

## Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Axminster, East Devon	<b>National Grid Reference:</b> SY 2963 9848	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording at the Church of St Mary, Axminster, Devon.		<b>Photo attached:</b> Y
<b>Planning no:</b> 16/1573/FUL	<b>Recipient museum:</b> n/a	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> oakforda1-298264	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> n/a	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> OA1418	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 20/07/2017	
<p><b>Description of works:</b> An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology in July 2017 at the Church of St Mary, Axminster, Devon (SY 2963 9848). The site (Fig. 1) lies immediately to the south of the church. The church is a grade II* listed building located on or near the site of an early ecclesiastical foundation based on a minster church founded by the kings of Wessex in the late 7<sup>th</sup> or early 8<sup>th</sup> century. The current building largely dates to the 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> century although there is some Norman work re-set in the east wall of the south chancel chapel. The south aisle was built in c.1800 while the whole church was subject to extensive restoration work in 1870 and 1896. A fire in 2010 caused severe damage to the inside of the church.</p> <p>The first phase of work consisted of the excavation of an exploratory trench and was concerned with the feasibility of reinstating the old boiler house. The trench, 1.25m wide and c. 1.85m deep, was located against the south wall of the south aisle (Fig. 2).</p> <p><b>Results:</b> Inspection of the trench exposed the remains of the west and east walls of the former boiler house at a depth of 0.5m below current ground level. The walls were built of brick with a thick concrete floor. The north wall of the boiler house, built against the foundations of the south aisle, had been built in concrete block. The excavations were entirely contained within the former boiler house and no finds were recovered during the works.</p> <p><b>Project archive and OASIS entry</b> 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>		
<b>Recorder:</b> MFR Steinmetzer (Oakford Archaeology)		<b>Date sent to HER:</b>

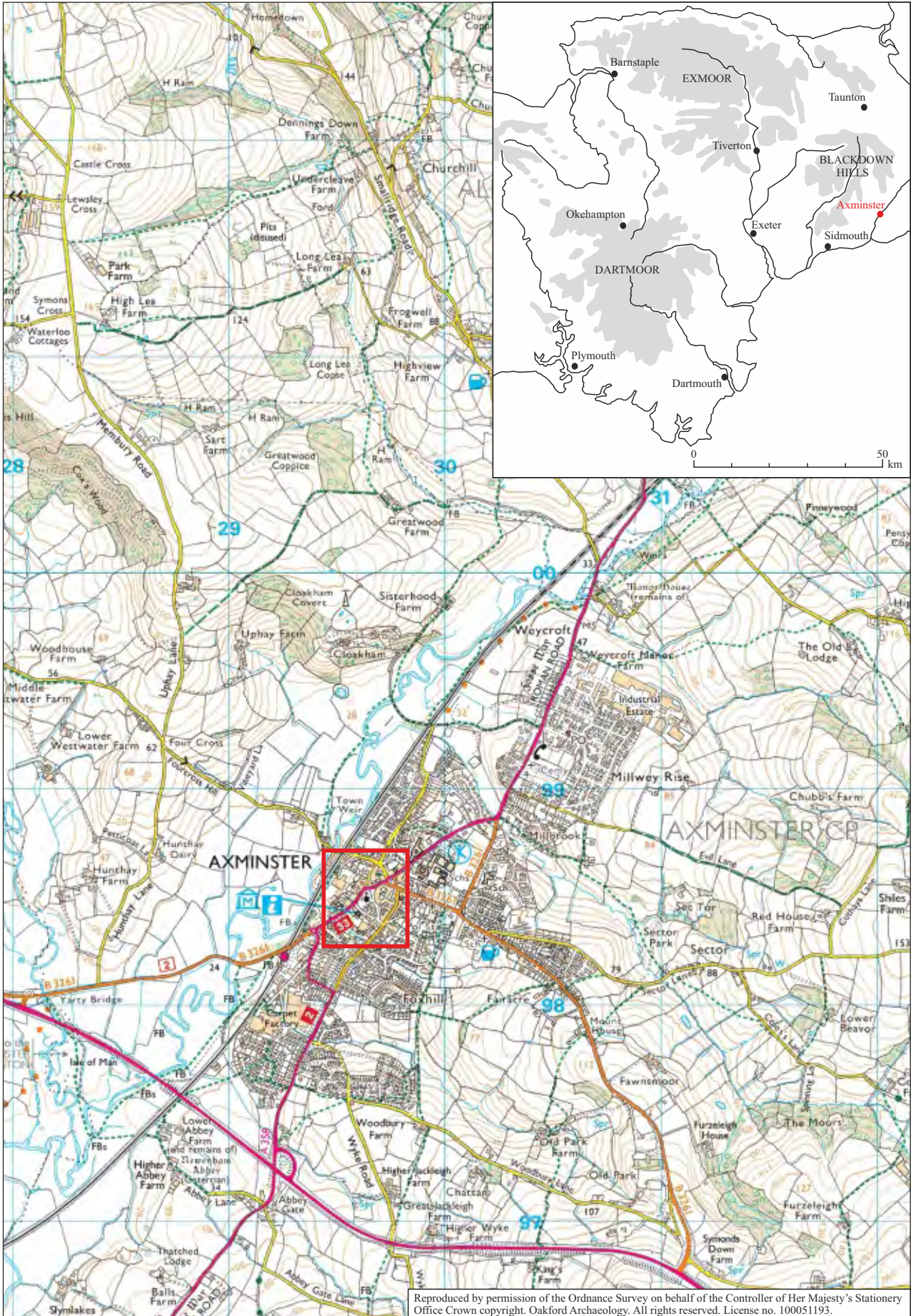


Fig. 1 Location of site.

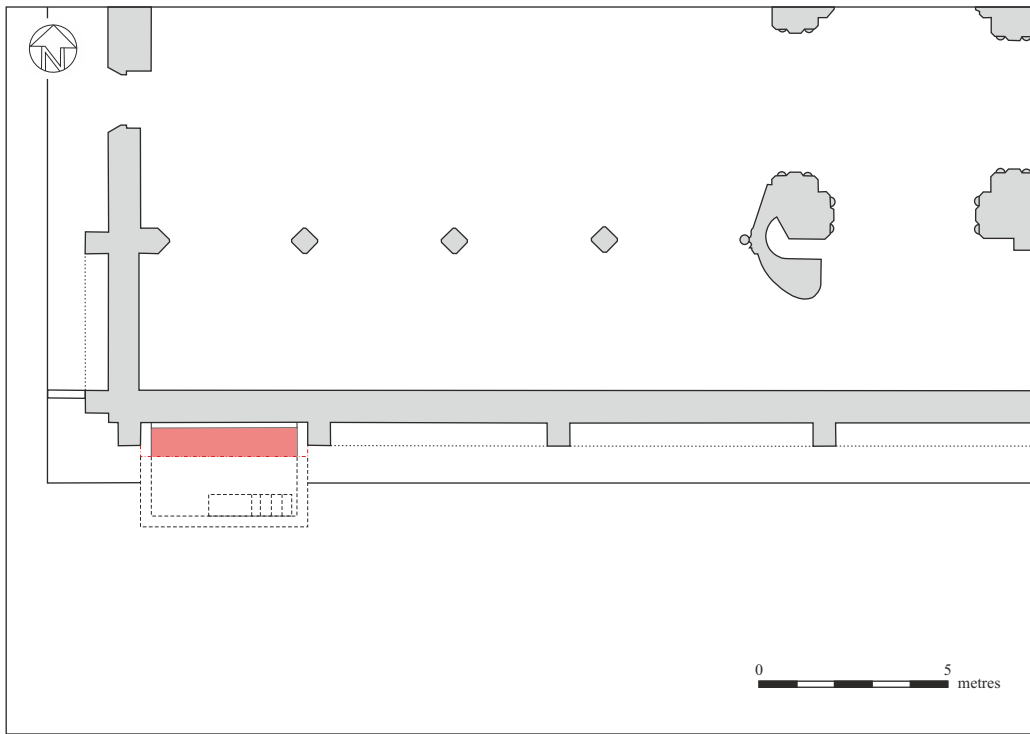


Fig. 2 Plan and photos showing remains of boiler house built against foundations of south aisle.