

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Little Torrington, Devon	National Grid Reference: SS 4910 1685	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording at St Giles' Church, Little Torrington, Devon.		Photo attached: Y
Faculty no:	Recipient museum: n/a	
OASIS ID: oakforda1-375407	Museum Accession no: n/a	
Contractor's reference number/code: OA1624	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 18/11/2019	
<p>Description of works: An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology in November 2019 at the Church of St Giles, Little Torrington, Devon (SS 4910 1685). The church is a grade II* listed building. While the church is likely to have been in existence since at least the mid-13th century, the original church was largely altered in the 15th century. St Giles, 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 construction of new drainage and soakaway (Fig. 2, Pls. 1-3). The work involved the excavation of a drainage trench extending over a distance of 46m, 0.45m wide and 0.75m deep and a soakaway trench 10m long, 1.2m wide and 0.75m deep.</p> <p>Results: Inspection of the works exposed a 0.05m thick layer of tarmac (100) overlying a mid-reddish-brown clayey silt (101) with frequent sub-angular local stone inclusions. Although this contained only six fragments of disarticulated human bone across the entire length of the excavations, including a mandible, ribs and sternum, this deposit has been interpreted as a charnel soil.</p> <p>Finds: by Dr Lucy Shipley</p> <p>The excavation of a preliminary test pit in November 2018 uncovered an uninscribed and undecorated gold ring (Pl. 4). The ring was submitted to the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS Database number DEV-488D6) and, because it is too undiagnostic, unlikely to pre-date the early 18th century.</p> <p>In addition to the ring the excavation of the test pit uncovered a single sherd of 16th-17th century North Devon coarseware, one undated Cu Alloy buckle two fragments of clay pipe (18th-19th century).</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:

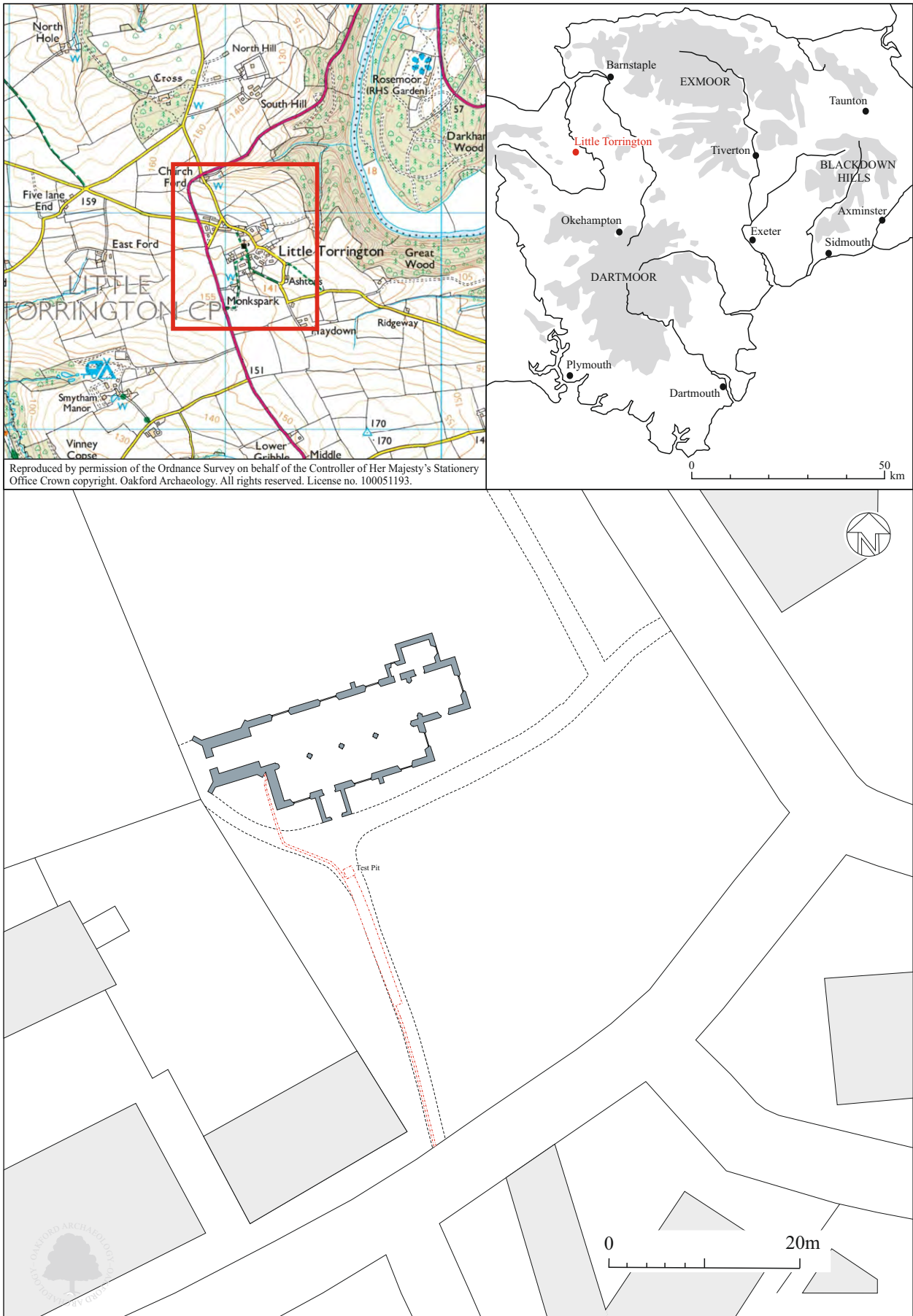


Fig. 1 Location of site.



Pl. 1 General view of trench. 2 m scale. Looking north.



Pl. 2 General view of trench. 2m scale. Looking south.



Pl. 3 General view of trench. Looking northwest.



Pl. 4 Gold ring (DEV-488D61).