

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Dartmouth, South Hams	National Grid Reference: SX 8774 5132	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording at St Saviour's Church, Dartmouth, Devon.		Photo attached: Y
Faculty no: 106/13	Recipient museum: n/a	
OASIS ID: oakforda1-185029	Museum Accession no: n/a	
Contractor's reference number/code: OA1141	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 06/02/2014	
<p>Description of works: An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology in April 2013 at St Saviour's Church, Dartmouth, Devon (SX 8776 6513). The church (Fig. 1) is grade I listed and was dedicated in 1372 as a chapel at ease. The construction of the church had started earlier in the 14th century, although the building was substantially enlarged during the late 14th-15th century. The church was heavily refurbished between 1633-37 by the town corporation, with further renovations and additions carried out in the late 19th century.</p> <p>A watching brief was maintained during works associated with the large scale re-plastering and installation of new lighting (Fig. 2).</p> <p>Results: The removal of plaster permitted closer inspection of the historic building fabric of the chancel, and allowed the identification of areas that contained original features and areas where these had been replaced.</p> <p>This exposed a blocked doorway in the north chancel wall, approximately 1.2m wide and 1.55m high (Fig. 2, pl. 1), and defined at the top by a stone arch. Contemporary with the north wall, the arch and wall consisted of local limestone rubble with occasional slate, set in a white lime and fine, sand mortar. The blocking consisted of similar local limestone rubble, set in a light yellowish white lime mortar. No evidence was found of the original door frame and this is likely to have been removed when the door was blocked. Inspection of the exterior elevation found no evidence of a blocked doorway, instead a small blocked window (Pl. 2) was located a small distance to the east.</p> <p>Immediately to the west, part of the blocked doorway was cut away by the south chancel archway. The building break was also identified in the south chancel wall (Pl. 3-4), suggesting that the western part of the chancel was rebuilt.</p> <p>A single limestone ledger (Pl. 5) was located along the northern edge of the west porch. The slab was 1.43m long, 0.74m wide and 0.07m thick. The slab showed some surface wear, as well as some damage along the edges. It is unclear if the ledger was in its original location, but most of the damage may have resulted from the slab being moved. Closer inspection showed that that it was overlying a mixed soil deposit. There was no evidence of an underlying vault or shaft grave and it is possible that the ledger was moved in the 19th century.</p> <p>The memorial inscription: The following inscription was recorded during the site visit and transcribed below:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Beneath lieth the rem[ains of] Mary the Wife of Thomas W[ay]</p>		

[Who] died Nov 1787 Aged 99
And their 3 Children
M... Isabella Ann Way
2 Wife of Tho Way
[Who] died 16 of Feb 1809
And ... Way who died
... 1825 Aged 92

Susanna Wife of
Thomas Way died May
11 1811 Aged 73
And Thomas Way died
...Aged 87
Also Thomas their son who
Died March 9th 1817 Aged 49
Charles the second son
Died at Torquay. 1889 Aged 82
William Hopkins Way,
Their youngest son
Died April 11th 1891, Aged ...

Conclusion:

The observations and recording at St Saviour's church have provided important and new information about the structural development of the building. The works have shown that the western end of the chancel was rebuilt at the same time as the eastern end of the nave and transepts, possible in the late 15th century.

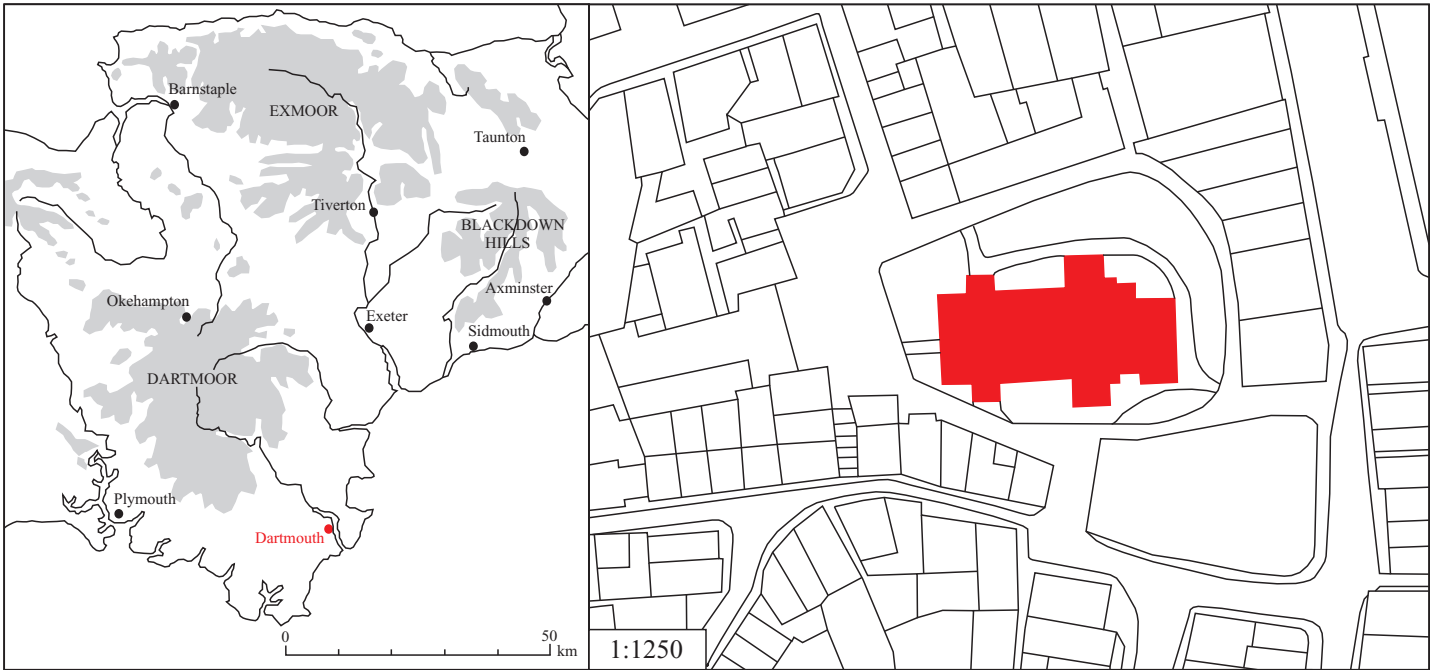
Project archive and OASIS entry

Due to the limited nature of the findings a project archive will not be produced. 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.

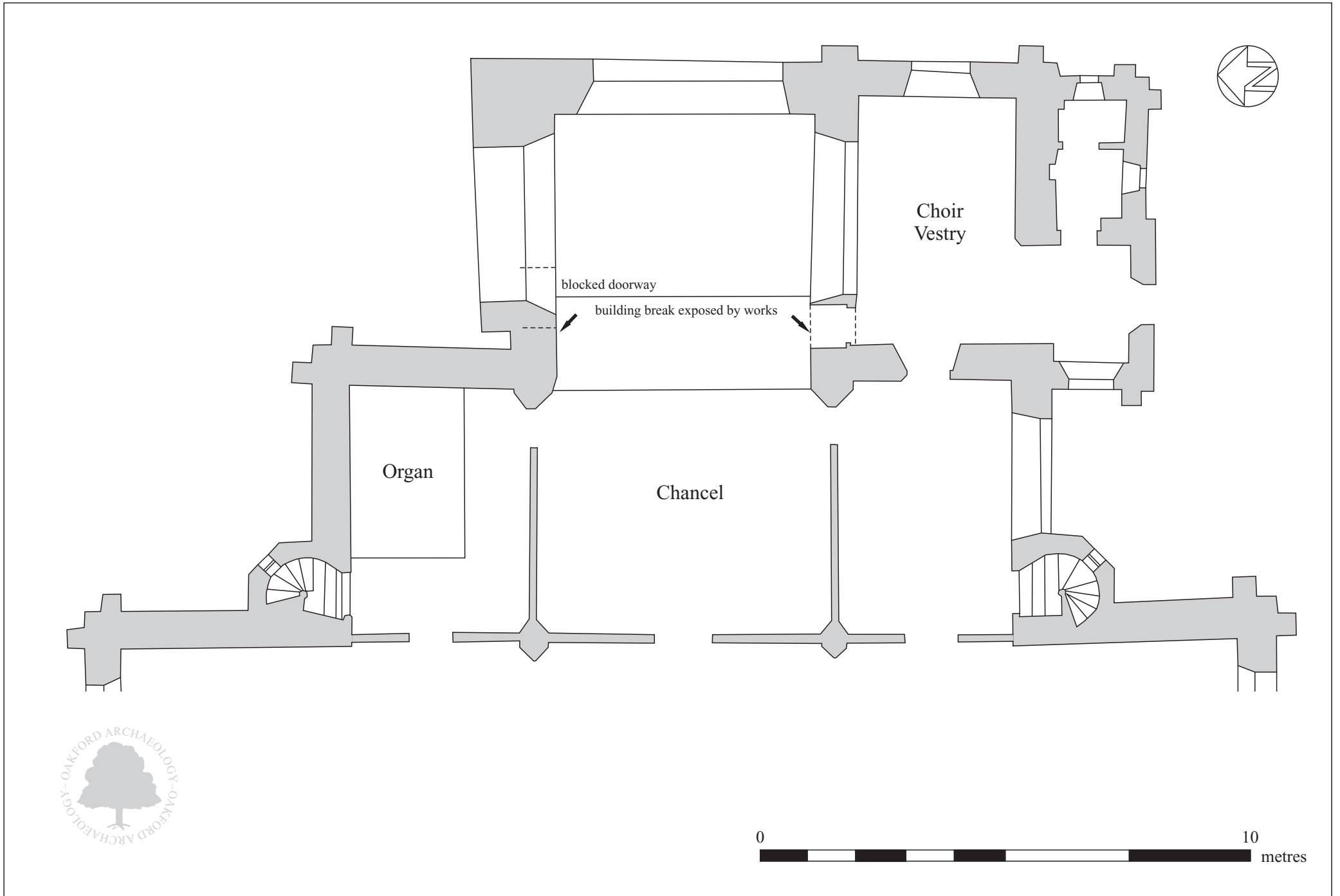
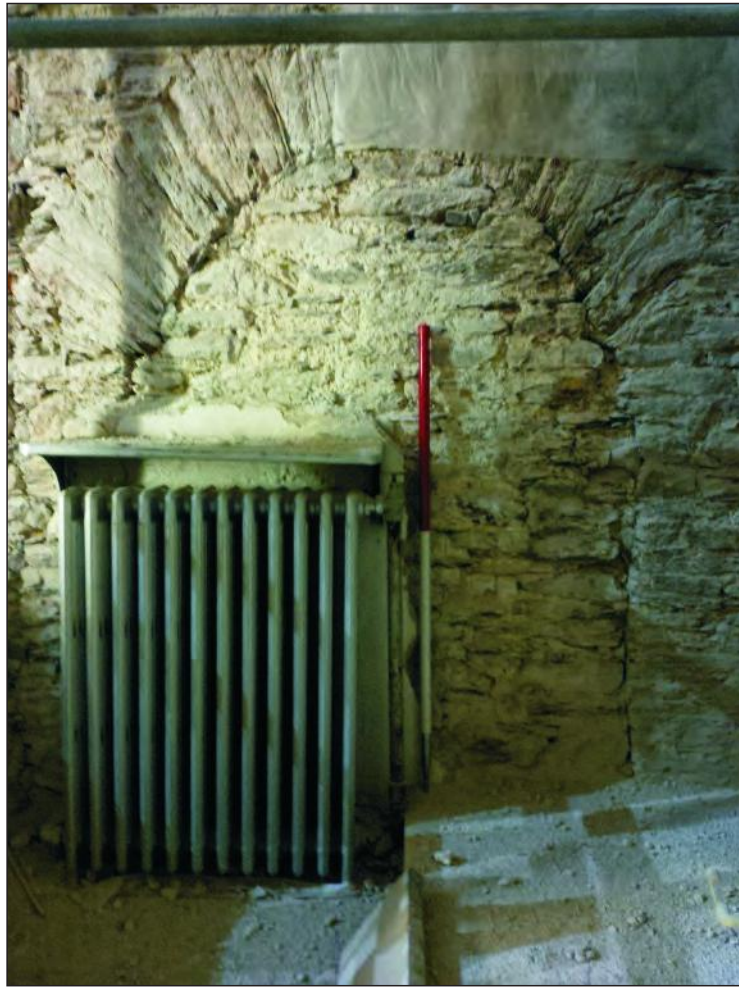


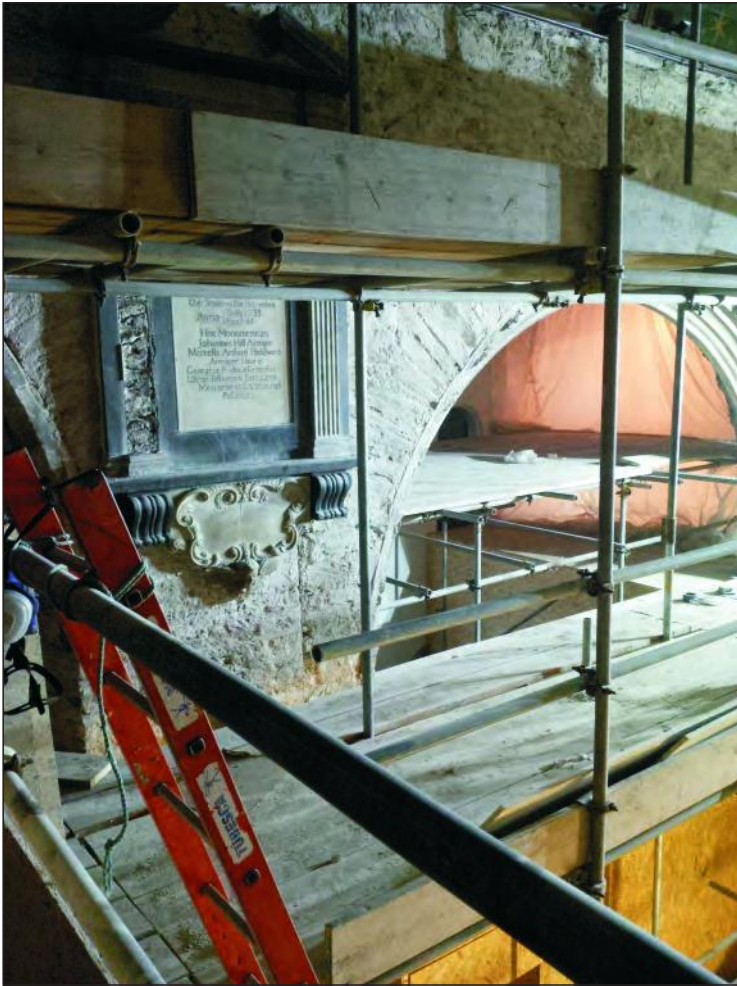
Fig. 2 Plan of St Saviour's east end showing location of observations.



Pl. 1 Close-up of blocked doorway in north chancel wall. 1m scale. Looking north.



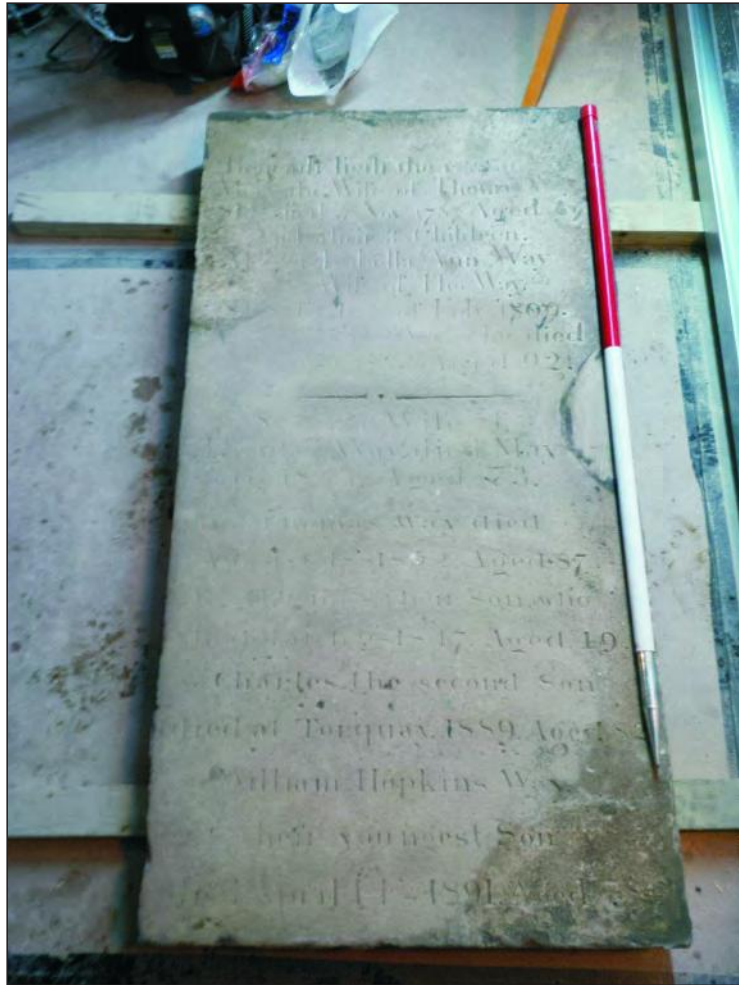
Pl. 2 General view of exterior north chancel wall showing small blocked window. Looking south.



Pl. 3 Close-up of building break in south chancel wall. Looking southwest.



Pl. 4 Close-up of building break in south chancel wall. Looking southwest.



Pl. 5 Close-up of late 18th century grave slab. 1m scale.