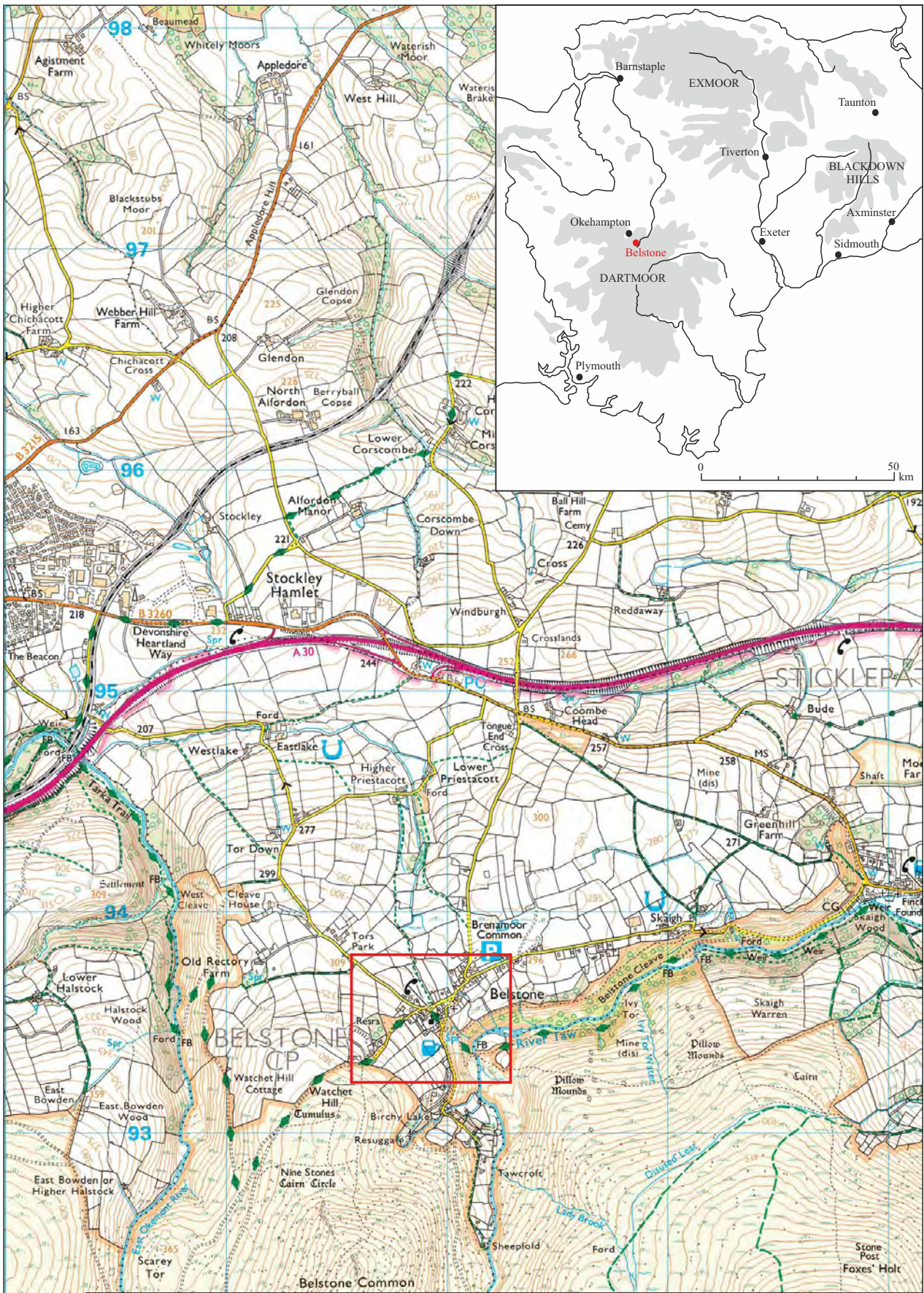


Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Belstone, West Devon	National Grid Reference: SX 6192 9350	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Belstone, Devon.		Photo attached: Y
Planning Application no: Faculty	Recipient museum: n/a	
OASIS ID: oakforda1-340153	Museum Accession no: n/a	
Contractor's reference number/code: OA1360	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 03/12-06/12 and 10/12-11/12/2018	
<p>Description of works: An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology in December 2018 at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Belstone, Devon (SX 6192 9350). The site (Fig. 1) lies immediately to the west and north of the building. The church is a Grade II* listed building. While the tower itself dates to the 15th century the south aisle was built in the early 16th century while the remainder of the church was extensively altered or rebuilt in 1881. It was therefore considered possible that significant remains or deposits might survive within the footprint of the proposed groundworks.</p> <p>In the run-up to the works a trial hole (Fig. 2, pls. 1-2) was excavated in the footpath to assess the impact of tree roots on the path and whether they could be removed. The works were undertaken without archaeological supervision and the remains of two, probable 18th or 19th century vaults were uncovered.</p> <p>A watching brief was maintained during works associated with the construction of a new toilet and associated drainage (Fig. 2, Pls. 3-4). The work involved the excavation of a trench approximately 40m long, 0.5m wide and 0.6m deep.</p> <p>Results: The works revealed a simple deposit sequence consisting of a 0.1m thick mid brown clayey silt topsoil (100) overlying a mid-greyish-brown clayey silt (101) with frequent shale fragments. The latter contained frequent human bones and has been interpreted as a charnel soil.</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:



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Fig. 1 Location of site.

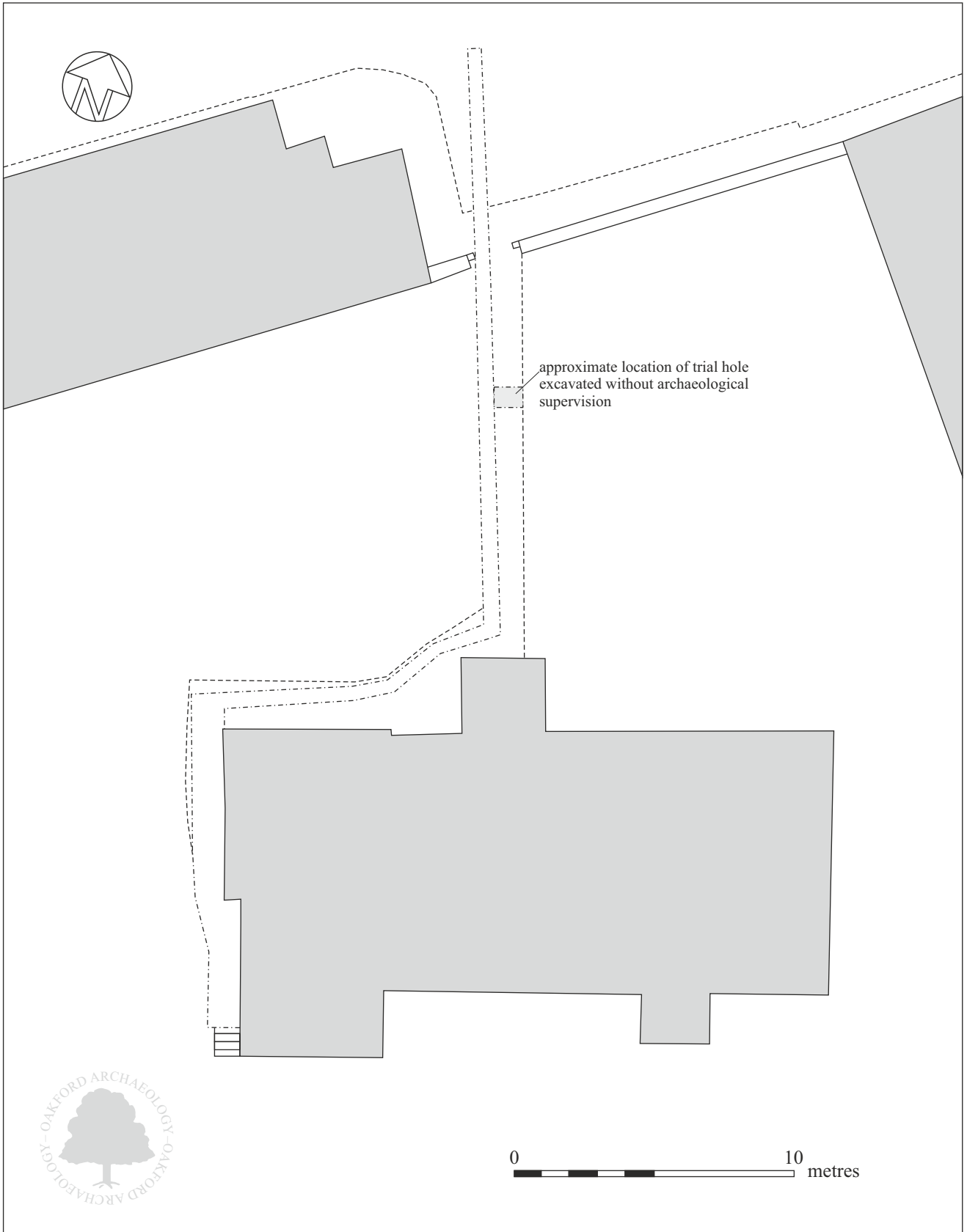


Fig. 2 Plan showing location of observations.



Pl. 1 General view of excavations in footpath showing brick and stone vaults. Looking east



Pl. 2 Close-up of stone slabs sealing vaults exposed in footpath. Looking north.



Pl. 3 General view of excavations to west of tower.
Looking north.



Pl. 4 General view of excavations to north of church.
Looking north.