

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Hollacombe, Torridge	National Grid Reference SS 37749 03040	Number:
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording at Church of St. Petroc, Hollacombe, Torridge, Devon		Photo attached? NO
Planning Application no:	Recipient museum: St Petroc Parochial Church Council	
OASIS ID: southwes1-266015	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: HSP16	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 31 st October 2016	
<p>Description of works: Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of Jonathan Rhind of Jonathan Rhind Architects (the Agent) on behalf of St. Petroc PCC (the Client) during groundworks associated with the creation of a rainwater drain in the churchyard of the Church of St. Petroc, Hollacombe, Torridge, Devon. The monitoring was carried out by P. Webb on 31st October 2016. This work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Boyd 2016) drawn up in consultation with Sasha Chapman, Archaeological Advisor for the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) and Stephen Reed of Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>Hollacombe is a small parish approximately 2.5 miles east of Holsworthy and part of the historical Hundred of Black Torrington. The Domesday Book records it as <i>Holecoma</i>, possibly meaning 'the Hollow Valley'. The manor and church were held by Bodmin Priory, and subsequently the Prideaux family. The Grade II Listed church may have 6th or 7th century origins (Pevsner 1952), but the Listing text notes the earliest architectural features as of the 12th and 13th centuries (MDV134), including a lantern cross (MDV135); the church being entirely renovated in the late 19th century. The site lies on well drained fine loamy soils over rock of the Neath Association, bordering slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey soils of the Hallsworth Association (SSEW 1983) overlying mudstone and siltstone of the Crackington Formation (BGS 2016).</p> <p>The Devon Historic Environment Record (HER) records medieval settlement at West Combe Farm (MDV102111), though the surrounding landscape includes primarily post-medieval activity, including a late 17th century farmhouse at Hayne Farm (MDV99388) and the now dismantled 19th century railway (MDV22543) to the north-east.</p> <p>A single linear trench, 3m in length and 0.30m-0.50m wide was excavated by hand to a depth of up to 0.60m, the depth of formation. The stratigraphic sequence comprised: topsoil (001), mid brown soft-friable clay-silt 0.15-0.28m thick; overlying subsoil (002), mid grey-brown friable-soft silt-clay with common to frequent sub-angular to angular stone 0.20-0.25m thick; and the natural (003), mid brown-grey-yellow soft clay with frequent angular stone.</p> <p>Two features were identified during the excavation, a linear modern rainwater drain trench [004] up to 1m wide and 0.60m deep cut from the topsoil; and the foundation cut for the church building, 0.10+m wide and 0.30m deep with a near vertical edge. This contained wall {006}, the western wall of the church tower constructed from angular stone blocks with lime mortar bond. The foundation of the wall stepped 0.10m out from the base of the wall and continued 0.30+m deep, below the level of excavation.</p> <p>Finds recovered from the topsoil included: 1 xsherd (8g) of medieval North Devon gravel tempered ware; 2xsherds (47g) post-medieval North Devon gravel tempered ware; 2xsherds (27g) of industrial ware; 1xfragment (22g) clear bottle glass; and 1x whole (37g) iron nail.</p> <p>Conclusions: A total of two features were identified during the monitoring, a modern rainwater pipe trench and the foundation cut for the west tower wall, probably relating to the 19th century renovations of the church.</p> <p>Bibliography: Boyd, N. 2016: St. Petroc, Hollacombe, Torridge, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation. British Geological Survey 2014: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html [accessed 01.11.2016]. 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: 01.11.16

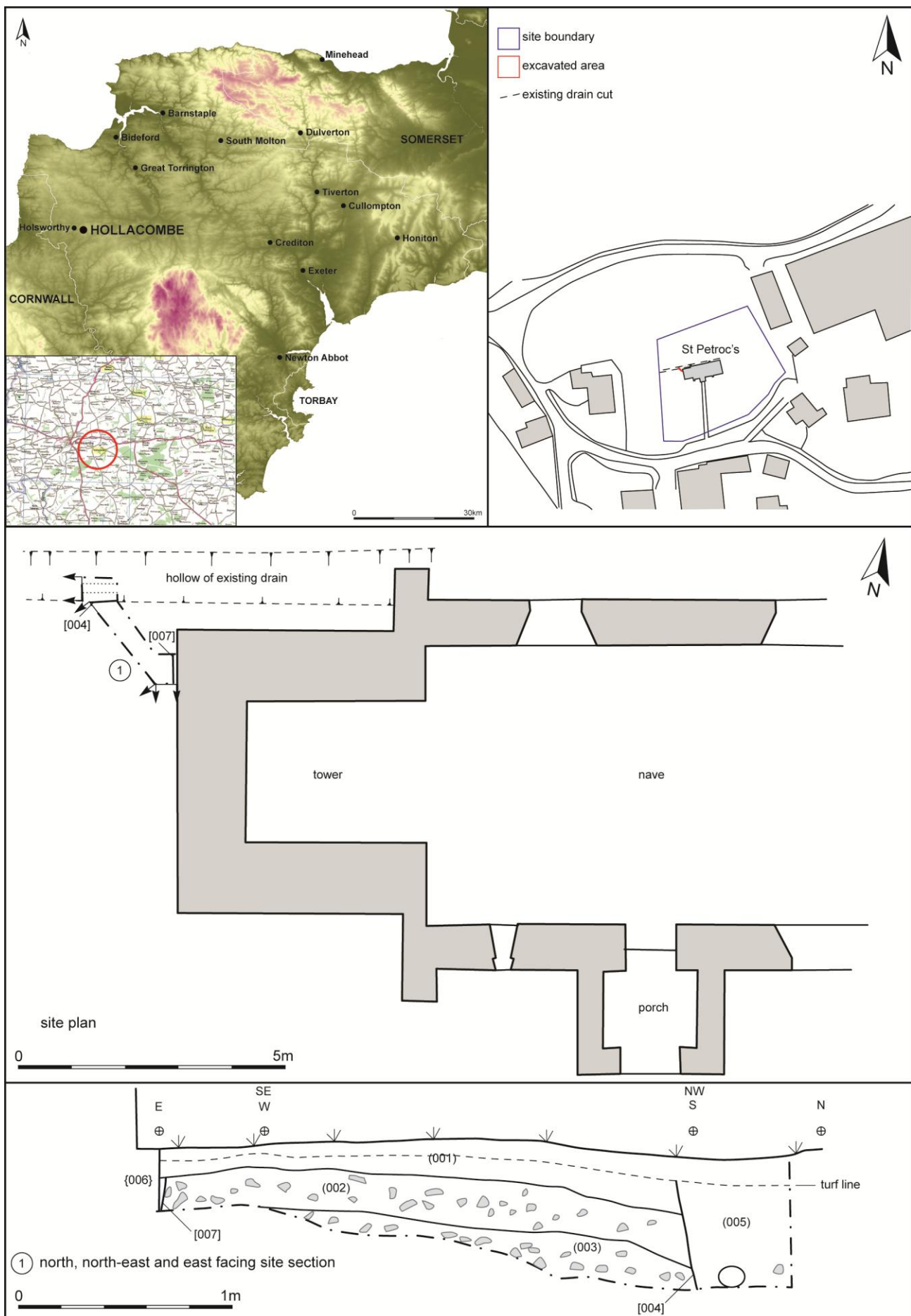


Figure 1: Site location, plans and sections.