

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Lamerton, West Devon	National Grid Reference SX 45102 77071	Number:
Subject: Test pit excavation for drainage improvements of St Peter's Church, Lamerton.		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: N/A	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS ID: southwes1-188466	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: LSP14	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 13 th August 2014	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>An archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Parkes Lees Architects Ltd. (The Agent) on behalf of the PCC of St. Peters (The Client), during the improvements of drainage to St Peter's Church (Figure 8), Lamerton, Devon. This work was undertaken by J. Bampton on the 13th of October 2013 in accordance with a Project Design drawn up by SWARCH and with reference to IFA guidelines. The works subject to archaeological monitoring entailed the excavation of two test pits located at junctions of the existing drainage system at which access points would be made to allow for the drains to be periodically flushed out. The church underwent restoration in the mid 19th century, which was completed in 1876. A fire in 1877 destroyed most of the church. The tower, although burned survived and the window at the east end of the south aisle also predates the fire.</p> <p>Test Pit 1 was a 1m by 0.75m wide. It was excavated in the south-east corner of the drainage area skirting the church beyond the chancel and south aisle (see Figures 1-4 & 9). The test pit revealed; Path Surface (100), a 0.04m thick, dark grey friable humic sandy-silt with gravel. Path Surface (100) overlaid Pipe Trench Fill (106). Pipe Trench Fill (106) was a light grey-brown, friable sandy-silt with moderate slate and modern rubble debris. It filled Pipe Trench [105], a linear cut, 0.66m wide and 0.53m deep, with near vertical sides and a sharp curved break of slope. It contained a ceramic drainage pipe. It cut Path/Bedding Layer (101). Path/Bedding Layer (101), 0.04m thick, was a mid black-grey gravel and friable clay-silt. It overlaid Made-ground (102). Made-ground (102) was a dark grey-brown, soft-friable clay-silt with moderate mortar flecks and occasional brick and stone rubble. It abutted Made-ground (104) and overlaid Subsoil (103). Subsoil (103), 0.34-0.46+m thick, was a light grey-brown friable sandy-silt with occasional slate fragments and occasional fragments and near complete pieces of human bone. It was divided from Made-ground (104) by a line of slate stones that had been punched through by Pipe Trench [105]. Made-ground (104), 0.48+m thick, was amid brown-grey, loose rubble mottled with mid grey-white mortar debris with occasional slate and tile and charcoal flecks.</p> <p>Test Pit 2 was a 0.80m by 1m wide. It was excavated in the footpath c.3m south of the south porch (see Figures 5-7 & 9). It revealed the junction between two modern drainage pipes and an earlier stone lined culvert. Path (200) was a light grey, loose gravel path way, 0.04m thick. It overlaid Pipe Trench Fill (203), a loose modern rubble, 0.38m thick that filled Pipe Trench [202]; a linear with near vertical sides, 0.42m wide. It contained a ceramic sewer pipe that ran into a stone lined culvert, which it most likely replaced. It cut Bedding Layer (201), a 0.04m thick mottled mid grey-brown compact sandy-clay with gravel which overlaid Culvert Trench Fill (205), a light yellow-brown, friable sandy-silt with frequent rubble that filled Culvert Trench [204]. Culvert Trench [204], 0.70m wide by 0.48m deep, was a linear with moderate to steep sides that contained a c.0.20m square stone lined culvert at its base. It cut Made-ground (206), 0.34+m thick, a light grey-brown friable clay-silt with occasional rubble debris and moderate charcoal flecks in patches.</p> <p>A small selection of finds were recovered from the made-grounds (104) and (206). Finds from (104) included; 1× brick fragment with concrete bonding (1739g); 1× 19th century salt glazed ceramic sewer pipe fragment (182g); 2× red floor tile fragments (158g); and 1× fragment of lime mortar (11g). Finds recovered from (206) included; 4× sooty floor tile fragments with traces of lime mortar bonding (796g); 1× complete (sooty) floor tile (395g); 2× thin slate fragments with lime mortar (123g); 2× lime mortar fragments (36g); 1× roof slate fragment with 12mm dia. Circular notch (17g); 1× 19th century stoneware sherd (1g); and 2× thin opaque rectangular glass vessel fragments (23g). From Culvert Trench Fill (205), a James I tinned farthing c.1614-1625 was recovered. The complete floor tile and the coin were retained; all other finds were discarded.</p> <p>The tiles from (206) covered in soot were produced by <i>Poole Pottery</i> which was established in 1873 which dates the made-ground layers on the south side of the church to probable leveling and repairs after the 1877 fire. This is supported by the amount of charcoal flecks in the layer. The culvert may have been built or repaired during this process explaining why it cuts the made-ground layer. It was later fed by ceramic pipes from the church. Only areas already disturbed by services and late 19th century or later groundwork were excavated and no significant archaeological features or deposits were exposed.</p>		
Recorder: J. Bampton	Date sent to HER: 27/08/2014	



Figure 1: Test Pit 1; viewed from the south (1m scale).



Figure 2: Test Pit 1; viewed from the west (1m scale).



Figure 3: Test Pit 1; viewed from the east (1m scale).



Figure 4: Test Pit 1; viewed from above (1m scale).



Figure 5: Test Pit 2; viewed from the east (1m scale).



Figure 6: Test Pit 2; viewed from the south (1m scale).



Figure 7: Test Pit 2; viewed from above (1m scale).



Figure 8: St Peter's Church, Lamerton; viewed from the south-east (no scale).

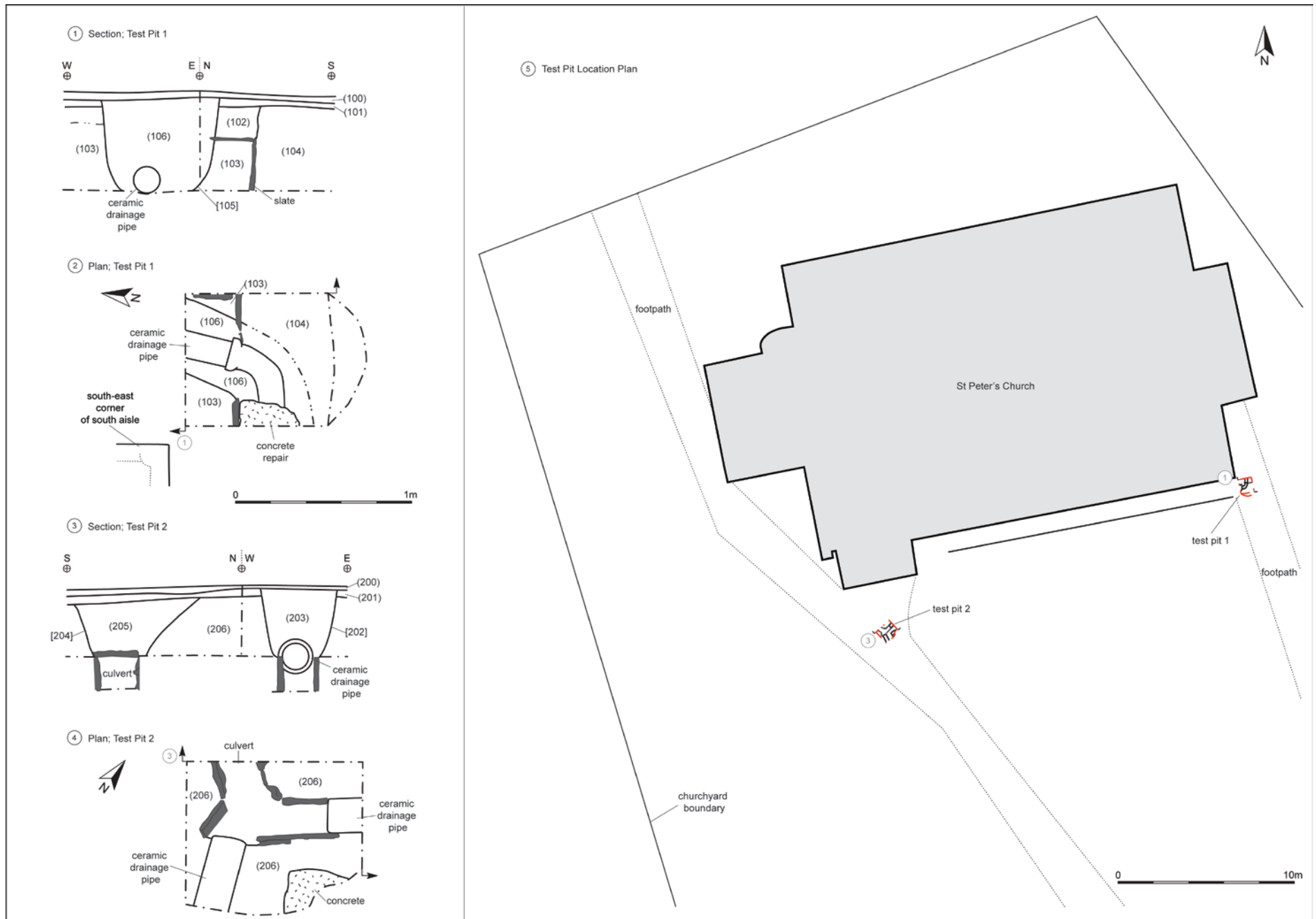


Figure 9: Site drawings; test pit sections and plans; test pit location plan. Section drawing numbers (1 & 3) correspond to the grey-scale numbers on the plans.