

# Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Littleham, Torridge	<b>National Grid Reference:</b> SS 44353 23499	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording during drainage works at St. Swithun's Church, Littleham, Bideford, Devon.		<b>Photo attached?</b> Yes
<b>Faculty Reference:</b> 2017-016249	<b>Recipient museum:</b> n/a	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> Southwes1-362981	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> n/a	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> LSS19	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 22 <sup>nd</sup> and 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2019	
<p><b>Description of works.</b> Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) at the request of a Private Client as part of archaeological work before building works associated with the installation of a new water drain and electrical wiring, running along the edge of the pathway and out of the church grounds at St. Swithun's Church, Littleham, Bideford, Devon. This work was carried out by S. Stevens on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019 in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Boyd 2019) having been agreed during consultation with the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor and Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCHET).</p> <p>St. Swithun's Church is located at the eastern end of the village of Littleham, slightly separated from the rest of the village. Bideford lies approximately 2.5km to the north and Landcross approximately 1.5km to the east. Littleham lies in an undulating landscape, on a south facing slope above the valley of a tributary of the River Yeo at c.89m AOD. The soils here are the well-drained fine loamy and fine silty soils of the Denbigh 1 Association, which overlie the sedimentary sandstone of the Bude Formation.</p> <p>A 0.25m wide trench was excavated by hand, under archaeological supervision through the churchyard. The trench ran from just north of the water tap located at the corner of the body of the church, to the south of the tower and ran along the length of the main churchyard pathway to the north-west; both concrete footpaths were cut through using a powered saw. The trench measured approximately 18m in length, and was excavated to a depth of c.0.30m. The stratigraphy of the site comprised topsoil (100), a very dark grey-brown soft-friable silt-soil c.0.10m thick; overlying subsoil (101), a mid-light yellow-brown soft-firm clay-silt, with common sub-angular stone 5-10cm across, c.0.20m thick.</p> <p>No features were identified within the trench; with the exception of a 1" lead water pipe which was orientated north-south and was found running underneath the eastern-most path next to the church and continuing beneath the main footpath access. In general as would be expected near a footpath and within a churchyard, the soils encountered appeared to have been disturbed. However, a small assemblage of finds were found, all from subsoil (101), which included: x14 sherds of late medieval to post-medieval pottery (a mixture of local North Devon coarsewares and scraffito pottery types), x1 sherd of glass onion bottle, x1 20<sup>th</sup> century coin, x1 button and x 2 coffin nails. A small number of bone fragments were encountered and re-interred within the trench.</p> <p><b>Conclusions</b> The results of the trench indicated that there were no archaeological deposits present and no archaeological features were identified.</p> <p><b>Bibliography</b> Boyd, N. 2019: <i>St. Swithun's Church, Littleham, Bideford, Devon: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH report no. LSS19. British Geological Survey 2018: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. <a href="http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html">http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html</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> 14.11.19	

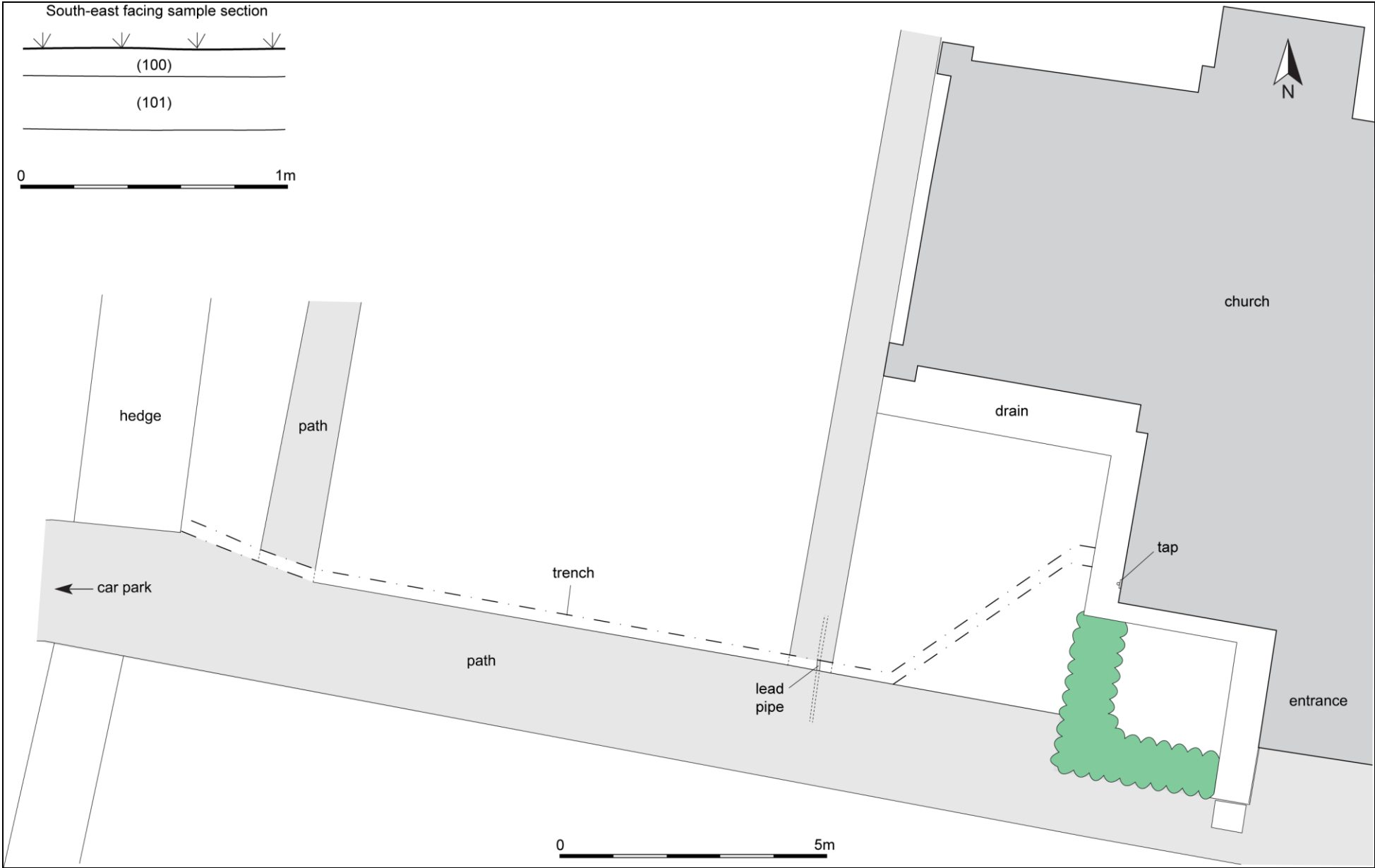


FIGURE 1: SAMPLE SECTION AND SITE PLAN SHOWING LOCATION OF TRENCH AND SURROUNDING AREA.



FIGURE 2: EXCAVATED TRENCH WITH DRILLED HOLES IN BACKGROUND; FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (1M SCALE).