

## Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

|   |  |                             |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| <b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b><br>Lewtrenchard, West Devon   | <b>National Grid Reference:</b><br>SX 4568 8611                  | <b>Number:</b>              |
| <b>Subject:</b><br>Archaeological monitoring and recording on land adjacent to the church of St Peter, Lewtrenchard, Devon  |  | <b>Photo attached:</b><br>Y |
| <b>Planning Application no:</b><br>9312/2006/TAV  | <b>Recipient museum:</b><br>Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery |                             |
| <b>OASIS ID:</b><br>exeterar1-69966   | <b>Museum Accession no:</b><br>AR.2009.26                        |                             |
| <b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b><br>EA6594  | <b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b><br>17/12/2009                 |                             |
| <p><b>Description of works:</b><br/>The site (Fig. 1) lies immediately to the east of the medieval Parish church of St Peter. This is a Grade I Listed Building and contains fabric of probably 13th century date, although the building was heavily altered during the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The development site is located in an area marked on the 1880-1890 OS map as the site of the 'keeper's cottage', which was demolished by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It was considered possible that archaeological features and/or artefacts associated with medieval and post-medieval activity in this area might survive within the footprint of the development.</p> <p>The site area was roughly rectangular and measured <i>c.</i> 40m x 20m. The groundworks for a new car park area involved an overall ground reduction of between 0.9-2m. Access to the churchyard was gained through a 10m hedgebank breach, previously undertaken by the Baring-Gould Trust. The groundworks were carried out in March 2009 without an archaeological presence. A subsequent new programme of archaeological works was implemented to mitigate the potential loss of archaeological deposits and/or features.</p> <p><b>Results:</b><br/>A total of five sections (Fig. 2) were cleaned at regular intervals across the development area. Sections nos. 2-3 revealed a sequence of natural soils (103-105), sealed beneath modern deposits (100-102) along the western edge of the site. Although no finds were recovered these later deposits are on balance likely to date to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The large amount of slate present in deposit 101 at the north end of the site might suggest an episode of re-roofing of the church during this period. Section no. 3 revealed only natural soils.</p> <p>Section no. 1 was cut through a 1.3m high and 2.1m wide earth bank. This was built on ground sloping gently away to the south and east and currently supports <i>buxus</i> hedge amongst ivy, bramble and nettle scrub. It appeared from the limited exposure available for investigation that the bank may have been built directly on top of the original soil horizon, suggesting that it is quite late in date.</p> <p>Immediately on top of the natural subsoil (105) beneath the centre of the bank was a 0.5m thick heavily disturbed mid brown clayey coarse sand deposit predating the banks construction (106). This deposit was composed of heavily disturbed topsoil and subsoil, and due to this no soil samples were taken. The body of the bank above this material was composed of a homogenous dump of dark brown clayey coarse sand containing frequent small granite and mudstone fragments (107), revetted on the eastern side by a dry stone wall of grey mudstone (108). This was completely covered by modern deposit (100).</p> <p>Section no. 4 at the front of the development revealed a small section of wall (109). This was the back wall of the 'keeper's cottage', and was composed of clay bonded mudstone, faced at the front and infilled with rubble at the rear (110). After the cottage was demolished a new boundary was erected, composed of a stone revetted bank (111-112).</p> |  |                             |

**Conclusion:**

No features, deposits or dating evidence were found to indicate archaeological activity within the area of the development. The bank appeared to be of simple construction and had clearly not been subject to extensive alteration or remodelling; although no finds were recovered, it is felt by the recorder that construction of the bank is very unlikely to predate the medieval layout of the church. The wall identified at the front of the development was a small remnant of the 'keeper's cottage'.

**Project archive and OASIS entry**

The site records have been compiled into a fully integrated site archive which is currently held at Exeter Archaeology's offices under project number 6594, pending deposition at Plymouth Museum (AR.2009.26). A summary of the investigations, including a PDF copy of this report has been submitted to the on-line archaeological database OASIS (Online Access to the Index of archaeological InterventionS).

**Recorder:**

MFR Steinmetzer (Exeter Archaeology)

**Date sent to HER:**

06-01-2010



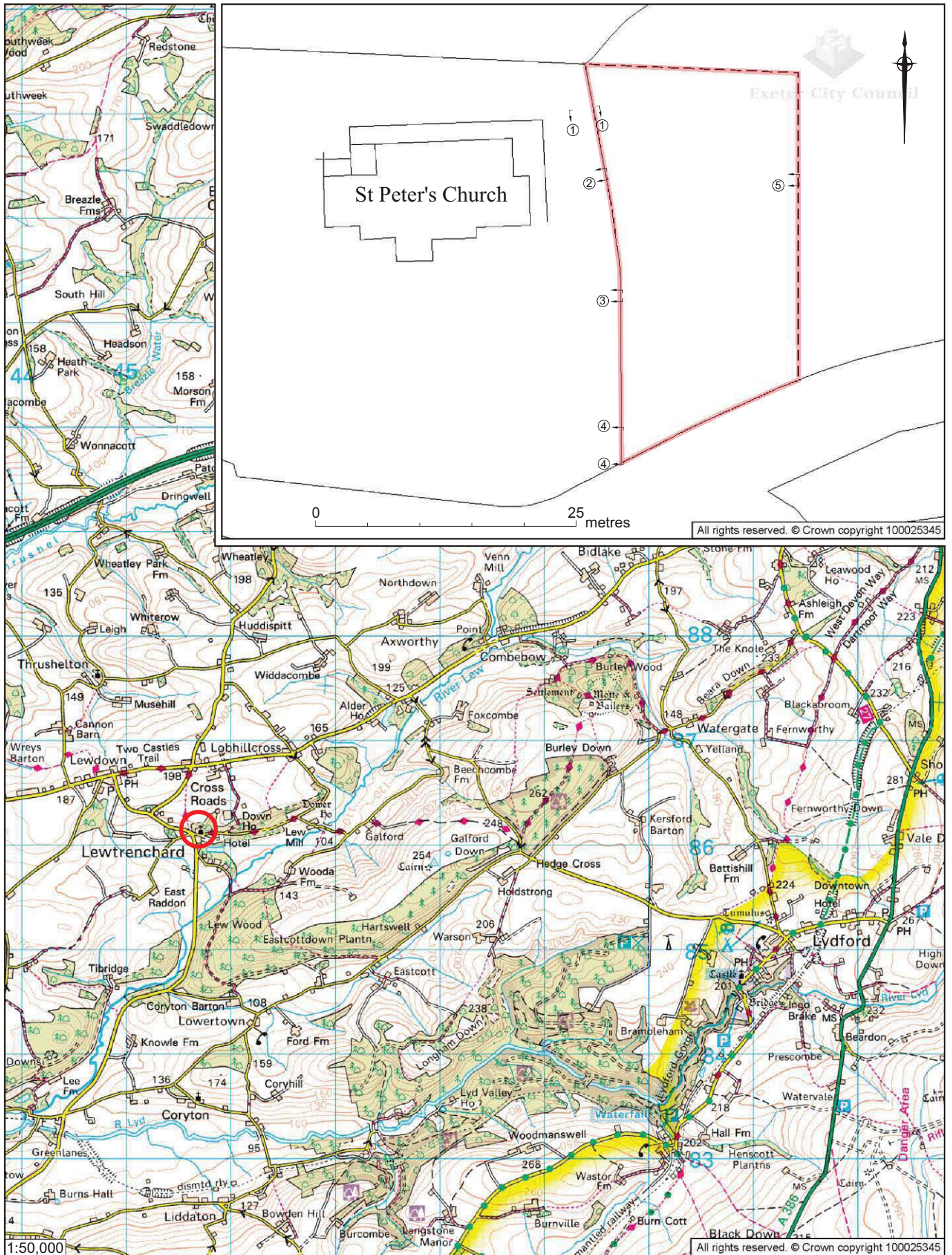


Fig. 1 Location of site.

# Sections:

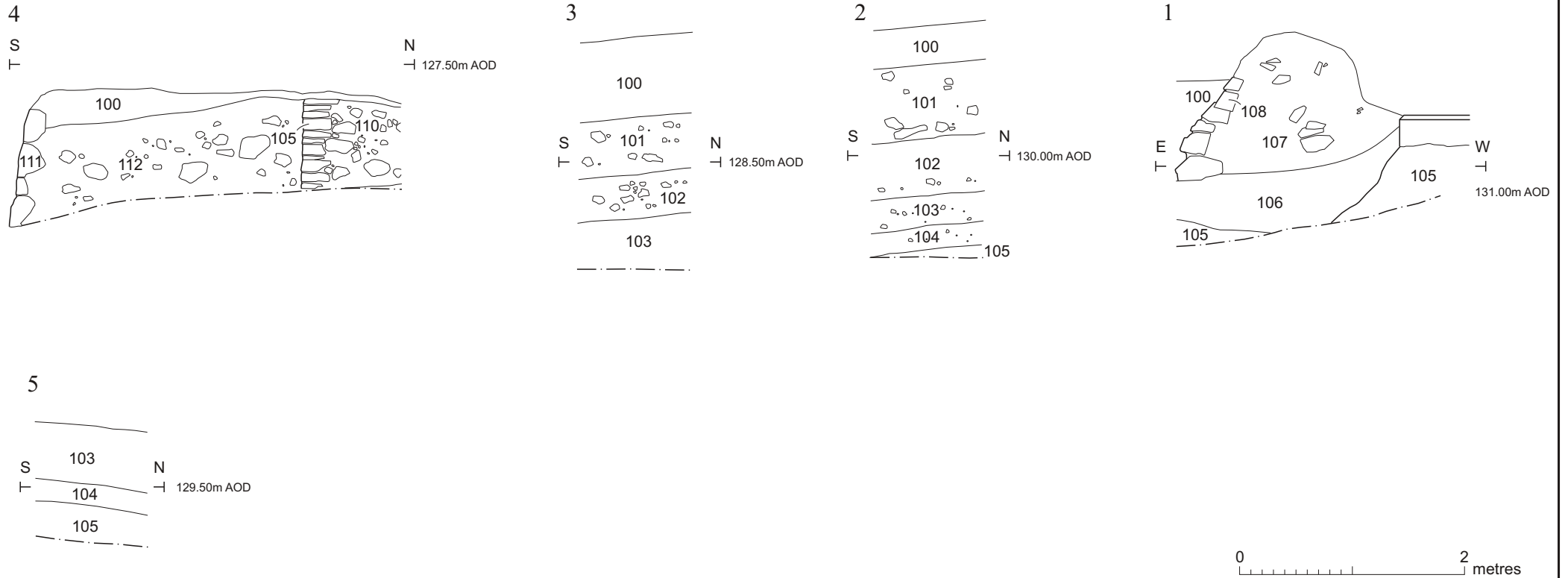


Fig. 2 Sections.





Plate 1 Section through the remains of the 'keeper's cottage'. Looking west. 1m scale.



Plate 2 Section through the cemetery boundary, looking southwest. 1m scale.





Plate 3 Section through soil profile along western edge of site, looking west. 1m scale.



Plate 4 Section through soil profile along eastern edge of site, looking east. 1m scale.