

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Hemyock, Mid Devon	National Grid Reference: ST 1359 1326	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording at the Church of St Mary, Hemyock, Devon.		Photo attached: Y
Planning Application no: n/a	Recipient museum: n/a	
OASIS ID: oakforda1-327423	Museum Accession no: n/a	
Contractor's reference number/code: OA1468	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 15/04 and 12/06/2018	
<p>Description of works: An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology between April and June 2018 at the Church of St Mary, Hemyock, Devon (ST 1359 1326). The site (Fig. 1) lies immediately to the northwest of the tower. The church is a Grade II* listed building. While the tower itself dates to the early Norman period the original church was extensively altered in the 15th century. The medieval building was largely destroyed when the church was rebuilt to designs by Richard Carver (1792-1862) of Taunton, and only the tower and part of the ground plan were retained. It was therefore considered possible that significant remains or deposits might survive within the footprint of the proposed groundworks.</p> <p>A watching brief was maintained during works associated with the construction of a new toilet block and associated drainage to the north and northeast of the tower (Fig. 2). The work involved the excavation for the toilet block of an area approximately 5m long, 4.5m wide and c. 0.5m deep. In addition, a service trench for the foul drain was excavated, extending over a distance of approximately 40m, 0.35m wide and 0.4m deep.</p> <p>Results: Inspection of the works exposed a 0.1m thick dark brown clayey silt topsoil (100) overlying a mid-brown clayey silt deposit (101). This contained frequent fragments of disarticulated human bone. This deposit has been interpreted as a charnel soil.</p> <p>Finds: by John Allan</p> <p>A very modest collection of archaeological material was recovered from the charnel soil in the trench. The assemblage consisted of a single fragment of late medieval floor-tile, with slightly chamfered sides and nail holes in the underside. In addition, the tile had a diagonal band of unglazed fabric perhaps indicating the former position of a diagonal slip band. The recovery of this single tile fragment is of some interest since it was presumably made in Hemyock and late medieval tiles are poorly understood in the area (c.f. Chris Smart <i>forthcoming</i>). Furthermore, a single fragment of 17th-18th century red earthenware ridgetile and a single small fragment of undated coarseware were also recovered.</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:

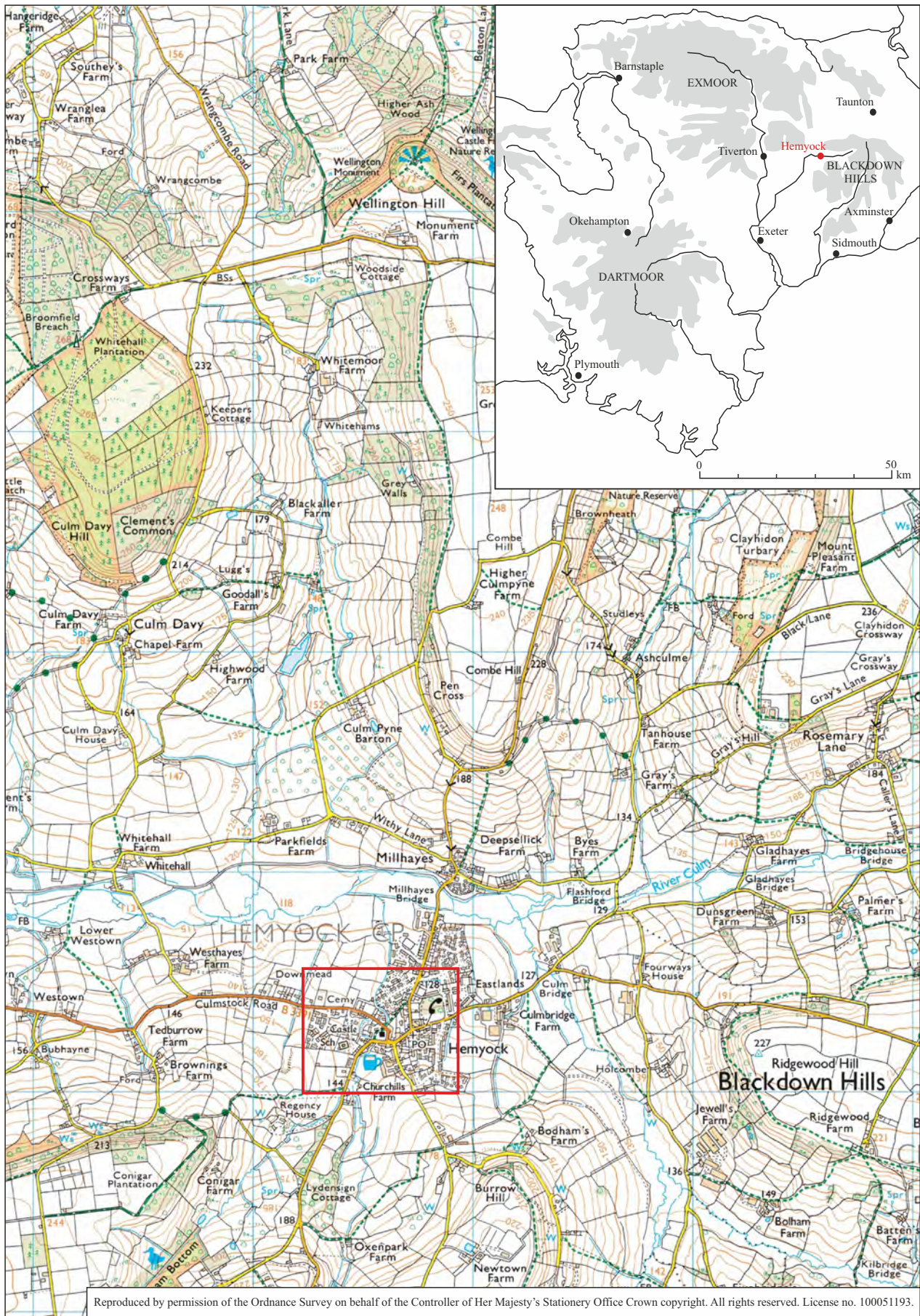


Fig. 1 Location of site.

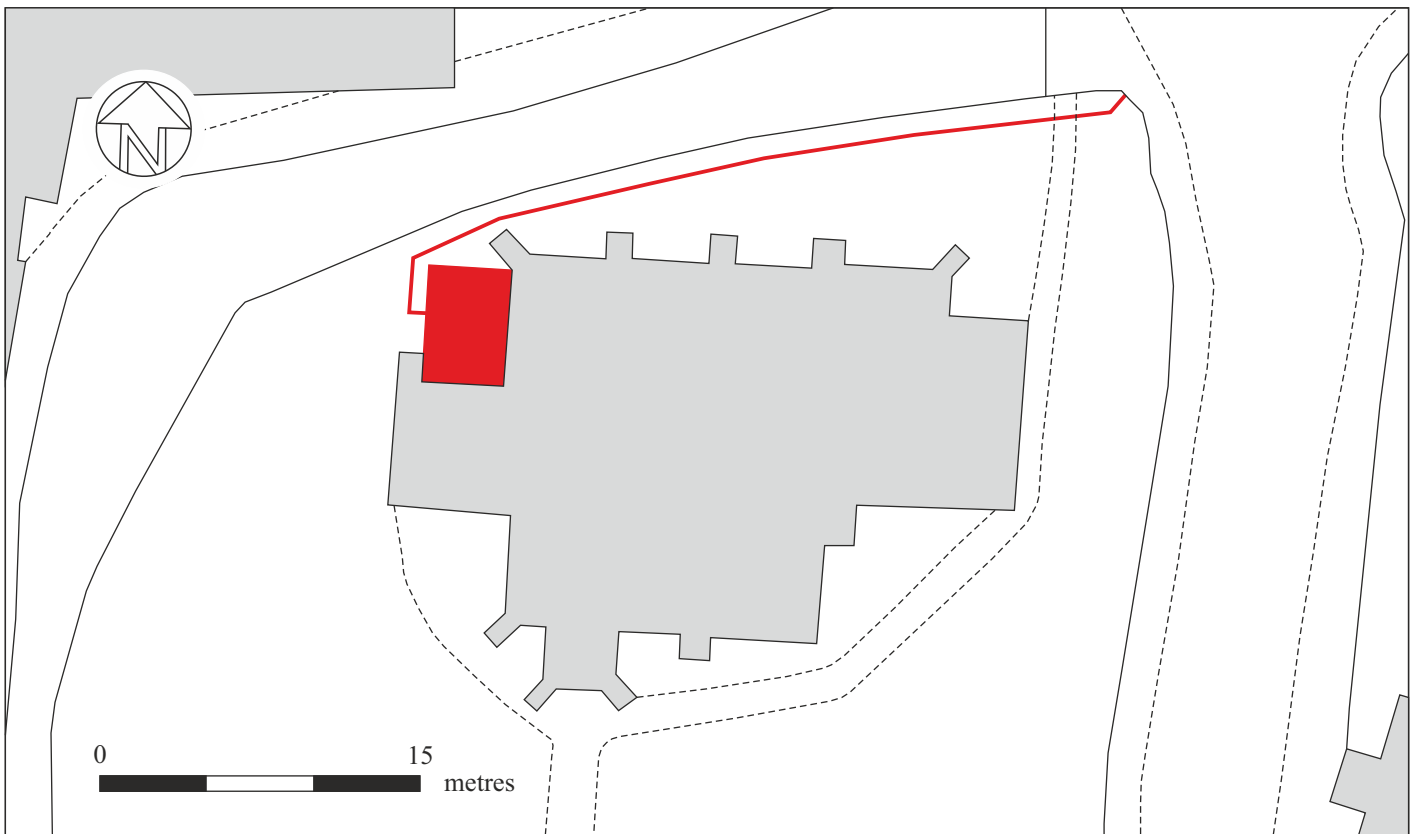


Fig. 2 Plan showing location of observations and photo showing extent of trenching on north side of church.