

# LAND NORTH OF TITHEBARN LANE, ADJOINING THE M5 MOTORWAY, TITHEBARN LANE, MONKERTON, EXETER

(Centred on NGR SX 9688 9398)

Results of archaeological investigations

Planning Reference: Exeter City Council 16/0024/03  
(Condition 7)

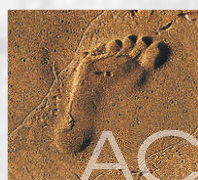
---

Prepared by:  
Chris Caine

On behalf of:  
WSP / Parsons Brinckerhoff

Document No: ACD1471/3/1

Date: November 2016

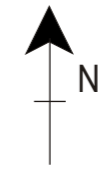
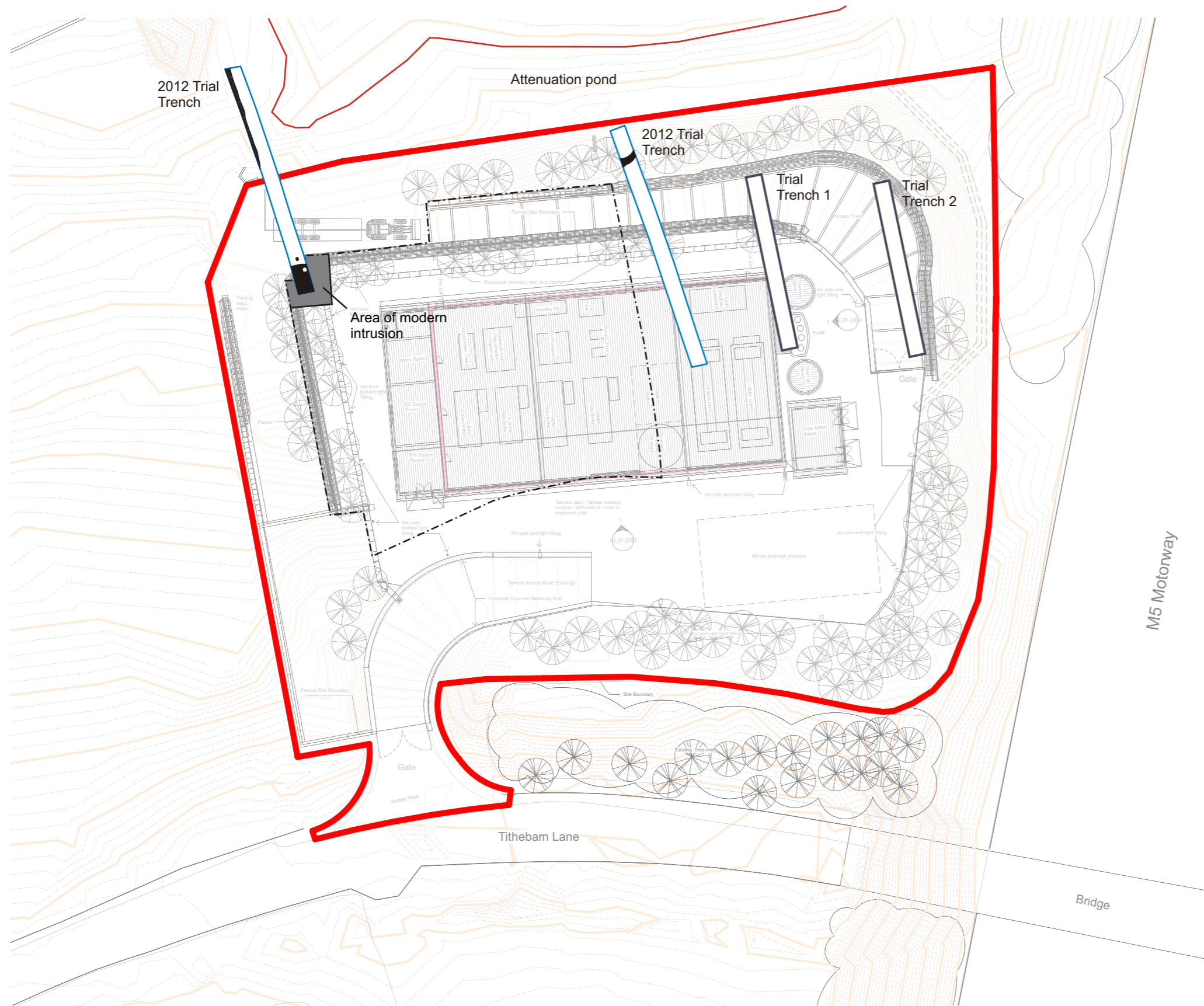


archaeology


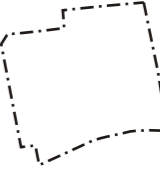


---

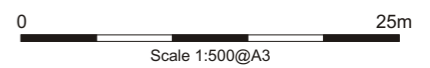
# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Exeter	<b>National Grid Reference</b> NGR SX 9688 9398	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Land North of Tithebarn Lane, Adjoining the M5 Motorway, Tithebarn Lane, Monkerton, Exeter: Results of archaeological investigations		<b>Photo attached?</b> Plates 1-3
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 16/0024/03	<b>Recipient museum:</b> N/A	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> 267906	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> ACD1471	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 17th of October to 1st of November 2016	
<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>Archaeological investigations comprising a strip, map and sample excavation and trial trench evaluation were carried out by AC archaeology ahead of the construction of a new energy centre on land north of Tithebarn Lane, Monkerton, Exeter (SX 9688 9398, Fig. 1). The site comprised part of a wider grass and scrub-covered plot that sloped down gradually towards the Pinn Brook and an attenuation pond, which both lay to the north. It was situated at around 24m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying solid geology consisted of sandstone of the Monkerton Sandstone Formation (<a href="http://www.bgs.ac.uk">www.bgs.ac.uk</a>).</p> <p>The site was located in a general area where a number of recent archaeological investigations had exposed evidence for late prehistoric settlement, funerary and field systems, as well as medieval settlement and other activity. As part of these recent investigations, two trial trenches were excavated in the west and central part of the site. In one of these, a layer of roughly-worked limestone blocks was identified that appeared to form a rudimentary metalled surface measuring approximately 1.5m wide. Overlying the surface was a scatter of randomly-orientated limestone rubble that was interpreted as potentially related to structural demolition or later rough metalling. An adjacent oval pit was also identified that contained ironworking slag and 12th to 14th-century pottery.</p> <p><b>Results</b></p> <p>The investigations comprised the stripping of the western portion of the development footprint and the excavation of two trial trenches to the east (Fig. 1 and Plates 1-2). This represented a variation to the agreed methodology from the full strip, map and sample excavation of the site, with this due to the negative results exposed during investigation of the western portion of the area. The excavations were undertaken using a tracked-machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket and working under constant archaeological supervision.</p> <p>Natural subsoil, which consisted of a mid red sand with sub-angular gravel inclusions and mineralised banding, was exposed at a depth of between 0.9m and 1.4m below existing levels. This was overlain by a mid greyish-red sandy-loam subsoil, which measured between 0.3m and 0.65m thick. The subsoil was overlain by a 0.25m to 0.65m thick modern made ground layer of re-deposited natural subsoil and topsoil, which contained very recent material (tarmac, vegetation, refuse etc.), and was, in turn, sealed by topsoil (Plate 3).</p> <p>Extending from the northwest corner of the stripped area was a large modern intrusion, the depth of which exceeded 2.2m below existing levels. The position of the modern intrusion incorporated the location of the possible metalled surface identified during the previous trial trench evaluation. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed within the stripped area or the trial trenches.</p> <p><b>Finds by Naomi Payne</b></p> <p>Finds recovered from the overlying layer sequence included two pieces of residual worked flint (a small single platform core and a tertiary waste flake), two sherds of 17th/18th century glazed earthenware pottery, three fragments of clay tobacco-pipe, two pieces of modern ceramic roof tile and a Victorian wind glass stem fragment.</p> <p><b>Comments</b></p> <p>The investigations did not expose any archaeological features or deposits. The site had sustained recent intrusion in the immediate vicinity of the anticipated archaeological features that were identified during the previous trial trench evaluation. There was no evidence for a continuation of this activity beyond this point. This recent activity and presence across the site of the thick modern made ground layer were perhaps associated with the establishment of the attenuation pond to the north.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> Chris Caine, AC Archaeology		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> November 2016



**Key**

-  Site boundary
-  Strip, map and sample excavation area
-  Trial trench
-  2012 trial trenches with archaeological features shown



PROJECT  
**Land north of Tithebam Lane, Exeter**

TITLE  
**Fig. 1: Site location and plan showing areas investigated**

Plan supplied by WSP/ Parsons Brinkerhoff



NOTE: DO NOT SCALE. REFER TO DIMENSIONS AND COORDINATES. THE DRAWING IS TO BE USED FOR INFORMATION ONLY. ANY DISCREPANCIES SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE AUTHOR.



Plate 1: View of site looking northeast



Plate 2: Trial Trench 2, view to north-northwest (scale 1m)



Plate 3: Showing overlying layer sequence (scale 1m)

### Devon Office

AC archaeology Ltd  
Unit 4, Halthaies Workshops  
Bradninch  
Nr Exeter  
Devon  
EX5 4LQ

Telephone/Fax: 01392 882410

### Wiltshire Office

AC archaeology Ltd  
Manor Farm Stables  
Chicklade  
Hindon  
Nr Salisbury  
Wiltshire  
SP3 5SU

Telephone: 01747 820581  
Fax: 01747 820440

[www.acarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.acarchaeology.co.uk)