

# SEWER BIFURCATION WORKS, WEAR BARTON ROAD, EXETER, DEVON

(NGR SX 94974 89346 and SX 95332 89336)

## Results of archaeological monitoring and recording

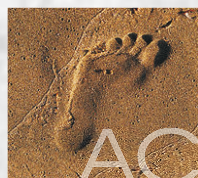
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Prepared by:  
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On behalf of:  
Kier Integrated Services Ltd.

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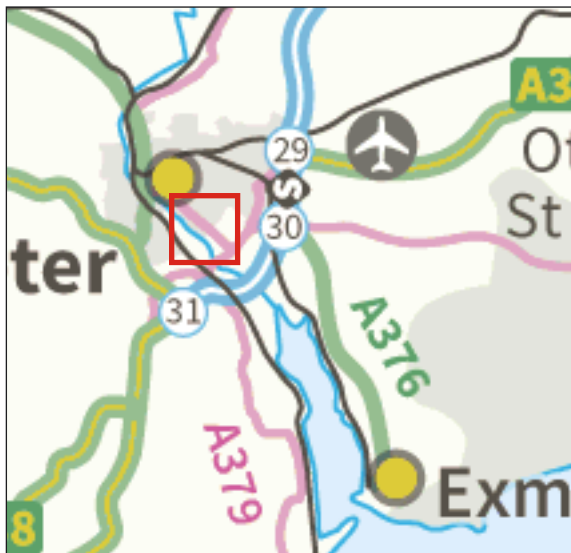


archaeology

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# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Exeter	<b>National Grid Reference</b> NGR SX 94974 89346 and SX 95332 89336	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Sewer bifurcation works, Wear Barton Road, Exeter, Devon: Results of archaeological monitoring and recording		<b>Photo attached?</b> Plates 1-4
<b>Planning Application no:</b> N/A	<b>Recipient museum:</b> N/A	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> 267958	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> ACD1469	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 20th September to 12th October 2016	
<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out by AC archaeology during sewer bifurcation works on land off Wear Barton Road, Exeter (SX 94974 89346 to SX 94819 89331). A separate associated section of sewer pipe replacement was also monitored between Topsham Road and Newport Road (SX 95328 89330). The site at Wear Barton Road crossed an irregularly-shaped plot of land currently occupied by Countess Wear playing fields and extended towards the River Exe to the southwest. It lay on flat ground at 5aOD (above Ordnance Datum), with underlying solid geology consisting of breccia of the Heavitree Breccia Formation (<a href="http://www.bgs.ac.uk">www.bgs.ac.uk</a>).</p> <p>As part of a separate outline planning application for residential development, the site had been subject to a previous heritage statement and geophysical survey. This identified that the site lay in an area that had the potential for prehistoric activity based on records of finds of worked flint having been made within the plot. The interpreted results of the geological survey indicated the presence of a limited number of linear anomalies. These were thought to potentially relate to agricultural boundaries and evidence of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. In addition, a watching brief carried out during a previous phase of sewer works also within the plot had recorded two probable ditches of unknown date.</p> <p><b>Results</b></p> <p><i>Wear Barton Road</i></p> <p>Monitored groundworks comprised the stripping of soils from the route of the sewer and the construction compound using a tracked-machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket (Plate 1). Natural subsoil (context 103), which consisted of a mid red to mid reddish-brown clayey-loam, was exposed at a depth of approximately 0.5m below existing levels within the area stripped for the sewer pipe. This was overlain by a light brown clayey-silt loam subsoil (101) and topsoil (100). The area for the construction compound was stripped onto the top of the subsoil. Two parallel ditches (F107 and F109) were exposed towards the northeast extent of the area stripped for the sewer pipe trench (Plates 2-3). These measured 1.05m and 1.25m wide respectively and were both 0.23m deep with moderately-steep sloping sides and flat bases. The ditches contained similar light yellowish-brown clayey-silt loam fills (106 and 108). No finds were recovered.</p> <p><i>Topsham Road</i></p> <p>These monitored groundworks comprised the excavation of a trench that measured 0.6m wide, 2.4m deep and was excavated along the grass verge between Topsham Road and Newport Road (Plate 4). Natural subsoil was exposed at a depth of 0.45m below existing levels and was overlain by a 0.3m thick modern levelling layer and topsoil. No archaeological features were exposed.</p> <p><b>Finds by Naomi Payne</b></p> <p>Finds recovered from the subsoil and topsoil during the Wear Barton Road monitoring included 16 pieces of residual worked flint from topsoil and subsoil (a flake core, 10 flakes, a broken blade, a retouched flake, two scrapers and a chip), 14 sherds of post-medieval pottery (all industrially-made or coarse glazed earthenware), two fragments of clay tobacco-pipe stem, four pieces of post-medieval to modern bottle glass and two small pieces of coal.</p> <p><b>Comments</b></p> <p>The parallel ditches exposed in Wear Barton Road correspond with the projected line of linear anomalies interpreted from the previous geophysical survey as possible land drains. These are likely to represent the parallel flanking ditches of a former hedgebank boundary of probable post-medieval date. The flint finds recovered from the overlying soils is consistent with previous finds made in the area, which suggest a background of prehistoric activity on or in the vicinity of the site. This report forms the archive for the project.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> Abigail Brown AC Archaeology		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> November 2016



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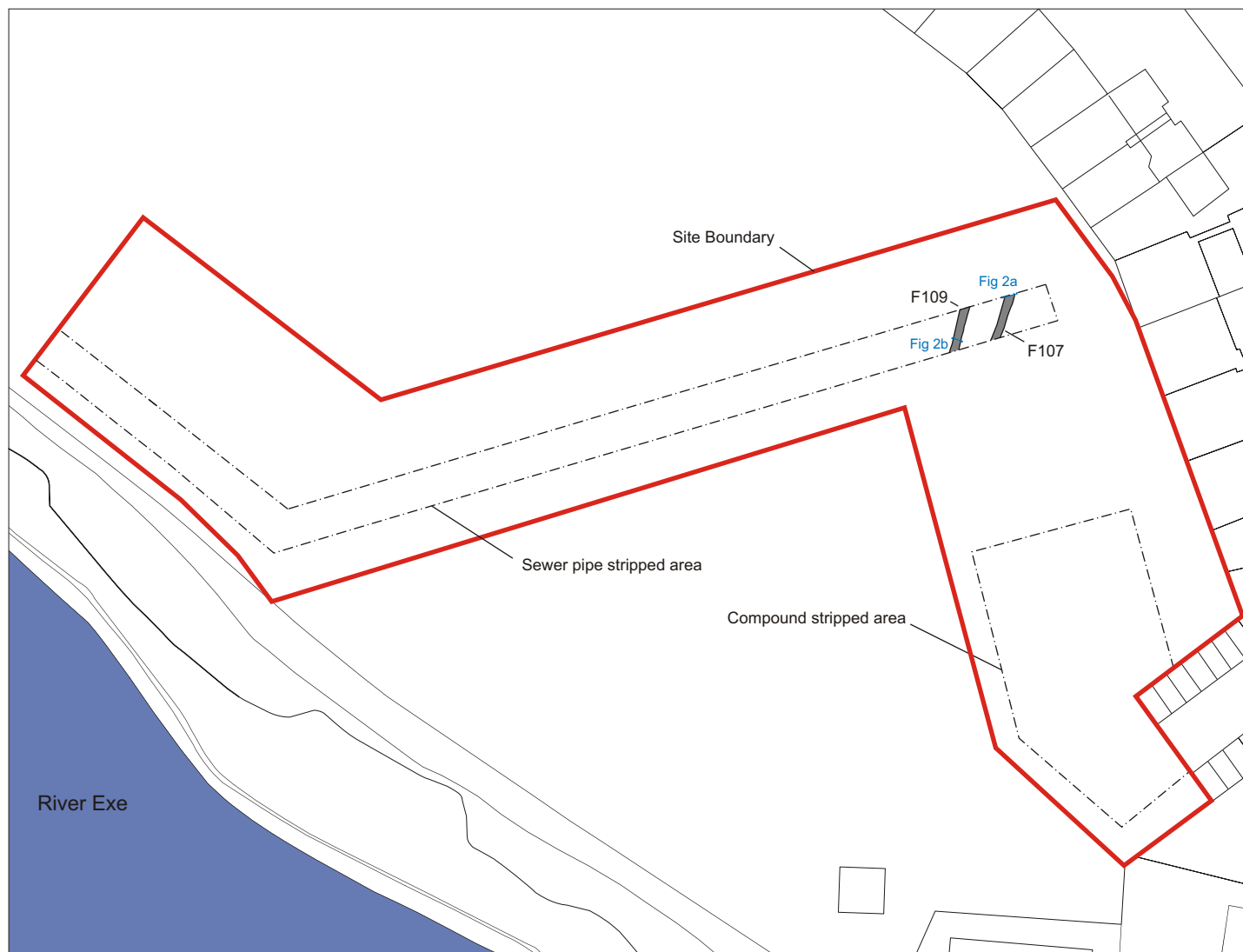
Sewer Bifurcation works,  
Wear Barton road, Exeter

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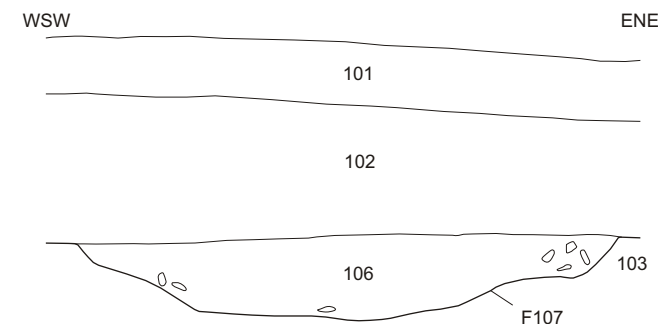
Fig. 1: Location of site with  
monitored areas shown



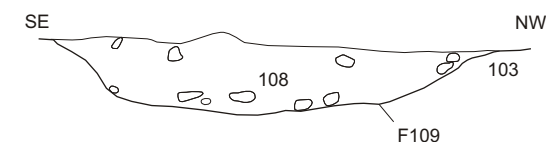
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a) Section of linear F107



b) Section of ditch F109



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Fig. 2: Wear Barton road  
monitored area plan and sections







Plate 1: General view of sewer route strip.  
Looking northeast towards Wear Barton Road



Plate 2: Wear Barton Road, pre-excitation view of  
ditches F107 and F109. Looking southwest (scale 1m)



Plate 3: Wear Barton Road, ditch F109, view to southwest  
(1m scale)



Plate 4. Topsham Road, general view  
of sewer trench. Looking southeast

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