

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Pancrasweek, Torridge	National Grid Reference: SS 2968 0581	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording at the Church of St Pancras, Pancrasweek, Devon.		Photo attached: Y
Planning Application no: n/a	Recipient museum: n/a	
OASIS ID: oakforda1-353898	Museum Accession no: n/a	
Contractor's reference number/code: OA1571	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 29/04, 01/05-03/05 and 07/05/2019	
<p>Description of works:</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology between April and May 2019 at the Church of St Pancras, Pancrasweek, Devon (SS 2968 0581). The site (Fig. 1) lies immediately adjacent to the north side of the church. The church is a grade II* listed building. While the chancel itself dates to the 13th century the original church was largely altered in the 15th century. St Pancras, in common with a high percentage of churches in Devon, was subjected to extensive internal re-ordering in the 19th and 20th century. 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 excavation of new drainage around the church and provision of a new water main and electrical cable (Fig. 2, Pls. 1-3). The work involved the excavation of service trenches approximately 148m long, 0.5m wide and c. 0.75m deep. In addition, a soakaway for the drainage was excavated, extending over a distance of approximately 10m long, 2.5m wide and 1.45m deep.</p> <p>Results:</p> <p>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:</p> <p>by John Allan</p> <p>Very little is known of the medieval pavements of the parish church of St Pancras. Although only four fragments of floor-tile were recovered, the two-colour tile fragment has not been previously identified from St Pancras. Dating to the 15th-early 16th century it provides new evidence about the late medieval pavements inside the church. The remaining three floor tile fragment, gravel tempered with dark green-brown glaze and stabbing below, date to the 17th century.</p> <p>In addition, a large collection of North Devon ridge tiles was also recovered from the site. Two 14th-16th century fragments with a sandier temper and with thin incised lines were recovered, while the remaining 37 fragments, including two with knife stabbings, two with deeper incised zigzags, two plain unglazed fragments with lines and three plain marked fragments, date to the 16th-18th century.</p> <p>In total 89 sherds, weighing 2.86kg, and post-medieval in character were recovered from the charnel soil (101). They consist of 40 sherds of North Devon gravel tempered coarseware, with a date range of late 16th-early 18th century, including six bowls, one cup or jug, on deep narrow vessel; nine sherds of North Devon gravel free ware, including three tall jars and one chaffing dish, dating to the 16th- early 17th century; one single sherd of North Devon white ware (17th century); two sherds of unidentified North Devon pale firing clay fabric with pale green glaze (16th-17th century); a single sherd of South Somerset</p>		

pottery (1600-1650); a single sherd of North Devon sgraffito ware (mid-to-late 17th century); seven sherds of North Devon plain slipware (18th century) including one 'paint' pot, one plain dish, one jug, one chamber pot; a single sherd of Staffordshire saltglaze stone ware (1740-60); two sherds of Bristol-Staffordshire yellow slipware (1700-1760); 14 sherds of industrial whitewares and a single sherd of North Devon 19th-20th century Brannam's pottery.

Finally, four clay pipe stems (17th-18th century) and a single fragment of Cloam oven (17th-mid-20th century) with applied thumb strip decoration were also retrieved.

The bulk of the collection covers the period 1500-1750, with the high proportion of North Devon gravel free and calcareous pottery, with its tall jars, is particularly typical of the period 1500-1650. The medieval ridge and floor-tiles almost certainly come from the church. The extensive post-medieval pottery assemblage recovered from the site is clearly indicative of continued close-by domestic activity, probably until the mid-18th century.

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) and the finds archived with the St Pancras PCC.

Recorder:

MFR Steinmetzer (Oakford Archaeology)

Date sent to HER:

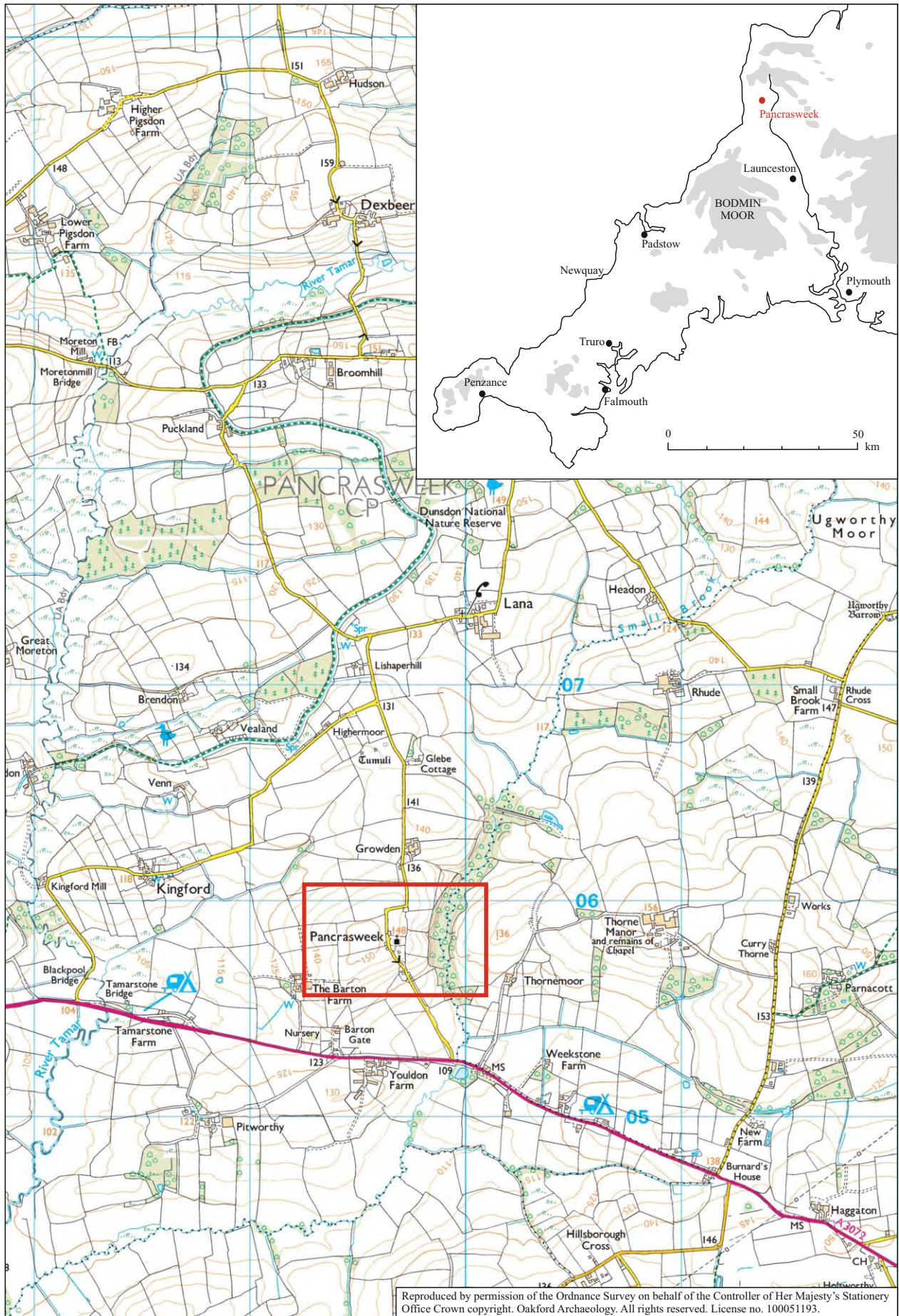


Fig. 1 Location of site.

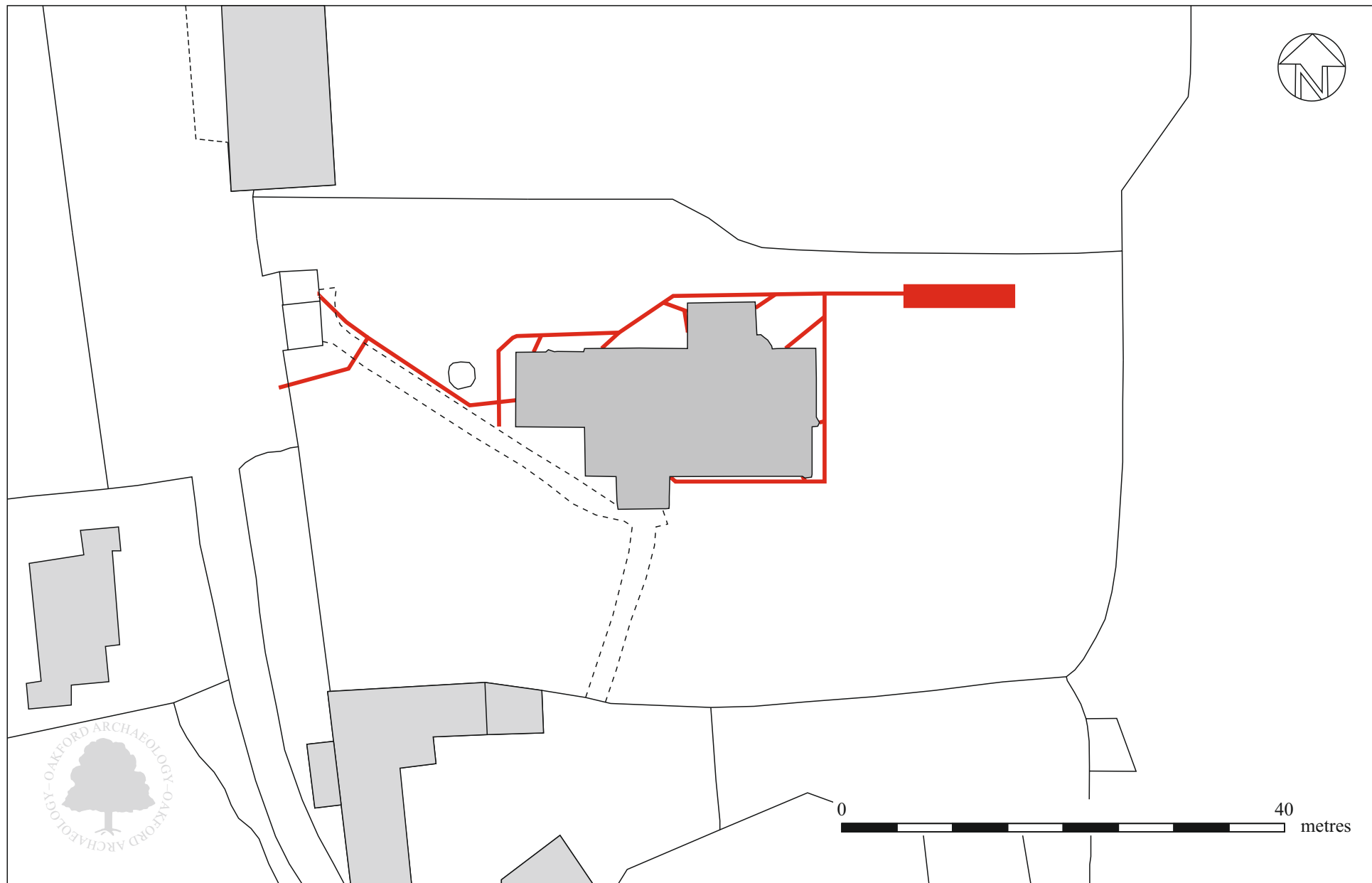


Fig. 2 Plan of St Pancras church showing location of observations.



Pl. 1 General view of drainage trenching to north of St Pancras church. Looking northeast.



Pl. 2 Excavation of drainage trenching to east of St Pancras church. Looking north.



Pl. 3 General view of the soakaway showing the depth of the chanel soil at the northern edge of the graveyard. Looking northeast.