

CITY VETS, ROSARY HOUSE, 27 FORE STREET,
HEAVITREE, EXETER, DEVON

(Centred on NGR SX 93605 92455)

Results of archaeological monitoring and recording

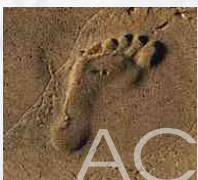
Planning Reference: Exeter City Council 18/0157/FUL
(Condition 7)

Prepared by:
Dr Paul Rainbird

On behalf of:
City Vets

Document No: ACD1811/2/0

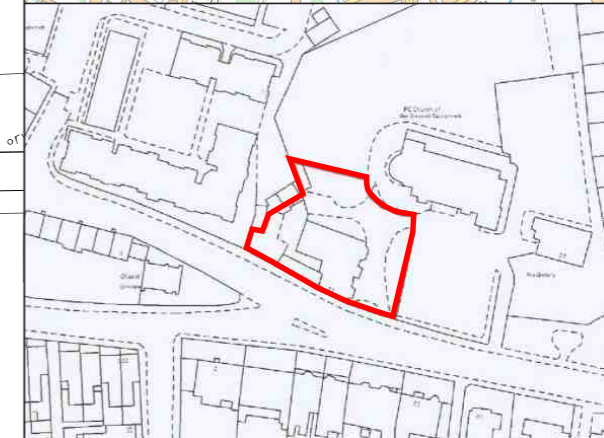
Date: July 2019



archaeology




Historic Environment Record

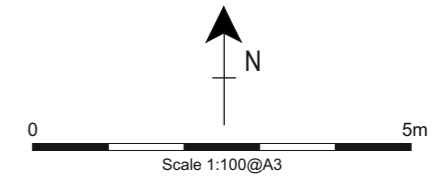
Civil Parish: Exeter	National Grid Reference SX 93605 92455	Number:
Subject: City Vets, Rosary House, 27 Fore Street, Heavitree, Exeter, Devon: Results of archaeological monitoring and recording		Photo attached? Plates 1-3
Planning Application no: Exeter City Council 18/0157/FUL (Condition 7)	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS ID: 358773	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD1811	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 28th March 2018 and 2nd July 2019	
<p>Description of works</p> <p><i>Introduction</i></p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out during groundworks associated with an extension to replace a courtyard and store rooms at City Vets, Rosary House, 27 Fore Street, Heavitree (<i>Fig. 1</i>). The site is located alongside Fore Street, which forms one of the main routes from the east into the city centre. The property lies next door to the Roman Catholic Church of the Blessed Sacrament and comprises a detached building (Rosary House, formerly Heavitree House) surrounded by a tarmac-covered car park. It lies on generally level ground at around 55m above Ordnance Datum, but with a gentle slope down to the northeast. The underlying solid geology comprises breccia of the Heavitree Breccia Formation (British Geological Survey Online Viewer 2019).</p> <p>Fore Street is thought to represent the line of the main route to the city in from the east during the Roman period onwards, and possibly extended beneath the site itself on an older more direct alignment. In addition, during the Roman period major routes into cities often had burial grounds located alongside them. Heavitree was also on the front line of the last civil war siege of Exeter, occupied in 1646 by the Parliamentarian army besieging the Royalist held city. There is therefore also some general potential for remains of that date to be present on the site, located as it is just below the crest of the last hill before the city (Andrew Pye <i>pers comm</i>).</p> <p><i>Results</i></p> <p>The archaeological works comprised the monitoring of four geotechnical trial pits and observation of the deposits underlying the former concrete slab forming the surfaces of the former yard and floors of the store rooms (<i>Fig. 1</i>).</p> <p>Thin modern and post-medieval soils were present in three of the trial pits (2-4) immediately below the current surfaces, and extending down to a maximum depth of 0.40m (<i>Plate 1</i>). The absence of any intact layers in Trial pit 1 may indicate a higher level of truncation in the northeast part of the former open yard. Following the stripping of the modern surfaces the natural subsoil of dark red clay was exposed at depths of between 0.2m and 0.5m below the former ground level everywhere except at the edges where the same deposit sequence as observed in trial pits was exposed (<i>Plates 2-3</i>). A modern drain opening was present within one of the former store rooms, and was filled with broken concrete architectural garden furniture rubble.</p> <p><i>Comment</i></p> <p>The archaeological works recorded no archaeological features, deposits or finds. Thin modern and post-medieval soils were present across the majority of the site (except the northeast corner where they were missing) below the current surfaces and above the natural subsoil which was exposed across the site.</p> <p>This report and the associated OASIS entry represent the archive for the project.</p>		
Recorder: Andrew Passmore, AC archaeology		Date sent to HER: 12th July 2019



Supplied by the client

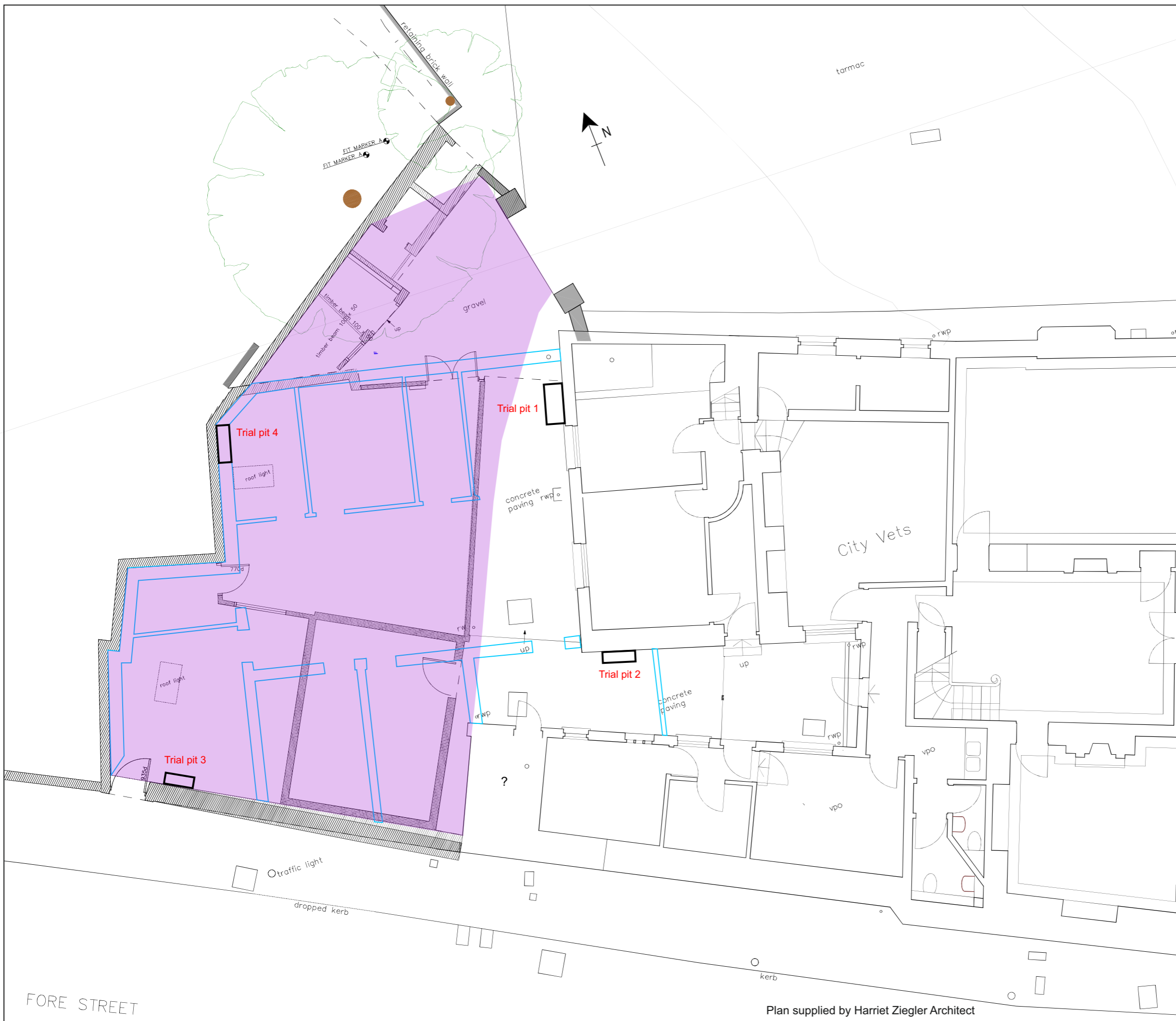
Legend

-  Trial pits 1-4
-  Proposed new extensions
-  Monitored area



PROJECT
City Vets, Heavitree, Exeter, Devon

TITLE
Fig. 1: Location of site, trial pits, and the monitored area



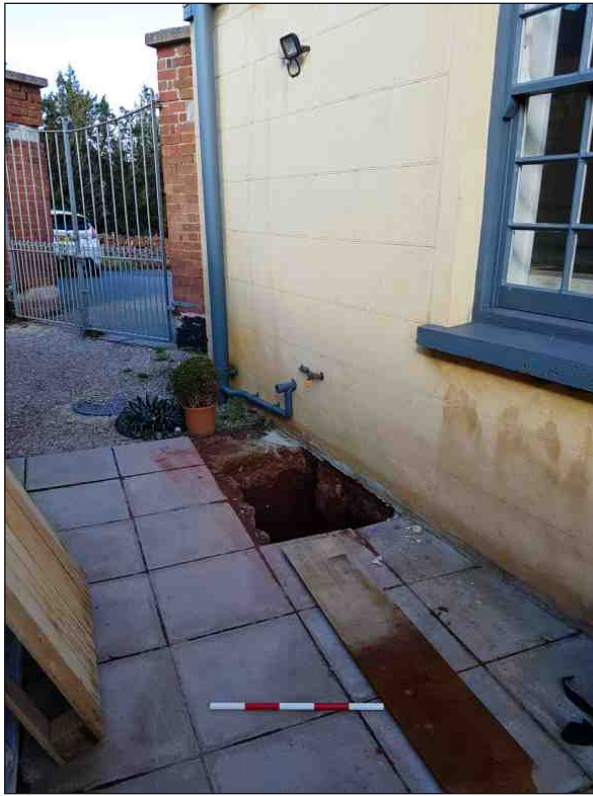


Plate 1: General view of Trial pit 1, looking northeast (0.5m scale)



Plate 2: General view of the stripped area, looking southwest (1m scale)



Plate 3: Edge of stripped area showing modern and post-medieval deposits, looking west (1m scale)

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