

1A SOUTH STREET, EXMOUTH, DEVON

(NGR SY 00248 80853)

Results of an archaeological watching brief and
archaeological trial trenching

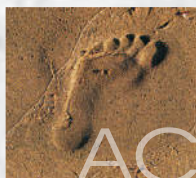
East Devon District Council planning reference
13/2446/FUL (condition 9)

Prepared by:
Will Smith

On behalf of:
Development Partnership Ltd

Document No: ACD1012/2/0

Date: December 2014



AC archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Exmouth, East Devon	National Grid Reference SY 00248 80853	Number:
Subject: 1A South Street, Exmouth, Devon: Results of an archaeological watching brief and archaeological trial trenching		Photo attached? Yes
Planning Ref no: 13/2446/FUL (condition 9)	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS ID: 198129	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD1003	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 9-14th October 2014	
<p>Introduction (Fig. 1)</p> <p>This document presents the results of archaeological monitoring and recording during the construction of five dwellings on land at 1a South Street, Exmouth, Devon (SY 00248 80853). The investigations were required under condition 9 of the grant planning permission by East Devon District Council (planning reference 13/2446/FUL).</p> <p>The site lies on the northeast side of South Street. It covers an irregular plot of land formally occupied by Francis Williams Ltd. This included an office, workshops, garage (which were removed prior to works commencing), and a yard. The site consists of mixed concrete surfaces and demolition material positioned on flat and level ground at 8m aOD. The underlying solid geology comprises sandstone and subordinate Breccia of the Exeter Group with a superficial alluvial deposit of clay, silt, sand and gravel.</p> <p>Archaeological background</p> <p>The site lies within the historic core of Exmouth, in the former Saxon manor of Littleham. Previously named 'Lytanhamme', the manor boundary later equated with the ecclesiastical parish of Littleham (Devon Historic Environment Record reference MDV418720). Archaeological excavations undertaken 100m northwest of the site in Lower Fore Street exposed occupation evidence dating from the 13th century onwards, as well as some evidence for Romano-British activity (Weddell 1980). Further excavations in Fore Street recorded evidence for late Saxon occupation, medieval houses dating from the late 14th and 15th centuries and the remains of a chapel (St Margaret's) dating from the 14th century (Weddell 1986). The Littleham parish tithe map of 1844 depicts the site on the position of a former crossroads, now surviving only as the current kink in South Street. The site is depicted as containing a row of structures fronting the street, which were still depicted on the first and second edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1889 and 1906.</p> <p>Results (Fig. 2)</p> <p>The investigations consisted of a watching brief that monitored a portion of the excavation of the excavations of plots 1-3 combined with the excavation of three trial trenches within the footprint of plots 4-5.</p> <p>Watching brief (Fig. 2; Plate 1)</p> <p>The majority of the foundations of dwellings 1-3 had been excavated prior to the arrival of the site archaeologist. Approximately 45m of trenches had been excavated along the north and east sides of these dwellings. They measured 0.60m wide by 0.80m deep, and were cut through a thin layer of mid greyish brown silty clay containing modern building debris into the natural that consisted of compact brownish red silty clay. A number of ceramic drains probably contemporary with the recently-demolished structures were observed across the site.</p> <p>Evaluation trenches (Fig. 2; Plate 2)</p> <p>The three trial trenches were located within the southern half of the development; they measured 5m, 4.5m and 5.5m long by 1m wide. All three trenches encountered the same deposit sequence recorded during the watching brief: 0.05-0.30m of mid greyish brown silty clay containing modern building debris overlying the natural. A number of modern intrusions, backfilled with bricks and bottles, were recorded cutting into the natural.</p> <p>Comments</p> <p>No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the fieldwork. The soil profile encountered in the foundation trenches and evaluation trenches indicates the site had been considerably landscaped prior to the construction of the recently-demolished buildings, and that this construction work will have removed any pre-existing archaeological features or deposits.</p>		

References

Weddell, P, J., 1980, '*Excavations at 3-5 Lower Fore Street, Exmouth*', Proc. Devon. Arch. Soc. **38**, 91-115

Weddell, P, J., 1986, '*The excavation of medieval and later houses and St Margaret's Chapel at Exmouth 1982-1984*', Proc. Devon. Arch. Soc. **44**, 107-141

Archive

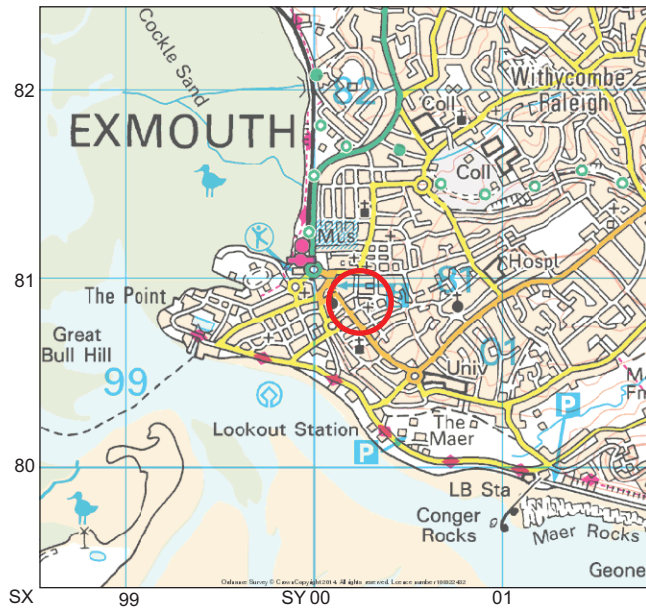
This report and the associated OASIS entry represent the archive for the project.

Recorder:

Simon Hughes and Abigail Brown (AC archaeology)

Date sent to HER:

22 December 2014



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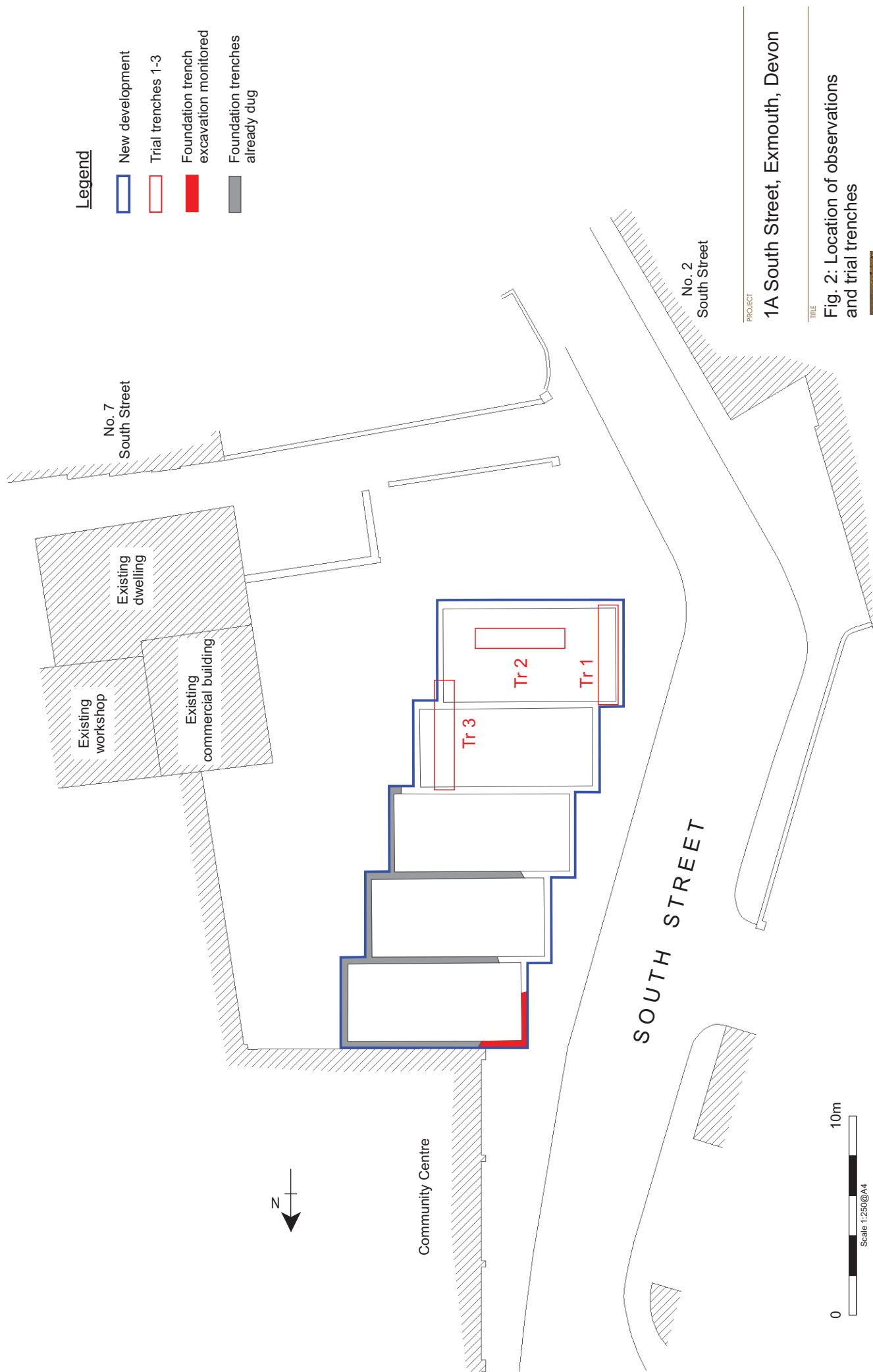
1A South Street, Exmouth, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Site location

Legend

-  New development
-  Trial trenches 1-3
-  Foundation trench excavation monitored
-  Foundation trenches already dug



0 10m
Scale 1:250@A4

Fig. 2: Location of observations and trial trenches



1A South Street, Exmouth, Devon

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Plate 1: The northern foundation trench, looking east. 1m scale



Plate 2: Trench 1 looking south. 1m scale

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