

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: St Thomas, Exeter	National Grid Reference: SX 9095 9116	Number:
Subject: Archaeological Watching Brief at Cordery Road, St Thomas, Exeter		Photo attached:
Planning Application no:	Recipient museum: Royal Albert Memorial Museum	
OASIS ID: exeterar1-57739	Museum Accession no: 28/2009	
Contractor's reference number/code: EA 6653	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 15/09 – 02/10/2008	
<p>Description of works:</p> <p>An archaeological Watching Brief was maintained in Cordery Road (Fig. 1) during the replacement of a gas main, in the area of the former medieval Cowick priory. The church for this priory is believed to have been situated to the south of house number 23 and west of the flats 45 - 103 (Fig 2.).</p> <p>Forty-seven pits ranging in size from 0.7 x 0.7 x 0.65m deep to 1.9 x 0.82 x 1m deep, were excavated on the line of the existing main. Three trenches were also dug, two at the junction of Larch Road (Trench 1 and 2: c. 4 x 1.3 x 1.3m deep, and Trench 3, extending from pit 10 – 13, c. 80 x 0.3 x 0.8m deep (Fig. 2).</p> <p>The pits exposed ground heavily disturbed by modern services. No undisturbed sections were exposed. Three fragments of human bone (arm) were noted in the spoil from pit 25.</p> <p>Trench 1 and 2 were also heavily disturbed by modern services and no undisturbed sections were exposed.</p> <p>Results:</p> <p>Trench 3 exposed disarticulated human remains, 0.8m below the existing road surface within a levelling deposit to the south west of the suggested chapel site. The remains consisted of 3 partial skulls and a fragment of long bone. The sequence above the bones was :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 – 0.35m: road surfaces and hardcore. • 0.35 – 0.7m: demolition layer with brown mortar, slate and 20mm rounded stone inclusions. • 0.7 - 0.9m: reddish brown silty clay 65% clay containing occasional lime mortar, flat rounded stones and a yellowish brown mortar lens. The human remains were within this apparent levelling deposit. <p>Although no grave cut was observed the bone is likely to have been reburied within a grave or charnel pit. The human bone was left <i>in situ</i>.</p> <p>Conclusion:</p> <p>Although burials were encountered in the area in the 19th century, they were not precisely located. This watching brief provides the first modern record which establishes the position of the cemetery of Cowick Priory.</p>		
Recorder: Jeremy Austin Exeter Archaeology		Date sent to HER:

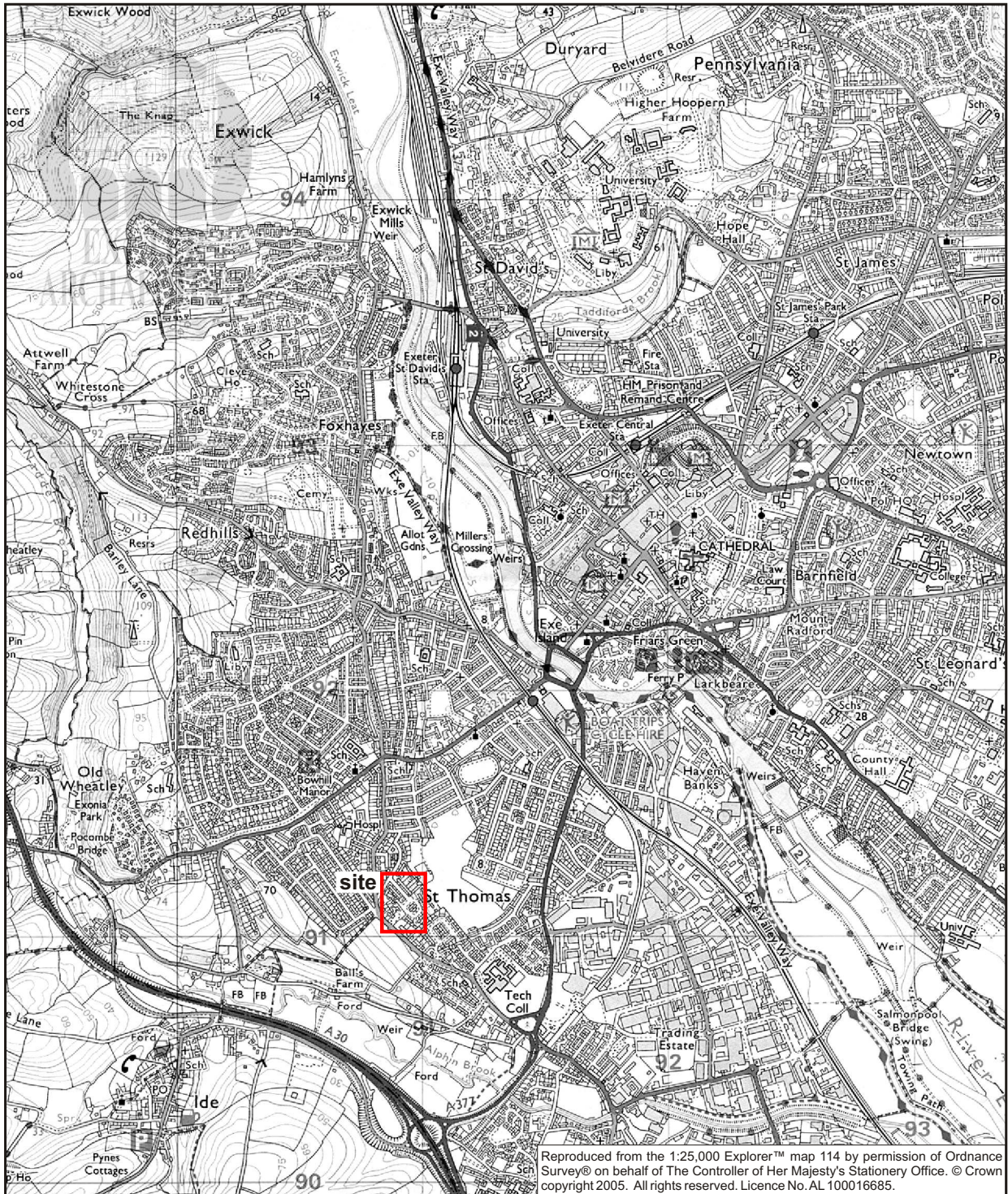


Fig. 1 Location of site.

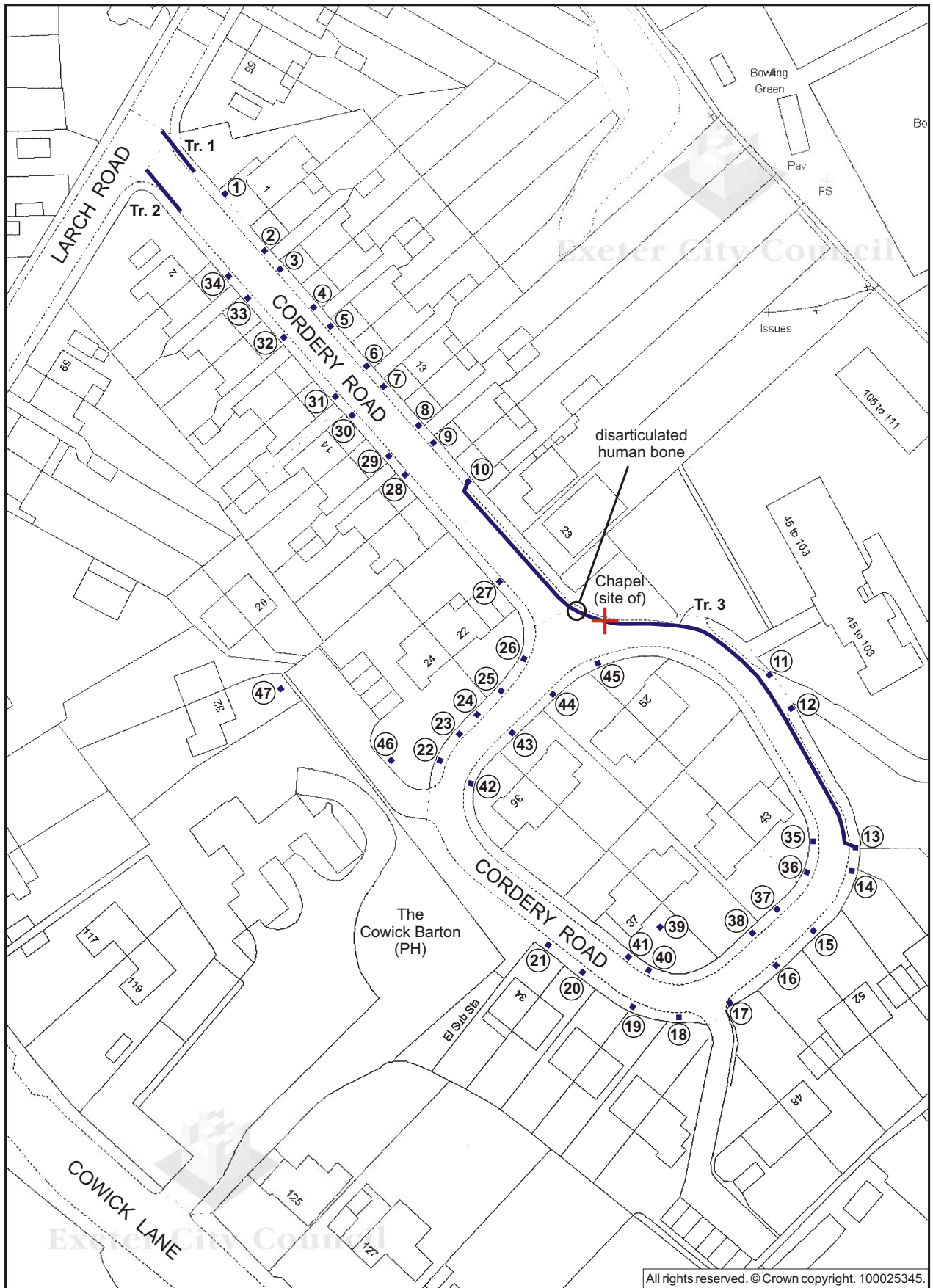


Fig. 2 Location of archaeological interventions and disarticulated human bone. Scale 1:1000.



Plate 1 General view of disarticulated human bone. Looking northeast. 0.25m scale.



Plate 2 General view of disarticulated human bone. Looking southwest. 0.25m scale.