

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Tavistock, West Devon, Devon	<b>National Grid Reference</b> SX 48122 74430	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording during all groundworks associated with the replacement of leaking water pipes in the churchyard at St. Eustachius Church, Tavistock		<b>Photo attached?</b> Yes
<b>Planning Application no:</b> N/A	<b>Recipient museum:</b> N/A	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> Southwes1-277379	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> N/A	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> TSE17	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 14-16 <sup>TH</sup> March 2017	
<p><b>Description of works:</b> Archaeological monitoring was undertaken within the churchyard of St. Eustachius Church, Tavistock, West Devon, Devon, during groundworks associated with the replacement of historic earthenware water pipes as there had been a long-term leak. This work was carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) on behalf of Anthony Miller, St. Eustachius PCC (the Client). The monitoring was carried out by L. Lichtenstein and E. Wapshott between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017. This work was undertaken in accordance with a Project Design (SWARCH no. TSE17PDv1) and ClfA best practice and in consultation with Sasha Chapman (Diocesan Advisory Committee). The parish church of St. Eustachius is located at the centre of Tavistock, south-west of the roundabout junction between West Street and Bedford Square at a height of approximately 81m AOD (Figure 1). The area is urban and most likely soils of the Denbigh 1 Association (SSEW 1983), overlying an igneous bedrock of Basaltic Lava and Basaltic Tuff of the Milton Abbot Formation (BGS 2018).</p> <p>The Church of St. Eustachius is grade II Listed; and is noted for its dominant Gothic presence and high quality architectural features, with 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> century origins and a restoration phase dating to 1844-45 by John Hayward.</p> <p>A trench c.0.25-1.25m wide was excavated (for c.15m) through a tarmac path and then turf, with a flower border along the churchyard wall. The trench was excavated by machine under intermittent archaeological supervision to a maximum depth of 0.5m. The stratigraphy comprised: a dark grey friable silt topsoil c.0.1m thick (001). This overlay a dense and rich grey-brown clay-silt subsoil c.0.4m thick (002).</p> <p>Within the south-east long section in the narrower part of the trench a corner of a slate box tomb [003] (Figure 3) was noted. The slate slab measured 5.5m to the north side of the church doorway and 3.35m to the Vestry.</p> <p><b>Finds</b> No finds were recovered, although A very small quantity of disarticulated human bone fragments fell out of the section and was left to be reinterred within the churchyard.</p> <p><b>Conclusion</b> The limitations of the narrow and shallow trench made the chances of recovering anything meaningful from the churchyard slim. In general the excavations were mostly still within topsoil/subsoil deposits and as such archaeological features may survive below the depth of the service trench. A single box tomb was partially seen within the trench section.</p> <p><b>References</b> Boyd, N. 2017: St. Eustachius, Tavistock, Devon: <i>Project Design</i>. SWARCH no. TSE17PDv1 British Geological Survey 2018: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. <a href="http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.htm">http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.htm</a> Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> S. Stevens		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 24.04.2018

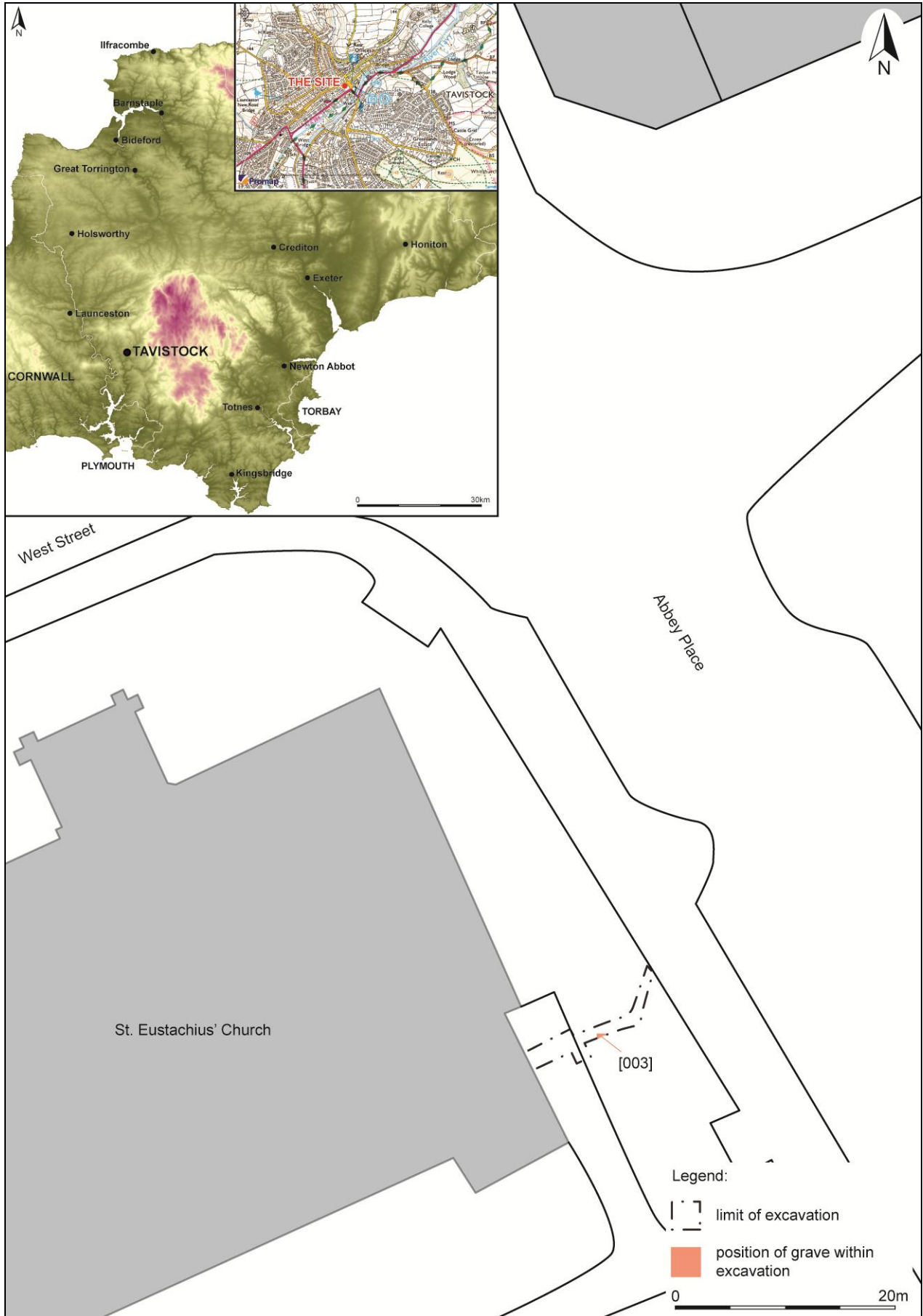


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION AND SITE PLAN.



FIGURE 2: POST-EXCAVATION VIEW OF PIPE TRENCH; FROM THE WEST, SOUTH-WEST (2M SCALE).



FIGURE 3: NORTH-WEST FACING SECTION OF PIPE TRENCH SHOWING BOX TOMB [003]; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (PART 2M SCALE).