

LAND BETWEEN 2 AND 4 SPICER ROAD, EXETER, DEVON

(Centred on NGR SX 9289 9266)

Results of an Archaeological Trench Evaluation

Planning Reference: Exeter City Council 18/0362/FUL
(condition 4)

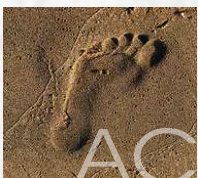
Prepared by:
Simon Hughes

With contributions from:
Naomi Payne and Charlotte Coles

On behalf of:
Hamilton Estates (South West) Limited

Report No: ACD1962/2/1

Date: October 2019



archaeology

Exeter UAD – Recognition Event Data Sheet

Area (m2) 450

NGR Easting **9289** NGR Northing **9266**

NGR Qualifier: **GCE**. Event Type: **WB**.

Event Start: **29/09/2019**. Event End: **29/09/2019**

Site Name **Land between 2 and 4 Spicer Road, Exeter**

Fieldworker Name **Simon Hughes**

Associated Organisation **AC archaeology**

Parish **St Sidwell**

Postal Address **2 Spicer Road, Newtown, Exeter, Devon EX1 1SX**

Event Description (continue over if necessary)

Introduction

An archaeological trench evaluation was undertaken as a condition of planning permission by AC archaeology ahead of residential development on land between 2 and 4 Spicer Road, Exeter, Devon (SX 9289 9266). The site is located close to the junction with Heavitree Road. Prior to commencement it comprised an overgrown rectangular garden plot positioned on ground elevated above road level. The work comprised the excavation of two 15m long by 1.8m wide trenches.

The site lies to the east of Roman Exeter and just off Heavitree Road, a road which represents a main route into the city's East Gate from the Roman period onwards. The 1842 St Sidwell parish tithe map shows the site at the periphery of the developed city at this time with the current site shown as forming part of a wider plot listed as a pasture field in the accompany tithe apportionment. By the 1904 Ordnance Survey edition, the adjacent properties fronting Heavitree Road are shown as having been constructed. To the rear of these, the site is shown as gardens divided into two plots.

Results

The trenches were excavated onto natural subsoil, which was exposed at a depth of between 0.5m and 0.87m below existing levels and consisted of a light yellowish-red clay with common gravel inclusions. In both trenches the natural subsoil was overlain by a 0.15m to 0.36m thick made ground layer of light-yellow clay. This was then sealed by a mid-greyish brown silty-clay subsoil and a dark greyish brown garden soil. No pre-modern archaeological features or deposits were exposed. The subsoil in Trench 2 was cut by a large probable tree throw pit (context 104).

The Finds *by Naomi Payne with a contribution from Charlotte Coles*

A small assemblage consisting of post-medieval pottery, clay tobacco pipe, ceramic building material (CBM), and animal bone were recovered from the trial trenches. The finds are summarised in Table 1 and are described by type below.

Table 1. Summary of finds by context (weights in grams)

Context	Context Description	Post-medieval pottery		Clay tobacco-pipe		CBM		Animal bone	
		No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt
104	Fill of tree throw	5	80	5	26	1	58		
201	Trench 2 subsoil			3	24				
202	Made ground	3	50	1	3			1	13
Totals		8	130	9	53	1	58	1	13

Post-medieval pottery by Naomi Payne

Eight sherds (130g) of post-medieval pottery were recovered from two contexts. Tree throw pit 104 contained a body sherd of blue-on-white transfer print, a base sherd of Jackfield-type ware and three sherds of South Somerset earthenware including a base sherd from a slipware dish, and the complete profile of an early 19th century seed pan broadly similar to 12/72 and 12/85 from Donyatt (Coleman-Smith and Pearson 1988, 242-3). The example from Spicer Road has a white slip internally and externally, which is covered by a copper-green flecked glaze. Made ground 202 contained two joining sherds from the base of a blue-on-white transfer print dish decorated with a rural scene featuring a milkmaid, two buckets and a cow, and a rim sherd from a South Somerset combed sgraffito plate or dish. Both contexts are dated by the transfer-print to the very late 18th or 19th century.

Clay tobacco-pipe by Naomi Payne

Nine fragments (53g) of clay tobacco-pipe were recovered from three contexts. There are three semi-complete bowls present. The bowl from context 104 is more fragmentary, but has a heel, and a milled and bottered rim, suggesting it dates from the late 17th century. One of the two bowls from the subsoil in Trench 2 appears to be of similar form and date, although it is not milled. The second pipe from this context has a spur and plain rim. The best fit date for this pipe is c. 1750-1800.

CBM by Naomi Payne

A single fragment (58g) of ceramic building material was recovered from context 104. This appears to be a piece of flat tile of Roman date. The fragment has an original thickness of 24mm, suggesting it derives from a tegula roof tile.

Animal bone by Charlotte Coles

A single animal bone fragment (13g) was recovered from Trench 2 made ground. This is a distal sheep/goat tibia.

Discussion

The results from the trial trenching were negative, with a consistent 18th to 19th century made ground deposit exposed that was overlain by garden soils. The presence of the residual fragment of Roman roof tile recovered from 18th to 19th century tree throw pit 104 may reflect a general background of occupation of that date in the vicinity.

This report represents the archive for the project

References

Coleman-Smith, R. and Pearson, T., 1988, *Excavations in the Donyatt Potteries*. Phillimore & Co Ltd, Sussex

Hughes, S., 2016, *Land between 2 and 4 Spicer Road, Exeter, Devon: Written scheme of Archaeological Work for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Unpublished AC archaeology document ref. ACD1962/1/1

Sample Deposit Column: N/A

NGR Easting 9289 NGR Northing 9266

Surface Level (m AOD) c. 47m Intervention to (m AOD) c. 46.13m max

Water Level (m AOD): N/A

Principal Deposit Top (m AOD): c. 27.9m Principal Deposit Base (m AOD) c.46.13m.

Geology: Breccia of the Alphington Breccia Formation, which is overlain by sand and gravel river terrace deposits

Listed Building PRN N/A

Listed Building Grade N/A

Additional/Synthetic Information

Notes

NGR Qualifier from:

FCE Feature Centred GCE Group or Complex Centred FS Findspot LO Locality Only LIN Linear

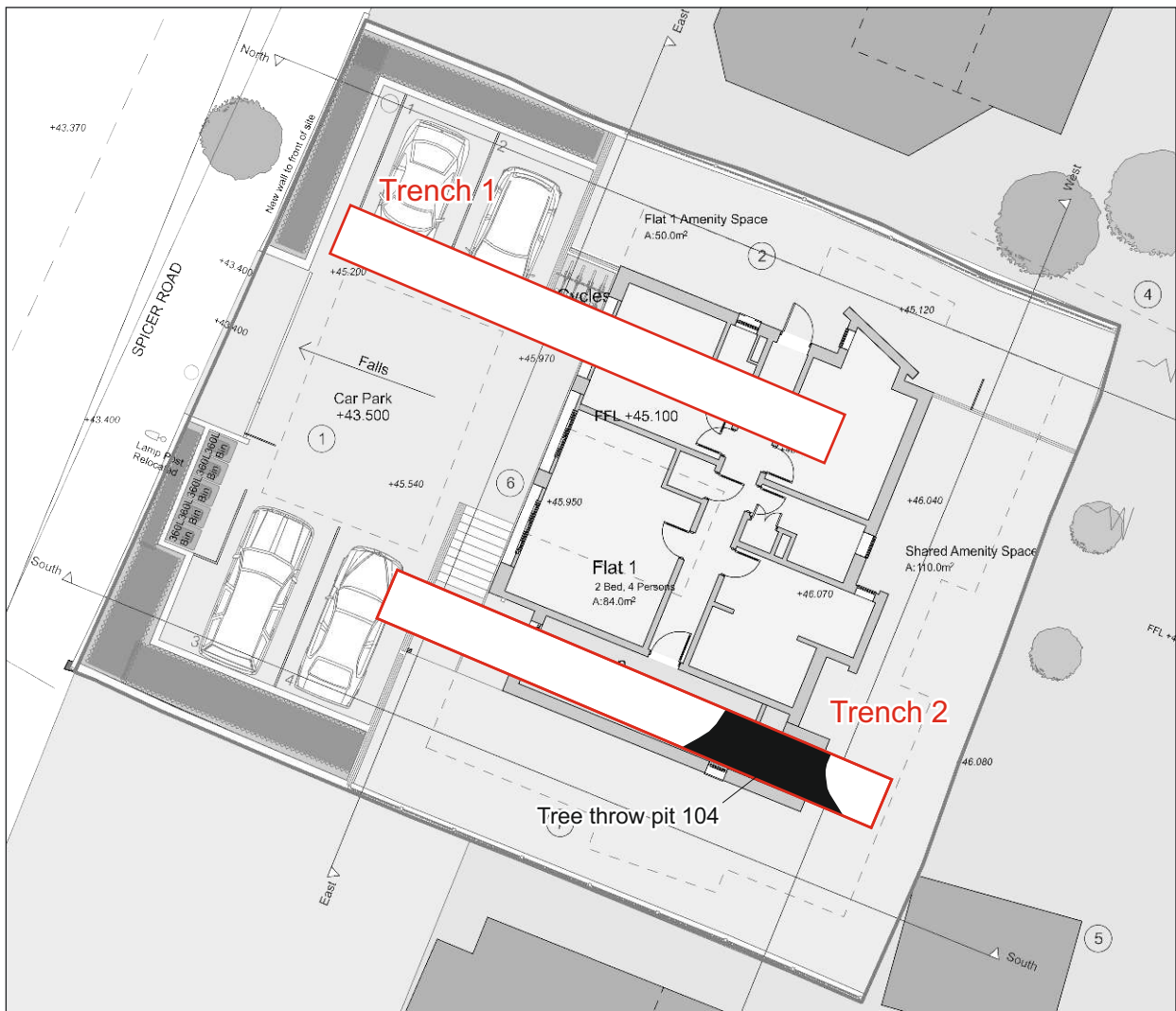
Event Type from:

AP Air photography AS Air Photo Survey BS Building Survey CS Geochemical Survey DR Documentary Record ES Environmental Sampling EV Evaluation
EX Excavation FE Full Excavation FO Field Observation FS Full Survey
FW Fieldwalking GS Geophysical Survey MS Photogrammetric Survey PE Part Excavation PHS Photographic survey PO Personal Observation PS Part Survey
RO Recorded Observation SE Salvage Excavation SR Salvage Record TS Topographic Survey WB Watching Brief

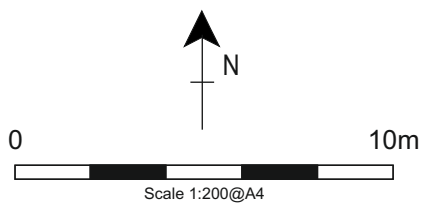
Digital site plan to be attached.



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Based on drawing prepared by Grainge Architects



PROJECT

Land between 2 and 4 Spicer Road,
Exeter, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of site and
trial trenches in relation to
development plan





Plate 1: General working view of site. Looking west towards Spicer Road from Trench 1



Plate 2: Representative section of Trench 1. View to southwest (scale 1m)



Plate 3: Trench 2, view to southeast with tree throw pit 104 in background (scale 1m)

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