

## Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

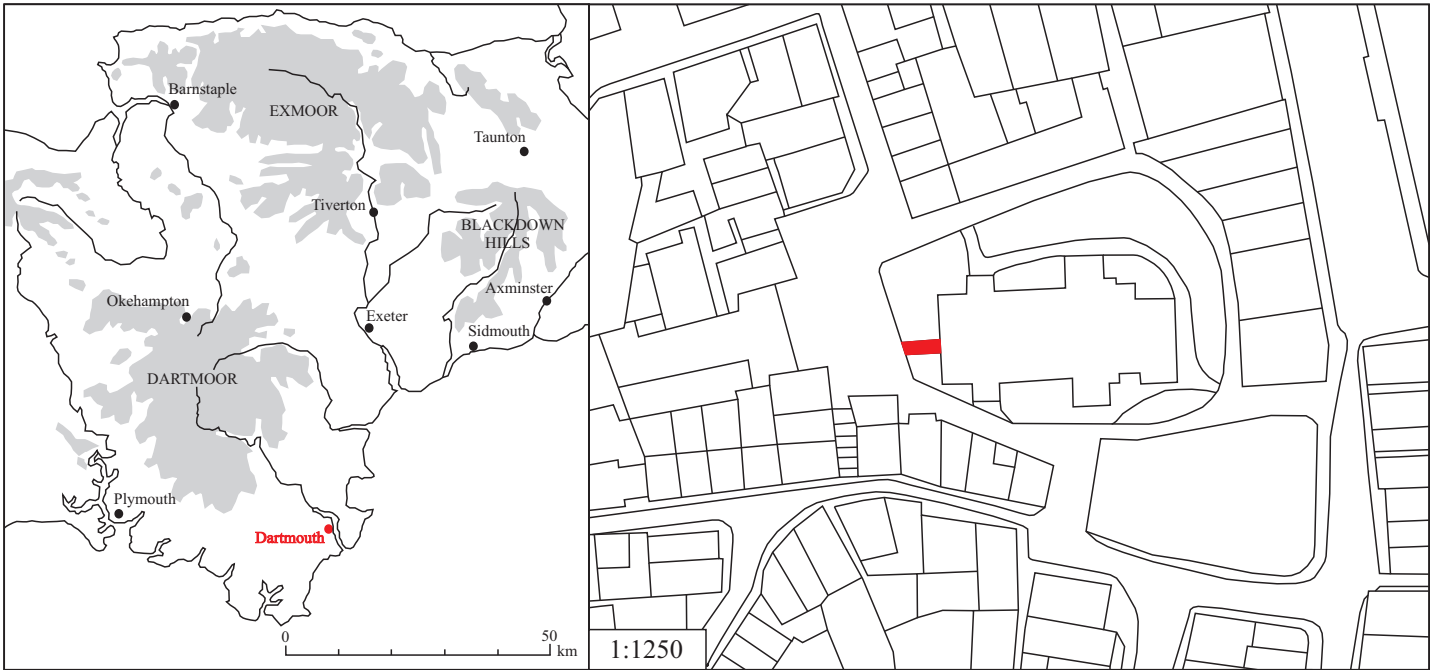
<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Dartmouth, South Hams	<b>National Grid Reference:</b> SX 8774 5132	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording at St Saviour's Church, Dartmouth, Devon.		<b>Photo attached:</b> Y
<b>Faculty no:</b> 151/12	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Plymouth Museum	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> oakforda1-151538	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> 2013.5	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> OA1078	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 04/04 and 12/04/13	
<p><b>Description of works:</b> An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology in April 2013 at St Saviour's Church, Dartmouth, Devon (SX 8776 6513). The site (Fig. 1) lies immediately outside the westfront of St Saviour's Church. The church is grade I listed and was dedicated in 1372 as a chapel at ease. The construction of the church had started earlier in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, although the building was substantially enlarged during the late 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century. The church was heavily refurbished between 1633-37 by the town corporation, with further renovations and additions carried out in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>A watching brief was maintained during works associated with the construction of a new access ramp leading to the westfront (Fig. 2). The work for the new ramp involved the removal of the existing steps and ground reduction extending to a depth of between 0.3-0.5m. The existing stone slabs, consisting of local limestone set in a mixture of fine sandy lime mortar and concrete, were re-used for the construction of the new ramp.</p> <p><b>Results:</b> Inspection of the area showed little evidence of archaeological features. The removal of the steps exposed a heavily mixed deposit 1002 consisting of mid brownish silty clay. This contained frequent fragments of disarticulated human bone and a single Low Country brick fragment. This consisted of a pale buff fabric and dates to the 17-18<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>The remains of a single burial were exposed immediately underneath this deposit. Grave 1004 was located immediately to the east of the entrance in to the graveyard, aligned E-W, only about 0.8m of the grave were exposed. This measured approximately 0.5m in width. The fill 1006 consisted of mid to dark yellowish brown silty clay with occasional shale fragments. Fragments of disarticulated human bone were also present in fill 1006. The remains of the skull and spine (SK1005), which would otherwise have been destroyed by the development, were recorded in plan and archaeologically excavated in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation before being returned to the PCC for re-burial. Grave 1004 cut an indistinct burial horizon 1003.</p> <p><b>Conclusion:</b> The works exposed the remains of a single individual underneath the existing pathway. This pre-dates the insertion of the 19<sup>th</sup> century gateway into the earlier churchyard walls and the re-ordering of the path leading to the westfront during this period. Work by Cotswold Archaeology in 2013 during gas main renewals in Anzac Street uncovered several graves beyond the current western extent of the graveyard, suggesting that the graveyard may originally have covered a much larger area (Cotswold Archaeology <i>forthcoming</i>).</p> <p><b>Project archive and OASIS entry</b> The site records have been compiled into a fully integrated site archive which is currently held at Oakford Archaeology's offices under project number 1078, pending deposition with Plymouth Museum.</p>		

A summary of the investigations has been submitted to the on-line archaeological database OASIS (Online Access to the Index of archaeological InterventionS).

**Recorder:**

MFR Steinmetzer (Oakford Archaeology)

**Date sent to HER:**



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Fig. 1 Location of site.

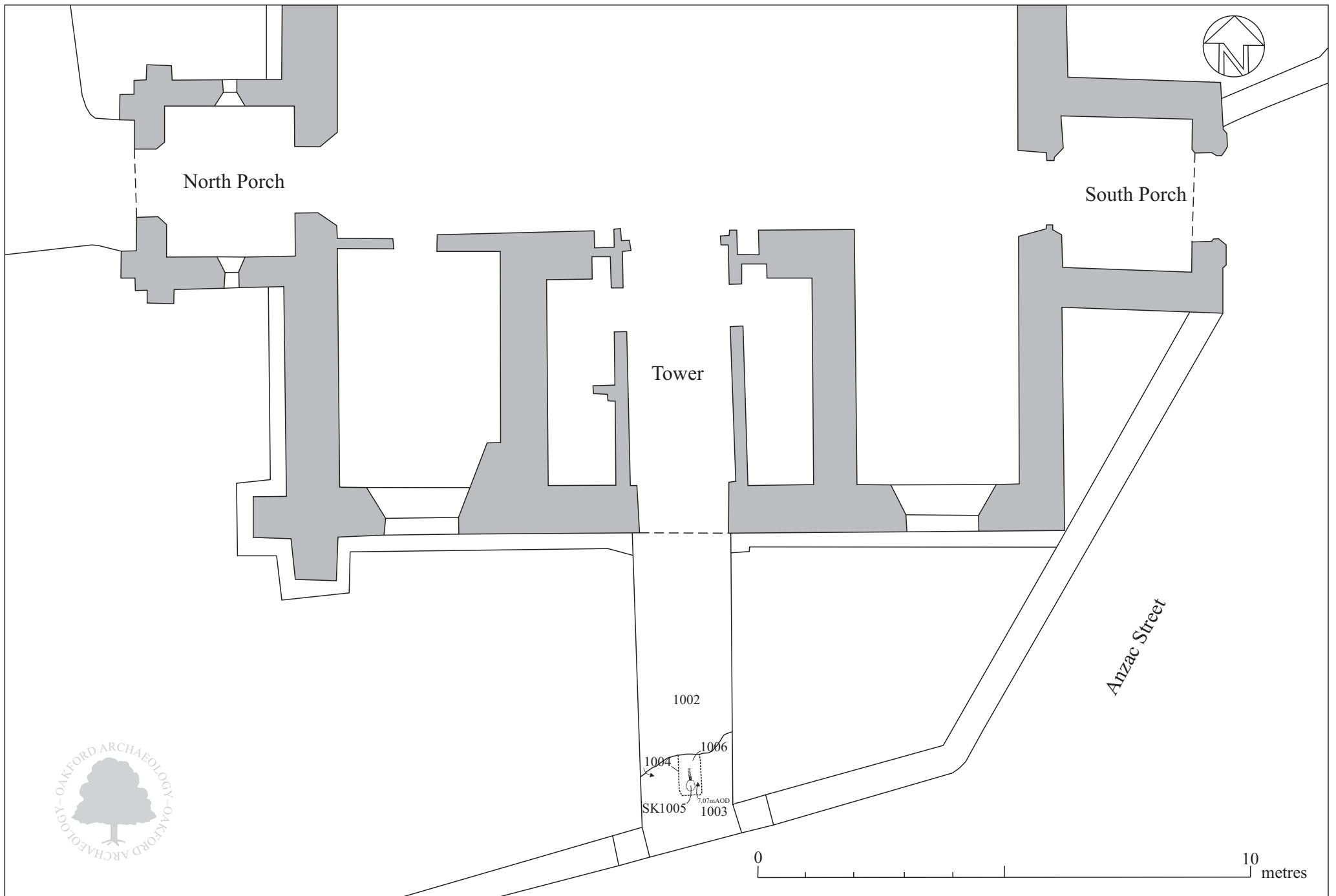


Fig. 2 Location of observation.





Pl. 1 General view of access ramp area. 2m scale.  
Looking east.