

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: East Anstey, North Devon	National Grid Reference: SS 8673 2652	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording at St Michaels Church, East Anstey, Devon.		Photo attached: Y
Planning Application no: Faculty	Recipient museum: n/a	
OASIS ID: oakforda1-340000	Museum Accession no: n/a	
Contractor's reference number/code: OA1497	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 12/11-14/11/2018	
<p>Description of works: An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology in November 2018 at the Church of St Michael, East Anstey, Devon (SS 8673 2652). The site (Fig. 1) lies immediately to the north, west and southwest of the tower. The church is a Grade II* listed building. While the tower and south porch are 15th century in date, the remainder of the church is thought to have been completely rebuilt in 1871 under the instructions of the architect Edward Ashworth of Exeter. 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 new drainage and soakaway (Fig. 2, Pl. 1). The work involved the excavation of a drainage trench extending over a distance of 22m, 0.25m wide and 0.6m deep and a soakaway pit 2m long, 2m wide and 1.25m deep.</p> <p>Results: Inspection of the works exposed a 0.1m thick mid yellow brown clayey silt topsoil (100) overlying a light to mid-yellowish-brown clayey silt (101) with frequent shale fragments. Although this contained no fragments of disarticulated human bone this deposit has been interpreted as a charnel soil.</p> <p>Three architectural fragments (Pl. 2) were recovered from the excavations near the tower. They are made of Beer stone, a chalk from Beer in south-east Devon, and consist of two window mullion fragments and one piece of window tracery. Their location near the tower may suggest that these pieces may have come from the window above the west doorway. This is now heavily repaired, indicating that there may have been a phase of window repairs, associated perhaps with the 1871 restoration.</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:

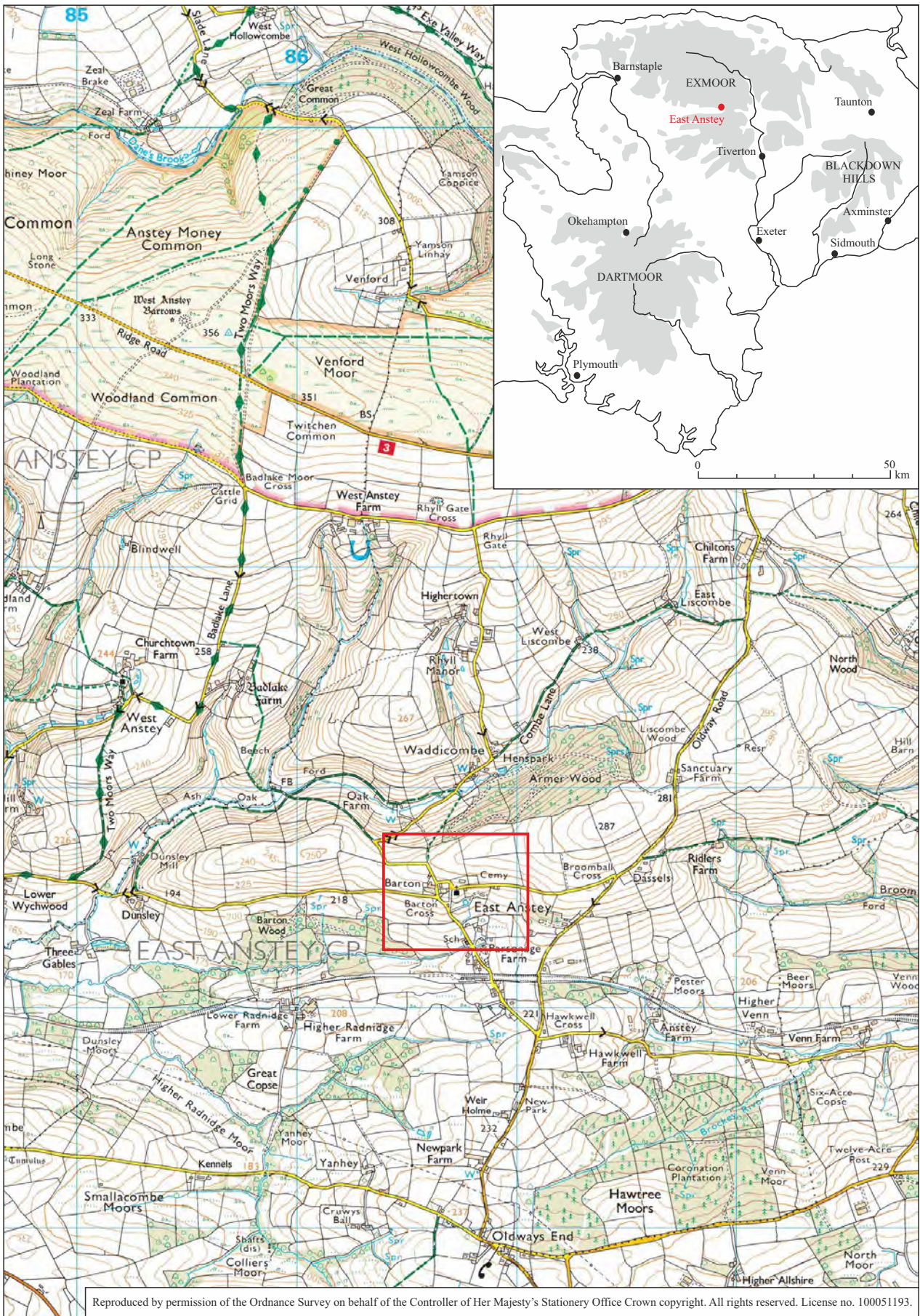


Fig. 1 Location of site.

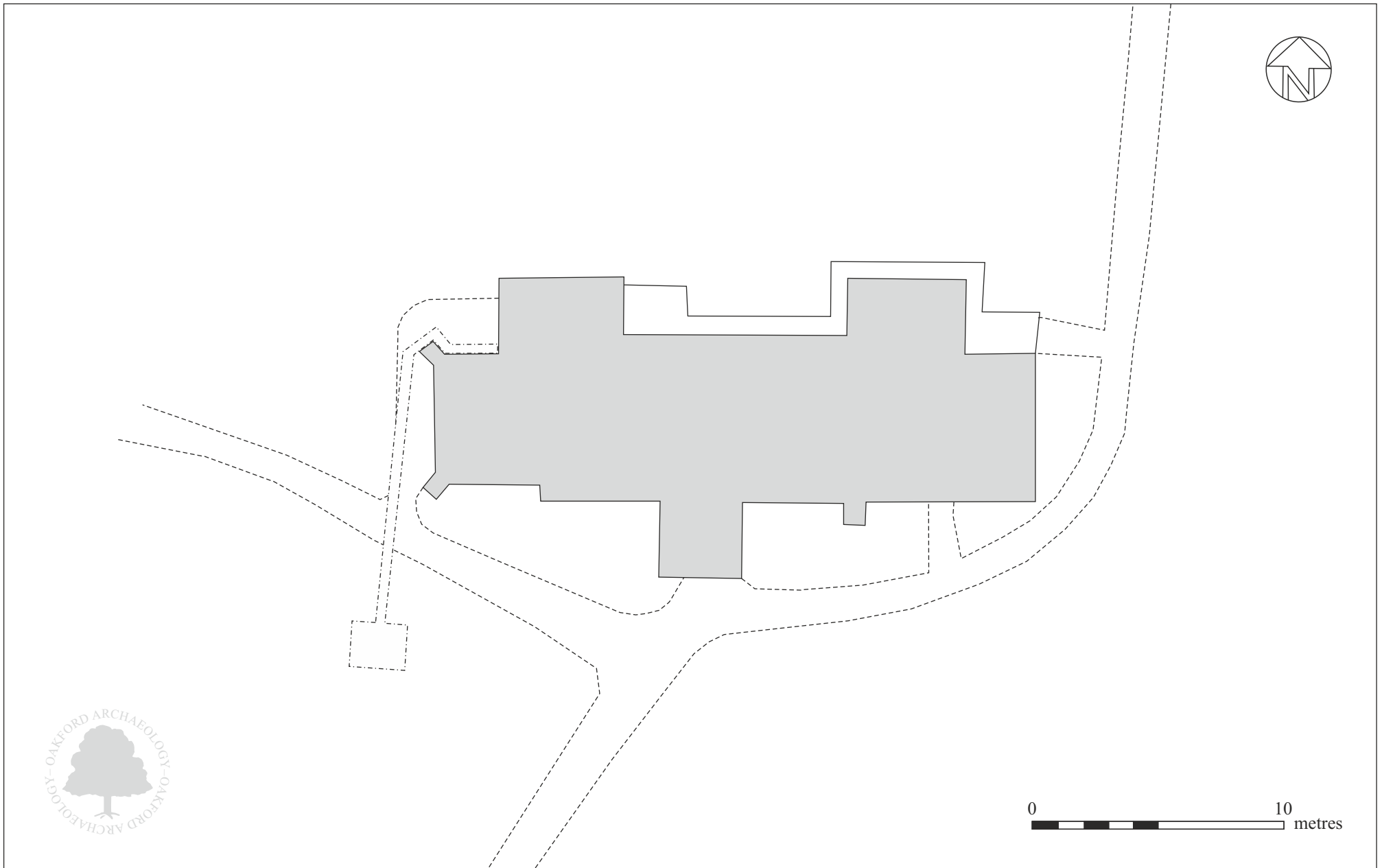


Fig. 2 Plan showing location of observations.



Pl. 1 Section through soakaway showing deposit sequence. 1m scale. Looking north.



Pl. 2 Close-up showing window mullion fragments (below) and tracery fragment (above). 0.2m scale.