

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Aylesbeare, East Devon	National Grid Reference: SY 0376 9195	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording at St Mary's Church, Aylesbeare, Devon.		Photo attached: Y
Faculty no: 14/2228/FUL	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS ID: oakforda1-255320	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: OA1227	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 09/05, 10/05 and 11/05/2016	
<p>Description of works: An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology in May 2016 at St Mary's Church, Aylesbeare, Devon (SY 0376 9195). The site (Fig. 1) lies immediately to the south and west of the church, extending from the west of the tower, running to the south of the church path and lych gate. The church is grade II* listed. The font and part of the chancel date to the 14th century. The tower and north aisle date to the 15th century, while the chancel includes some late 15th – early 16th century detail. The chancel and roof were restored in about 1840, while the nave was renovated and the south porch rebuilt between 1896 and 1897.</p> <p>A watching brief was maintained during works associated with the construction of toilet block, a new water main and associated drainage works (Fig. 2). The new toilet was to the west of the tower. The new water main then headed south-west before connecting to an existing main adjacent to the lych gate. The work involved ground reduction extending to a depth of between 0.3-0.9m in the graveyard.</p> <p>Results: Inspection of the trenching showed no evidence of archaeological features. The trenching exposed a 0.2m thick dark brown topsoil (100) overlying a heavily reworked mid to dark brown silty clay deposit (101). This contained frequent fragments of disarticulated human bone and 3 fragments of medieval floor tile. This deposit has been interpreted as a charnel soil.</p> <p>Finds: by John Allan</p> <p>Very little is known of the medieval pavements of the parish church of St Mary's. Although only three fragments of floor-tile were recovered, the three tile fragments with distinctive copper-green glaze, produced in Normandy, have not been previously identified from St Mary's. Dating to the 15th-early 16th century they provide new evidence about the late medieval pavements inside the church.</p> <p>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).</p>		
Recorder: MFR Steinmetzer (Oakford Archaeology)		Date sent to HER:

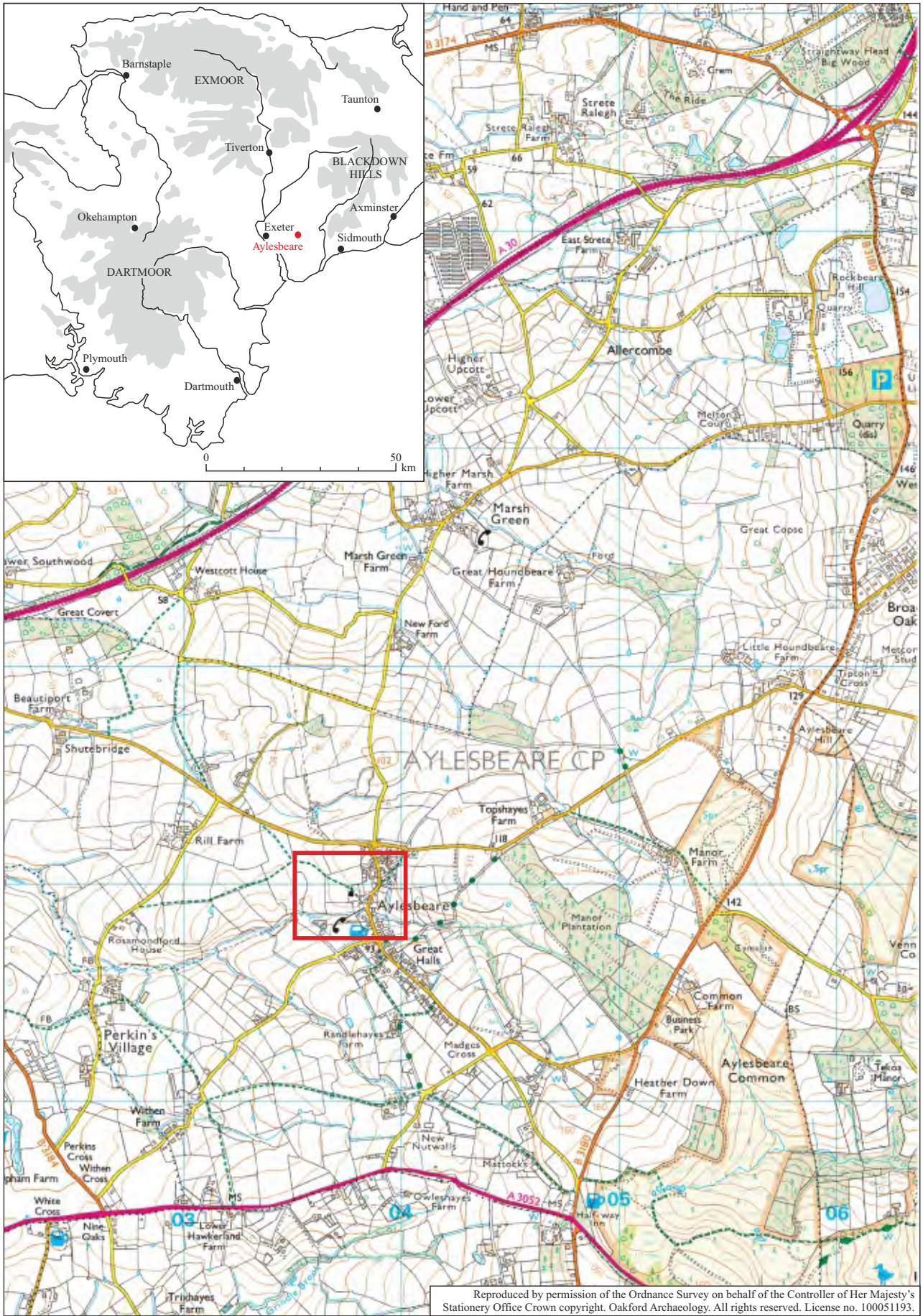


Fig. 1 Location of site.



Fig. 2 Plan showing location of observations.



Pl. 1 Close-up of three 15th-16th century floor tile fragments from Normandy and recovered from the graveyard at Aylesbeare. 10cm scale.