

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Alphington, Exeter	National Grid Reference: SX 9183 8997	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording at St Michael's Church, Alphington, Devon.		Photo attached: Y
Faculty no:	Recipient museum: n/a	
OASIS ID: oakforda1-298683	Museum Accession no: n/a	
Contractor's reference number/code: OA1416	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 03/08 and 09/08/2017	
<p>Description of works: An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology in August 2017 at St Michael's and All Angels, Alphington, Devon (SX 9183 8997). The site (Fig. 1) lies within the nave, north and south aisle of the church. The church is grade II* listed and located on the site of an earlier church with possible pre-Conquest origins. The current building largely dates to the 15th century. A large upper gallery was erected at the west end in 1632 and removed during major restoration work in 1875-6, while further works were carried out in the 1880's. A fire in 1986 caused severe damage to the south-east end of the church.</p> <p>A watching brief was maintained during works associated with replacing the floor surface within the pew platforms and insertion of underfloor heating (Fig. 2, pls. 1-2). The work involved the excavations extending to a depth of c. 0.25m.</p> <p>Results: Inspection of the interventions exposed a lime screed at a depth of 0.25m. This was associated with low stone rubble walls, bonded with lime mortar, and projecting beyond the edge of the tiled Victorian paths, and low walls, consisting of brick and stone rubble, within the arcading of the north and south aisles.</p> <p>It is likely that the lime screed dates to the 19th century re-ordering of the interior of the church. The surviving 18th century or earlier flooring was removed at this date, the area of the nave, north and south aisles reduced and a lime screed applied. This was presumably done for reasons of hygiene and in an attempt to mitigate the rising damp. Low walls were then constructed to support the wooden flooring of the pew platforms.</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:

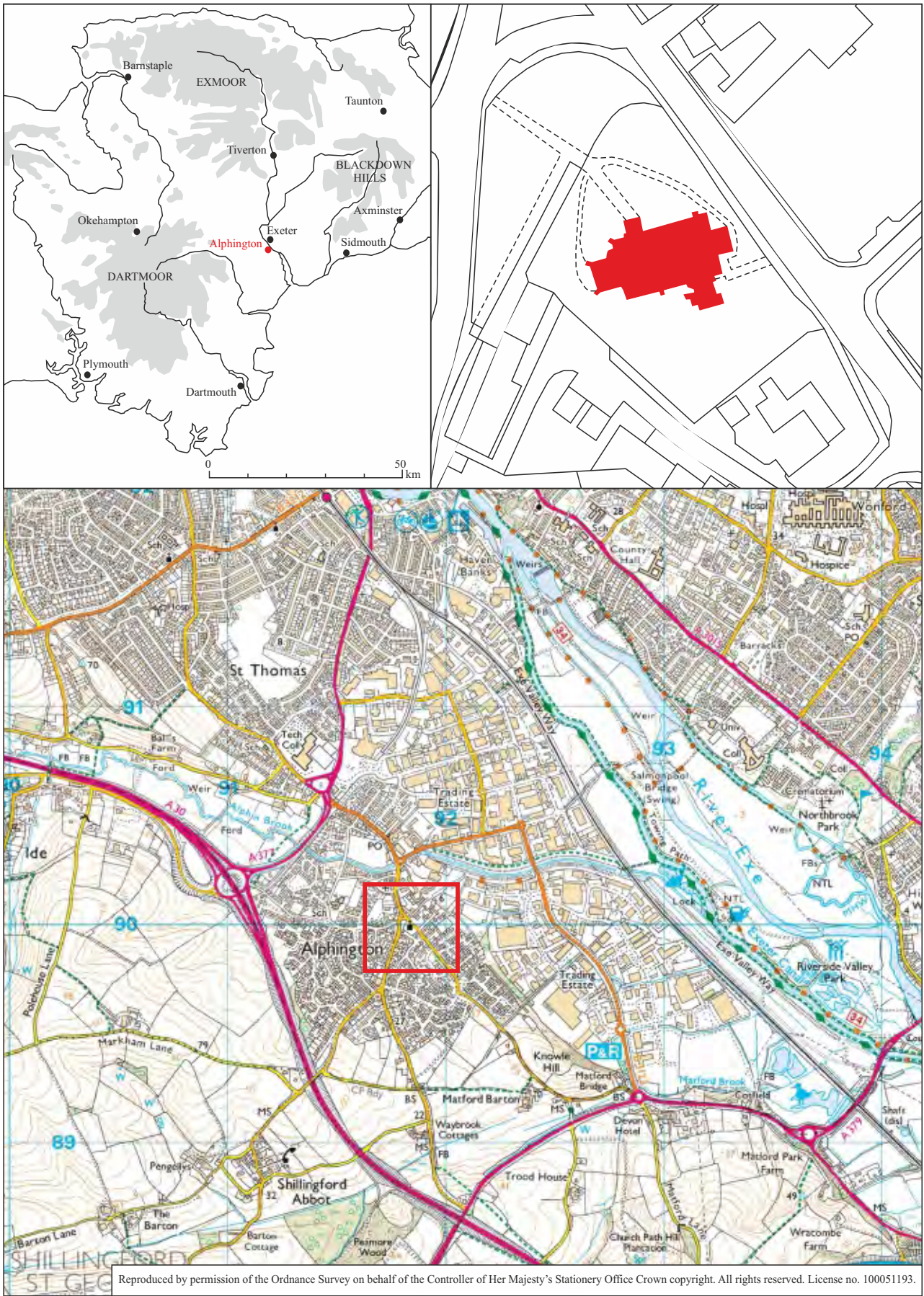


Fig. 1 Location of site.

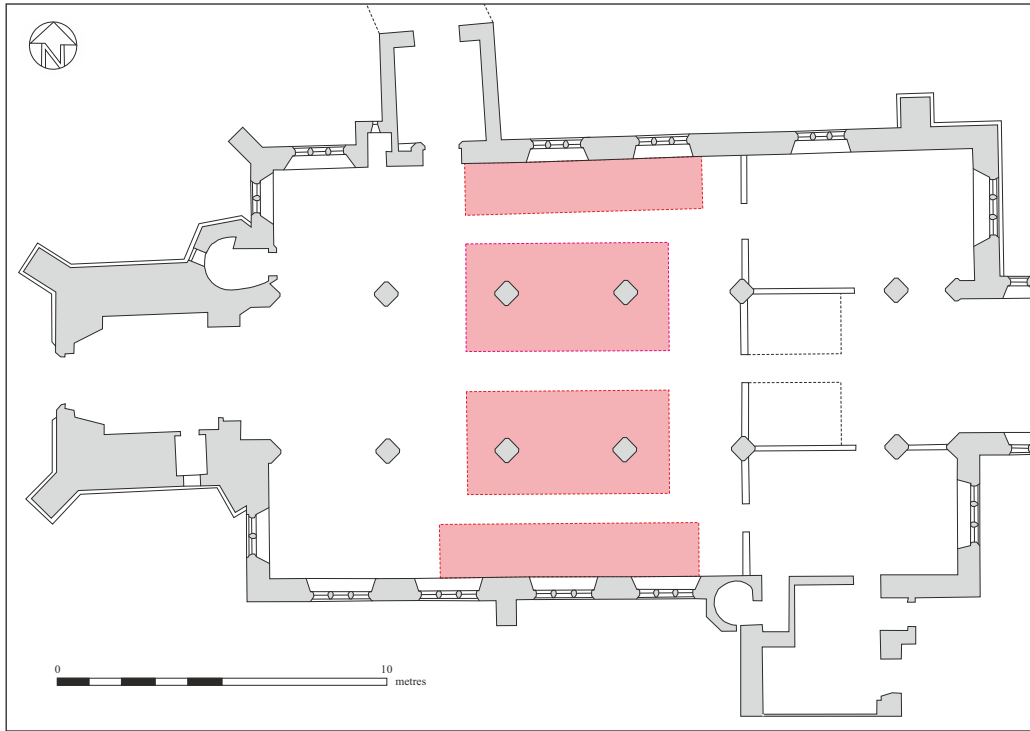


Fig. 2 Plan showing location of observations and photos showing 19th century lime screed with low walls walling supporting timber flooring and pews.