# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District:  Shillingford St George, Teignbridge	National Grid Reference: SX 9038 8780		Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording Shillingford St George, Devon.	at St G	eorge's Church,	Photo attached:
Faculty no: 167/12		Recipient museu Royal Albert Mer	
OASIS ID: oakforda1-151544		Museum Accessi 13/28	on no:
Contractor's reference number/code: OA1086		Dates fieldwork 15/04/2013	undertaken:

## **Description of works:**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology in April 2013 St George's Church, Shillingford St George, Devon (SX 9038 8780). The site (Fig. 1) lies immediately to the north of the church, in an area between the tower and the north transept. The church is grade II\* listed and probably started as a domestic chapel before being enlarged in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century by Sir William Huddesfield, Attorney General under Edward IV. The tower and the north transept date to this period, while the remainder of the building was substantially rebuilt during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

A watching brief was maintained during works associated with the construction of a new foul drain and soakaway (Fig. 2). The new toilet was located inside the tower and a small diameter hole had to be drilled, above-ground, through the base of the tower. The new drain then headed north-west before connecting to the soakaway and heading back in a north-eastern direction. The work involved ground reduction extending to a depth of between 0.3-0.8m in an area where there was no evidence of surface-marked graves.

### **Results:**

Inspection of the area showed evidence of three burials in the area between the tower and north transept. Grave 1002 was located to the west of the north transept, aligned E-W, and was exposed in section by the works. This measured approximately 2m in length and survived to a depth of c. 0.35m. The fill 1004 consisted of mid to dark reddish brown silty clay. Tree root disturbance was noted and the heavily disturbed remains of the left leg 1003 were left *in situ*, while fragments of disarticulated human bone were also present in fill 1004 but not recovered. Grave 1006 was located north of the tower, aligned E-W, only the eastern end was exposed in section. The fill 1007 consisted of mid to dark reddish brown silty clay. Grave 1008 was aligned E-W. Located immediately to the north of the church tower only the western end was exposed in section by the works. The fill 1009 consisted of mid to dark reddish brown silty clay. All three graves cut through a clean mid reddish brown silty clay subsoil 1001 and into the underlying natural subsoil 1010.

#### **Conclusion:**

The works exposed the remains of three graves. Although no finds or other dating material was recovered from the grave fills they pre-date the large-scale ground reduction at the rear of the church. A single 19<sup>th</sup> century headstone survives in this area, located on top of the original ground surface, some 1.1m higher than the path. A possible context for this activity might be the large-scale re-construction of the church in the mid-to-late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### Project archive and OASIS entry

The site records have been compiled into a fully integrated site archive which is currently held at Oakford Archaeology's offices under project number 1086, pending deposition with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum. 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:

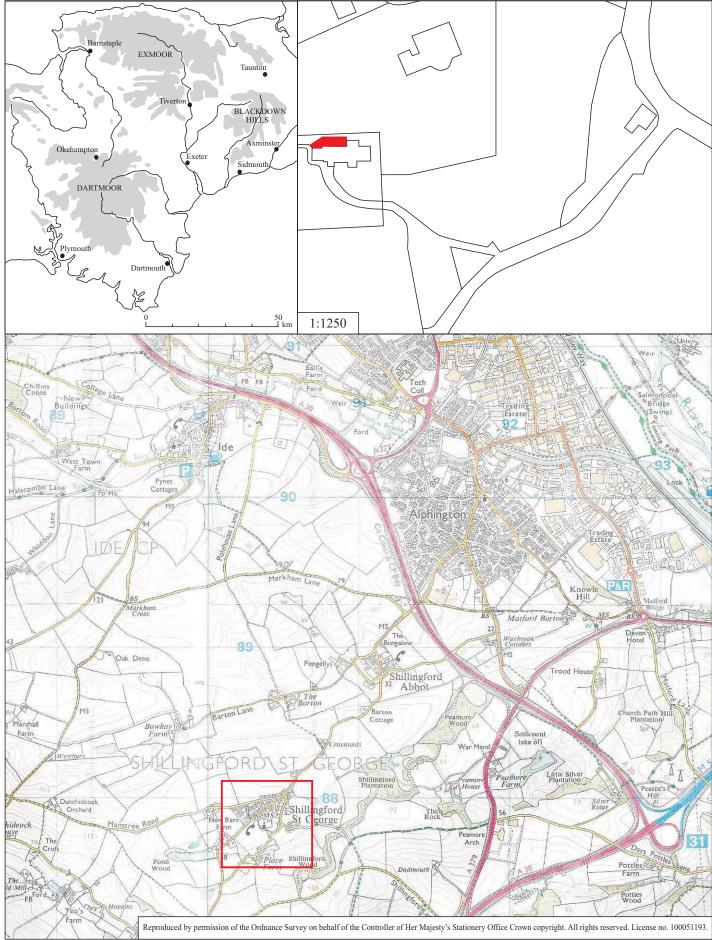


Fig. 1 Location of site.

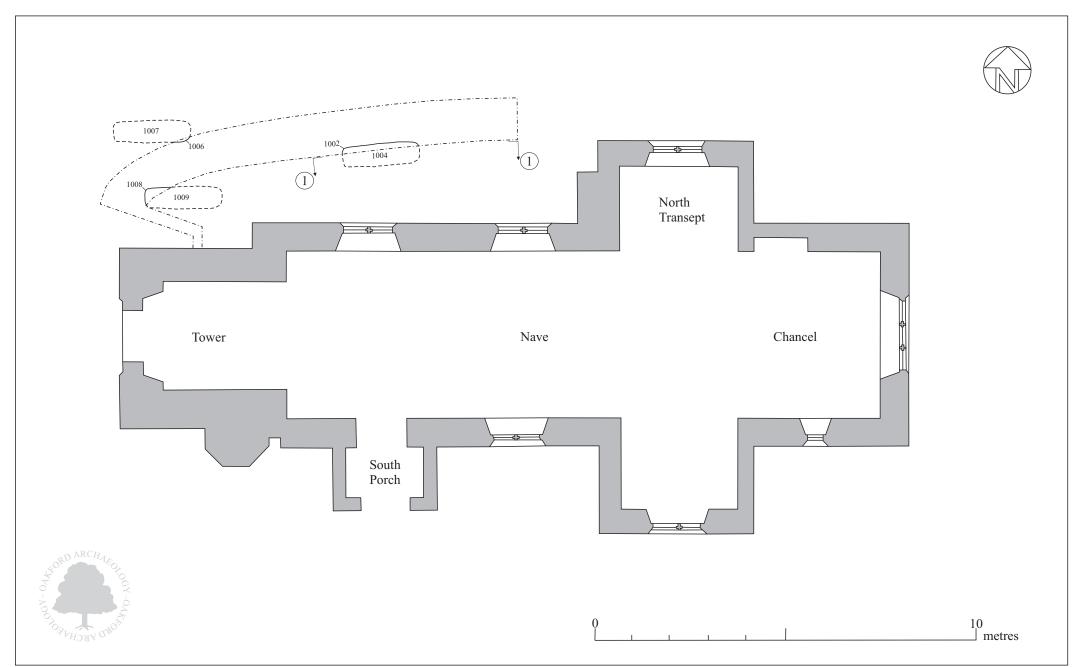


Fig. 2 Plan of St George showing location of observations.

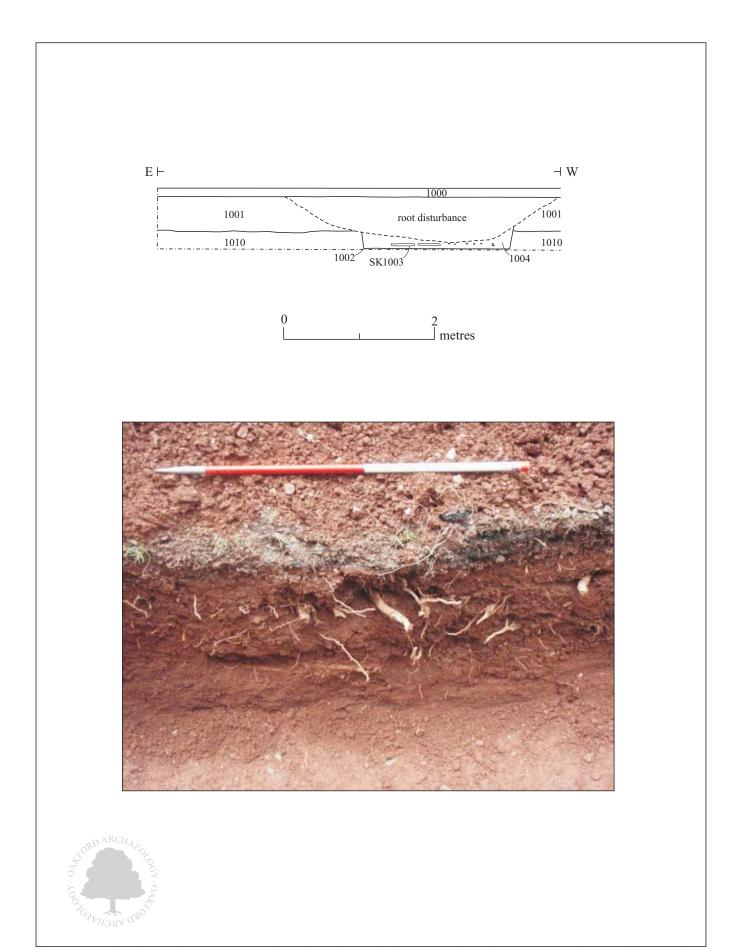


Fig. 2 Section through Grave 1002 showing Sk1003 below root disturbance. 1m scale. Looking south.



Pl. 1 General view of new foul drain and soakaway. 2m scale. Looking west.