Exeter City HER – Data entry sheet

Area (m2) **140m** NGR Easting **2**91361 NGR Northing **0**92064

NGR Qualifier **LO** Event Type **WB** Event Start **12/10/12** Event End **16/10/12**

Site Name **8 & 8B Okehampton Place, Exeter, EX4 1AY**

Fieldworker Name **Luke Jarvis**

Associated Organisation **Context One Archaeological Services Ltd**

Parish **St Thomas**

Postal Address
8 & 8B Okehampton Place, Exeter, EX4 1AY

Planning application/consent no.
12/0440/03

Museum accession/reference no. **RAMM 12/58** OASIS ref. **contexto1-130775**

Event Description (continue over if necessary)

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording related to development works at 8 & 8B Okehampton Place, Exeter, EX4 1AY (centred on NGR SX 91361 92064; hereafter referred to as the Site, **Figure 1**). The project was commissioned and funded by the developer, Mr Ian White of Sprintprint Development. The work was carried out over three days from 12th October to 16 October 2012.

The archaeological work was required for approval by the planning authority under condition 8 attached to the planning permission for the development (Exeter City Council (ECC), ref 12/0440/03). In a consultation response, dated 2nd May 2012, Mr Andy Pye (Archaeology Officer (ECC) highlighted:

> *"Potential buried remains relating to the medieval settlement of Cowick, and earlier former river channels and environmental evidence"*.

Given the recorded archaeological and historical data for the environs, it was considered that archaeological features/deposits could be present on the Site, and that these could be damaged or destroyed by development. However, as the nature or presence of such features/deposits was unproven on the basis of currently available information, it was determined that a reasonable archaeological response would be to carry out archaeological monitoring and recording during all ground disturbance associated with the development.

A *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording: 8 & 8B Okehampton Place, Exeter, EX4 1AY* (COAS, July 2012) was submitted to and approved by Mr Pye.

The requirement for the archaeological work follows central government planning policy as set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012), and the *Local Plan* (ECC 2005).

The Site comprised an area of ca. 140m^2 within the footprint of a demolished building and parking space located south west of a railway bridge over Okehampton Place, a short road between Okehampton and Albion Streets (**Figure 1**). It lay on the south side of the street, approximately 150m south-west of the A37 road bridge over the River Exe. It was situated at the rear of urban tenements laid out along Cowick Street in the medieval period, and hence had the potential to shed light on the orginal lay out and date of their boundaries.

The development groundwork consisted of the excavation of 24 *ca*. 1m by *ca*. 0.60m and *ca*. 1.60m deep pile trenches using a pile digging rig and the insertion of cylindrical steel piles (**Plate 1**). Previously a building had been demolished to a level higher than that of the road surface.

The archaeological work comprised the monitoring of the excavations and subsequent recording. Profile sections representing the full range of deposit sequences were recorded using standard COAS *pro forma* profile sheets. These include a graduated graphical representation of a profile section showing the stratigraphical sequence which was annotated to define the depths of each observed deposit. The sheet also includes summary context forms in order that the character of each layer is summarised. There are also entry fields for the profile location, photographic reference and core details of any artefacts.

A photographic record of the fieldwork comprised digital images. As a minimum, the record included shots of each profile section, the site setting and development works.

The location, extent and altitude of the archaeological work, features and deposits were mapped relative to the National Grid and Ordnance Datum using mapping provided by the developer and tape measures. A TopCon GRS-1 Global Positioning System receiving real-time calibrations to produce accuracies of 1-2cm was used to establish the ground level height above Ordnance Datum.

The layers encountered during fieldwork were allocated context numbers made up of a two digit prefix determined by the pile number on the architect's plan and a further two digits denoting the particular layer, presented in the text within standard brackets, e.g. (0201).

The trenches west of a line between piles 18 and 10 were all cut through the tarmac of the parking area. Below the tarmac and across the exposed east of the Site was a clayey overburden, (0100) – (2400), which included fragments of stone, sparse brick and lumps of concrete and was disturbed by modern services (**Plates 2** and **3**). The layer varied in depth from 0.30m (1800) - 0.50m (2300) on the west side (**Plates 2** and **3**) to 1.12m (0200) and greater than 1.55 (1300) on the south and east sides (**Plates 4** and **5**). In all instances the modern overburden lay over natural alluvial sandy, silty clay, (0101) – (2401). A further distinct alluvial layer (1802) was identified in trench 18 at 1.50m below the ground surface.

No archaeological features or deposits were identified and no finds other than fragments of modern debris were observed, none of which were collected.

Sample Deposit Column **N/A**

NGR Easting **N/A** NGR Northing **N/A**

Surface Level **8.56m AOD** Intervention to ***ca*. 6.85m AOD**

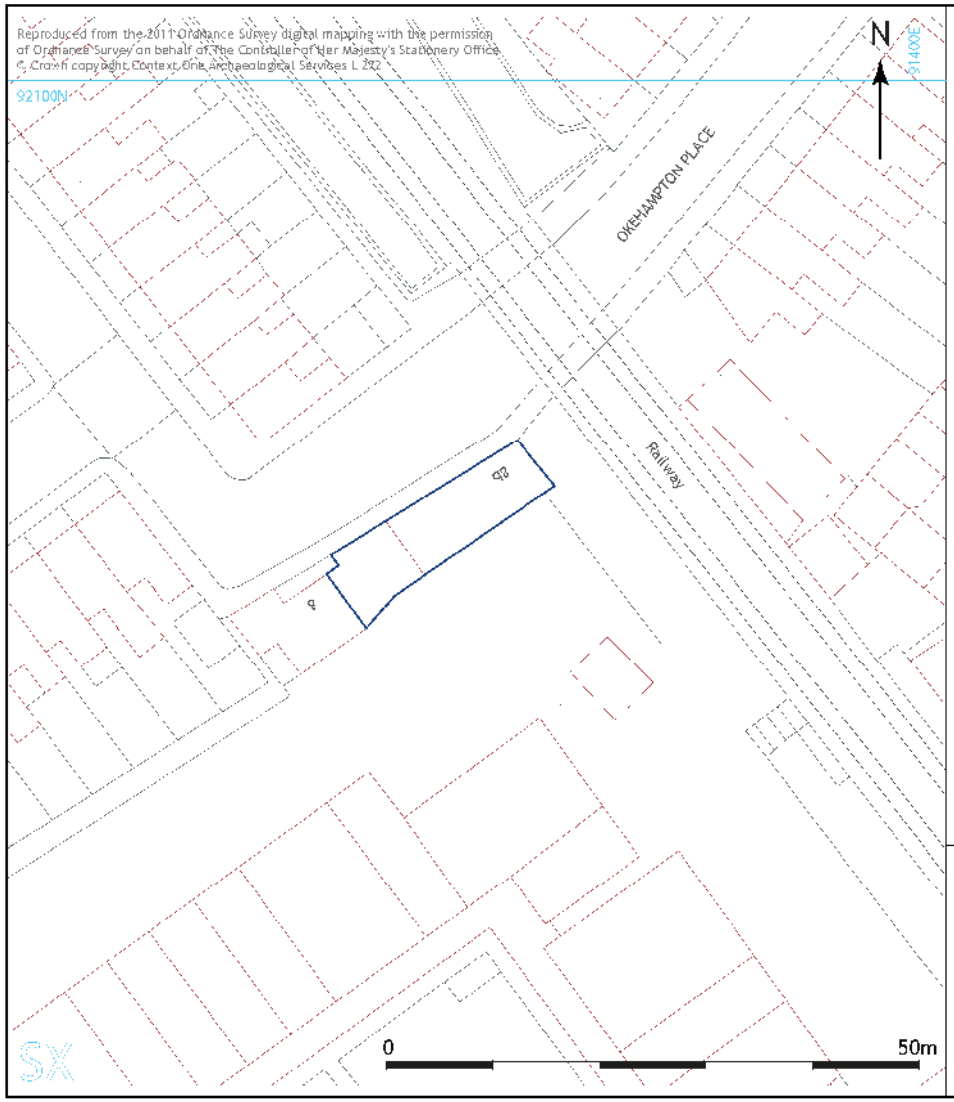
Level (m AOD) **N/A**

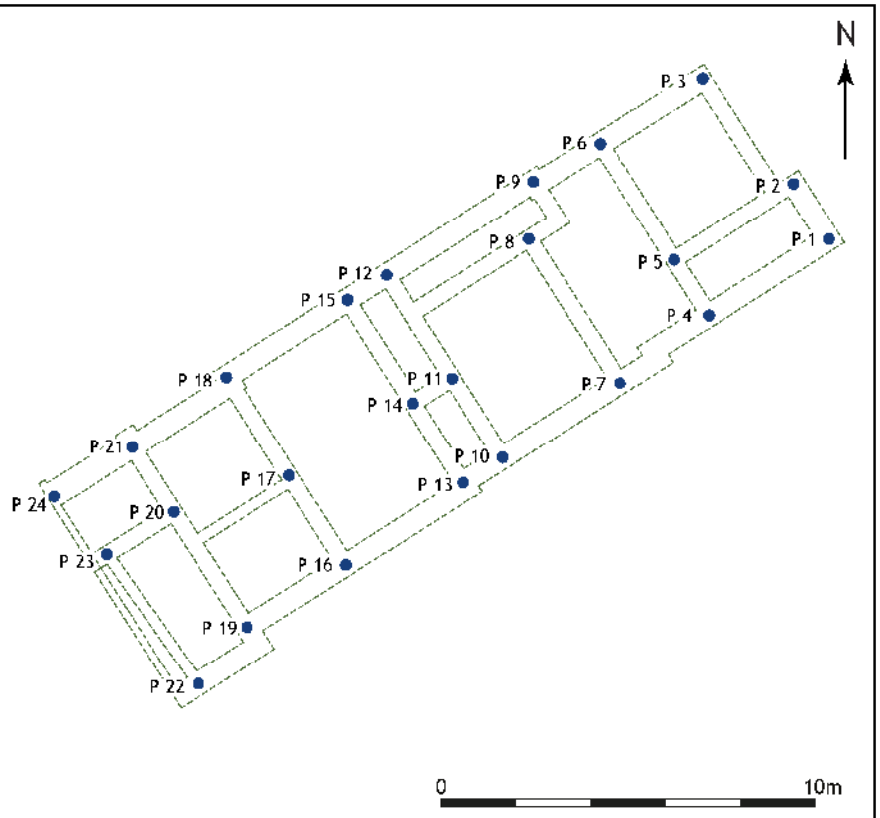
Principal Deposit Top (m AOD) **N/A** Principal Deposit Base (m AOD) **N/A**

Geology **Alluvial Quaternary clays and gravels overlying Permian sandstone of Whipton Formation**

Listed Building PRN **N/A** Listed Building Grade **N/A**

Additional/Synthetic Information **N/A**





Location of new building

Footprint of new building

P XX Location of pile trenches

PROJECT TITLE

8 & 8B Okehampton Place, Exeter

FIGURE TITLE

Site setting with detail showing locations of pile trenches

SCALE	*PROJECT CODE*	*FIGURE NO.*
as shown	C1/WBF/12/OPE	1

Plate 1. Pile trench 18 (from S; 1m scale)

Plate 2. Pile trench 18 (from S; 1m scale)


Plate 3. Pile trench 23 (from E; 1m scale)


Plate 4. Pile trench 2 (from N; 1m scale)


Plate 5. Pile trench 13 (from N; 1m scale)

Notes

NGR Qualifier from:
FCE Feature Centred GCE Group or Complex Centred FS Findspot LO Locality Only LIN Linear

Event Type from:
WB Watching Brief

Digital site plan to be attached.