

## Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b>  Newton Poppleford and Harpford, East Devon	<b>National Grid Reference:</b>  SY 0856 8971	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording during borehole survey at St Luke's Church, Newton Poppleford, Devon. .		<b>Photo attached:</b> Y
<b>Faculty no:</b>	<b>Recipient museum:</b> n/a	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> oakforda1-298635	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> n/a	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> OA1421	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 06/07/2017	
<p><b>Description of works:</b> An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology in July 2017 during a geotechnical borehole survey at St Luke's Church, Newton Poppleford, Devon (SY 0856 8971). The site (Fig. 1) lies immediately to the south of the church. The church is a grade II* listed building and was formerly a chapel of ease. Apart from the 15<sup>th</sup> century tower the current building largely dates to 1875 when it was rebuilt under the direction of the architect Robert Medley Fulford. A fire in August 2010 destroyed the church hall.</p> <p><b>Results:</b> A watching brief was maintained during the drilling of five boreholes, using a mini-tracked percussive auger rig, and a single test pit (Fig. 2, pl. 1-2). One (borehole 1) was located in the car park to the south of the site of the former church hall, three were located immediately to the north of the former church hall (boreholes 2-3) while one (borehole 4) was located to the southwest of the church. The single test pit was excavated against the south wall of the south aisle.</p> <p>The boreholes were excavated to depths of between 1-3.45m. The trial pit measured 0.6m long, 0.5m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.45m. The sequence in the boreholes and test pit were:</p> <p><b>Borehole 1</b>  100 0-0.1m bitumen (car park)  101 0.1-0.3m mid reddish brown silty clay (made ground)  102 0.3-0.5m mid reddish brown silty clay (buried subsoil)  103 0.5-1.5m mid to dark reddish brown silty clay (colluvium)  104 1.5-3.45m silty gravel (river terrace gravels)</p> <p><b>Borehole 2</b>  200 0-0.1m mid-to-dark brown silty clay (topsoil)  201 0.1-1.35m mid to dark reddish brown silty clay (colluvium)  202 1.35m+ silty gravel (river terrace gravels)</p> <p><b>Borehole 2a</b>  203 0-0.2m mid-to-dark brown silty clay (topsoil)  204 0.2-0.7m mid to dark reddish brown silty clay (colluvium)  205 0.7-1m+ silty gravel (river terrace gravels)</p> <p><b>Borehole 3</b>  300 0-0.4m mid-to-dark brown silty clay (topsoil)  301 0.4-0.6m mid to dark reddish brown silty clay (colluvium)  302 0.6-2.4m silty gravel (river terrace gravels)  303 2.4-3.45m+ dark reddish brown silty sand (otter sandstone formation)</p>		

Borehole 4

400 0-0.1m concrete

401 0.1-0.2m mid reddish brown silty clay (buried subsoil)

402 0.2-0.9m mid to dark reddish brown silty clay (colluvium)

403 0.9-1.3m silty gravel (river terrace gravels)

404 1.3-2.45m+ dark reddish brown silty sand (otter sandstone formation)

Test pit 1

500 0-0.1m concrete

401 0.1-0.2m mid reddish brown silty clay (buried subsoil)

402 0.2-0.45m+ mid to dark reddish brown silty clay (colluvium)

**Conclusions:**

A truncated soil sequence was identified across the site. The earliest deposit identified in the boreholes, composed of mid to dark reddish brown silty clay, is interpreted as a colluvial subsoil. This is overlain by a mid-reddish brown silty clay in boreholes 1 and 4. This deposit is interpreted as a buried subsoil and is in turn overlain by a modern topsoil in boreholes 2, 2a and 3.

It is therefore possible that any future groundworks associated with the construction of a stand-alone church hall or an extension to the existing church have the potential to expose and destroy archaeological and artefactual deposits surviving below-ground.

**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:**



Fig. 1 Location of site.



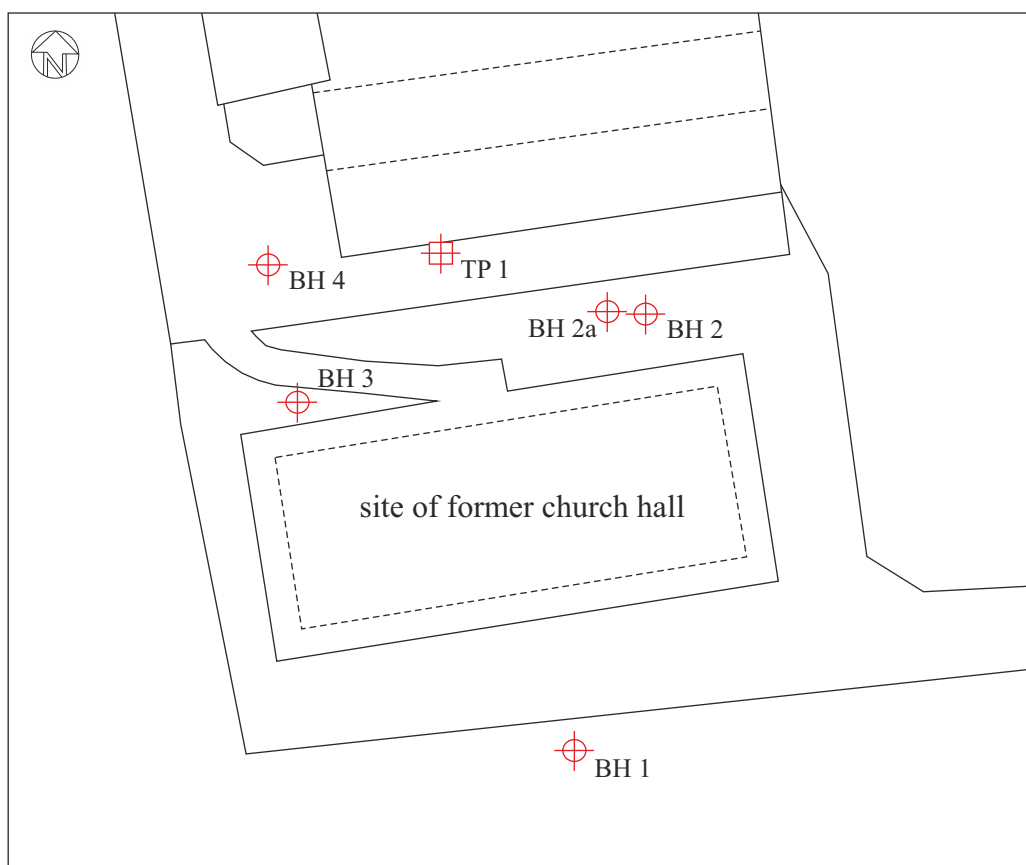


Fig. 2 Plan showing location of observations and photos showing drilling of borehole 2 (left) and borehole 4 (right).