

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Dartmouth, South Hams	National Grid Reference: SX 8865 5031	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording at the Church of St Petrox, Dartmouth, Devon.		Photo attached: Y
Faculty no: n/a	Recipient museum: n/a	
OASIS ID: oakforda1-400420	Museum Accession no: n/a	
Contractor's reference number/code: OA1683	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 06-07/07/2020	
<p>Description of works:</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology in July 2020 at the Church of St Petrox, Dartmouth, Devon (SX 8865 5031). The site (Fig. 1) lies within the tower of the Grade I Listed church. A chapel was in existence on the site by the late 12th century. Incorporated into the fortalice in the late 14th century, a license for repair of the chapel was granted in 1438 following a period of neglect. The expanding prosperity of Dartmouth Southtown, Warfleet and Stoke Fleming led to increasing patronage and a churchyard was built by 1600. The former chapel was enlarged and/or rebuilt in 1641. St Petrox was granted parish status in 1838 and the church extensively restored sometime in the 19th century.</p> <p>A watching brief was maintained during works associated with the removal of the existing concrete floor and the construction of a new breathable floor slab within the tower (Fig. 2). The work involved the excavation of an area approximately 4.2m long, 3.8m wide and c.0.3m deep.</p> <p>Results:</p> <p>Removal of the existing floor tiles and concrete sub-floor exposed a mid-to-dark brown silty loam (102) with frequent roofing slate fragments, and white lime mortar flecks and rare local slate rubble. The works also exposed the remains of two walls. In the western corner was a diagonal 1.65m long and 0.3m wide clay bonded local slate rubble wall (103). This was contemporary with the footings of the church tower although it is unclear why it wasn't parallel with the western and northern foundations. Perpendicular to this was a 0.1m wide slate rubble wall topped with a single course of buff Dutch brick (104).</p> <p>A small assemblage of archaeological material was recovered from (102). The pottery consists of a single fragment of Raeren stoneware (16th-17th century) and one sherd of 18th-19th century South Somerset coarseware; 225 fragments of disarticulated human bone; one red/brown fragments of window glass (18th century); one fragment of clear window glass (19th century); 9 clay pipe stems and 2 bowls (18th-19th century); 2 lead window came fragments; 7 Fe coffin nails and 1 CuAlloy pin fragment.</p> <p>Conclusions:</p> <p>Although the observations were extremely limited the different alignment of the two walls and the use of Dutch bricks suggest that these may represent the remnants of a vault pre-dating the rebuilding of the church in 1641. If that is the case the earlier chapel was not only on a slightly different alignment, but the current church also represents a complete rebuild incorporating little or no earlier fabric.</p> <p>Project archive and OASIS entry</p> <p>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:

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Date sent to HER:



Fig. 1 Location of site.

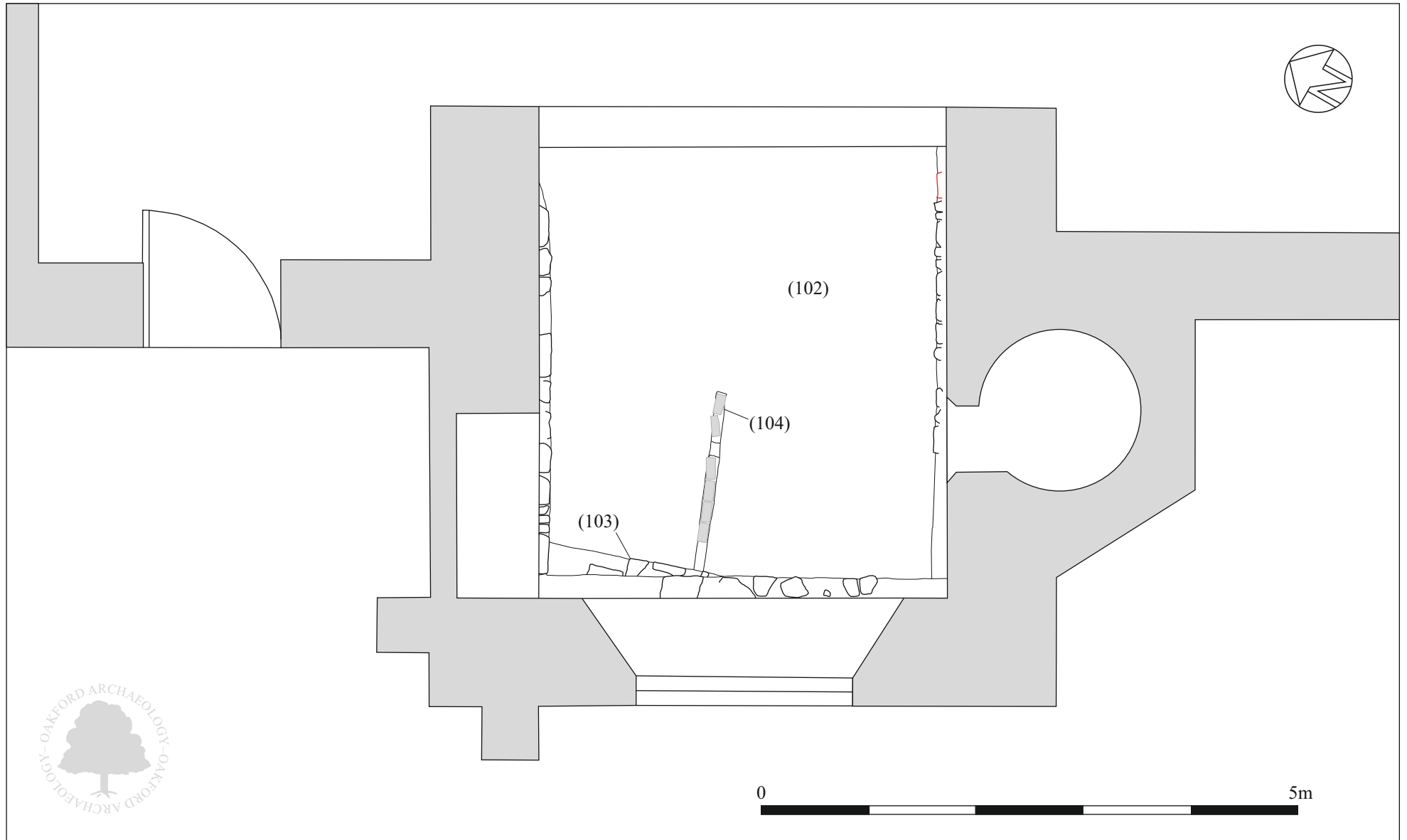


Fig. 2 Plan showing location of observations.



Pl. 1 General view of excavations showing the remains of vault (103/104).
1m scales. Looking southwest.