

## Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Ottery St Mary, East Devon	<b>National Grid Reference:</b> SY 0985 9556	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording at St Mary's, Ottery St Mary, Devon.		<b>Photo attached:</b> Y
<b>Planning permission no:</b> 18/2096/FUL	<b>Recipient museum:</b> n/a	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> oakforda1- 503718	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> n/a	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> OA1789	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 10/02/2022	
<p><b>Description of works:</b></p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology in February 2022 at St Mary's, Ottery St Mary, Devon (SY 0985 9556). The site (Fig. 1) in an area of high archaeological potential immediately to the east of the south transept. The first direct documentary reference to the Church of St Mary in Ottery St Mary is in 1259 when a dedication was undertaken by Bishop Bronescombe, which may well have been for a new chapel or altar and the later collegiate church was founded in the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century by Bishop Grandisson. 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 installation of a granite plinth for a life size bronze statue of Samuel Taylor Coleridge (Fig. 2).</p> <p>The foundation for the granite plinth was roughly oval. It was approximately 2m long, 1.3m wide and excavated to a maximum depth of 0.23m. The deposit sequence consisted of a mid yellowish brown clayey sand (101) with frequent gravel and chert fragments. Only the top of this deposit was exposed and its interpretation is unclear. This was sealed underneath a 0.2m thick mid to dark brown clayey sand (100) topsoil. This contained a single sherd of South Somerset coarseware (18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century), 2 sherds of industrial whitewares (after 1780) and four disarticulated human bone fragments.</p> <p><b>Project archive and OASIS entry</b></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>		
<b>Recorder:</b> MFR Steinmetzer (Oakford Archaeology)		<b>Date sent to HER:</b>

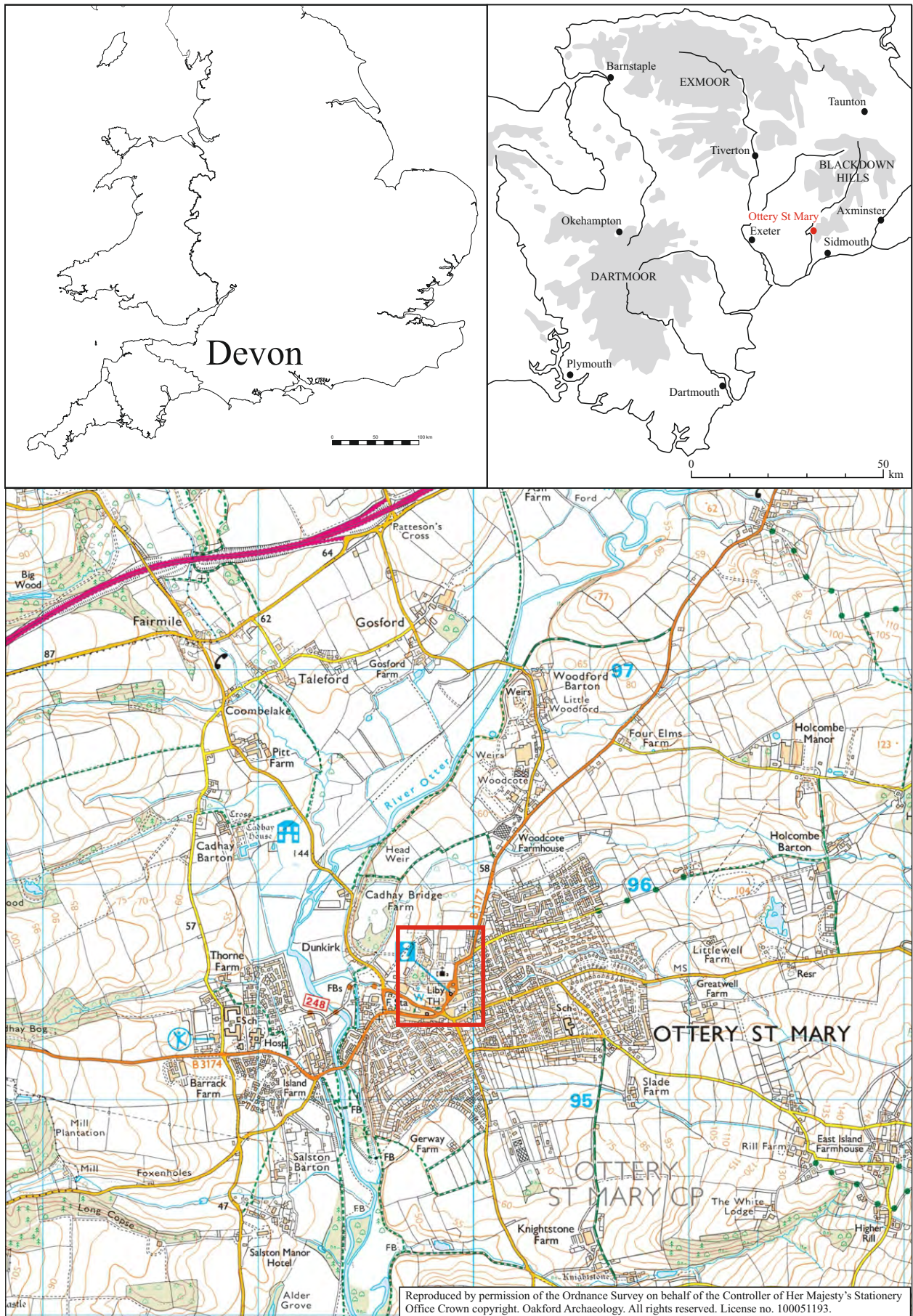


Fig. 1 Location of site.



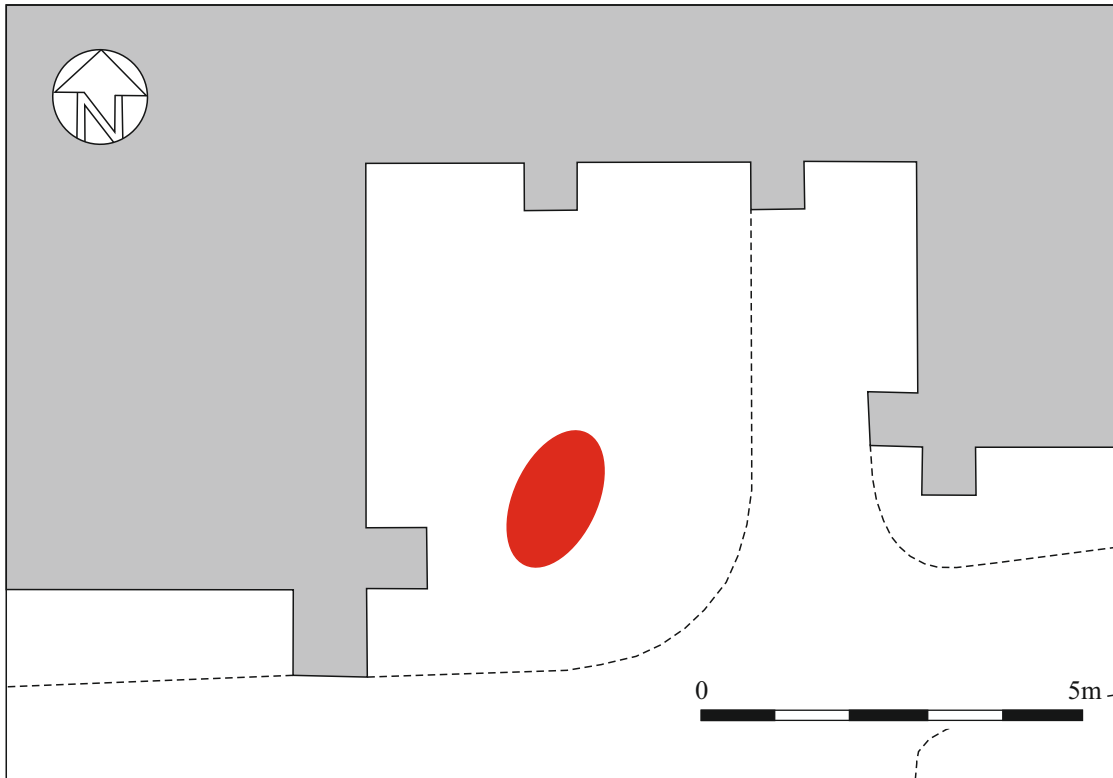


Fig. 2 Plan and photograph of the statue base.