

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Clovelly, Torridge, Devon	National Grid Reference SS 30975 25135	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording at All Saints Church, Clovelly, Torridge, Devon		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 1/0336/2015/FUL	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS ID: southwes1-246638	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: CAS16	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 20 th and 23 rd June 2016, 9 th September 2016	
<p>Description of works. Historic building recording and Archaeological monitoring were undertaken within All Saints Church, Clovelly, Torridge, Devon, during works associated with the laying of a new footpath and restoration work to the roof and tower. This work was carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) on behalf of Chris West, Church Warden (the Client). The monitoring and recording was carried out by Peter Webb and Dr. Samuel Walls in June 2016 and Emily Wapshott in September 2016. This work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Boyd 2016) and ClfA best practice.</p> <p>The parish church of All Saints is located north-west of the steep fishing village of Clovelly with views of the sea to the north and east. The church is Grade I Listed and the fabric predominantly dates to the 15th and 16th centuries, with earlier Norman elements. It was restored in 1843 and again in 1884. The church sits on the summit of cliffs facing Bideford Bay at a height of approximately 110m AOD (Figure 1). The soils of the area are the well-drained fine loamy soils of the Neath Association (SSEW 1983), which overlie the sandstones of the Crackington Formation (BGS 2016).</p> <p>A rectangular area measuring c.1.8m x 1.3m was excavated during the first visit, immediately to the west of the church tower, on a north to south orientation. It was hand excavated under archaeological supervision to a maximum depth of 0.15m. The stratigraphy comprised: a friable-soft dark brown silt-clay topsoil c.0.10-0.15m thick (001). This overlay a former gravel footpath comprising sub-rounded stone c.0.01-0.03m within a friable mid grey-brown sand-silt-clay matrix (002). The archaeological features comprised a single linear gravel path running approximately north to south from the doorway in the west wall of the church tower to the tarmac path through the churchyard.</p> <p>Monitoring of the works to the roof was rather ad-hoc, at the time of the first visit the slate had been removed from the entire south facing pitch on the nave and chancel, with the south porch, transept and vestry also stripped. The north facing pitch was not viewed when stripped, but is unlikely to have been added any details. Where the slates were removed from the roof, the 'torching', lime and lathes could be seen. The lathes and visible timber etc appeared to all be 19th or 20th century. The top of the wall plate was visible in places, and it was notable the varying thicknesses of the south wall of the transept being 1.05m, whilst the nave was 0.95m thick. The wall plate at the east wall of the chancel was 0.9m thick and a 15th century oak truss was exposed, with a square profile and pegged joints. The timber and plaster between the trusses had failed, and was subsequently repaired. A second set of narrow rafters was exposed, overlying the historic rafters, slightly raising the slate roof.</p> <p>The roof of the tower was visited before works began to create a photographic record of the existing structure. Inspection revealed the bells had been reset during 19th century restorations and the floor levels of the tower had been adjusted as a result.</p> <p>Finds No finds were recovered during the excavations.</p> <p>Conclusion The single footpath is undated, though its gravel form would indicate that it is recent in date. As a result of this, further monitoring was not undertaken along the line of the proposed footpath.</p> <p>References Boyd, N. 2016: <i>All Saints Church, Clovelly, Devon: Project Design</i>. British Geological Survey 2014: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html [accessed 21.06.2016]. Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>.</p>		
Recorder: P. Webb	Date sent to HER: 22.06.16	

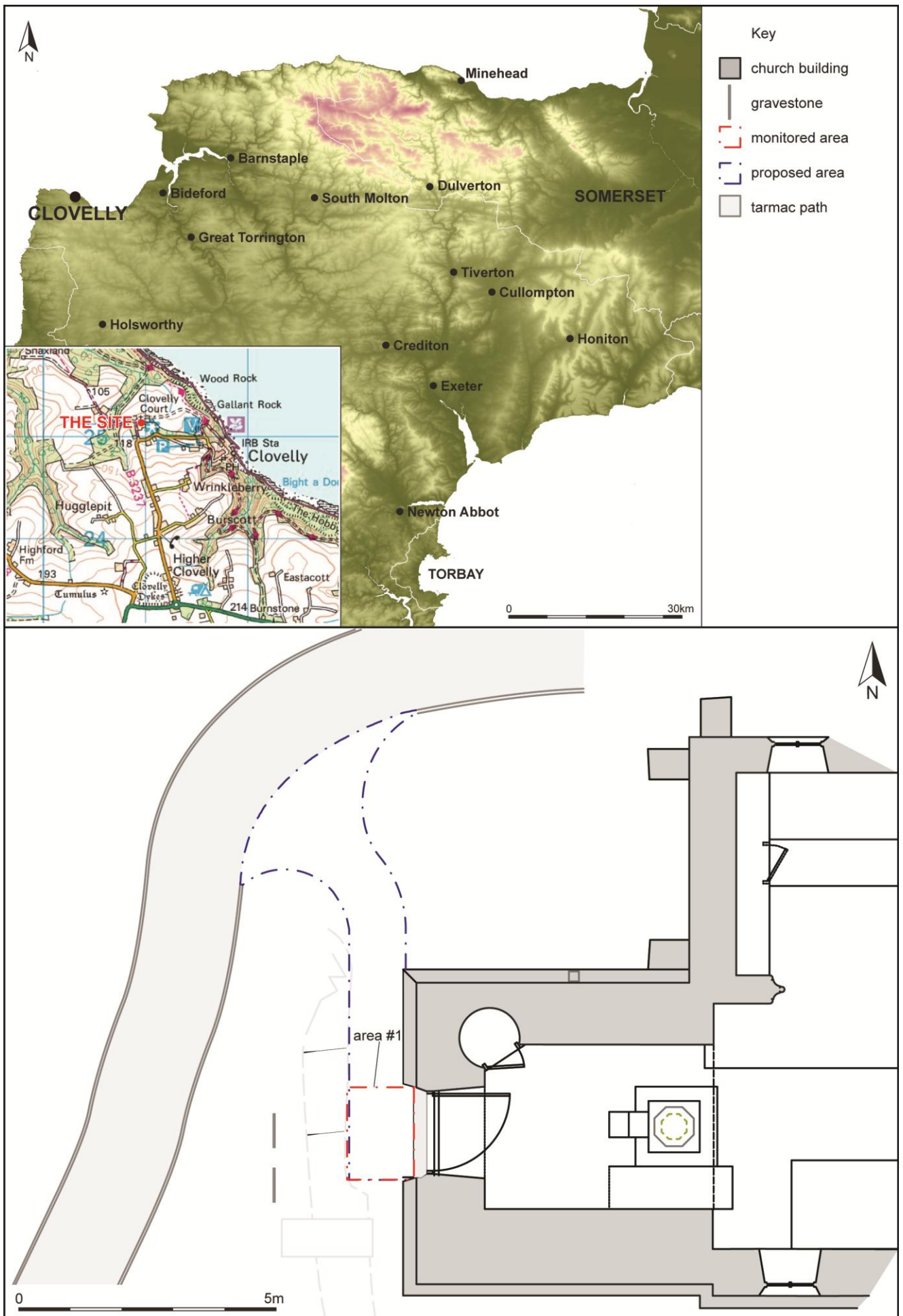


Figure 1: Site location and site plan.



Figure 2: View of Area #1 showing gravel footpath (002); viewed from the north (1m scale).



Figure 3: View of roof of the nave, from above the south porch, viewed from the south-west (no scale).