stores and workshops had been constructed at the site by 1951; these were replaced in the 1960s by the recently-demolished garages.</p> <p><b>Methodology</b> The monitored groundworks are shown on Fig. 2. A watching brief was maintained during general ground reduction works at the site (Areas 2 and 3; Fig 2), and during the excavation of pits to remove modern structures (T1, T4 and T5, Fig. 2). Additionally, two evaluation trenches were excavated (T6 and T7, Fig. 2).</p> <p><b>Results (Figs. 3 &amp; 4)</b> The natural substrate comprised bluish red sandy silt with striations of mid-yellowish brown silty clay. It was exposed in T1 and T4–T7 at a depth of between 1m and 1.2m below present street level (bpsl). The natural substrate was overlain by c. 1m of silty clay made ground, which contained frequent brick inclusions and occasional plastic. Areas 2 and 3 were excavated to a depth of c. 0.5m–0.6m bpsl only, and did not penetrate the made ground.</p> <p><b>Discussion</b> No archaeological features or deposits were recorded at the site. The presence of deep late post-medieval/modern made ground immediately overlying the natural substrate indicates that the site was extensively truncated during 19th and 20th century development (see <i>Archaeological background</i>, above). This will have had a negative impact on any archaeological remains/deposits which may have been present.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> Paul Clarke, Cotswold Archaeology		<b>Date sent to HER:</b>

**APPENDIX A: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	Project Sofia, Phase 2, Belgrave Road, Exeter	
Short description	<p>In March 2019, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation and watching brief at the Project Sofia Phase 2 site, Belgrave Road, Exeter.</p> <p>No archaeological features or deposits were recorded at the site. Deep late post-medieval/modern made ground was recorded immediately overlying the natural substrate; this indicates that the site was extensively truncated during 19th and 20th century development. This will have had a negative impact on any archaeological remains/deposits which may have been present.</p>	
Project dates	5 March & 19 March 2019	
Project type	Evaluation; watching brief	
Previous work	Test pits (Exeter Archaeology 2010) Desk-based assessment (MWP 2014) Watching Brief on Phase 1 (Cotswold Archaeology 2018)	
Future work	None	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site location	Belgrave Road, Exeter	
Study area (m <sup>2</sup> /ha)	0.06ha	
Site co-ordinates	292650 093032	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	N/A	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Derek Evans	
Project Supervisor	Paul Clarke	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	<b>Intended final location of archive</b>	<b>Content</b>
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	N/A	N/A
Digital	N/A	N/A
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
Cotswold Archaeology 2019 <i>Project Sofia, Phase 2, Belgrave Road, Exeter. Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief</i> . Report No. <b>880315_1</b>		



**Cotswold Archaeology**

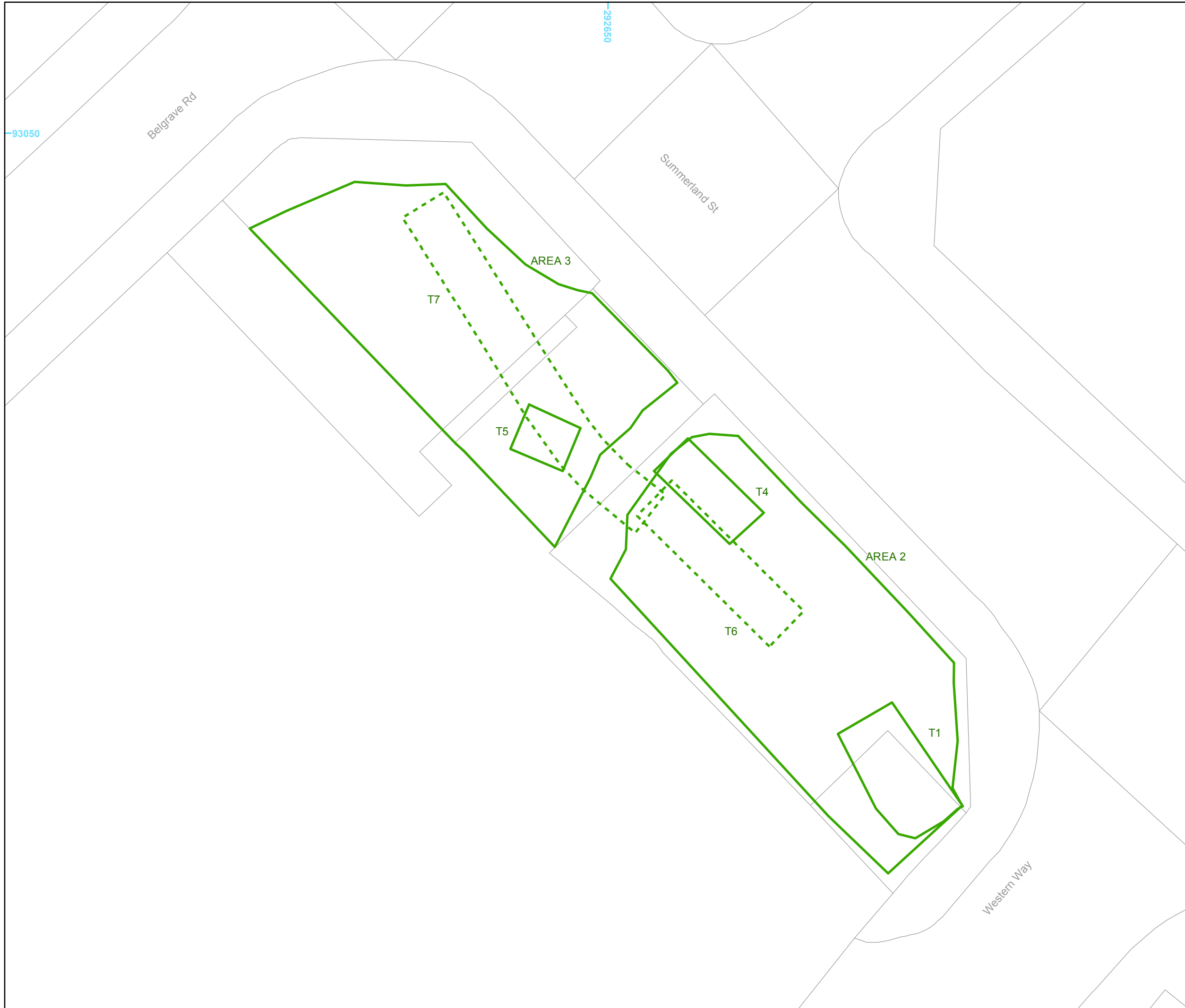
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Project Sofia Phase 2, Belgrave Road, Exeter

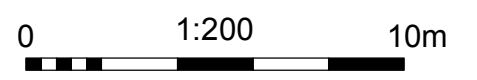
**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

<b>DRAWN BY</b>	<b>MP</b>	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	<b>880315</b>	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b>	<b>DJB</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>02/04/19</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>APPROVED BY</b>	<b>DE</b>	<b>SCALE@A4</b>	<b>1:25,000</b>	

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- Watching brief areas/trenches
- Evaluation trenches



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
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Belgrave Road, Exeter

**FIGURE TITLE**  
**The site, showing monitored groundworks**

<b>DRAWN BY</b>	MP	<b>PROJECT NO</b>	880315	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>	
<b>CHECKED BY</b>	DJB	<b>DATE</b>	11/04/2019		<b>2</b>
<b>APPROVED BY</b>	DE	<b>SCALE@A3</b>	1:200		



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



Area 2 western end, looking south



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


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PROJECT TITLE  
**Project Sofia Phase 2, Belgrave Road,  
 Exeter**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Photographs**

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	02/04/19	3
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Trench 5, looking north-east (1m scale)



Trench 6, looking south-east (1m scale)



Trench 7, looking north-west (1m scale)



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