

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Tawstock, North Devon	National Grid Reference: SS 5598 2992	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording during rebuilding of part of the church yard wall at St Peter's, Tawstock, Devon.		Photo attached: N
Planning Application no: n/a	Recipient museum: Barnstaple and North Devon	
OASIS ID: exeterar1-68675	Museum Accession no: NDDMS.2010.31	
Contractor's reference number/code: EA 6826	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 09.11.09, 16.11.09 and 17.11.09	
<p>Description of works:</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was maintained during the removal and rebuilding of approximately 12m of collapsed graveyard wall on the southern side of St Peter's Church, Tawstock, North Devon (Fig. 1). A photographic record of the existing wall was made on 5th November 2009 prior to the commencement of works on the wall, and after the removal of vegetation on 9th November 2009. The remains of the existing wall were removed by the contractor (Traditional Finishes) under instruction from the client (North Devon District Council). All salvageable masonry was kept to be incorporated in the rebuild of the wall.</p> <p>Removal of the churchyard wall exposed a section of about 1.1m depth from the ground surface within the graveyard to the road level on the northern side. The footings of the wall were not fully removed and natural ground was not exposed. The width of the wall was approximately 0.45m, though it widened to 0.55m+ about two thirds of the way eastwards along its length. At this point its fabric was not fully dismantled and loose masonry remained in section.</p> <p>The section showed a maximum of 0.4m of grey-brown humic loam clay, interpreted as graveyard topsoil overlaying re-deposited mid red-brown natural clay containing fragments of roofing slate and rough angular stone. No dating evidence for the origin of the re-deposited clay was identified though it may be suggested that it relates to one of the principal building phases of the church.</p> <p>Two architectural fragments were recovered from the core of the collapsed graveyard wall (Fig. 2), where they had been re-used as rubble infill. The first, measuring 312mm by 42mm, is a fragment of moulded 'Hatherleigh stone' (igneous agglomerate) from a stringcourse. The second, measuring 255mm by 103mm, is also a fragment of stringcourse but carved from 'Bath stone' (Oolitic limestone) and has gritty mortar bonding attached. Hatherleigh and Bath stone was widely used during 19th-century church restoration, but neither fragment appears especially crisp and so both could be of an earlier date.</p>		
Recorder: C. Smart (Exeter Archaeology)		Date sent to HER: 24-05-2010

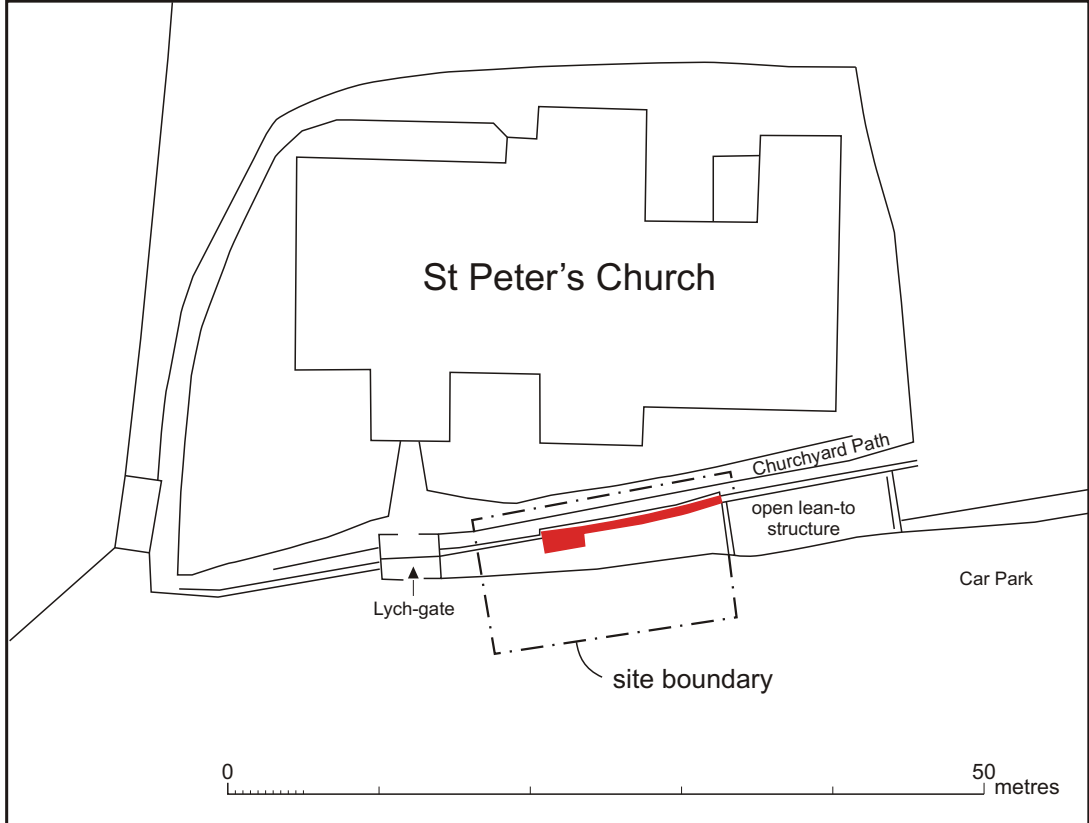
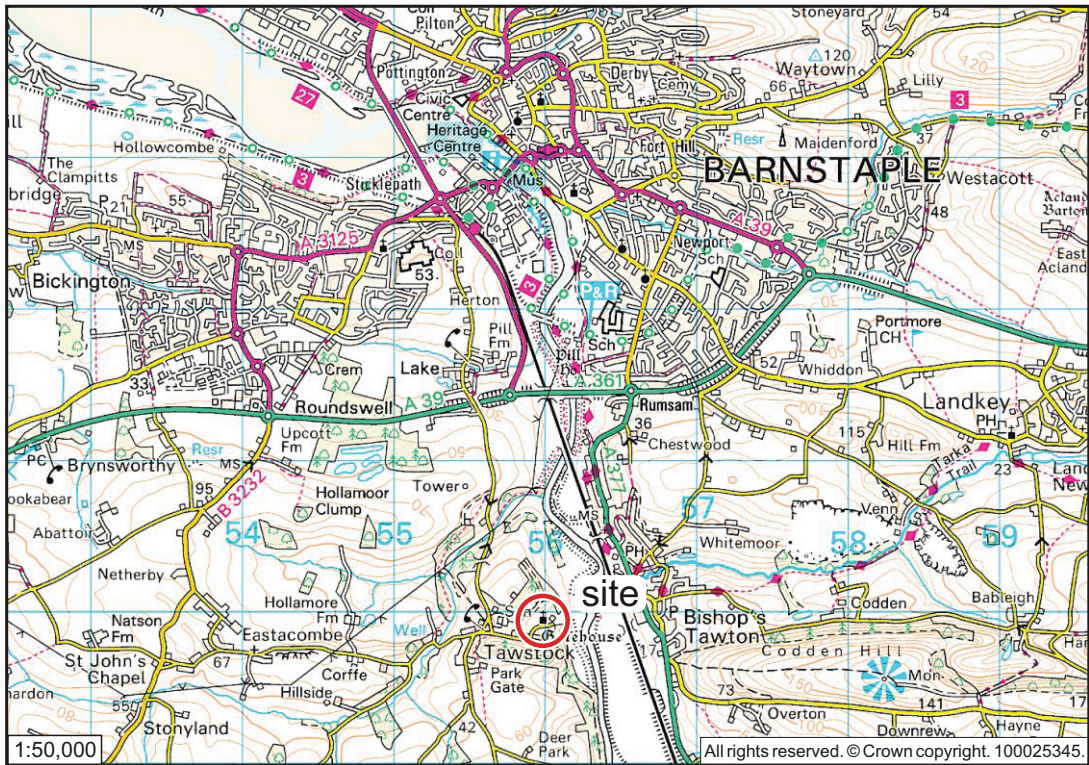


Fig. 1 Location of site, showing masonry wall (red). Based on drawing supplied by North Devon District Council.

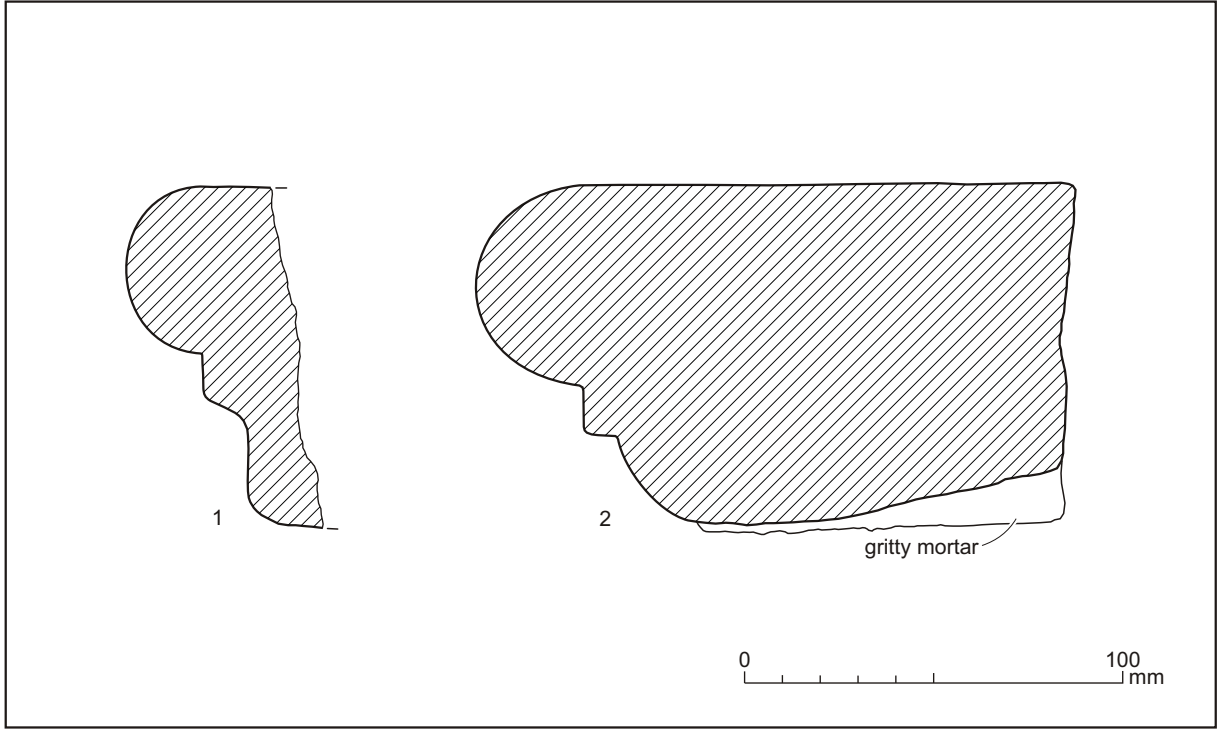


Fig. 2 Two fragments of architectural moulding recovered from the core of the collapsed graveyard wall at St Peter's Church, Tawstock, North Devon. Scale 1:2.