

## Exeter City Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Exeter	<b>National Grid Reference:</b> SX 9173 9249	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological building recording and monitoring and recording at St Nicholas' Priory, Exeter.		<b>Photo attached:</b> Y
<b>Scheduled Monument Consent:</b> S00182001	<b>Recipient museum:</b> n/a	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> oakforda1-350219	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> n/a	
<b>Contractor's reference number:</b> OA1491	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 25/06 and 26/06/2018	
<p><b>Introduction:</b> A programme of historical building recording and monitoring and recording was undertaken in June 2018 by Oakford Archaeology (OA) during building work at St Nicholas' Priory, Exeter (SX 91738 9249). The work (Figs 1-2, pls. 1-2), consisting of repairs and underpinning to the boundary wall and the excavation of a single investigative trial pit in The Mint, was carried out as a condition attached to the grant of scheduled monument consent (S00182001) granted by Historic England (HE).</p> <p>The priory is a Grade I Listed Building and a Scheduled Ancient Monument (24849), representing the west range of a Benedictine Priory founded by the authority of William I in 1087. The priory buildings were arranged on four sides of a cloister, with the church lying on the south side. The church and the east range were demolished soon after the dissolution of the priory in 1536 (Allan 1999), but the west and north ranges survive. The west range contained domestic apartments overlying a vaulted cellar and had a large kitchen at its north end. Within the north range, immediately adjoining the kitchen, was the refectory hall (now No. 21 The Mint) which survives in its entirety though divided into later rooms and storeys. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century the lane known as The Mint was driven through the screens passage at the west end of the refectory and the north and west ranges were converted into separate dwellings.</p> <p><b>The building survey</b> To the southwest of the stair tower a stretch of 11.7m of facework of the boundary wall was recorded (Fig. 3). The wall consisted of a single build constructed of rubble breccia, volcanic trap, cobbles and brick bonded in soft light pink lime mortar, incorporating a number of dressed stone blocks as well as a single architectural fragment. The latter is described below, and all have been reused and rebuilt into the boundary wall. The northwest end of the wall has been rebuilt using large roughly squared blocks of breccia to form an opening into the adjacent garden. The build is post-medieval and is likely to date to the 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century, a period when the building was subdivided into separate dwellings and the remaining land to the southwest sold off and subdivided into residential plots, including the adjacent No 26 Bartholomew Street. The entire wall has been capped in bricks bonded with cement.</p> <p>Architectural fragment 1. Probable door or window jamb, measuring 320mm x 170mm.</p> <p><b>The groundworks</b> The base of the central section and northwestern end of the wall was assessed and repointed. No underpinning was required.</p> <p>The investigation of the water ingress into the eastern section of the Tudor Room involved the excavation of a shallow trench within The Mint. This was approximately 5.25m long, 0.65m wide and excavated to a maximum depth of 0.45m, exposing modern made ground above plastic sheeting covering previously disturbed ground.</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).

**Bibliography:**

Allan J. 1999 *St Nicholas' Priory, Exeter*.

Goodwin, N. 2007 Archaeological recording during building work at St Nicholas Priory, Exeter, in 2007. Exeter Archaeol. Unpubl. Report 07-91.

R.W. Parker 2004 *Archaeological recording of the kitchen and refectory gable at St Nicholas Priory, Exeter*. Exeter Archaeol. Unpubl. Report 04-15.

R.W. Parker 2006 *St Nicholas', Exeter: Recording and Interpretation of the Exposed Masonry of the 'Tudor Room'*. Exeter Archaeol. Unpubl. Report 06-29.

**Recorder:**

MFR Steinmetzer (Oakford Archaeology)

**Date sent to HER:**



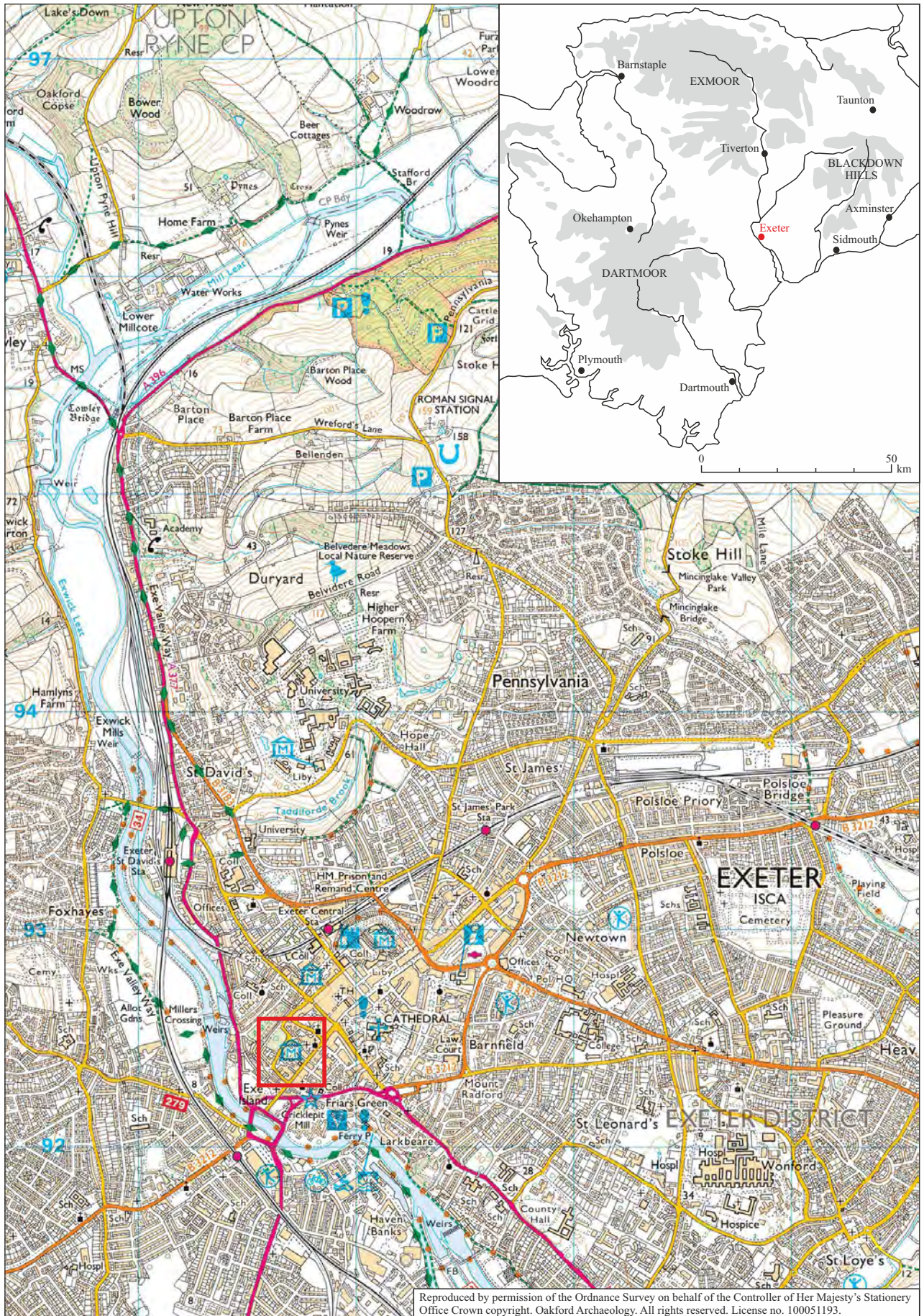


Fig. 1 Location of site.



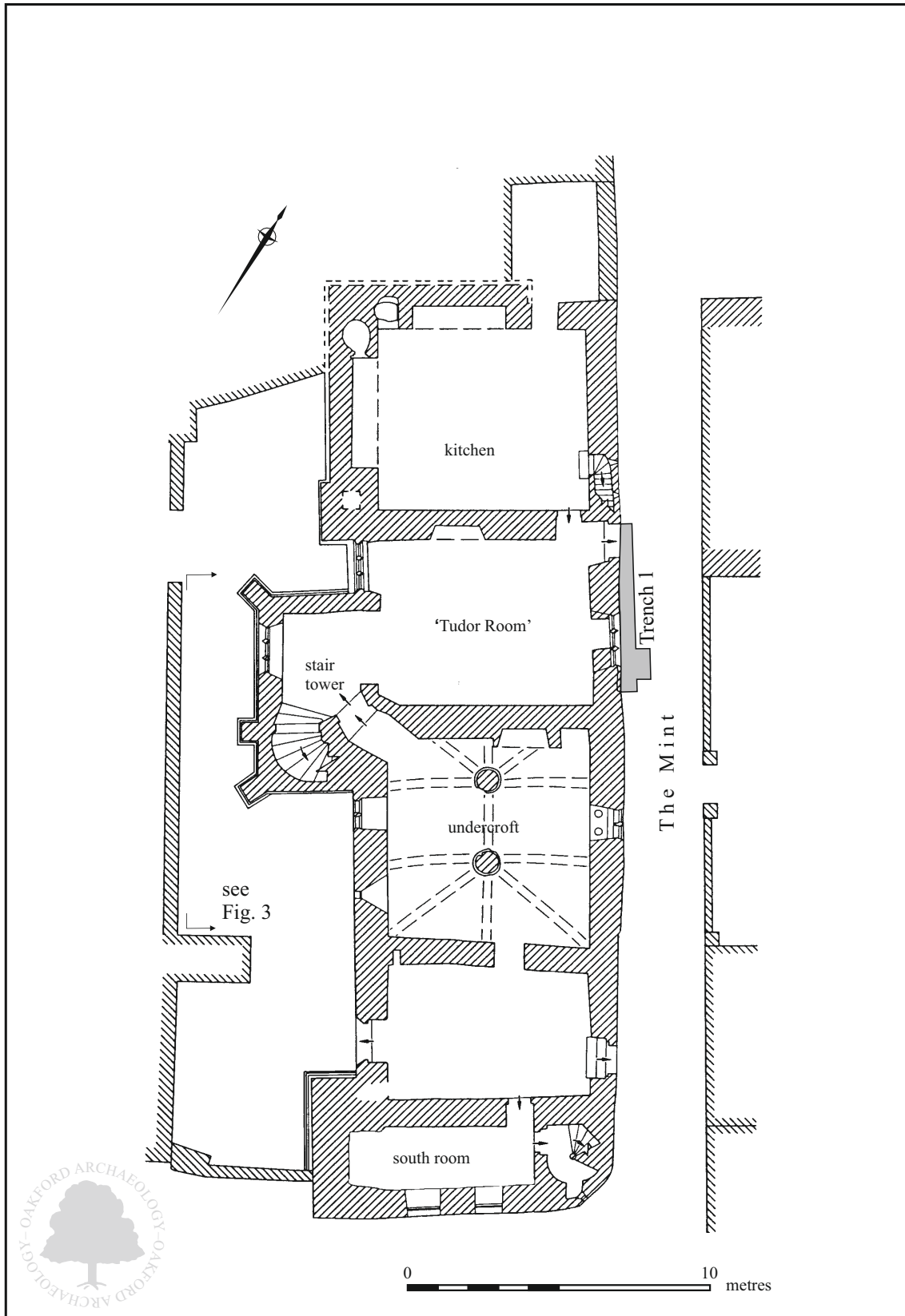


Fig. 2 Plan showing location of observations.



0 5 metres



Fig. 3 The northeast elevation of the boundary wall.





Pl. 1 General view of boundary wall showing No. 26 Bartholomew Street in the background. 2m scale. Looking southwest.



Pl. 2 General view of Trench 1 showing extent of previous excavations. 1m scale. Looking northwest.