

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Upton Hellions, Mid Devon	National Grid Reference: SS 8420 0331	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording at Church Cottage, Upton Hellions, Devon		Photo attached: Y
Planning Application no: 19/00539/HOUSE	Recipient museum: n/a	
OASIS ID: oakforda1-358319	Museum Accession no: n/a	
Contractor's reference number/code: OA1604	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 08-9/07/2019	
<p>Description of works: An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology for the client in June 2019 during the construction of a single storey extension at Church Cottage, Upton Hellions, Devon (SS 8420 0331). The site (Fig. 1) is located immediately to the north of Church Cottage, a Grade II Listed house with possible 17th century origins, and to the northwest of the Grade I Listed 12th century Church of St Mary. The work was therefore required by the Mid Devon District Council (MDDC), as advised by the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>Results: A watching brief was maintained during the excavation of foundations for a new extension. The groundworks exposed the remains of an infilled terrace (103) cut into the southwest-facing slope of the hill. Although the terracing is not shown on the 1840 Tithe map (Fig. 2 a) it is likely to be contemporary with the construction of Church Cottage, preventing the water from draining from the adjacent hillside directly onto the rear of the building. While a modern extension and associated drainage had truncated the southeastern half, it was apparent that the terrace had been infilled (104) prior to the construction of a small outbuilding at the rear of the plot. This structure is shown for the first time on the 1904 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 2 c), suggesting the infilling took place sometime after 1888 (Fig. 2 b). The terrace infilling consisted of a mid-to-dark reddish-brown silty clay with frequent mudstone fragments and was overlain by the remains of cobbled surface (101). This extended into the outbuilding, suggesting the two are contemporary and post-date the infilling of the terrace (Fig. 2d & e).</p> <p>Finds: by John Allan</p> <p>A small collection of archaeological material was recovered from the external works. In total 85 sherds, weighing 1352g, and largely post-medieval in character were recovered from the late 19th century terrace infill (104). This consisted of a single sherd of North Devon medieval coarseware (1250-1450); two sherds of North Devon calcareous ware (16th-early 17th century); one sherd of Nottingham or Bristol type stoneware (mid-18th century); six sherds of South Somerset trailed slipware including one jug with external band poss. Donyatt (mid-18th century); 17 sherds of South Somerset redwares (mid-18th century); a single sherd of yellow glazed whiteware (late 18th century); 24 sherds of North Devon gravel tempered ware including one large bowl type 3a (late 18th-19th century); nine sherds of North Devon industrial wares including one cup, one large bowl and one slip-coated bowl (19th century), and 23 sherds of industrial whitewares including cream ware, Staffordshire transfer printed ware and shell edge ware and a single sherd of 19th century flowerpot.</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:

M Wootton (Oakford Archaeology)

Date sent to HER:

28-11-2019

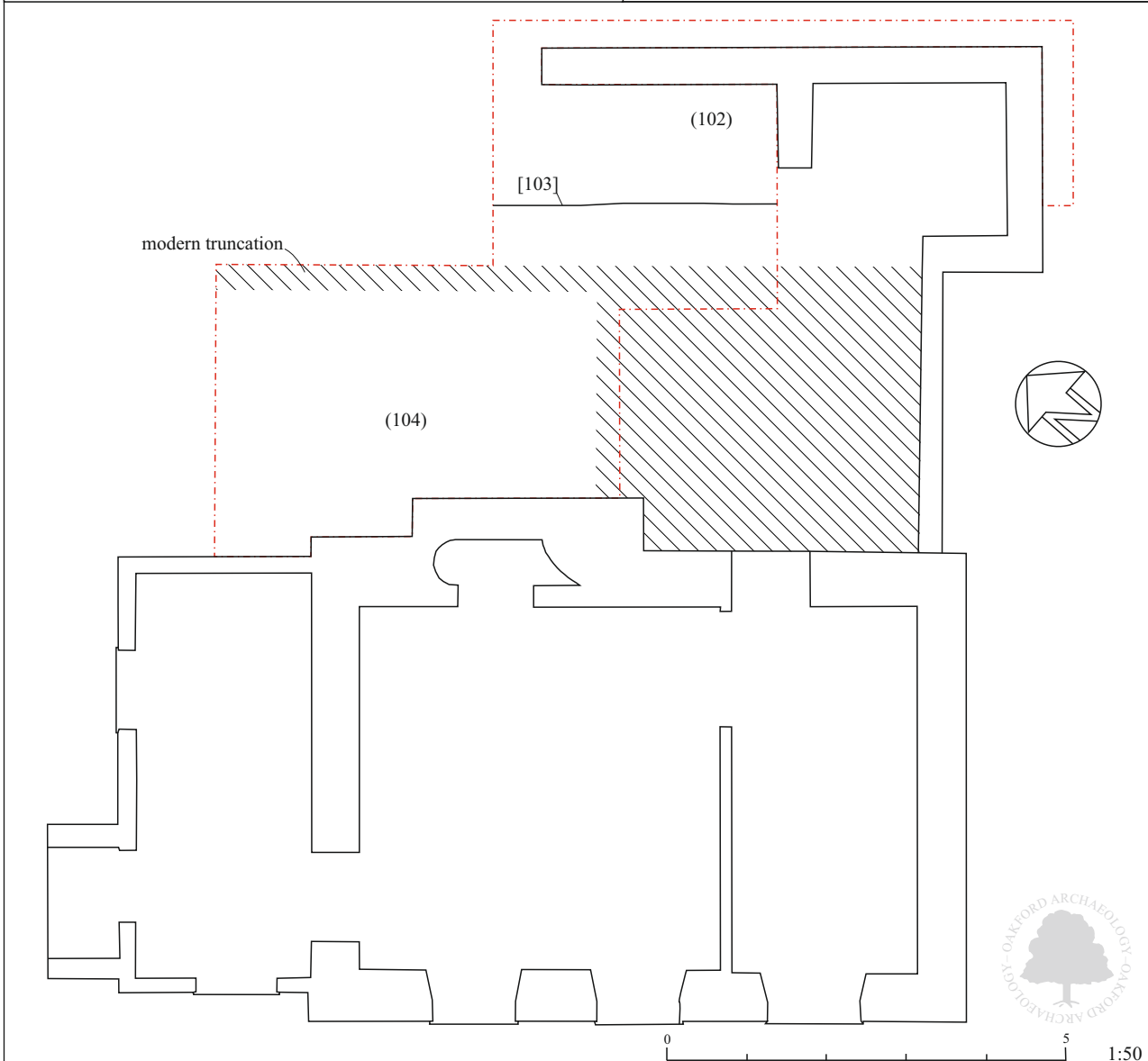
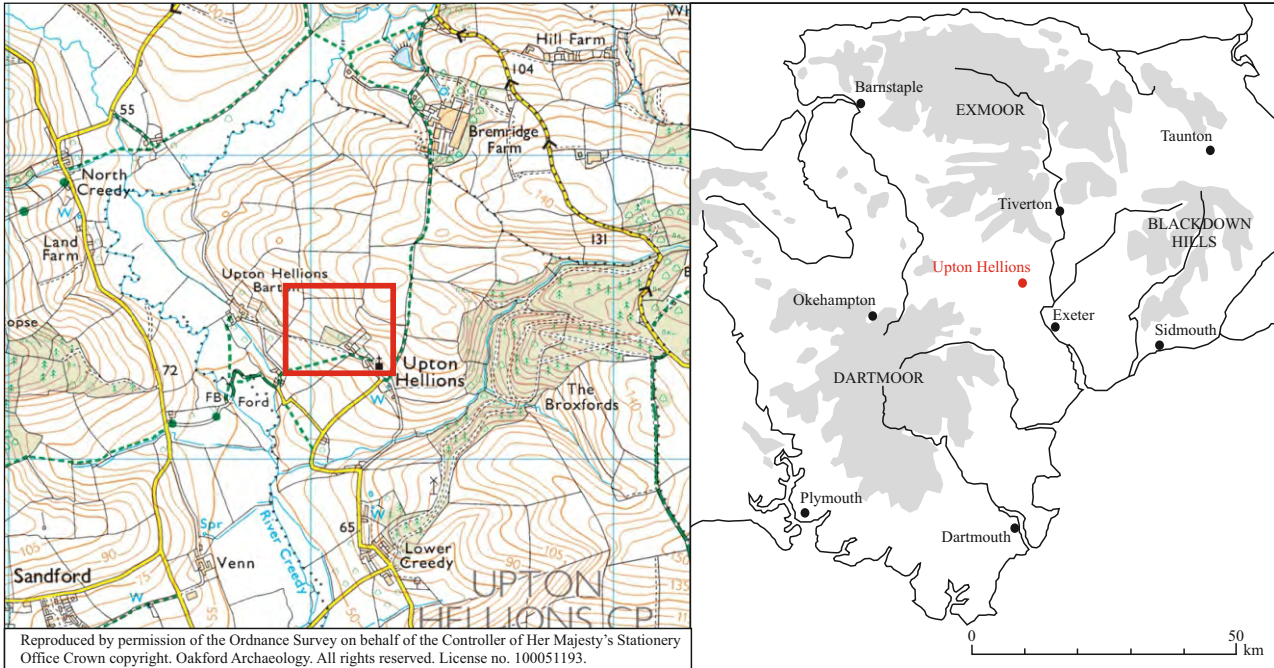


Fig 1. Plan of site showing location of observations.

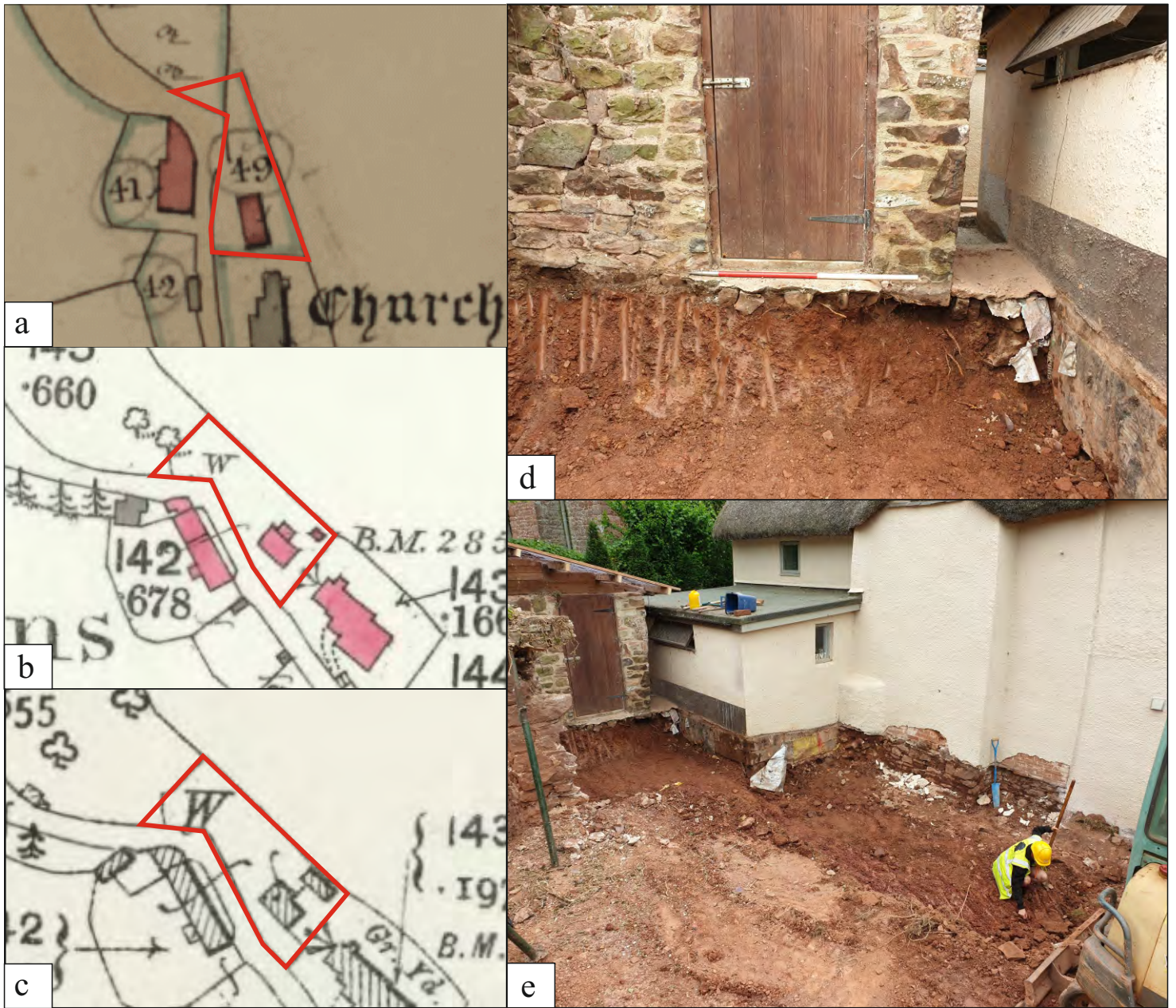


Fig. 2 a) Detail from the 1840 Upton Hellions Tithe map; b) Detail from the 1888 1st edition Ordnance Survey map Devonshire Sheet LV.14; c) Detail from the 1904 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map Devonshire Sheet LV.14; d) Section through terrace (103) showing cobbled surface (101) and the later outbuilding overlying terrace infill (104), looking South-east; e) General view of excavation area, looking south.