

# COUNTY HALL NEW BOILER, TOPSHAM ROAD, EXETER

Results of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

Exeter City Council planning reference 18/0233/LBC,  
(condition 3)

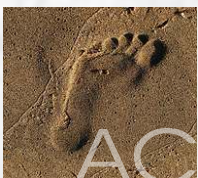
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Prepared by:  
Simon Hughes

On behalf of:  
NPS South West

Report No: ACD1823/2/0

Date: September 2018



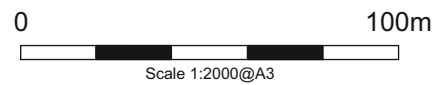
archaeology

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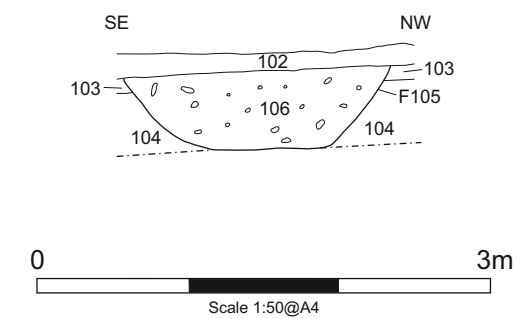
# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

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|---|--|--|
| <b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b><br>Exeter   | <b>National Grid Reference</b><br>SX 92965 91778               | <b>Number:</b>                             |
| <b>Subject:</b> County Hall New Boiler, Topsham Road, Exeter: Results of archaeological monitoring and recording  |  | <b>Photo attached?</b><br>Plates 1-2       |
| <b>Planning Application no:</b> Exeter City Council<br>18/0233/LBC  | <b>Recipient museum:</b> N/A                                   |  |
| <b>OASIS ID:</b> 328107   | <b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A                                |  |
| <b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b><br>ACD1823   | <b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b><br>23 July to 2 August 2018 |  |
| <p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out by AC archaeology during groundworks associated with the upgrade of a heating system at County Hall, Topsham, Exeter, Devon (SX 92965 91778). The monitored groundworks consisted of the excavation of a service trench linking the existing boiler house with the Coaver building (Fig. 1)</p> <p>County Hall is located adjacent to Topsham Road, which was a Roman military routeway extending southeast from the fortress at Exeter to Topsham where it is thought there was a port. Evidence of buildings and findspots of Roman date have been recorded from the vicinity of Topsham Road. County Hall was established during the 1950s on the grounds of 18th century Coaver House and Bellair properties, both of which were retained within the campus.</p> <p><b>Results</b></p> <p>The monitored service trench measured 0.9m wide and was excavated to a depth of approximately 0.7m below existing levels. Much of the route was excavated though grass verge adjacent to an internal road (Fig. 1; Plate 1). Here, the natural subsoil (context 104), which consisted of a light yellowish-brown to dark red clay to sandy-clay, was exposed at a depth of between 0.25m and 0.4m below subsoil (103) and topsoil (102) layers. Elsewhere, the trench was excavated across a road and a carpark where modern levelling and tarmac surfaces overlay the natural subsoil.</p> <p>A single ditch (F105) was exposed beneath the grassed verge area to the northwest of the carpark (Fig. 1; Plate 2). The ditch, which was aligned northeast to southwest and cut through subsoil 103, measured 1.75m wide by 0.5m deep, with steeply-sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a mid greyish-brown clayey-silt loam fill (106) that had occasional brick fragment, clinker and charcoal inclusions.</p> <p><b>Comments</b></p> <p>The results from the archaeological monitoring were largely negative. Ditch F105 was of likely post-medieval date and approximately corresponds with the position of a boundary shown on the First-Edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey map of 1890. This boundary formed the division between Coaver House and Bellair. No earlier archaeological features or deposits were exposed and no finds were recovered from overlying soils.</p> |  |  |
| <b>Recorder:</b><br>Simon Hughes, AC Archaeology  |  | <b>Date sent to HER:</b><br>September 2018 |

a) Plan of monitored area



b) Section of ditch F105



PROJECT  
County Hall New Boiler,  
Topsham Road, Exeter

TITLE  
Fig. 1: Location of site,  
monitored trench and  
ditch F105 and ditch F105 section





Plate 1: General working view of service trench excavations. Looking southeast



Plate 2: Ditch F105, view to southwest (scale 1m)

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