

# LAND ADJACENT TO PILTON LANE, PINHOE, EXETER, DEVON

(Centred on NGR SX 9583 9384)

Results of an Archaeological Trench Evaluation

Exeter City Council Planning Reference: 15/0829/01  
(Condition 9)

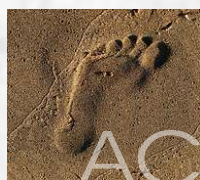
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Prepared by:  
Chris Caine

On behalf of:  
Strongvox

Document No: ACD1827/2/0

Date: May 2018

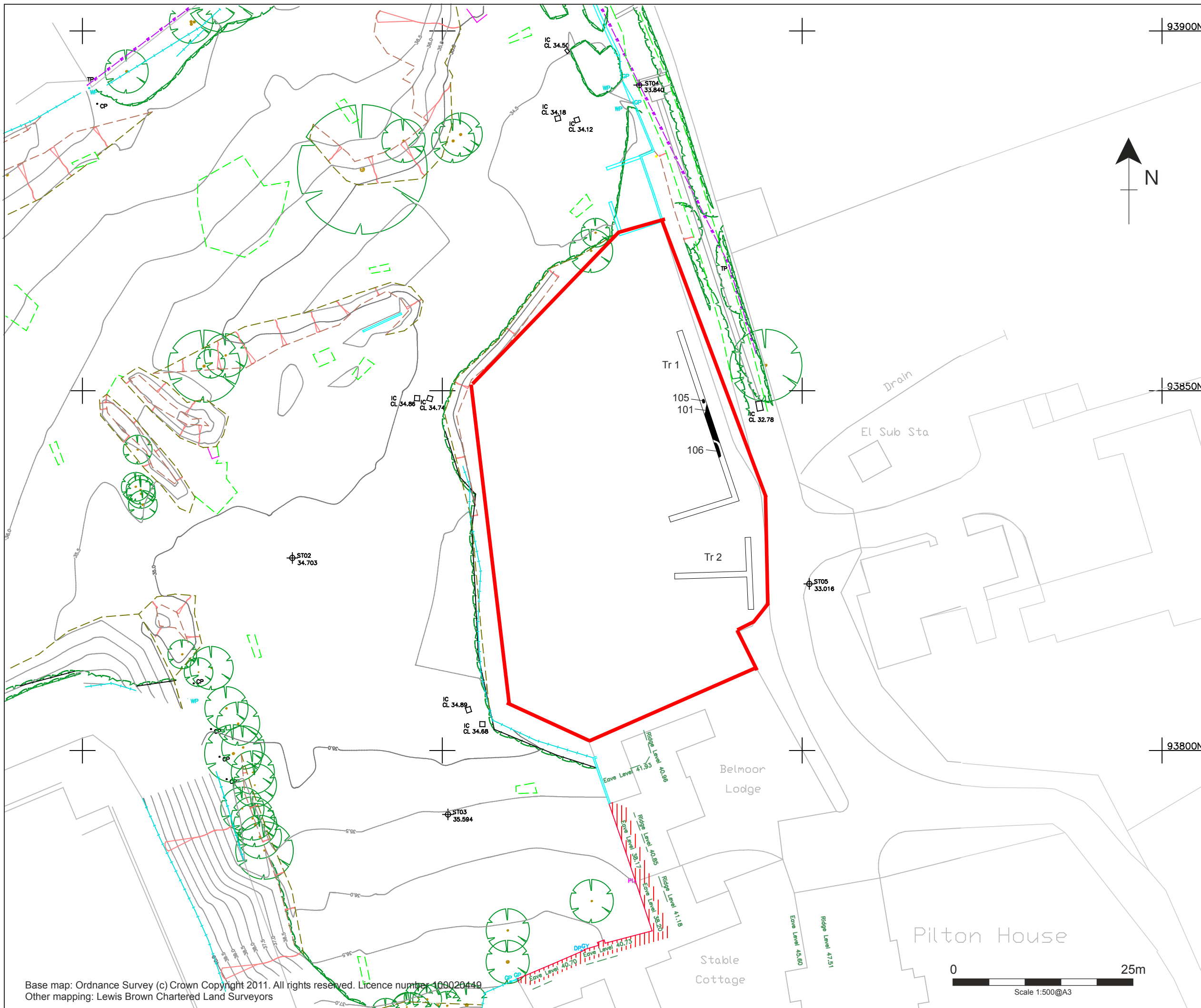


archaeology

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# Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish:</b> Exeter	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SX 9583 9384	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Land Adjacent to Pilton Lane, Pinhoe, Exeter, Devon: Results of an archaeological trench evaluation		<b>Photo attached:</b> Plates 1-3
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 15/0829/01 (Condition 9)	<b>Recipient museum:</b> N/A	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> 316863	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> ACD1827	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 1st and 4th May 2018	
<p><b>Description of works</b></p> <p>An archaeological trench evaluation was carried out on land adjacent to Pilton Lane, Pinhoe, Exeter, Devon (Fig. 1), it consisted of the machine excavation of two trenches totalling 55m long by 2m wide. The site lies on the west side of Pilton Lane and the land use was formerly rough grass. The ground is generally level, lying at around 34m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying solid geology comprises rocks of the Permian Whipton Formation, Exeter Group; these comprise reddish-brown silty, clayey sand and weakly cemented sandstone with some clayey silt, mudstone and breccia units (British Geological Survey Online Viewer 2018).</p> <p>A settlement at Pilton is recorded as early as AD 1370. Historic maps of the area dating from the early 19th century depict a series of buildings forming the settlement there, the accurate locations of which are not known. These could therefore have been present on the current site and, if so, close to the lane frontage.</p> <p><b>Results</b></p> <p>Two trenches were excavated alongside the lane frontage and immediately back from it (see Fig.1). Across the site, natural subsoil was exposed at a depth of 500mm below existing levels. This was overlain by a light reddish brown silty sand subsoil and this in turn was overlain by a dark brown silty loam topsoil.</p> <p>Trench 1 was in the north of the site and exposed three irregular pits (101, 105 and 106) which contained modern rubbish including enamel bowls, glass bottles, stoneware jars, metal paint tins and old batteries. The features were noted, but not excavated (Plate 2).</p> <p>Trench 2 was in the southern half of the site and again located mostly along the frontage, it exposed a modern septic tank and some tree root disturbed patches; considering the roots were still rotting <i>in situ</i> it is likely they were from whatever hedge was there before construction began. Natural subsoil (context 202) was exposed at a depth of 500mm below existing levels. The topsoil (200) contained frequent pieces of glass, ceramic building material, stoneware jars, plastic and metal objects (Plate 3).</p> <p><b>Comment</b></p> <p>The area contained no pre-modern archaeological features. There was also a lot of modern disturbance and modern rubbish in the topsoil. It is possible that the area had previously been excavated or landscaped. No finds were removed from the site.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> Chris Caine, AC archaeology		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 15 May 2018



**Legend**

- Site boundary
- Excavated trenches and modern features

PROJECT  
**Land adjacent to Pilton Lane, Pinhoe, Exeter, Devon**

TITLE  
**Fig. 1: Location of site and trenches with archaeological features shown**



Base map: Ordnance Survey (c) Crown Copyright 2011. All rights reserved. Licence number 100020449  
 Other mapping: Lewis Brown Chartered Land Surveyors





Plate 1: General view of the site, looking southeast



Plate 2: Modern rubbish pits in trench 1, looking south (1m scale)



Plate 3: Trench 2, representative section showing modern detritus in the topsoil, looking west (1m scale)

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